**LEADERSHIP CONNECT 2012, JANUARY 29TH MEETING**

**Connect and Serve Ministry -** What is Connect and Serve?

Connect and Serve is a ministry that we are moving under Scott McIntosh so that we can move to the next level in helping our people truly connect within The Crossing Church. This ministry includes First Impressions, which operates each weekend to help each person who visits us to experience moments with the Lord that simply takes their breath away. Also included in this ministry is the Serve component, which we are developing to help all of our members discover and experience using the gifts and talents that the Lord has given them in service to Him.

**Pastoral Care -** What is Pastoral Care?

This incredible ministry involves meeting people in their times of need and/or crisis, such as financial difficulty, hospital stays, marital distress, grief, death, or personal issues and applying scripture and care to each situation. We are moving this ministry that impacts about 1,000 people each year under Gerard Coronado, who is also over our Celebrate Recovery ministry, which helps people to overcome hurts, habits, and hang-ups each Monday night.

**Care Ministries -** What is Care Ministries?

Care Ministries is one of the tools that The Crossing Church utilizes for our people to receive healing and/or practical teaching through specialized environments of redemptive community that focus on different areas such as grief, marriage, parenting, job skills, finances, divorce, men’s and women’s issues, and other difficult areas of life. We are moving this critical area of ministry under Dan Harley who also oversees our benevolence ministry as well.

**Student Ministry FAQ’s**

**What does Sunday night look like? Are there going to be 6th-12th graders together? Why?**

After much prayer and a lot of research, we are confident that God is directing us to launch a united rally of students to come together for three purposes. The first is to encounter the **presence of God**. They will do that with high energy; passionate praise and worship, and relevant teaching about vision, values, and mission. Our hope is that our students will secondly, **take ownership** of the great commission and third, **initiate a radical change** in their homes and schools. We believe this can be done together as we often experience at conferences, conventions, and camps.

Sunday nights is a launching point into Life Groups. This move allows us the bandwidth to shift from program-centered ministry to student-centered ministry. Students will have the opportunity to experience care and growth in the context of small groups. All middle school groups will continue to be gender specific. These groups will meet throughout the week and will become our focus to connect, grow, and go.

 Another unique facet of this move allows us to become more intentional about intergenerational ministry. Our students will be encouraged to be more involved in weekend services, 1st Wednesdays, and serving in their church. Our goal is to see the 60% of students leaving the church following High School stop because we have been diligent in connecting them to the church, not just a youth ministry.

**What if I don’t want my 6th grader in with Highschoolers?**

Answer: We understand that parents have different views of where their children are socially, mentally, physically and spiritually. So we are creating what we call BRIDGE YEARS. If you feel like your 6th grader isn’t ready to be in Emerge, you can choose to keep them in Crossing Kids for another year. In the same way, some parents may feel their 5th grader is ready for the challenges of being with older students and they can choose to have their child move up a year early. This will apply for all bridge years. 5th, 6th, and 12th.

**What about the teaching sensitive topics?**

Our goal during the Sunday rally will be to focus on communicating the vision of our church, our values, and our mission. All sensitive topics and deeper discussion will be reserved for Life Groups. Here we will be able to address the particular learning needs of each group.

**What about students mingling?**

We have been doing camps, retreats, and conferences with middle and high schoolers together for almost two years now. It’s been cool to see how the high schoolers begin to mentor the younger youth and the influence of energy that the middle schoolers have on the older ones. We have had over 70 high schoolers involved with middle school over the past year.

**What about safety?**

Just like the church, we have a safety team and many volunteers who serve in different areas to ensure the safety and security of students. From a uniformed officer on campus to ushers, greeters, impact team, café, game room, court, and field volunteers, we have great coverage to make sure every student has the opportunity to encounter God.

If you would like more information please check out this link: <http://www.crossingonline.org/for-parents>

**LifeGroups**

Changes in Leadership:

* Keith Curran moving to Chairman of the Elder Board - moving out of NE Area Pastor role
* Gerard Coronado – Area Pastor of NE

LifeGroup Leader Training (Cross Training) February 28th & March 6th (6:30pm-9:00pm) The Student Center – Email your Community Leader to register.

GroupLink – March 20th