

## **Gethsemane-Embrace Network FAQ**

### **What does it mean to be a network church?**

- The Embrace Network was created with the purpose of coming alongside other churches to encourage and support them in reaching the next person for Jesus. Each of the churches we partner with is different, but our hope is the same.

### **What is the cost of being a network church?**

- In order to receive the streamed messages, a church needs to have an internet connection and purchase a streaming device from Living As One. There will also be minimal costs for wiring and installation of the device at your church.
- These costs are estimates. Each church may have addition costs depending on their facility:
- There may be other costs if a projector and screen or TV monitor and/or sound system is not available at the church. Estimates for these costs would be provided after a site visit.

### **What can we expect from partnering with Embrace?**

- Weekly, life-giving messages streamed in real-time to your church
- Sermon series resources (including graphics, video, and bumpers) to be used for your service, bulletin, web, etc.
- Monthly coaching time for brainstorming and encouragement.
- Leadership development and networking opportunities extended to partner churches through Facebook, live events and live streaming.

### **Why were we chosen for this new ministry opportunity?**

- Gethsemane UMC was chosen because we have a congregation that is welcoming to all people, a location that is close to the Twin Cities and beautifully maintained, and a pastor willing to put in the work as a church planter to make this new ministry a success.

### **If we join the network, do we have to show the Embrace message every week?**

- No. The decision to show a message is always the choice of the Network Church. Embrace will provide an overview of message series and let you know if there are good weeks for a Network church to preach their own message.

### **How will the message be broadcast?**

- The message will be streamed from the internet through a projector onto a screen in the sanctuary.

**What technology issues do we face in order to become a network church?**

- Gethsemane UMC would need to update their sound and video system to accommodate streaming an Embrace service.

**Does Embrace make any decisions or have control over network churches?**

- No. All decisions to use the network resources (messages, branding, coaching) is totally at the choice of the church. Network churches are independent and in no way does Embrace have any decision making power over the church. Embrace is here to help the churches, not try and control or influence them.

**What if a church wants to drop the network?**

- Being a network church is always the decision of the Network church and they can decide to end being on the network at any time.

**What is going to happen to Pastor David?**

- Pastor David will continue serving Gethsemane UMC ½ time, but will not be preaching every Sunday. The other ½ of his time will be spent in “planter” mode by engaging the community, building contacts, and forming small groups.

**What does it mean for Pastor David to be in “planter” mode?**

- It means that Pastor David will serve Lino Lakes as a church planter of the Minnesota Annual Conference. He will be held accountable by an external stakeholders team, he will have to meet certain criteria, he will be coached by an experienced church planter, and he will be focusing his attention on ways to better meet the needs of the Lino Lake community.

**Who will lead worship on Sunday mornings if Pastor David is in planter mode?**

- The Minnesota Annual Conference is willing to pay a retired clergy member to preach from the pulpit on Sundays for a traditional worship service.

**What sort of changes will happen to the building?**

- The building’s decor will be updated to a more modern look. The goal is to create an environment that an unchurched person can feel comfortable walking in to.

**What sort of changes will happen in the sanctuary?**

- There will be sound, video, and decor changes. The sanctuary may look quite different when all is said and done! You can expect to see a projector screen, the stage will be focused on the music, and the altar may be renovated to look more modern.

**How will this affect things like weddings, funerals, and baptism?**

- The church will still be able to host religious events, the upgrades may even help make those events better.

**How fast will changes happen to the physical building?**

- This is dependant on the budget and the availability of the sound and video equipment along with the ability to get them installed in a pandemic season. The goal is to begin phasing in these changes over the next 12-18 months.