



Christ's Place

CHRIST'S PLACE PROFILE

Christ's Place is the largest charismatic church in Lincoln, Nebraska, a growing city which is the site of the state's government and the University of Nebraska. The church is 33 years old and was led by its founder, Pastor David Argue for 29 years. When Pastor Argue stepped down because of health reasons, the long time Senior Associate, Pastor Brad Riddle, was affirmed as Senior Pastor and served for the past 4 years. With his resignation, this is the first time we have had to pursue a senior pastor search. Under Pastor Riddle's leadership the church has gone through a consultation process with Mel Ming for an outside view of the congregation, which helped redefine the church's vision, purposes and values and developed a strategic plan for their implementation. Leadership is still affirming the vision, purposes and values and plans to staff accordingly.

Christ's Place is a strong missions church; has strong youth and children's ministries; is known for interactive, expressive and musically gifted contemporary charismatic worship; our pastors have been good shepherds, highly effective communicators, teachers and counselors; its ministries have been team led by pastors and lay volunteers; its members are a diverse mix of ethnicity, nationality, age, occupations, incomes and spiritual gifting; the current lay leadership team of males and females is strong, unified and respected by the congregation; the primary strategies for assimilation and personal growth of seekers and saints are seven medium sized age stage environments, over 60 small groups of various kinds, and ministry team involvement. As a warm, caring and relational body the church is emphasizing being more seeker sensitive in corporate gatherings. The average Sunday attendance is now at 850, down from over 1200 five years ago. This has had a financial impact, which has been a concern for us but not a crisis.

The key emphasizes from the consulting process have been to focus on being more of an externally focused church (demonstrating and verbalizing our faith in our local community), to become more aware and focused on impacting the 20-somethings in Lincoln, and to move towards becoming a pastoral staff led church. This is seen as a leadership model that is more effective in a larger church. A summary of the consultation process is available for review.

The Search Committee has agreed on the following value statements to aid in developing our search and interview processes:

- We value global and local outreach. Sending people on short and long-term missions. Giving of our human and financial resources and extensive involvement in the local community.
- We value warm and real relationships. We enjoy the diverse community God has placed us in. We recognize that small groups are the primary means of creating a sense of community.
- We value effective and sound biblical teaching that encourages our spiritual growth and fosters openness to the Spirit of God. Such teaching helps us to define, discover and use our spiritual gifts.
- We value an engaging environment of relevant worship that leads the congregation to an expressive and intimate relationship with God.
- We value discipleship that helps every individual to discover and reach their full potential in Christ.

The qualities the Search Committee has initially identified as desired for our next lead pastor are:

- Strong leader with similar values and vision; visionary and willing to take managed risks to push the church's edge to help it grow; motivator by personality, exhortation and example; able to administrate, delegate effectively and lead both pastoral and ministry teams; candid, integrity,

willing to confront and manage conflict; committed to spiritual gifts and their own personal spiritual growth and relationship with Christ.

Finally, gender, age or level of education are not restrictions, the only constitutional requirement is that they be an ordained minister in good standing with the Assemblies of God. Experience and past and present behavior are what we'll be looking at closely. Ideally we are thinking of someone in their 40's or late 30's that can help us be more appealing to the younger demographics of our city, but yet still be appealing to those of us in our 50's and 60's.

Brief summary of Christ's Place:

- Congregation attendance 800 to 900 on Sundays.
- Worship style more contemporary than traditional.
- We value age stage ministries: children/youth/young adults/singles/seniors.
- Missions Focus is both global and local with an annual budget of \$200,000 to \$250,000.
- We are open to the ministry of the Holy Spirit in both corporate and small group settings.
- Annual Church Budget of 1.2 Million.
- Current Facility Debt is 1.2 Million.
- Congregation is made up of both blue and white collar individuals.
- We are a University-College community.
- Christ's Place is the largest charismatic church in the Capitol City.
- Average age of our congregation is mid 40's.
- Christ's Place was established August 3, 1975 - 33 years ago.
- Youth Group - 175 to 200 in attendance on Wednesday evenings.
- Children Ministry - 200 in attendance on Sundays & Wednesdays.
- Community Ministry – Over 625 adults currently in Small Groups including: Community Groups; Sports Groups; MOPS Groups; Support Groups; Adult Christian Education Electives.