

# **Bethel Church transition to multiple services**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **June 2018**

#### **1. Why do we need a second service?**

We're full! Church growth experts talk about three different "spaces" in a church that fill up: the parking lot, kids ministry space and auditorium. If any one of these space fill up, growth stalls. Additionally, "fullness" is defined as being 80% full. When a newcomer shows up in any of these spaces, and they are 80% full, they feel like there's no room for them.

At Bethel, all three of these spaces are at least 80% full. If we wait any longer to make space, we will be unable to continue accommodating growth.

#### **2. When will this happen?**

The launch date for our new service times is Sunday, October 21, 2018.

#### **3. What times will the services be?**

9am & 11am. Each service will be approximately 80-90 minutes (like they are now), which will leave a 30-40 minute break between services.

#### **4. Will both services be the same, or different?**

We plan on making both services exactly the same (while making space for the Holy Spirit to do his thing!). Both services will have the same music, sermon, kids ministry options, etc.

Some people might suggest that we make one service or the other more accommodating to a certain age group or style, but we believe that this idea would cause division in our church. We want everyone to be on the same page, and we want to maintain both service times as options for everyone as their schedules and needs change.

#### **5. Why not Saturday night or Sunday night?**

A Saturday night or Sunday night option is a possible future consideration, but when adding a second service, the easiest transition is to go back-to-back on Sunday morning. It is the least disruptive to the church schedule, and the easiest for staff, volunteers and members to make the adjustment.

#### **6. Do we have enough volunteers?**

Currently, our Sunday services require between 35-50 volunteers. Adding a second service will definitely require an increase in that number. Some of our Sunday teams will be asked to duplicate their efforts, and other teams will need to have two different shifts. Over the next 4.5

months, we will be developing plans for all our teams, and recruiting the necessary volunteers to make everything as smooth as possible.

In the end, volunteers will greatly benefit from having multiple services, as they can now volunteer regularly without ever having to miss church. You can now serve in one and sit in another. This is especially true for our dedicated kids ministry team, who regularly miss our services to love our kids.

### **7. Won't two services cause a loss of community?**

This will, admittedly, be the biggest challenge. As people decide on which service works best for them, you may stop seeing certain familiar faces on Sundays. However, the current size of our attendance already means that it is impossible to know everyone. The best kind of community is not built during our Sunday services; it is built in Life Groups, ministry teams, church events and the other intentional efforts we all make to connect with each other and develop healthy relationships.

### **8. Who made this decision?**

This decision was based on prayer and conversations had over the past year at various levels of leadership. The board, staff, and key volunteers have all been involved in the discussion. We have also consulted with our district leaders and other churches to get advice. We have been closely monitoring our growth, and making the necessary adjustments and plans to properly steward what God is doing. The final decision was made by the board this spring, as we started to regularly hit benchmark attendance numbers that we had set as a maximum for one service.

### **9. Will there be an opportunity to have input into this process?**

Yes. We are inviting everyone to attend a Q & A/Feedback session with the staff and board on Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup> after our morning service. Additionally, if you are a part of a ministry team, you will be meeting with your leaders to develop a plan for when the new service times launch. We need everyone's input to help make this transition a success.

### **I have more questions!**

Be sure to come to the Q & A/Feedback session on July 8<sup>th</sup>, and don't hesitate to contact your ministry leader or Pastor Dave with your questions: [dave@bethelab.ca](mailto:dave@bethelab.ca)

The best is yet to come!