



+ DARE TO Dream

JOURNAL



We will tell the next generation
The praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
His power, and the wonders he has done.

Psalms 78:4

THE VISION



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These Dreams Belong To:



Dear New City Family,

One year ago, we set out together on a journey of faith we called **BIG DREAMS**, believing that God was inviting us to build for the future.

In just twelve months, we have seen miracles of God's blessing, provision and guidance. We have seen young people encounter Jesus in powerful ways, men and women take bold steps of faith, and families find a spiritual home at New City. We've seen leaders rise up, lives changed, and a growing passion for the Gospel that continues to grow through our city. These moments remind us what **BIG DREAMS** has always been about: not buildings or milestones, but people. People encountering Jesus, growing in faith, and stepping into the mission of God together.

And yet, I believe we are only getting started. As we step into this next season, I want to encourage you to keep lifting your eyes and expanding your faith. Keep bringing your prayers, your gifts, and your dreams before God, believing that He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us.

This booklet was created to help us reflect, prepare and pray as we continue this journey together. Bring it with you to church each week, use it during your quiet time, and let it stir your heart to trust God for even greater things.

Thank you for your faith, your generosity, and your partnership in this mission. We have only just begun!

With gratitude and hope,



Pastor Steve Andres

Since DAY ONE seven
years ago, we have aimed
to LOVE GOD and SERVE
THE CITY.



Our Big Dreams Initiative

New City Church has taken a step of faith in this season to deepen our commitment to one another and to the community around us.

Our dream is for the ministries of our church to grow in impact, for our support and service of others to expand, and for the establishment of a hub for Gospel ministry for generations to come.

GROW IN IMPACT

SUPPORT AND SERVE OTHERS

ESTABLISH A MINISTRY HUB



OUR DNA

Jesus Is Our Message

We are determined to point people to a relationship with God, not a religious way of life. We believe that Jesus is the way to God, the truth about God and the source of true life, and we tirelessly and creatively share that message with others.

People Are Our Heart

We know that no one is perfect, so everyone is welcome. Jesus always loved those who seemed least likely to be loved, so we want to be a place where the marginalized are prioritized and grace is freely given.

Hope Is Our Foundation

We live with a stubborn optimism. We have faith in God's ability to change individuals, families and whole societies, so we refuse to see anyone as a lost cause. That means we pray and work with a joy and passion rooted in God's victory in all things.

Generosity Is Our Privilege

God loves to give, and he is very good at it. We want to be good at it, too. We are generous with our time, our talents and our treasure, knowing that we are more blessed in giving than in getting.

Servant-Leadership Is Our Calling

If we are too big to serve, we are too small to lead. Jesus said that the greatest among us will be a servant to all, so we celebrate small acts of kindness as a big deal.



HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR

Since launching the BIG DREAMS Initiative one year ago, God has blessed the community at New City Church. As God's presence has been evident in services and small group gatherings, weekend attendance has grown by over 50%, over 400 people have responded to the invitation to follow Jesus, and over 50 individuals have been baptized. Below are just some of the highlights of this past year of ministry.



TWO SERVICE LAUNCH

On March 16, New City launched a second Sunday service, creating space for more people to worship and grow. As attendance rises and more lives are transformed, over 75 new servant-leaders have stepped up in 2025, marking a strong start to a new season of growth and discipleship.



PARTNER CHURCHES

New City partners with churches around the world through prayer, encouragement, practical assistance, and resources. These strategic partnerships include Grace and Peace Church on Chicago's West Side, Revival Tabernacle in Highland Park, Michigan, as well as sister churches in Slovakia, Ethiopia, El Salvador and Indonesia.



EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

This year's Easter Eggstravaganza drew 691 kids and their families to North Central College Stadium for a day of fun, connection, and celebration. With games, face painting, a fire truck, and prizes for all, it was a memorable community event—and a growing tradition where families feel loved and valued by God.

HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR

RECOVERY GROUP

Each week, a group of men gathers to pursue freedom through Jesus, seeking healing and transformation. The Recovery Journey points to God as the true source of recovery, and through honest community and shared stories, these men are experiencing the life-changing power of God's grace!



CAMP ROCK

Our third annual Camp Rock brought together over 200 kids and leaders for an unforgettable week. With energetic worship, playful skits, crafts, games, and Bible lessons, it was a powerful time for our kids ministry. We're committed to helping parents raise children who love God, themselves, and others!



MEN'S MINISTRY

In May, the men of New City gathered for a powerful weekend of worship, teaching, and connection. The retreat sparked the Best 90 Challenge, a 90-day commitment to spiritual, physical, and relational growth in accountability groups. These moments are shaping lives, families, and future generations!



NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE

North Central College students are finding a spiritual home at New City. From Easter baptisms to serving in youth and kids ministries, God is moving on campus.

Eight student-led discipleship groups have formed. New City is uniquely equipped to guide students and strengthen our connection with the college.



This initiative is our way of preparing to secure a permanent home for our church and create redemptive spaces where the church and community can cross paths.



CREATE REDEMPITIVE
SPACES WHERE CHURCH AND
COMMUNITY CROSS PATHS.



The facility we are praying for will:



01

FACILITATE VITAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

Space for regular worship and prayer gatherings

Safer and more effective ministry to kids and youth

Education and training facilities

02

ENGAGE AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY

Youth development and sports

Children's center and family services

Content creation and online ministry



OUR PRIMARY GOAL

Discipleship

Participating in the mission and vision of our church requires each one of us to align our hearts, priorities and actions with those of Jesus. The number one goal of this initiative is to see our commitment to follow Christ be refreshed and renewed, regardless of giving capacity or season of life.

We have prayed and waited on the Lord, and we are encouraged! This initiative has required each one of us to choose to trust and believe God to do more than we can do on our own. This trust and obedience is at the heart of following Jesus.

Our **DISCIPLESHIP GOAL** is to see **100% PARTICIPATION** from those who call New City Church home.



OUR GENEROSITY GOAL

\$8M over 25 months

From the beginning, our leadership has been committed to integrity, generosity, and wise stewardship of all financial resources. We believe this is one reason God has blessed our church with increase every year.

We have prayerfully set this goal based on our current needs and vision for the future of our church.



On Sunday, November 16, we will invite our congregation to make a commitment to generously support the financial needs of the next season at New City Church, either by making a new commitment, renewing an existing commitment, or increasing a previous commitment.

This giving will be focused in three areas:



\$3.6M - Core Ministries

Fully funding the regular gatherings and activities of our church will ensure that effective and healthy ministry continues to all of our church. This number represents a very modest increase in our annual operating budget.



\$400K - PEACE Partners

New City Church is committed to supporting partners and Gospel work all around the world. From global missions partners to campus ministries, from urban church planters to support for single parents, this commitment represents more than 10% of our annual operating budget.



\$4M - Permanent Home

Our hope is to purchase facilities that will serve our church and community by creating welcoming spaces dedicated to worship and discipleship. This search for a permanent home has been active for over two years, and this funding is crucial to moving forward.

An aerial night photograph of the Chicago skyline. The Willis Tower is the most prominent building in the center. Other skyscrapers are visible, their windows glowing with light. In the foreground, a white dove is perched on the flat roof of a building, facing left. The sky is dark with some light clouds.

Our dream is not for a
church building.

Our **DREAM** is to see
generations impacted by
the **GOSPEL**,
to see communities
TRANSFORMED, and to see
the name of **JESUS LIFTED**
UP over Chicagoland!



Show me the size
of your **dream**
and I'll show you
the size of your
God.



The Big Dreams Initiative encompasses all giving from
DECEMBER 8, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026.

For the remaining 13 months of the initiative, every gift
given to New City Church will go to help fund our core
ministries, increase our investment in missions, and
secure a permanent home for our church.



「 We believe that we are
blessed to be a blessing. 」



WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

As we enter this next season of BIG DREAMS, we're asking everyone who calls New City home to pause, pray, and listen for how God might be leading you to participate.

BIG DREAMS is an opportunity to grow your faith, strengthen your trust, and be a shareholder in what God is building through His church.

MAKE A FIRST TIME FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Perhaps you are new to New City Church, or this is a first-time step of faith and generosity. We are excited for the way your participation in BIG DREAMS will shape your heart and faith!

REAFFIRM AN EXISTING COMMITMENT

Following through takes perseverance and faith. At the midpoint of this journey, we remind you that your continued faithfulness is a source of inspiration and impact for God's kingdom!

INCREASE YOUR COMMITMENT

Perhaps you are experiencing an increase in faith or finances since making your original BIG DREAMS commitment. God may be leading you to stretch further in your generosity!





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Sunday Message Guide



When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2: 1-2

MY SERMON NOTES:

“We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him.”

CS Lewis



+DARE **TO** **Dream**

APPLICATION

What did God speak to me through this message and how should I respond?



BE ENCOURAGED BY VIEWING THIS STORY



*In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.*

Acts 2:17

MY SERMON NOTES:

“I am a little pencil in the hand of a
writing God who is sending a
love letter to the world.”

Mother Theresa



+DARE **TO** **Dream**

APPLICATION

What did God speak to me through this message and how should I respond?



BE ENCOURAGED BY VIEWING THIS STORY



WEEK 3 BLESSED, BROKEN AND GIVEN



They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.

Acts 2:42-44

MY SERMON NOTES:

All you need to be a Christian is
nothing and very few people have that"

Timothy Keller

+DARE **TO** **Dream**

APPLICATION

What did God speak to me through this message and how should I respond?



BE ENCOURAGED BY VIEWING THIS STORY





Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

Acts 3:6-8

MY SERMON NOTES:

"We are the Bibles the world is reading;
we are the creeds the world is needing."

Billy Graham

+DARE **TO** **Dream**

APPLICATION

What did God speak to me through this message and how should I respond?



BE ENCOURAGED BY VIEWING THIS STORY





BE WITH JESUS



BECOME LIKE JESUS



DO AS JESUS DID





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