



*Church of the Heights*

Frequently Asked Questions  
About our church planting partnership  
in Starkville, MS



### >> **What is your timeline?**

In January of 2024 we will continue to recruit and train our Core Team weekly, along with continuing Tribes (small groups) and Huddles (discipleship). Starting on February 4, 2024, we will offer once-a-month preview services through the Spring semester. In the Fall of 2024 we will launch weekly Sunday morning services.

### >> **What is the Core Team?**

The Church of the Heights Core Team is made up of a group of people who are committed to using their time, talent, and resources to help launch weekly services and discipleship in the Fall of 2024. Anyone is able to apply and join the Core Team throughout the Spring semester. Our hope and prayer is to build an army to reach the city of Starkville and the campus of MSU.

### >> **What are Tribes?**

Tribe is what we call our small groups. In Tribe, we will fellowship together, eat together, and open God's Word. These groups will meet in various places throughout the city and on the college campus. We are not meant to walk through life alone. God has given us the gift of community. Tribe is our way of making sure every person at Church of the Heights is known and knows others. Our goal is to fill these groups up to the point of overflow and multiply into new groups.

### >> **What is a Huddle?**

Huddles are small groups meant for 2-4 members to join together and study the Word of God in depth. Our vision is to send disciple-makers of Jesus by being disciple-makers of Jesus; this is our core purpose here at Church of the Heights. We believe that disciples are not raised up in crowds but across tables. Huddles meet weekly to discuss Scripture and encourage one another to grow in Christ.

### >> **What does it mean to be a collegiate-focused church?**

Church of the Heights exists to be a light in the city and engage all age groups. Being a collegiate-focused church simply means that we are unique in our missional strategy. Collegiate-focused churches are planted on or near a university campus and take a particular ownership and responsibility in reaching, discipling, and sending students from that campus.

### >> **Will the church be solely college students?**

In short, no. We desire to be an intergenerational church, reaching people from all walks of life. The church should be made up of babies through seniors! Our hope is to build a Core Team that reflects the demographics we desire in the church. The college campus will be a large part of our missional strategy, and we know that we must have people from all generations to fulfill our mission of making disciples.

### >> **Why is the college campus a large part of the missional strategy?**

The college campus is a unique place. Students are in a short season of life during which they make decisions that will shape the rest of their lives. The North American Mission Board has recently named the university campuses across our nation as their 33rd Send City, reflecting their understanding of both the lostness and potential kingdom impact of college campuses. College students are also the most sendable people in the world. As students move all over the world to begin their careers, we hope to send them as healthy church members, with a heart for God's Word, multiplication, and church planting.

## >> **Why another church?**

There are great churches in Starkville doing wonderful things. We believe starting new churches is an effective way to continue to reach the unreached. The Mississippi Baptist Convention estimates that 70% of the city of Starkville and campus of MSU are disengaged with the local church. With more than 30,000 people lost or disengaged from the church, Starkville simply needs more churches. Our hope & prayer is to lock ministry arms with existing biblical, gospel-centered churches in Starkville. We want to love and serve our city!

## >> **What will your weekly services look like?**

Our corporate worship services will be focused around the proclamation of God's Word. The main ways we will do this are through singing and praying together, hearing God's Word preached, and observing the ordinances (Lord's Supper and baptism) together. Our desire is to create a welcoming environment. We want to worship the Lord together authentically and with excellence. The music will be led with a band and vocal team.

## >> **What will there be for kids?**

We will provide a kids' space for birth through kindergarten for both Core Team meetings and Sunday services. We will thoroughly vet all of our volunteers to ensure safety for our kids, as well as train our volunteers to teach and love our kids with the love of Jesus. We will ask all kids first grade and up to attend Core Team meetings and services. We will provide ageappropriate activities for elementary kids in service.

## >> **What is your discipleship strategy?**

Regardless of age, there is a unified pathway for everyone at Church of the Heights. After joining in worship, we first want to see people connect in covenant membership and with a Tribe. Next, we hope to move people into a Huddle (discipleship). After that, individuals will have the opportunity to join our leadership team for greater opportunities to engage in ministry with our church, on mission, or with other church plants.

## >> **Who are you affiliated with?**

We are affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, North American Mission Board, the Mississippi Baptist State Board of Missions, and The Well Network.

## >> **What is The Well Network?**

The Well Network is a church planting network with a vision to plant 16 churches in university cities by the year 2026. There are currently 4 locations in Alabama: Florence (UNA), Huntsville (UAH), Tuscaloosa (UA), and Jacksonville (JSU). The first location outside of AL is here in Starkville, MS (MSU). And Five Rivers Church will also be launching in Mobile, AL in 2024. This makes a total of six churches within the network. The goal is for each church plant to plant a new church every 3-4 years.

## >> **How will you reach a self-sustaining model?**

We are raising support to cover the church's ministry and personnel budget through the end of 2027 (three and a half years). These funds come through individuals, churches, and businesses who feel called by God to support the mission of engaging Starkville. Tithes and offerings from within the church will be saved during the first three years of membership to fund years 4 and 5. We plan to be self-sustaining by the fifth year.

## >> **How can we help?**

There are three primary ways you can help make it happen:

1. Join the Core Team.
2. Pray for Church of the Heights.
3. Join our financial support team and use your resources to change lives.

**For more information contact**

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