

## Port Orchard Church Planting

# FAQs

### **Why another church in Port Orchard?**

First of all, church planting is a direct answer to Jesus' call to mission in Matthew 28:19 and the ensuing work of the early church we read about in Acts. It is building a new community for people to become disciples of Jesus. As long as the motive behind a church plant is to reach new people, we should be encouraging church planting all over the place. In that vein, the reality of Port Orchard is that the churches that are currently there are only reaching a fraction of the community (anywhere from 20-30%). In the preliminary work Pastor Megan has done in reaching out to pastors, all of them have told her that Port Orchard needs new churches, for this reason.

Also, we know that statistically church plants are the most successful way to reach new believers by the very nature of a church plant being reliant on new believers to become a sustainable community. The challenge for any church is to continue to stay on mission and reach new people, even as they disciple those already within the community. Many churches move away from their missional priority and become insular, a pitfall Chapel Hill is currently wrestling with.

### **What will the connection with Chapel Hill be?**

We don't anticipate going the traditional multi-site (identical experience, streamed sermon) nor traditional independent (separate leadership, vision), but will pursue a hybrid approach. We believe God has gifted Chapel Hill with some PNW distinctives—clear commitment to Scripture, reliable witness for Jesus, trusted reputation in the community, and steady leadership. Yet Port Orchard (and future church-plants) are distinctive town-to-town. We want to follow a model that will allow us to be incarnational to individual towns while maintaining Session oversight, budget stability, and leadership connections. So we are planning to follow a “family of churches” model that has been successful with other EPC churches.

### **Where will we look to worship, geographically?**

This will be an opportunity for exploration as a team and has not yet been determined. We are drawn to downtown Port Orchard as a place where people congregate and are seeking community.

### **When will worship services be?**

Where we will meet will help determine this.

**What will staffing look like in Gig Harbor? Port Orchard?**

Pastor Megan will be working the same part-time hours as formerly, but now in Port Orchard. Her responsibilities have been distributed throughout the existing staff team. Pastor Megan working in Port Orchard will be the only Gig Harbor staff change anticipated for the next 12 months.

We do not anticipate hiring any additional staff for Port Orchard at this time, but we will be relying on volunteer teams.

**What programs will we duplicate between the two campuses?**

Programs that begin in Port Orchard will depend upon volunteers being called into leadership and an evaluation of the needs of Port Orchard. At this time, Alpha is the one program we plan on bringing right away as well as developing a prayer team.

At least initially, we want to invest our support in the current Celebrate Recovery at a church that has been a significant partner to us over the past year, Capital Christian Church. Their CR meets on Monday nights.