

Why a Spanish-speaking Church Plant?

Hope Church has the opportunity to make our facility available for a Spanish-speaking church plant and partner with a new congregation in ministry in the Clear Lake area. Here are several reasons from Pastor Greg why we should consider this.

Outward-focused evangelism is our core mission

Jesus provided a mandate to his disciples just before he ascended into heaven: as you go, make disciples and baptize (Matthew 28:19). In other words, “Be disciples who make new disciples.” Much of life turns us inward. Church planting is a specific opportunity to focus outwardly on reaching non-Christians. Church plants are known for their ability to focus primarily on the needs of their non-members, where established churches have a responsibility to also focus on the needs of their members. It is important for established churches to learn evangelistic practice from church plants, but also church plants benefit from established churches that partner with them, offering their stability and strength.

Church planting is the most effective way to reach non-Christians

C. Peter Wagner, who served as a field missionary for sixteen years and was a professor at Fuller Seminary’s School of Intercultural Studies for decades, writes, “Planting new churches is the most effective evangelistic methodology known under heaven.” Church plants reach non-Christians on average 3-6 times more than older churches. Providing additional statistics, the average new church gains most of its new members (60-80%) from people who are not attending any other church, while established churches over 10-15 years old gain 80-90% of new members by transfer from other churches.

A Spanish speaking church plant reaches the growing Hispanic community in Houston

A question one might ask is, why invite a Hispanic start-up church to reach them? Why not just invite them to worship at our church? I posed this question to a friend who has immense experience in Latin American ministry. His reply was without hesitation: because they want to worship in their native language. Assisting a Hispanic Church plant helps provide a culturally important church opportunity for Spanish speaking people in Clear Lake.

Multi-cultural ministry and unity

The broader church isn’t known for unity, and unity is a powerful sign of the love of Jesus Christ. A Spanish church plant gives us the opportunity to show unity in Christ as we minister as two congregations, yet partnered together, to our Clear Lake community.

We believe God is at work here

We have been looking for ways to use our church facility. Our building is a blessing from God, and we need to be good stewards of the space. Likewise, we have been looking for ways to reach more people in Clear Lake. Meanwhile, Christian Sebastia, a commissioned pastor in the Christian Reformed Church who pastors local congregations in Katy and in Spring, was at work with his vision of planting Spanish speaking churches in Houston. He has introduced us to Wilmer and Helen Lopez, seasoned pastors who have experience in church planting, who are very open to this opportunity.