



introduction

OUR AIMS AND IDENTITY

The Line is Christ to Chicago. As a church, we move, dwell, thrive and last in Chicago. We desire to salt the city, and are planting churches and missionaries that last toward that end.

DISTINCTIVES

Longevity: We believe that the most coherent, persuasive witness to Chicago's urban center will be consistent over a longer period of time. We seek to stay in the city, to build it up over many generations of diligent labor. We desire for Chicago to be known to history as the city that God's people loved.

Movement: We are the ransomed children of God, sent by Jesus as ambassadors to bless all men and speak His glory to the world. All members of the Line acknowledge this truth and work hard to fulfill their calling. As a church, we send and are sent on an everyday basis.

We believe that the truthfulness of the gospel is best evidenced by transformation in all tribes, cultures and ethnicities. Planting new churches, expressions, and gospel communities is a regular and joyful exercise. We prize both growth and birth.

Dwelling: Like Jesus, we leave our places of comfort to live with the lost. We read what they read, eat where they eat, and play where they play – all to God's glory and without sin. We seek to bring transformation to communities from the inside out. Our strategies for blessing others are localized and diverse.

Thriving: We are moving and working toward the ultimate thriving of all things. We believe that Jesus has made true reconciliation possible, and that His royal family, the church, is made an agent of that reconciliation. This role is acted out holistically as we bless the city through both our action and proclamation of the good news. The church itself grows and thrives as it is daily restored to Jesus, its one true hope and glorious future.

PARTICIPATION

Participation can occur on three levels:

1. *Evaluative:* Participant attends Sunday and mid-week gatherings for the purpose of evaluating The Line
2. *Launch Team:* Participant commits to help the Line get to it's launch phase by performing needed tasks, through prayer, etc.
3. *Core Team:* Participant commits to participate by committing to be launched in a gospel community, by committing to a DNA group, and by being equipped in our Sunday Gathering.

THEOLOGICAL DISTINCTIVES

We believe that right understanding of God is critical to right worship of God. We are diligent to ensure that our preaching, teaching, and general ethos are free of doctrinal error. Below is a general summary of our doctrinal passions and positions.

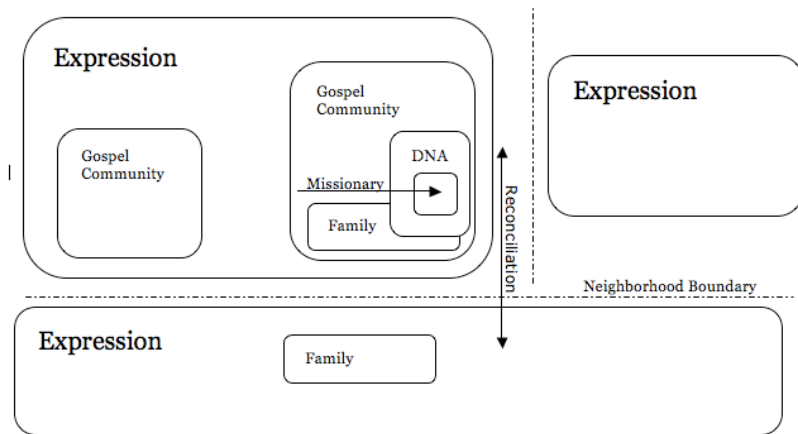
Christ-Centered: Our worldview and mission are summarized in a single name: Jesus Christ. Without Jesus, we have no hope, no mission, no joy. In Jesus we are atoned for, called, cleansed, covered, justified, renewed, adopted, and loved. Jesus Christ is the only good news we have to offer, as to a dying mankind we boldly proclaim, "The world has been turned upside-down – God has sacrificed Himself to save men!"

Salvation: We are saved by God, from God, for God. We are saved from Satan, sin, and death, and to a life of joy pursuing God's glory in Christ. Because of Christ's atoning sacrifice on the cross, God will see our sins as removed and will see us as having Jesus' own righteousness.

Our understanding of Salvation is reformed, in that we believe: that we are unable to act in a God-ward direction apart from His effective call and that no-one is able to thwart God's plan of Salvation.

God's Word: The Scriptures are God's effective words to mankind, and should be treasured as such. The believer cannot be nourished or sustained without the Scriptures. The Scriptures never lose their relevance and always lead the elect to Christ. The Scriptures contain nothing that is contrary to fact in their original manuscripts. Because of this position, we affirm as truths concepts that seem unpalatable to modern intellectual culture, such as: God's literal, eternal punishment for wrongdoing; Jesus literally substituting Himself in our place as the receiver of God's wrath; different but equal roles for men and women as part of God's plan in creation, etc.

MODEL AND STRUCTURE: NESTED COMMUNITIES



Missionaries: At its core, The Line is made of missionaries to Chicago. Missionaries...

1. Are devoted to a lifelong pursuit of Christ
2. Are devoted to acting on God's plan to reveal Himself to the world

DNA Groups: Missionaries gather into DNA (Disciple, Nurture, Accountability) groups. These groups are:

1. Are made up of three missionaries who have covenanted with each other to pursue Christ, and
2. to further the plan of God on the earth
3. Are men with men, women with women
4. Are living life together (i.e., spending recreational time together, eating together, etc.)
5. Are the primary center of godly counsel in The Line.

Families: In addition to DNA groups, missionaries are often a part of a family. Families...

1. Have parents that disciple their children toward Christ and His redemptive plan
2. Often "adopt" others into their daily life (i.e., singles, newly married couples, etc.)

Gospel Communities: DNA groups gather into Gospel Communities. Gospel Communities...

1. Gather together regularly
2. Are the primary location of discussion and dialogue, often centered on right
3. understanding of God's Word.
4. Have a well-defined plan to bless a portion of the city
5. Work together to accomplish that plan
6. Eat together in celebration

Gospel Communities define their mission within geographical limits (i.e. between Belmont and Diversey, South Roscoe, Boystown, etc.). Participants in that community either already live in that location or look for opportunities to move there.

Expressions: Gospel Communities gather into Expressions. Expressions are regular gatherings of 100-1000 missionaries where

1. Believers are equipped for the ministry
2. Believers remember Christ in Communion
3. Believers and non-believers experience the gospel by the preaching of the word

The Line gathers regularly (every couple of months) as a massive city-wide expression.

In addition, expressions in The Line partner on all kinds of projects that transform the city.

As expressions join to celebrate, share resources, and conspire together to bless the city, Chicago is shown the magnificent power of Christ to reconcile His people.