

SeedStories

from the Christian Evangelistic Assn
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Dr. George Johnson
Executive Director

Westside Story

This is a story of love, leadership and legacy. In the fall of 2016, Westside Christian Church in Eugene, OR asked the CEA to consider partnering with them to advance the Kingdom in Lane County. To say it was a bold request would be an understatement given that the church had an average attendance of less than 50 and had seriously considered merging or closing their doors.

But it was immediately obvious that this unique congregation loves Jesus and is deeply committed to the mission for which it was chartered in 1953 - *"To seek and save lost people in Eugene, Springfield and beyond"*.

In evidence of their earnest intention to be a legacy church, the congregation and its leaders agreed to:

- Seed themselves and their assets into a church multiplication initiative to plant 10 new churches
- Subordinate their congregational leadership to a Partnership Team led by the CEA
- Conduct a regional demographic study to determine the most strategic locations for new churches
- Give a tithe of their regular offerings to the CEA

In support of their bold vision, 4 local congregations have come alongside Westside to form a Church Planting Network. Bruce White, Sr. Minister of Garden Way Church in nearby Springfield reflects that spirit of partnership in this note sent to the Westside congregation:

Our leadership has prayed and talked about the unique opportunity to come alongside a "sister church". We are unanimous in seeing this as a win for the Kingdom.

Following a lengthy search for a leader to plant the first of 10 churches, Gabe Piechowicz assumed the role of pastor of the Westside congregation from interim pastor Mary Ellen Pereira on June 1st. Gabe will launch the new, yet-to-be-named church in the fall of 2020. Neil Johnston, Sr. Minister of Norkenzie Christian Church, serves as the Project Leader and as the local catalyst for the growing Church Planting Network that is forming among churches in the area.

The Westside story is still unfolding but it is clearly a story of love and leadership and legacy!

If your church is interested in being a part of this kind of story in your community contact the CEA!

Oregon Christian Convention Still Making History

Celebrating its 167th year, the Oregon Christian Convention met in the historic tabernacle at Turner, OR in late June where it has convened since 1891. A storied gathering of generations of Christians and ministry leaders from around the Northwest, this year's OCC was led by CEA church planter, Mike Miller, pastor of Village Christian Church (Adair Village, OR).

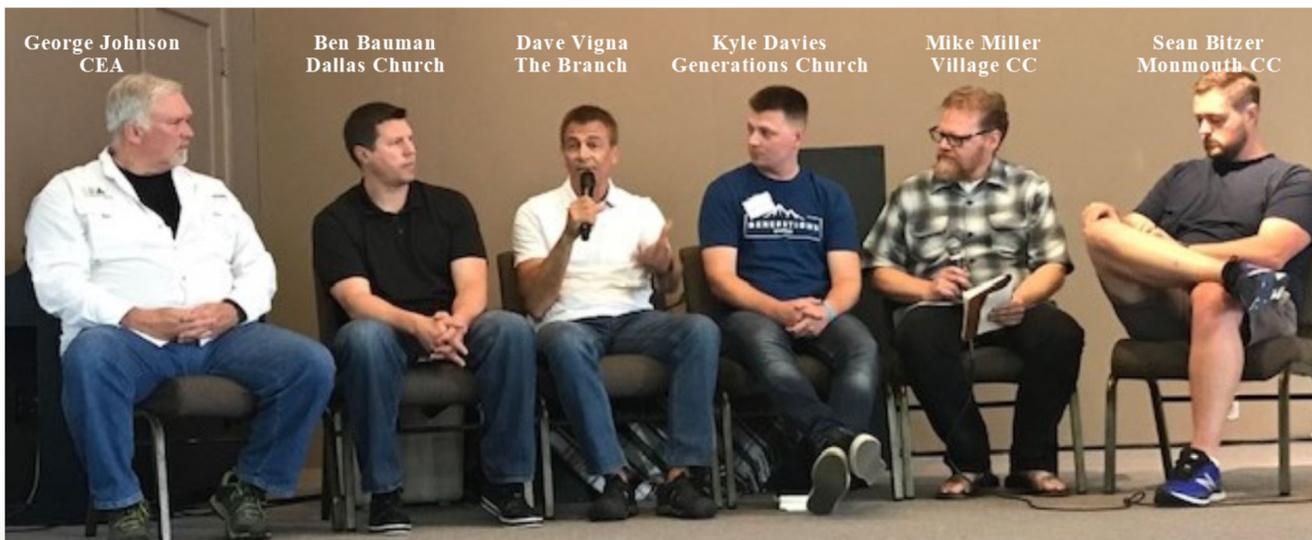


Under Mike's creative leadership, this year's gathering married the rich heritage of Christian churches in the Oregon Territory (today the region includes the 5 states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana & Wyoming) with the passion and perspective of rising young ministry leaders.

The nightly meetings featured excellent music and messages. Kyle Davies, lead planter of Generations Church kicked off the week with a great challenge to engage the next generation with the message of the cross.

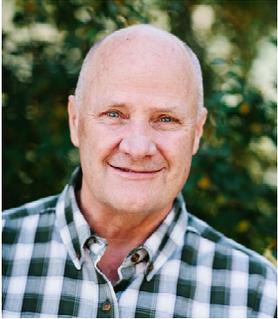
Past, present and future were represented on the stage of the OCC on it's opening night. The 5 planting leaders pictured below with CEA Executive Director, George Johnson, affirmed a strong commitment to advancing the Kingdom in the Northwest through church planting. They provided a visible legacy of 5 churches that have partnered together with the CEA to carry the good news of the Gospel forward to successive generations across 163 years!

As a 150-year-old mother-church, Monmouth sent people and support with Ben Bauman to launch a new congregation in nearby Dallas, OR in 2007. Dallas Church, in turn, sent Mike Miller to plant Corvallis Church in 2011. Corvallis (now Village CC) helped Dave Vigna start The Branch in 2015. Now in its turn, The Branch is sending people and support with Kyle Davies to begin Generations Church this fall! What a great story of church multiplication! We praise the Lord for these churches and their leaders!



The Coach's Corner

by Dan Scates



Out of Love, God has provided for the salvation of every human on the planet. He did this by coming to earth in the person of Jesus, who gave his life upon the cross and rose from the grave to rescue us from separation from God and the devastation caused by our sin.

Church planters are on the front lines in life and death battle. Church planting is a sound Biblical model to penetrate our lost world with the Kingdom news of Jesus. Church planters need prayer, assistance, and encouragement on this mission.

Three things have significantly moved the needle toward sustainable church planting; Assessment – Training – Coaching. Let's talk about coaching for a minute. *Coaching is a specialized discipline that helps people create their own strategies and forward action to accomplish their mission.*

A good coach invests in the coaching relationship and helps the planter set the agenda and goals he needs to pursue. This is an effective and empowering process because, after all, it is the planter who has the most information about the challenges he faces, is most affected by their outcome, has the greater investment, the responsibility to take the action, and is the one God is speaking to directly about the mission before him.

Coaches use the skills of listening well, asking open questions and guiding the conversation to create forward movement or significant learning. These disciplined, intentional conversations are usually scheduled every couple of weeks with the planter. Being on their team, having their back, helping them to succeed in their mission and grow as a leader are all important contributions coaching makes to a healthy planting process.

**Note: CEA's planting process typically engages a church planting coach for 12 to 18 months beginning six months prior to launch and continuing through the new church's first year.*

Four CEA Planters Receive Coaching Certification

Trained and mentored by veteran coach Dan Scates (Scates Coaching, LLC), CEA recruited a cohort of four of our most experienced planters for preparation and certification as church planting coaches. The cohort includes Derek Dickinson, Russell Clum, Kurt Kuykendall and Bruce Sanders.

As a planting organization, CEA recognizes coaching as one of the critical factors needed to multiply growing churches. We depend on coaches to help our planters raise needed financial support, develop as spiritual leaders, conduct detailed demographic studies and implement effective planting strategies.

Over the last 15 years, we've outsourced coaching to experienced leaders like Phil Claycomb, Neil Tibbot, Hugh Halter, Matt Smay, Bob Hyatt, Kevin Haah, Jim Griffith and Steve Ogne. However, we've looked forward to the time when we could offer expert, competent coaches from within our own network.

We believe the investment in these gifted planters will bring a greater Harvest here in the Northwest. Pray for them as they help us pursue the goal of planting more and better churches.

**Note: if your ministry could be strengthened by engaging a coach contact George Johnson (george@theCEA.org) or Dan Scates (danscates@gmail.com)*



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