

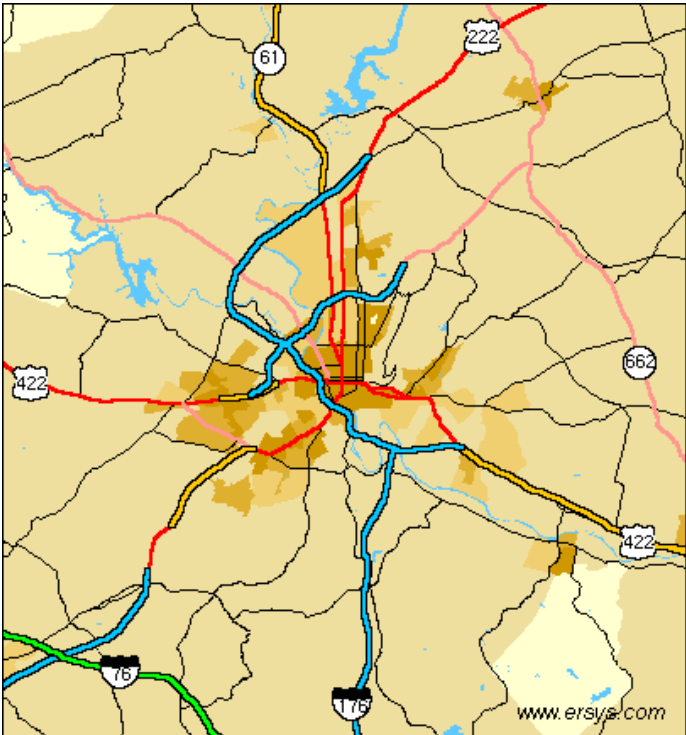
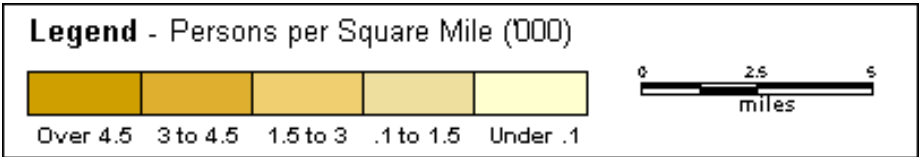
THE READING PROJECT

A NEW KINGDOM INITIATIVE IN THE GREEN DIAMOND

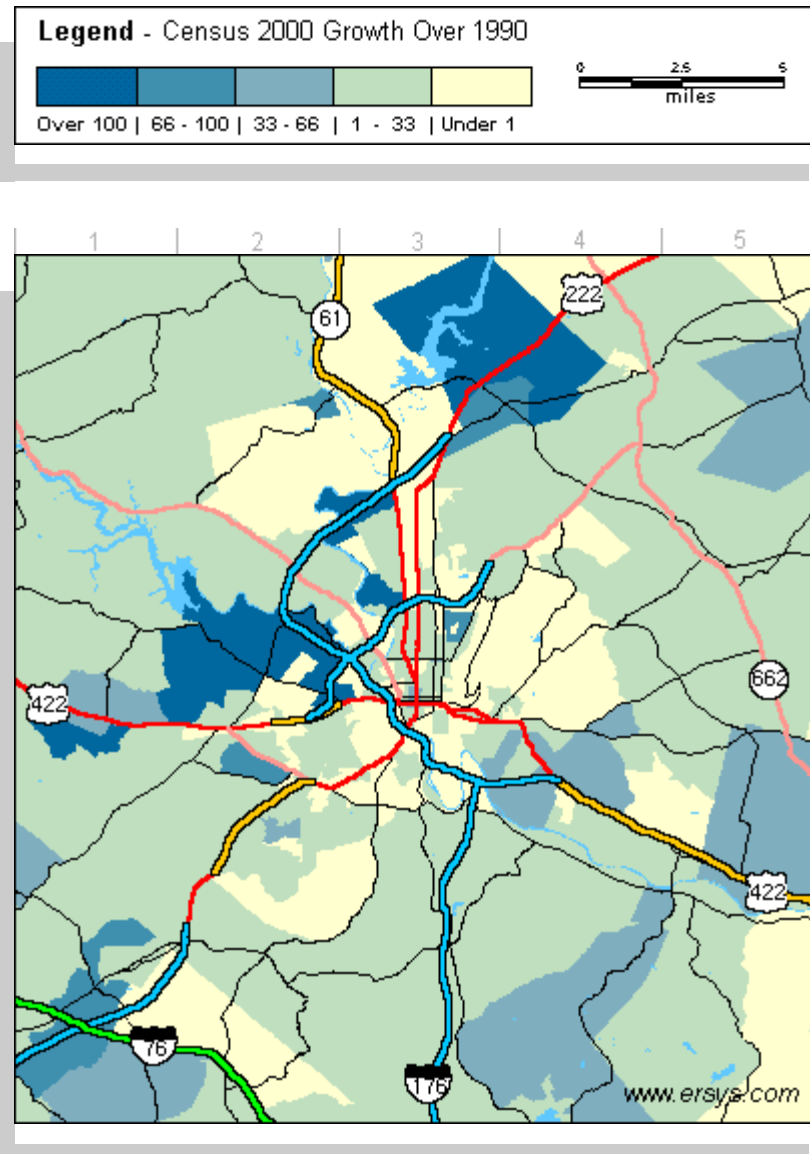
Our Vision: “A Christ-centered, worshipping Christian community, full of grace and truth, drawing the nations to Christ at the human crossroads of metro Reading”.

The Challenge of Greater Readingⁱ

The population of Berks County is 72.8% urban.ⁱⁱ



And while development growth continues to the north and west of the city, the city itself continues to grow as well: ⁱⁱⁱ

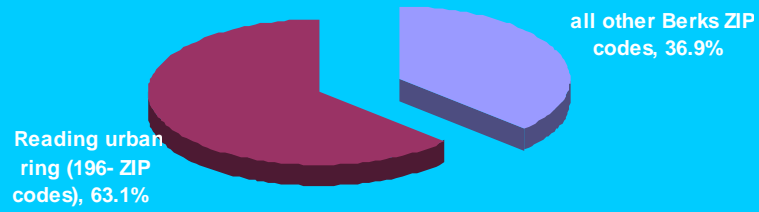


Reading city proper experienced a growth rate of 4.29%, nearly 4 times greater than Lancaster (1.13%), Allentown (1.1%), and Wilmington, DE (1.59%).

**Note that growth rates as a percentage of population will be skewed higher in the outlying areas, since the population there was the lowest to start with, and there is more available property to be developed. Also, it is important to consider that the development growth in the outlying areas may be limited by lot size restrictions and density limits imposed by local governments, and will be further limited to a socioeconomic population able to afford new construction in those areas.*

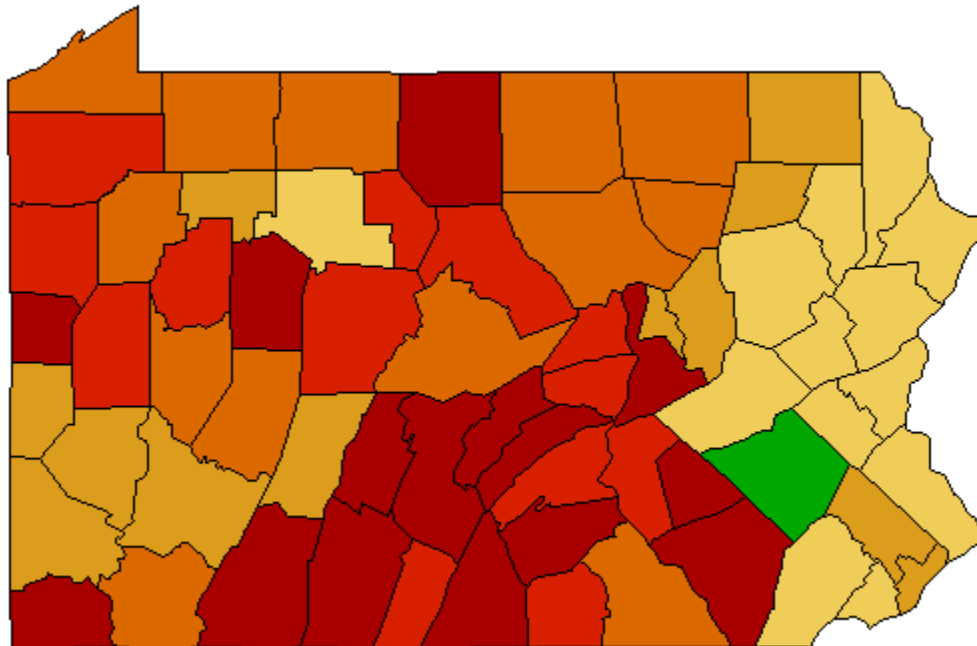
Further, 63% of all new movers in Berks County relocated to the urban ring of Reading.^{iv}

New Movers into Berks County for first 6 months of 2005



Berks County ranks 52nd out of 67 counties in PA in percentage of evangelical adherents.^v

EVANGELICAL DENOMINATIONS--Rates of adherents per 1000 population (2000)

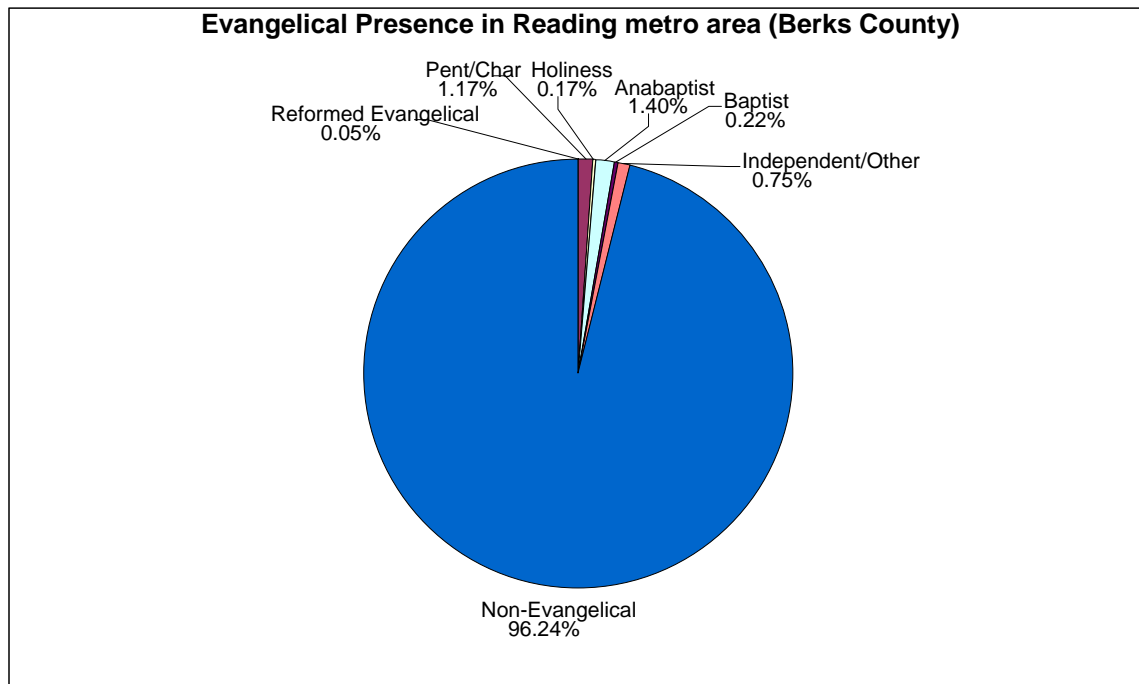


■ Berks, PA: 39.5543 (Rank: 52)
= 3.96%

Values:	N
■ 89.6083 To 189.8258	15
■ 75.1914 To 86.2069	13
■ 57.3764 To 74.6455	13
■ 36.8234 To 57.218	13
■ 8.7685 To 31.961	13

The Opportunity for Ministry^{vi}

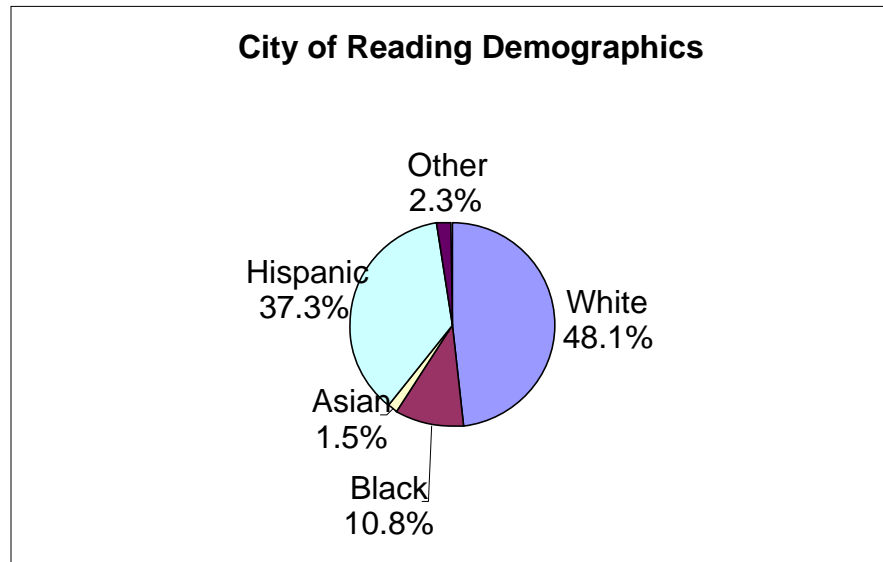
Our Vision: “A Christ-centered, worshiping Christian community, full of grace and truth, drawing the nations to Christ at the human crossroads of metro Reading”.



By far, the largest “religious” group in Reading are *those who claim no religious affiliation whatsoever* at 46%, followed by mainline Protestant and Roman Catholic.

We envision a church that will be a "taste of heaven", embracing the Reading metro area.

Pray with us that the Lord would bring a taste of "heaven on earth" that reflects the nations gathered in metro Reading:^{vii}



Note that there is *no longer a majority population* in the Reading city limits. When the statistical area is broadened to a 15-mile radius around the city of Reading, the numbers change (86% Anglo, 9% Hispanic, 3% African-American, 1% Asian), **but**:

- The total population climbs to over 455,000
- "...based upon the total number of groups present, the racial/ethnic diversity in the area is *very high*."
- By 2009, the Anglo population will *decrease*, the African-American population will remain stable and the Hispanic and Asian populations will both *increase* as a percentage of the total population.
- And the "lifestyle diversity in the area is *extremely high*"^{viii}

Core Values and Strategies for Ministry

Our driving question must be: In light of what we believe about the Gospel, how can we best position ourselves strategically to fulfill the “last command” of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

1. Christ-centered

- ❖ We desire to be a church united by our common faith in Jesus Christ, embracing God’s people from the diverse cultural, ethnic, educational and socio-economic backgrounds of the Reading metro region. We envision a church where Jesus Christ, revealed in the Scriptures, is the center of our lives, and where the Lord’s Supper, celebrated each Sunday, becomes the visible sign of our inward spiritual union with Christ and one another and the basis for tangible acts of mercy and love.

Ephesians 4:4-6 (ESV) There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.^{ix}

- We want there to be *nothing to compel* anyone, except the gospel, and *nothing to repel* anyone, except the offense of the cross of Christ. We believe that the waters of baptism form a stronger bond than any other human connection based on family ties, educational level, income, race, ethnic origin, gender, political affiliation or any other human distinction. Therefore the church’s identity could well be summarized by the description given it in the Apostle’s Creed of the 2nd century and in the Nicene Creed of the 4th century; that we desire by God’s grace to be “one, holy, catholic and apostolic church”:
 - Christ Presbyterian is *one* in our spiritual relationship together in Jesus Christ, the head of the church. Christ saves us and then places us in His church. Our outward and visible fellowship and service is the fruit of our inner union with Christ through the Spirit by faith in the promises of the gospel. It is expressed outwardly by our common confession of faith in Jesus Christ.
 - Christ Presbyterian is *holy* in that her worship and mission are for the Lord Jesus Christ’s goals, not the goals of any earthly kingdom or cultural or political agenda of the left or the right. We are dedicated exclusively to the mission given by Jesus Christ in the Scriptures.
 - Christ Presbyterian is *catholic* (universal) in that we desire to welcome God’s people from all kinds of backgrounds. We affirm a vision for ministry that seeks to bridge, as much as humanly possible, income, gender, class, race and ethnic boundaries. We believe it is first

and foremost in the church that the true unity of humanity is to be found, as we are first reconciled to God and then to each other, through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit.

- Christ Presbyterian is *apostolic* in that we seek to be a church that lives according to the teaching and practice of Christ's apostles in the Scriptures.
- Therefore, we are committed to the following Ministry strategies:
 - Since Christ is revealed to us in the totality of the Scriptures,^x the centrality of *preaching* Christ from the whole Bible to the whole person will be at the heart of every activity of the church. The centrality of *experiencing* Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper will be at the core of our life as a Christian community. Thus, we are committed to regular Christ-centered expositional preaching of all the books of the Bible and weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper.
 - We maintain a preference for a "no-distinctions" approach to ministry, except when the church's mission can be accomplished in no other way – i.e., a general preference for a "heterogeneous" rather than a "homogenous" ministry style.
 - We are a self-consciously *confessional* and *inclusive* church – indeed, a church where our confession (understanding of our faith) is the *means of inclusivity*, not oppressive authoritarianism or narrowness in ministry.

2. Genuine Worship

- ❖ We envision a rich, full worship that celebrates the full range of a covenant relationship with God every Sunday and invites non-believers to that covenant relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

"But you [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;" (1 Pet. 2:9)^{ki}

- We want to experience true worship – in a way that first pleases God, then engages the minds and hearts of believers, and also draws unbelievers to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Worship lifts the heart of the believer to the presence of God, filling it with the goodness of God through the ministry of the Spirit working through the "means of grace." It presents God in all his majesty and beauty in an appeal to the unbeliever to be reconciled to God in Christ. Therefore, our priorities in worship are:
 - *God-honoring* worship directed and controlled by the Scripture
 - Engaging *heart-felt affections* of all the members in covenant-*renewal* worship. We will seek a rich, meaningful worship, where the worship of God, His law and covenant, blends with our corporate response of prayers, praises and confessions to produce a beautiful medley of God's heavenly glory and earthly presence in affectionate covenant renewal between God and His redeemed people.

- *Inviting* unbelievers to the gospel in covenant-*initiation* worship. We will seek to structure worship in such a way as to welcome all members and potential members of God's covenant family, without regard to their race, ethnic origin, age, or any other human distinction, recognizing only the distinction between those inside and those outside God's covenant family.
- Therefore, our Ministry strategies will focus on:
 - Music that is doctrinally sound, accessible to the congregation and sung with music appropriate to both the content and the congregation (i.e., we are not going to identify ourselves in worship by a particular style or taste, such as "traditional" or "contemporary", but will use an ordered priority of values to give form and beauty to our worship).
 - Affectionate, heart-felt reverence in worship-leading
 - Regular training for musicians and music directors in principles and practice of worship
 - Using opportunities throughout the service to invite the unbeliever to repentance and faith
 - Preaching and worship that preaches to the "empty chairs" – those who are not there whom we would like to be there.
 - Training in developing personal and household worship throughout the week

3. Healthy Christian Community

- ❖ A healthy church will be a growing and reproducing church. Our goal is to lovingly lead sinners toward life-long allegiance to Christ through baptism, the Lord's Supper and church membership, and then see this growing Christian community birth more such churches in a church-planting movement for Reading and Berks County.

Acts 15:40-16:5 (ESV) ... Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches... Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him... As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.^{xii}

- We believe in the *local, visible Church* as an essential part of our Christian commitment and a key benefit given to us by Christ.
- We want to be a *sacramental* community that is drawn to and lives out the reality of union with Christ and one another as seen in the Lord's Table.

- We desire to be a *growing* community, to fulfill Christ's command to make disciples of all nations by planting churches, so that we are not just a church plant, but also a church-planting *movement*, with a mission so big that only the Holy Spirit could accomplish it.
- Therefore, our Ministry strategies will focus on:
- Relational evangelism focused on the natural networks God puts together through the people He brings as members
 - Community groups, Bible studies and discipleship training for men and women
 - opportunities for members to receive regular pastoral visitation and care by the pastors and elders, and pastoral outreach through individual networks into the communities represented by members
 - We envision a church community that loves mercy and preaches the gospel in both words and deeds to all who will listen, sharing in the sufferings of the poor and oppressed of Christ's Church
 - A dependence on God in prayer seen in all the ministries of the church. Prayer-based ministry, individually, in families, and in small groups will be the only basis of our confident expectation of success as a church.
 - We will search for church-planting interns committed to Reformed theology, ecclesiology and mission. We will design a strategy to integrate interns into the total ministry of the church, so as to acclimate them to the full-scale work of church-planting. Given the diverse ethnic make-up of Greater Reading, we will seek interns who represent that demographic mix and who are committed to ministerial training and church planting within their respective ethnic groups.
 - We will seek to take advantage of opportunities to plant new churches, as far as God enables us.

4. Nourished on Truth, Growing by Grace

- ❖ We envision a church that is winsome in its presentation of Christ to nonbelievers, that understands the radical nature of the Cross, of grace and redemption for sinners. We envision a community where we begin with the assumption of our brokenness and spiritual flaws, where it is safe to be nothing but a redeemed sinner beloved of God solely through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We desire to put theology back into the pews in the service of Christian discipleship – i.e., the better we know God, the more we love him, and the more we love him, the better we serve him. We want God's transforming grace in Christ to be the driving force of Christian living and discipleship. We want to grow in a deepening, practical understanding of the "doctrines of grace" as the transforming power for recovering sinners and idolaters – all of us! We believe that these doctrines of God's grace revealed in the Bible (sometimes referred to as

Reformed or Calvinist theology) best explains the totality of scripture, and, when practiced, produces the best spiritual growth.

“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. 29 To this [end] I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.” (Col. 1:27-29)^{xiii}

- Therefore, our ministry strategies will focus on “the gospel circle”
 - God calls His people from every conceivable human condition, so mature discipleship begins with good evangelism! We will reach out to the world with an evangelistic method and pastoral care, the goal of which is to result in mature disciples of Christ, people that will have confidence on the day of judgment that they will receive God’s salvation, and who have borne in their lives the fruits of Christian faith, and who themselves are reproducing gospel outreach among their own social networks.
 - We will embrace thorough ongoing theological and practical training and accountability for those who serve and teach in the church.
 - We will focus a Christian Education ministry that hands on the faith to the next generation through catechizing, training in the story of the Bible and the doctrines of grace.
 - We will pursue ongoing officer training that is continually training ordained lay leaders to be winsome evangelists, wise shepherds and Biblical servant-leaders for the people of God. Officer-training will focus on producing those seeking the care of souls, not merely decision-makers concerning policy of the church.

5. A Love for the City

- ❖ We envision a church community that embraces the crossroads of humanity at the center of the city of Reading, knowing that “where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more”. Rather than seeing the tension of urban life as a threat to Christian values, our goal will be to integrate ourselves into the heart of Greater Reading so that the gospel may work its transforming power in its complex needs. The population growth rates and densities indicate that Reading is the social center of Berks County, even as growth continues in the outlying areas. Additionally, the city government has mounted an aggressive long-term campaign to revitalize downtown Reading and attract people back into the city both during and after work hours. This means that the city will most likely continue to grow in its importance as an educational, financial, economic and social integrator. In the providence of God, He has brought together a multitude of the nations of the world, as well as many social and economic classes together into one metropolitan area. We want to situate the mission of the church in its location and programming in such a way as to impact the academic, professional, immigrant, urban poor and suburban communities in and around the city.

Titus 1:5 (ESV) This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every [city] as I directed you—^{xiv}

- We want to be a Greater Reading church that reaches the city of Reading, as well as the surrounding communities to bring together the elect of God in true Christian fellowship. We believe that Christ's mission for his church is best fulfilled, in our context, at the human crossroads in Greater Reading. This strategic vision brings together our mission, best use of resources and the greatest needs.
 - Therefore, our ministry strategies will focus on
 - A study, ministry and worship center situated at the human crossroads of Greater Reading.
 - ministry to the academic community that integrates with the local church: Albright College, Alvernia College, Penn State – Berks, Kutztown University and RACC
 - Youth outreach and ministry^{xv}
 - ministry to the surrounding communities: home fellowship groups, evangelistic studies
 - ministry to the international community: immigrant outreach, international student outreach
 - mercy ministry to the poor: giving the gospel in word and deed to the poor, following Christ's example. Mercy ministry. Possibilities include English as a Second Language (ESL) programs, and Bible studies targeted at the various majority and minority culture communities represented in Reading
 - ministry to the governing authorities: a prophetic witness of integrity and justice to the "powers that be"

Here is one example of how we have seen God work during our tenure in Rhode Island. One example is a young man named Nathaniel Koliyah. I met Nathaniel at an international student dinner that we hosted when the church started. Nathaniel began coming to church, and soon a number of Liberians were coming with him. Nathaniel recently began training for the ministry and has come under care of the Southern New England Presbytery. We are thankful for Nathaniel's path of discipleship and for the other stories of lives who have been impacted by the love and mercy of God. Our hope is that God will continue the stories of His transforming work in Providence, Rhode Island, and now in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Our prayer is that God will raise up a church that has a vision for gospel-centered life and mission and for a ministry that will inspire and train new ministers who are entrepreneurial and willing to go into many areas underserved by the gospel ministry in Reading. We trust that God will establish a cross-centered, grace-filled community that celebrates the Lord Jesus' redemption by His body and blood and which lives out the reality of the Lord's Table during the week in humble service and mercy ministry. This alone can provide the foundation for this long-term vision.

This is why we are raising funds now.

Some of the populations whom we hope to reach will not be able to fully support gospel ministry at first. In addition, identifying appropriate meeting and office space, and adding the appropriate ministry and support staff within a reasonable timeframe require seed money upfront until the church can truly become a self-supporting, church planting movement. To that end, we are seeking to raise \$330,000 over the next four years.

The Susquehanna Valley Presbytery has already committed \$80,000 this first year. *Would you join with us in considering this challenge as an opportunity for faith?* If the Presbytery is able to contribute as much as half that amount next year, that leaves \$200,000.00 to be raised over the next four years. It sounds like a big goal, but when it is broken down into manageable sizes, this goal can be reached. Consider how your gift, no matter how small or large, could fit into the larger picture of seeing this goal met:

One-time gifts

- 10 gifts of \$1,000
- 8 gifts of \$2,500
- 5 gifts of \$5,000
- 3 gifts of \$10,000

Monthly pledges for 4 years

- 125 pledges of \$25 monthly
- 100 pledges of \$50 monthly
- 75 pledges of \$75 monthly
- 50 pledges of \$100 monthly
- 25 pledges of \$250 monthly
- 13 pledges of \$500 monthly

The apostle Paul is clear that those who preach must be sent.

Romans 10:14-15 ... And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? ...

My family and I are willing and ready to go and preach. The Mission to North America Committee of the PCA is helping send us by working with us to develop the project, helping with budgeting,

fundraising, coaching and many other ongoing support services. Our presbytery has committed a significant amount of their resources to this project. Will you consider whether the Lord would have you involved as well? Will you join in sending us? Please prayerfully consider how you might become part of our team in reaching Reading and Berks County with the gospel.

In addition to using the enclosed pledge card, you may also

- ✓ contribute **online** to “The Reading Project” at www.pca_mna.org,
- ✓ **email** your pledge of support for “The Reading Project” to mnapledge@pcanet.org.
- ✓ donate stocks, mutual funds, real estate, or make a confidential cash contribution to “The Reading Project Church Designated Fund” at the **PCA Foundation**
 - online at www.pcafoundation.com/main/HowtoGift.htm,
 - by phone (1-800-700-3221)
 - or mail your check for “The Reading Project Church Designated Fund” to

PCA Foundation
1700 North Brown Road, Suite 103
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

- ✓ or send your tax-deductible contributions **directly** to:

The Reading Project
c/o Luke Hibshman, Treasurer
864 East Main St.
Ephrata, PA 17522

There are other important ways in which you can be involved.

You can commit to pray on a daily or weekly basis in your own personal prayer time. You can join our prayer team which will meet regularly in Reading. You can direct potential core group members our way, or let us know their names and we can contact them. You can let us know of other potential donors and prayer warriors who will stand with us in this "New Kingdom Initiative in the Green Diamond".

I would be happy to talk with you more about this project. Please feel free to contact me at any time:

Rev. Melvin Sensenig
1496 Cedar Top Road
Reading, PA 19607
Phone (610) 775-4883
pastormel@christpresreading.org

A Concluding Personal Postscript: Idubin Vargas in his own words...

[Idubin is Mel's foster brother, and his life is a testimony of how the gospel, communicated in both word and deed, can change lives in Reading, PA, both now and for eternity.]

I was born in New York into a non-Christian family. My dad was an alcoholic and abusive toward my brother and sisters, but most of all to my mother. It got to the point where my mother couldn't take it anymore so that she decided to take us kids to Reading. I had the choice of staying with my mom or my dad, and at that point I wanted to be with my dad. But in the end, my dad decided it would be better for me to go with my mother. I am extremely glad it happened that way because it gave me the chance of enjoying life in Christ Jesus because of what happened to me in Reading, Pennsylvania.

When I was six, we moved to Reading into an apartment on Third Street. I started making friends and hanging out with the wrong crowd. I started getting into stealing in a row of stores on Penn St. and getting caught did not help with my relationship with my mom. My sisters, on the other hand, would stay out past curfew and the police would end up bringing them home, until social services found out that it had happened more than once and then they were taken into foster care.

We moved around a lot the next three years. The second to last time that my mom and brothers moved, we landed on 923 Franklin Street where a friend of mine introduced me to the Friday night kids' ministry in the apartment below. That's when I met a lot of great Christian people, including LaMarr and Naomi Sensenig. That Christmas was a big one in the years that I lived in Reading because the gift packages that were given by LaMarr and Naomi contained winter clothing that our family needed. A couple of months after that we moved again, but I continued to visit the ministry every Friday.

Then one day my older brother and I got into a big argument and he started throwing books at me. One of them caught me under my right eye. For the next week or two I had a black eye. And it happened that one of the days after that incident my sisters' social service caseworker stopped and he didn't like what he saw so he started to work on finding a foster home for me to live in. However, I asked if I could talk to some people I know and see if they would like to be the ones to take care of me. The next Friday that I saw LaMarr and Naomi I asked them and they said yes. Within two weeks I moved into the Sensenig household. Shortly after I moved in I became a Christian and got baptized at a local friend's pool – and almost met my Maker later that night while we were swimming! Thank God my brother dove in the pool after me because I couldn't swim well at all.

For the past 12 years I have been living with this wonderful family and growing as a Christian. Though the rest of the siblings of my Sensenig family have gotten married and moved out, I find myself being really blessed by my relationships with the Sensenig family and my real family whom I visit often in Reading. And that is something that I am most thankful for, because if God hadn't put LaMarr and Naomi in my life I probably would be following a much different (and worse) path, but because of their witness, I came to Christ, was saved, and am living for Jesus.

I am thankful that God brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to me in Reading and that He took me off the path that I would otherwise have gone down. I pray that God continues to send more messengers of the gospel into Reading.

ⁱ Earth Research Systems www.ersys.com/usa/42/4263624/density.htm

ⁱⁱ www.thearda.com. The American Religion Data Archive is housed at the Pennsylvania State University in the Department of Sociology and the Social Science Research Institute.

ⁱⁱⁱ Earth Research Systems www.ersys.com/usa/42/4263624/growth.htm . Note also the new Morgan development in Morgantown. The same observations apply.

^{iv} Data from Tower Publishing, e-mail from Mary Anne Hildreth.

^v www.thearda.com. Note that neighboring Lancaster County ranks #1 in percentage of evangelical adherents at 18.9%. Note that Philadelphia (largest PA city) comes in slightly higher at # 50! In fact, of the 5 largest cities in PA, only Allentown (3rd-largest) ranks slightly lower than Reading in percentage of evangelical adherents, coming in at #56 in state rank, while Pittsburgh (2nd-largest), and Erie (4th-largest) are both higher.

^{vi} Graph data taken from the American Religion Database: www.thearda.com.

^{vii} Earth Research Systems www.ersys.com/usa/42/4263624/ethnic.htm

^{viii} Percept demographic study (Ministry Area Profile) prepared for The Reading Project, p. 1 (emphasis added).

^{ix} See also *Luke 24:27 (ESV) And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (ESV) The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Ephesians 2:13-22 (ESV) For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility . . . For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

**Psal 40:7, Matt 11:10, Matt 26:24, Matt 26:31, Mark 14:21, Mark 14:27, Luke 2:23, Luke 24:46-7, Acts 13:33, Acts 15:15, Roma 1:17, Roma 9:33, Roma 11:26, Roma 14:11, 1Cor 15:45, Gala 3:13, Hebr 10:7*

^{xi} See also ". . . you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything." (1 Thess. 1:7)

"that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world," (Phil 2:15)

Exodus 20:3 (ESV) "You shall have no other gods before me.

Isaiah 29:13 (ESV) And the Lord said: ". . . this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,

John 4:23-24 (ESV) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Hebrews 9:14 (ESV) how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 (ESV) But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

^{xii} See also "To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ," (Eph. 3:8)

"To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this [end] I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily." (Col. 1:27-29)

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV) For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." (Matt 24:14)

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the age." Amen." (Matt 28:18-20)

"And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, [saying], "In you all the nations shall be blessed." (Gal. 3:8)

"but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." (Acts 6:4)

"you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift [granted] to us through many." (2 Cor. 1:11)

^{xiii} See also "And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding." (Jer. 3:15)

"Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the Lord." (Jer. 23:2)

"I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the Lord." (Jer. 23:4)

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood." (Acts 20:28)

"Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;" (1 Pet. 5:2)

^{xiv} See also *Luke 13:22 (ESV)* *He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem.*

Acts 15:21 (ESV) *For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues."*

He went into every city, to preach... Nor did he excuse himself from going to the cities with this, that there were some from the cities that came to him; for, though there were, yet the most had not zeal enough to bring them to him, and therefore such is his wonderful condescension that he will go to them; for he is found of those that sought him not, Isa. 65:1. Here was, it seems, a vast concourse, much people were gathered together, abundance of fish to cast their net among; and he was as ready and willing to teach as they were to be taught." – Matthew Henry, Commentary on the whole Bible (Lk 8:4).

^{xv} Note that the population ages as one moves further away from the city. Earth Research Systems:
<http://www.ersys.com/usa/42/4263624/age.htm>.