

Need

Launching a First West regional campus is a major part of our multiplication strategy in northeast Louisiana (NELA). By extending our reach into new areas underserved by other churches, we will #seetoit that no one misses the grace of God with Christ-centered worship, community and service.

With campuses in West Monroe and Fairbanks, the next strategic regional campus should be located in Calhoun. We believe this is the next step in our multiplication strategy.

Why launch a regional campus in Calhoun?

- Spirit-led calling to this time and place
- Second fastest growing community in NELA
- Projected population growth of 5.8% in the next five years
- Area is underserved by other churches
- Demographics are comparable to our existing demographic profile
- Community is at the limit of our present reach

Growth Potential

One experienced Calhoun leader says it this way: "A multisite done the way First West will do it will be the largest church in Calhoun in a year's time." We believe a new Calhoun campus satisfies the requirement for a long-term average worship attendance of 200 or more.

First West already has a presence in the Calhoun area through the 150 First West families who reside in zip code 71225. While not all of these people will commit to a new Calhoun campus, many will see this new opportunity as a moment to #seetoit with friends and neighbors.

Multiplication Grid

Reaching northeast Louisiana (NELA) through a multiplication of our reach in new areas is a key way First West will grow in coming years. We have four distinct kinds of opportunities:

- Launching a First West regional campus
- Repurposing an existing church belonging to a struggling congregation
- Planting a new church
- Initiating a strategic partnership

Since we recognize an abundance of opportunities in NELA and have limited resources to invest, we commit to meet a set of conditions before proceeding with any multiplication opportunity.

Replication Clarity

We have prepared a series of six replication documents that give focus to who we are and what we plan to reproduce on every First West campus. Covering the items we must do, should do and won't do on every campus adds clarity to our worship, community and service threads.

Ministry replication documents cover:

- Preaching Team
- Worship Team
- Groups Team
- NextGen Team
- Students Team
- Missions Team

Launch Options

We have four options for launching our Calhoun campus:

- Launching a campus in a strategic business
- Launching a campus in a school
- Leasing space in an existing building
- Repurposing an existing church belonging to a struggling congregation

Timeline Summary

2015

- August-September – Pray for direction.
- October-December – Clarify ministry replication points.

2016

- January-February – Develop a multiplication grid.
- March-April – Review demographic data and finalize Calhoun area.
- April 4-7 – Determine meeting location options.
- April 11-25 – Explore a church repurposing.
- May – Finalize Campus Pastor Profile and outline budget.
- Summer – Conduct Campus Pastor search process.
- September-October – Hire Campus Pastor, recruit core leadership team and refine launch plan.
- November-December – Hire part-time campus employees.

2017

- January 9 – Begin pre-launch community effort
- March 5 – Services Begin
- April 16 – Easter Launch

Budget

Planning a launch budget for the new Calhoun campus is in process. Several factors aid us in this process:

- We have several lower cost facility options under consideration.
- We will repurpose Fairbanks mobile equipment.
- We will fund the new Campus Pastor with staffing realignment.
- The annual Transform emphasis in November 2016 will include funding for the Calhoun campus launch.
- Campus giving is projected to provide a minimum of 30% of operating expenses (minus personnel).