

LOCAL CHURCH INSPIRES 600 LEADERS TO USE INFLUENCE TO EXTEND FLOURISHING TO THOUSANDS

[Oak Brook, IL, November 11, 2016] – It is not every day that the leadership of Oak Brook’s well-known Christ Church hosts their worship service in a tent. Stranger still, was their choice to hold this gathering the night of game three of the Chicago Cubs playing in the World Series. Yet, more than 600 of the churches 5,000+ members came together on October 28 for a very pointed purpose.

The attendees represented the leadership core of a congregation pursuing a very ambitious vision for expanding its ministry, mission, and media outreach. The church is calling the vision for their next season of ministry Take Root. By the end of 2018, Christ Church hopes to have completely renovated its campus, improving parking and adding an 1,100-seat worship venue, which will also play host to a variety of community events.

More significant, the church envisions establishing two new branches of its congregation’s life in partnership with other congregations seeking revitalization. They also plan to dramatically deepen a ministry of tutoring, mentoring, and job skills training in a pocket of suburbanized poverty along the Roosevelt Road corridor, as well as engage in a similar effort in a community in Africa. Additionally, Christ Church is reinvesting in the internet arm of an already substantial media outreach program.

When asked about these efforts, Christ Church Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Daniel Meyer, stated, “Many of us here have strongly sensed a deep malaise in the life of our culture and country, perhaps signaled by the great unrest afflicting our political and racial conversations. People are searching for a clearer moral vision and the strength to pursue it. We want to be a part of bringing God’s life-changing love to the hearts and hope of our time. As we move into our second half-century, we want to root ourselves more deeply in Christ for the sake of others, so we can be a blessing not just in our buildings, but in many places beyond them.”

Take Root is a two-year initiative with the primary goal of achieving 100% participation in rooting the congregation more deeply in Christ for the sake of others. The secondary goal is to raise \$49 million over the two years to increase the church’s mission and media outreach by nearly 10%, support ongoing ministries and their five-year strategic plan, as well as provide for a new contemporary worship auditorium on the existing campus. For more than fifty years, Christ Church has gone into all the world sewing more than \$31 million in help and hope to date, and extending flourishing to tens-of-thousands of people. The Take Root initiative will allow the church to continue its bold mission for many years to come.

At the gathering on October 28, the church inspired more than 600 leaders including its entire staff, many of which are also leaders in this community, to lead out ahead of the entire congregation in making their commitment to the Take Root initiative in a special worship service and celebration in a tent on the church’s campus. “This Take Root commitment means the first time we have taken a leap of faith and really stepped out, giving in a sacrificial way,” stated Sherri Adams, a member of the Christ Church senior leadership team and long-time member of both the church and community. “We have a couple of kids in college and we have also had that fear of how we are going to use our resources to pay

for their education. For us, being able to really step out in faith and knowing that God is going to provide for us, has really been something that has inspired us and hopefully is an opportunity to inspire others.”

This weekend, November 12 and 13, the church’s entire congregation of more than 5,000 members will come together to make their commitment to the initiative. It is a bold vision, but the hearts of thousands have been moved to be a blessing for the sake of others. “For the last 45 years, Christ Church has poured out its blessings on me at each stage of my life,” exclaimed Victor Warren, Christ Church Trustee and long-time member. “My wife, Mary, and I were married here, we raised our children here, and the kids were baptized here. It has been the bedrock of so much blessing. And, Take Root, basically means for us, an ability to continue that great gift for the sake of others. We want to be a part of this generation that plants, like the initial generation did, for the future.”

To learn more about the Take Root initiative, visit www.TakeRootCCOB.org.

About Christ Church of Oak Brook

Christ Church of Oak Brook is an intergenerational, non-denominational Christian church with an average weekend attendance of 2,600 people and a membership of more than 5,000. A core group of 75 staff and hundreds of volunteers join together on its 25-acre campus to provide ministries of worship, growth, and service for the western suburbs and beyond. The church gives away more than 20% of its annual income to support a weekly television and radio broadcast and the life-changing work of more than 80 local and global mission partners with a passion for children at risk, church-planting, community development, and crisis relief.

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