



GENERAL INFORMATION	
Church Name: Village Church	Date: 5/21
Church website: http://www.vcgurnee.org	
Submitted by: Todd Clark	

HISTORY



Village Church of Gurnee (Village Church) has been a presence in the Gurnee Community for 35 years. In September 1982, Lakeview Church of Zion, IL commissioned its Associate Pastor, Todd Habegger and four of its laymen to provide leadership for developing and organizing a daughter church. 65 men, women and children from Lakeview committed themselves to form the nucleus of Village Church. In April, they held their first public worship service on Easter Sunday morning in the gymnasium at

Warren Township High School.

In 1986, Village Church purchased a 6 acre parcel of land in a corn field on the outskirts of the Gurnee community where it designed and constructed its first worship facility. The church is now in the heart of a community that has expanded to include more than 31,000 residents.

As the new decade began, Village Church of Gurnee continued to experience rapid numeric growth. On Easter Sunday in 1990, worship attendance surpassed the 500 mark for the first time. Later that year, Village Church was faced with the “good problem” of needing to begin meeting in two worship services, to accommodate the continued growth it was experiencing!



In March 1994, a groundbreaking ceremony was held in preparation for the construction of a new worship auditorium as well as additional classroom and office space. By February 1995, Village Church was able to meet in its new auditorium for the first time.

Being a church plant itself, Village Church always desired to multiply the impact of its ministry by planting additional congregations in the surrounding area. In February 1999, Village Church of Gurnee commissioned over 100 people to plant a daughter church, CrossWay Community Church, in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

As the church grew over the years, Sunday morning attendance hovered around 1,000 and reached as high as 1,400 at one point. God made it possible for Village Church



to purchase an additional eight acres of land to the south of its existing campus for future growth.

As Village Church of Gurnee welcomed the new century, additional work needed to be done in order to better minister to the people that God was bringing to the church. In May 2003, another groundbreaking ceremony was held to prepare for the construction of additional classroom space, as well as a new gym and kitchen, to better accommodate the ministry needs of a growing congregation.

In January 2004, a group of 85 people were commissioned to plant a second new congregation, Hope Community Church, in the Antioch/Lake Villa/Lindenhurst area.

Reaching the world with the gospel message has always been important to Village Church of Gurnee. Many individuals and families have been involved in short-term mission projects in the local community, throughout the United States, and even across the globe. Others from the congregation were commissioned to serve as vocational missionaries.

While Village Church has always counted other nearby evangelical churches as friends and allies, God took this partnership to new levels. Village Church was one of 11 area congregations committed to partnering together to give every household in Gurnee the opportunity to hear a relevant presentation of the Gospel. This cooperative endeavor, known as the Go Together Project, has been a model for churches in communities



nationwide - and has challenged them to consider how they might worked together to reach their communities with the love and truth of Christ!

In 2018, Village Church celebrated its 35th anniversary. As we look back on our history, there is much to thank God for - but, above all else, we give thanks to him for all of the lives that he has transformed through this church. As we move forward into the future, our desire is to see God continue to use Village Church of Gurnee to help people follow Jesus more...so that more will follow Jesus!

CURRENT STATUS



Village Church is seeking a Lead Pastor to help guide the church into a new and fruitful season of ministry, and to reach many more people for Jesus in the far north suburbs of Chicago.

There are currently three worship services on Sunday mornings. The 8am, hour-long classic service has traditional hymns and teaching. The 9am and 10:45am services include 30 minutes of worship with contemporary praise and worship songs mixed in at times with traditional hymns, followed by 30 to 45 minutes of biblically anchored teaching. (The 8am service is only available during the school year.)

Seating capacity of the auditorium is approximately 750 and attendance at each service has fluctuated throughout the years.

Sunday morning services offer a casual setting that is warm and welcoming. The congregation is multi-generational and diverse, worship is authentic, and the message preached is Bible-based where God's Word is taught to be applicable to our everyday

lives. You will also find people gathered in the lobby in between services connecting with each other, enjoying coffee and a snack, or visiting the church library.

In addition to morning services on Sundays, Village Church offers Bible study groups and various topical classes for adults, a group for adults with special needs, and a group for single adults. Village Church has a vibrant children's ministry that offers programming from nursery through 5th grade, as well as middle school and high school classes. On Tuesday and Sunday evenings, middle school and high school student ministries meet for a time of community and teaching.

Many in the congregation serve on Sunday mornings including in worship band, choir, tech support team, coffee shop, welcome team, ushering, teaching roles, prayer team and children's ministries.

The current yearly budget at Village Church is \$2,190,000.

MISSION

The Village Church of Gurnee mission is to ...

Help people follow Jesus more so that more people follow Jesus.



**DENOMINATION**

Village Church of Gurnee is part of the Missionary Church's central district which is headquartered in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Missionary Church has a rich theological heritage that serves as a launching pad for aggressive outreach. While our message from the Bible is unchangeable, our methods of communication must change to reach every culture for Christ. Early leaders had a commitment to the position that the Scriptures were to be the source of doctrine and life. In addition to this commitment to be a biblical church, the theological perspective of the Missionary Church recognizes the contribution of John Wesley's emphasis on "the warmed heart"; A.B. Simpson's fourfold emphasis on Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer and Coming King; the Anabaptist concepts of community and brotherhood; and the evangelical emphasis of the lost estate of mankind and redemption through Jesus Christ. The Missionary Church is a unique blend of the thought and life of a people who have sought to build their church according to the Scriptures with an appreciation for their historical roots.

BELIEFS

Village Church feels deep conviction that the following ten paragraphs summarize the biblical doctrines which are essential to the Christian faith.

The Bible - God has spoken through the 66 books of the Bible. As its divine author, God has uniquely guided the writing of scripture in such a way that the human authors he chose were protected from all error as they wrote. The Bible remains for all time the unchanging and trustworthy authority on all matters it addresses, including every realm of the human experience. [2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 1:24-25; Matthew 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Psalm 119:105]

God - There is one true God, who eternally exists in a loving unity of three equally-divine persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This one God, unlimited and unrivaled in power and wisdom, is the creator, sustainer, and ruler of all things. He is present everywhere at all times, and possesses exhaustive knowledge of everything. In all he is and does, God is perfectly holy, fully righteous, and infinitely loving - and demonstrates a special concern for the human race.[Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Psalm 90:2; Exodus 3:14; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:2-3; Psalm 11:7; Psalm 139:1-12; Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 6:3, I John 4:8]

People - Human beings have been created in the image and likeness of God to glorify him and enjoy him forever. Because humans are divine image-bearers, we believe human life should be protected and valued from conception until death. Since our creator made humans male and female, and brought the first man and woman together for a one-flesh relationship, we believe that God's good design for human sexual behavior consists of either monogamous marital relations between one man and one woman, or celibate singleness.[Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13-16; Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 1 Corinthians 7:7-9]

Sin - The first humans, Adam and Eve, were tempted by Satan and fell into sin, distorting the divine image they bore. As a consequence of their disobedience, all of creation and all of humanity have been corrupted by sin. Like our original parents, we all find ourselves either rejecting or neglecting God, trying to be self-sufficient and independent. As sinners by nature and by choice, the entire human race is alienated from God and stands under his just condemnation, deserving of his punishment.[Genesis 3; Isaiah 53:6; Isaiah 64:6; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12-19; Romans 8:18-25; Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 1:21; Titus 3:3]



Jesus Christ - Jesus Christ is God incarnate, one person in two natures, fully divine and fully human. Jesus Christ was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit, and was born of the virgin Mary. Though he experienced the full spectrum of human temptations, Jesus never sinned in any way. His perfect life uniquely qualified him to take upon himself the punishment for our sin, as our substitute. Following his crucifixion, we believe that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, proving Christ's innocence and confirming that God the Father accepted Christ's death as payment in full for the sins of the human race. Having finished his work on earth, Jesus ascended to heaven, where he lives and reigns today.[John 1:1, 14, 18; Colossians 1:15-20; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:1-9; Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:30-35; Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 2:23-24; Romans 4:25; Acts 1:9-11]

Salvation - Jesus Christ is the only way back to God. His saving work makes it possible for people to become spiritually alive as they are restored into a right relationship with their holy creator. Individual sinners must repent of their sin in order to turn to God. Out of his unmerited grace and mercy, God gives the gift of forgiveness and eternal life to people as they turn from their sin and trust in the finished work of Christ.[John 14:6; Acts 3:19-20; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16-17; Romans 4:5-6; Romans 5:1-11; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:4-10; Philippians 3:8-9; Colossians 1:22-23; Colossians 2:13-14]

The Holy Spirit - God the Holy Spirit makes people aware of their need to turn from sin, and turn to Christ. He enables people to make this turn, and takes up residence in the lives of those who turn to Christ in order to teach, guide, and empower them to live a life that pleases and honors God. As believers increasingly yield their lives to his control, the Holy Spirit provides strength and motivation to successfully battle the opposing forces of the world, the flesh, and the devil. The Holy Spirit equips Christ-followers for ministry, and empowers them as witnesses for the gospel.[John 3:3-8; John 16:8-11; John 16:12-14; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 1 Corinthians 12:3-8; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Romans 8:9-14, Galatians 5:16-23; James 4:7-8; 1 John 4:4; 1 John 5:4-5; Acts 1:8]

The Church - The invisible and universal church is comprised of all believers in Christ. This one, true church, of which Christ is the head, is embodied on earth in local congregations where Christ's followers join together for worship and prayer, for learning to live God's word, for fellowship, and for evangelism. We believe that the two biblically mandated ordinances of the church - water baptism and the Lord's Supper - visibly and tangibly express the gospel, and strengthen our faith. They are not means of salvation, but signs and seals of its reality.[Hebrews 12:22-23; Revelation 5:9; Ephesians 1:19-22; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:42-47; Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26]

Christ's Return - Jesus Christ will return to earth a second time to establish his kingdom in this world. Christ's return will be personal, bodily, and visible. It is the great expectation of the church, and the only hope for the world. His return, for which we must constantly be prepared, is a source of encouragement, a motive for holy living, and an inspiration for ministry and mission.[John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; Acts 3:20-21; Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 1:7; Revelation 22:12; Titus 2:13; 1 John 3:2-3; Matthew 24:36-44; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:58]

Heaven & Hell - Every person who has ever lived will experience a bodily resurrection and will face one of two eternal destinies. Ultimately, those without faith in Christ will appear before God for final judgment and condemnation, and will be justly sentenced to eternal conscious punishment in hell. All people who have placed their faith in Christ's saving grace will have their lives and works judged for rewards and will live forever, experiencing eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and new earth - where God will receive worship from his people forever and ever.[Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Hebrews 9:27; Philippians 3:20-21; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21:1-22:5]

LOCATION / DEMOGRAPHIC

Village Church is located in Gurnee, Illinois which is about 45 miles north of downtown Chicago. The town is located in Lake County, Illinois and is surrounded by dozens of communities that border one another and form the far north suburbs of Chicago.



Gurnee has over 1,000 registered businesses and corporations, making it a leading retail, recreation, and hospitality center in the northern Chicagoland area. Award winning Six Flags amusement park offering thrill rides and Hurricane Harbor outdoor water park are located in Gurnee and provide affordable passes for summer fun for families.



Located nearby is Great Wolf Lodge, opening July 1, 2018. This 414-room kid friendly resort will offer an indoor/outdoor water park and special amenities for loads of family fun. Additionally, Gurnee is home to Gurnee Mills, the largest outlet and full-price shopping destination in Illinois. Gurnee Mills provides the ultimate indoor shopping experience with nearly 200 stores and a large variety of eating establishments.

South of Gurnee is Hawthorn Mall, and many unique downtowns and charming towns including historic Long Grove. The largest Hollywood car collection in the world is at the Volo Auto Museum and several arts and entertainment options including outdoor music at Ravinia. You can also take in the history and education at the Great Lakes Naval Museum, pet the animals at Lambs Farm, and enjoy 46 public and private golf courses. Out of 102 counties in Illinois, Lake County is ranked #3 for Physical Activity, #4 for access to places to be active and healthy, and #6 for health outcomes measured by length of life and quality of life. There are 30,800 acres of forest preserve land, 6 state parks, 550 miles of trails and bikeways, over 100 beaches and 250 swimming pools, over 650 local parks and over 200 lakes and rivers.

Gurnee is located about 10 miles west of Lake Michigan and the Waukegan Harbor which is used for boating, sailing and fishing. Gurnee is also about 10 miles east of the “chain of lakes” which join approximately 7 lakes via channels to form a huge network of waterways readily available for boating and fishing with many restaurants abutting the lakes.

Gurnee has an excellent education system featuring two elementary/middle school education districts: Gurnee District 56 and Woodland District 50, a secondary education institution: Warren Township High School District 121, and postsecondary education at the College of Lake County.

The Gurnee area offers easy access to Chicago via four Metra Commuter rail lines and 32 train stations, and is halfway between Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport and Milwaukee’s General Mitchell International airport.



Estimated median household income in 2016: \$92,173
 Estimated median house or condo value in 2016: \$269,024
 Median resident age: 39.3
 Population in 2017: 31,295

The economy of Lake County, IL employs 354,666 people in retail outlets, service industries headquarters, wholesale operations, and manufacturing. The largest industries in Lake County, IL are manufacturing (56,720), retail trade (42,701), and healthcare & social assistance (39,343), and the highest paying industries are professional, scientific, tech services, finance & insurance, and utilities. The pharmaceutical sector remains one of the largest employers in Lake County.

CHILDREN / STUDENTS

Kids come to Village Church on Sunday mornings for a fun worship time, a place to learn biblical truths in creative, kid-friendly, relevant ways, and to connect with other kids.



All volunteers of our children's ministry have gone through a background check, are safety-trained, are passionate about helping kids know, follow, and share Jesus with others!

The middle school ministry (Salt & Light) guides students through a critical time of their lives with group teaching time, worship, games

and small group breakout time, as well as Sunday school, special events, retreats, and mission trips.



The High School Ministry at Village Church is a great place for students to connect with one another and grow in their faith, as they prepare for college and beyond. The name **24/7** indicates our desire to see students living as followers of Christ, not just on Sundays, but 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! Students are encouraged to participate in weekly meetings, Sunday school, and several mission trips offered to learn other cultures and realize they are part of the worldwide mission of spreading the gospel message.

CHURCH STYLE AND STRUCTURE



Village Church is a place where people with a sincere belief in the Bible and strong desire to reach the world feel right at home. Worldwide mission outreach, and local community involvement go hand in hand. It's a place where families with young children and growing teens, as well as retired seniors and everyone in between, have a place to grow in their faith.

The church currently employs six full-time pastors:

- The Lead Pastor has oversight of the entire staff although his typical responsibilities are worship and sermon preparations.
- The Executive Pastor supervises most other staff and operations of the church including middle school, high school, adult , and children's ministries.
- The Worship Pastor leads worship time to prepare the congregation for the teaching.
- The Middle School Pastor leads kids from 6th to 8th grade.
- The High School Pastor leads kids from 9th to 12th grade.
- The Adult Ministries Pastor is responsible for small group ministry and adult classes, as well as connecting people with the church.

In addition, there are a total of 30 paid positions consisting of both full-time and part-time ministry staff at Village Church.

Village Church is accustomed to a pastor unpacking God's Word in a clear, instructive manner. The Lead Pastor has done this very well over the past 35 years and he is most commonly exegetical in his preaching. Village Church is a place that does not skip tough subjects but teaches the full counsel of





God's Word in love. The Lead Pastor's efforts are supported by other pastoral staff from Village Church as well as professors from area Bible colleges and seminaries including Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and the Moody Bible Institute.

Village Church strives to reach its mission by challenging people to ...

GROW - develop Christlike habits to develop Christlike character

CONNECT - deepen your friendships to deepen your faith

SERVE - use your strengths to strengthen your church

REACH - build bridges to build the Kingdom

LEADERSHIP

There are nine lay Elders who serve on the Village Church board; the Lead Pastor and Executive Pastor are also voting members. The Board Chairman is selected from among the nine lay Elders. The Lead Pastor reports directly to the Elder Board. The Elders, in turn, are ultimately accountable to the official membership of the church.

Elder qualifications are spelled out in the by-laws as well as the Missionary Church guidelines that indicate that men are to be in a position of authority over the church. Therefore, only men will be approved to serve on the Elder Board. Women may serve in other ministry leadership roles as determined by the Village Church leadership and pastoral staff. Elder qualifications are found in the following scriptures...

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-9

OPPORTUNITY



The opportunity at Village Church is truly unique.

It will present the right person with the opportunity to ...

- Lead with confidence alongside a wise Elder Board and a committed staff.



- Join a church that actively partners with many community groups to serve the greater Gurnee area.
- Teach and disciple a congregation that desires to grow in their faith, and their work for the Kingdom.
- Partner with experienced lay leaders full of wisdom and passion to make a difference in Gurnee and surrounding towns in far north suburban Chicago.
- Live and thrive in a great area near one of the greatest cities in the nation.
- The ability to cast vision and cultivate action to reach a community that has changed over the past 35 years to include a more diverse culture as well as varied socio-economic backgrounds as the church seeks to reach more people for Jesus.
- Help lead and collaborate with staff, the Elder Board and lay volunteers to review existing programs, processes and systems to determine the most effective way to disciple the existing congregation.
- Patiently and prayerfully bridge the tradition and legacy built over the past 35 years with new and exciting ideas for the next generation.

POSITION PROFILE



Full-time Staff Position:

Lead Pastor. Flexible (FT) 5-6 days per week, 45-50 hours/week.

Purpose of Position:

To work in conjunction with the church Elder Board to guide Village Church of Gurnee in its ministry for the coming decades. To work closely with the staff and all ministry teams to achieve our collective desired results, which is to grow the church, to disciple current attendees, and to impact Gurnee and the surrounding communities with the gospel message lived out in the love of Christ.

To have either direct or indirect supervision of pastoral staff with the help of an Executive Pastor. To champion the professional/ministry development of all paid-staff at Village Church and instill a culture of succession planning and growth.

Qualifications:

- Called of God and set apart to the ministry of the Gospel and service to Village Church as a Shepherd, Evangelist, Preacher/Teacher, Equipper, and Overseer. A mature Christian man with strong family relationships.



- A man who meets the biblical qualifications for eldership, according to 1 Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
- Affirms, embraces, and teaches the core beliefs, doctrines, and theology of Village Church and fits well within the roots and ethos of the Missionary Church.
- The ability to teach and preach the Word of God accurately and effectively so as to inspire others to love God, to follow Jesus faithfully and to grow in their faith continuously. As part of this role, the pastor will work with 2-3 other pastors to develop a team approach to preaching and teaching at Village Church.
- A man who is dependent upon the Holy Spirit and is demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit.
- Believes and practices the power of prayer and is passionate about creating a congregational culture of prayer.
- Full agreement with Village Church's Mission Statement.
- At least 5 years of experience in a Senior or Executive Staff role with oversight of teams in a local church is desired.
- A passion for evangelism with the skills and abilities to mobilize others for evangelism.
- A Masters of Divinity from an accredited Christian seminary is required.
- Experience working with a multi-generational congregation.
- Willingness to pursue ordination in the Missionary Church and to enhance mutually cooperative relationships with our denomination.

Primary Responsibilities

- **Church oversight.** As a member of the Elder Board, provide leadership of the church alongside lay Elders in vision casting, development of policies, and spiritual growth of the church.
- **Leading and developing the staff.** Champion the personal/professional development of the staff with implementation by the Executive Pastor.
- **Developing pastoral staff.** Ensure pastoral team is trained and prepared to take on teaching and other pastoral roles.
- **Preaching.** Fulfill all aspects of the preaching ministry, coordinating the scheduling of Associate Pastors, Missionaries, or outside speakers. The Lead Pastor is expected to devote adequate time and research in providing biblically sound sermons by working with his preaching team to review content and context.
- **Evangelism.** To work with the Elder Board to ensure there is an adequate evangelistic passion from the congregation and ministry leaders.
- **Discipleship.** To promote vibrant discipleship throughout our congregation.
- **Shepherding.** To work with the Elders to lead pastoral efforts such as, but not limited to: Biblical Counseling (Marriage, Family, and Personal), Hospital Calling, Weddings, and Funerals.



Days Off: The Lead Pastor will be encouraged to take off up to two days per week. These will be set day(s) that may be altered if the need arises.

Paid Time Off:

Initially, three weeks per year with pay. Other time off spent with the Lord for spiritual retreat may be approved in agreement with the Elder Board.

Continuing Education:

We encourage the Lead Pastor to pursue continuous development via conferences or seminars. These should be budgeted and approved by the Elders. Expenses will be covered as agreed upon.

Supervision:

The Lead Pastor is a member of and reports to the Elder Board.

Compensation Package:

A competitive compensation and benefits package will be offered to the right person for this Lead Pastor role commensurate with their experience.

NEXT STEPS

To find out additional information, please refer to the church's website at <http://www.vcgurnee.org> to learn more about their doctrinal beliefs, mission, vision and values, and other ministries of the church.

If after prayerfully reviewing this information, you sense this role and church culture could be a good fit for you, please contact Todd Clark at Slingshot Group via email.

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