



Waterloo FAQs

What is the buzz about multi-site? What does that term mean?

The term multi-site describes a way of growing our church so we are one church meeting at multiple locations. One culture, one senior pastor, one set of best practices delivered at more than one site each week. Recently, our Elder Board voted to move toward a multi-site strategy.

Why is this necessary? Why not add services or seats to our current campus?

Our vision is to reach the entire Cedar Valley by 2018 and to ensure that we've put an average of one vibrant Christ Follower on every block. A single site strategy will not enable us to accomplish our goal. Currently, about 80% of our attendees come from within a 15-minute radius. Beyond that 15-minute radius, participation falls off dramatically. We also know we aren't reaching Waterloo, specifically east Waterloo and Evansdale, like we think we should. Further, we have studied the economics of expansion, and know by adding space to our current facility could cost millions, whereas opening an additional new campus elsewhere in our valley could be done creatively for a fraction of that cost. These are some of the key reasons why our Elder Board recently voted to adopt a multi-site philosophy.

What will it look like? How will this work?

We will strive to capture and export as much of our Prairie Lakes Church culture as possible. From the beginning, we will do all we can to present a weekend experience similar to what one encounters at our Cedar Falls campus including live music, friendly First Impressions teams and engaging ministry to children. Campus Pastor, Ron Phares, will lead the campus staff and volunteers as well as host the weekend services. Regardless of which pastor is teaching, it will be captured on video at the Cedar Falls campus Saturday night and delivered on video to the Waterloo campus Sunday morning..

What should I pray about?

Pray for our church as we take these next steps to remain attentive and faithful to God's leading. Second, ask questions to the "right" people, people with the facts who can give you correct information as it becomes available, people like your staff and Elder Board. Third, let's throw water on fires of confusion and gossip that don't need to be burning, and throw gas on fires of vision and imagination that need to be fanned into flames. As Pastor John says, "We're all in this together! Given the choice of country club comfort or gate-crashing, Kingdom adventure, I will spend my short years crashing the gates of Hell every time. Let's go!"

Do we need to specify which campus we are giving to?

To those that are going to Waterloo, there is no need to specify which campus you are giving to. For those who want to give to our multi-site fund, please write "multi-site" in the memo section of your checks.

If we are currently serving, when do we switch serving rotations over to Waterloo?

Each ministry area is different. We hope to see those committed to Waterloo to begin serving on regular rotations starting January 31st.

What will security look like once we get to Waterloo?

We will take the same security measures at each of our locations.

What will the services look like?

All PLC services are designed to help people experience and respond to God. Come expecting a live band, live pastor and video teaching. What you see on the side-screens at the Cedar Falls Campus will be projected up in the Chapel each weekend.

What happens when it is Ron's turn to teach?

Whether it is an elder, pastor or staffer, somebody will shepherd and give spiritual direction. This is the same for all campuses.

Why are we only having the 11:00am service? When will we go to two services?

It's all about optimal seats at optimal times. Around Iowa the inviting hour is 11am on Sunday. We will continue with this time until we need to add another service time.

How long will our location be temporary?

God's timing is perfect. We will meet in the Chapel at the Cedar Falls campus until God opens a door for us to move into Waterloo. Most likely, when we move to Waterloo it will be in another temporary site. We are excited to get to Waterloo but we want to stay in step with God more than anything.

What will the Children's service look like?

Starting January 31st, our children will have services designed intentionally to acclimate them into how things are going to look and feel in Waterloo. Waterloo volunteers will be working alongside Cedar Falls volunteers in each wing of Wee Kids and KidVenture. This staffing arrangement will allow our children to become familiar and comfortable with the faces that will be in Waterloo.

How will I recognize Waterloo Volunteers and Kids?

In order for our team to be easily identified, Waterloo volunteers will be styling their hip blue and black Waterloo t-shirts accessorized with bright blue lanyards. To make room for the influx of kids at the 11:00 a.m. services, we will also be adding blue rugs to the Kidventure wing for our Waterloo kids.

Also, you may have even noticed that your child's nametag is now marked with a "W." This will allow us to ensure that your child will be paired with a Waterloo leader.

What about stuff like membership and business meetings?

We are one church on many corners. If you are a member of Prairie Lakes Church, you are a member at any location. When we have business meetings, we will do so at all locations.

How will we do baptisms?

Baptisms will happen no matter where we are located. Although we aren't sure where yet, we are going to continue to baptize those that have stepped over the faith line!

What will Carl Carey be doing in Waterloo?

Carl will be playing a role in both the Cedar Falls and Waterloo Campus. He is already involved with the community of Waterloo by helping out at East High. We are continually evaluating how Urban Ministry and the Waterloo Campus fit together.