

## Newsletter for May 2019

Dear Church Family,

These are historic days for our “Little Mac.” At the congregational meeting yesterday, April 28, we move another step forward in our “Church for those Without a Church” (now shortened to CWC), which may well become our “Big Mac.” The list of additional foundational steps that need to be taken will likely take a full year or more to implement. It will be exciting to see it grow.

CWC will be as close to an actual congregation as we can make it using all the technical tools now available. Every year at the National Religious Broadcasters conventions (next year in Nashville) we discover more ways to do the work. By the way, anyone who would like to come with us to the convention next year may do so. You would only need to register to get on the floor. It will be at Gaylord’s Opryland, really a fabulous place. Talk to us about it.

Let me here describe some of the ideas we are working on. 1. Outreach to the deaf and hard of hearing 2. Divorce Recovery Workshop 3. Bible Studies 4. Prayer meetings 5. Deliverance ministry 6. Receiving the Lord’s Super 7. Actual water baptism 8. Counseling ministry 9. Other languages beginning with Spanish 10. Book clubs 11. Music ministry 12. Children’s programs 13. Streaming our Sunday morning service. 14. Having our own television channel. Over time, other means of outreach will be developed as well.

My research shows that we will have a special or unique niche in that we will promote that we are Evangelical (not a political term), Reformed, and Baptist. You see on the front page of our bulletin that we are Evangelical and Reformed Baptists. I will be preparing a statement of faith explaining the content of our title. From what I see, a large majority of those who have online churches are mostly charismatic/Pentecostal.

We will invite people to membership. The “how” of this step will develop. We want to issue membership certificates and also baptismal certificates. (Maybe someone would like to develop these?)

We will use Zoom and other formats for meetings of differing types. We will use a platform for giving, which will keep track of tithes and donations and provide proper documents for tax purposes. As we grow in our financial capacity, we will develop both a paid staff and a proper payroll process.

Very soon we will form a small group to oversee these processes, meeting once a month. There are likely dozens of issues that have not even come to mind at this point. The idea is to move slowly, carefully, and as we do, those things that we cannot yet foresee will come to light.

One might ask, why are we even engaging in this? There are several answers to this. One, we can, that is, we have the capability. Two, we are called to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. This is now possible for us without leaving the county. Three, it provides opportunity for more people to actively engage in real ministry. In our “Little Mac” this is limited, so we want to open up new avenues for others to get into the work.

As I have read about churches and ministries doing online outreach, it is mostly inviting people to view their worship services. Our concept is a bit different, maybe a lot different. And by the way, we are in no competition with anyone. We are offering people who cannot attend a brick & mortar church for various reasons inclusion into a congregation.

One might reasonably ask, how are we going to attract people to CWC? I can only answer for me right now. I have about 5,000 Facebook friends, and they will be invited. I have a following of those who watch YouTube programs. A number of people who read this newsletter may well want to become members of CWC. Then there are the television programs and the books: watchers and readers will be invited, too. Then we will develop special videos and podcasts to do the same. There are so many ways to go. And you may have friends you will invite as well. We now begin this great adventure. There will be ups and downs. No matter. We go forward with the work. Please come and join with us.

Pastor Kent Philpott  
May, 2019