



CHURCH PLANTING

Pastor Bill Phillips, giving thanks and praise over the Lord's Table in 2020.

King of Kings Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (P.C.A.).

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This guiding document articulates our desire as a church to be a part of birthing daughter churches, by God's grace. As you will see in the following pages, we have come to the Lord in prayer, asking that he would grant us the opportunity to know the joy of another congregation being formed and established from King of Kings. This is a portion of our stewardship as a church, and as disciples make disciples, so we believe that healthy churches also make churches.

In terms of the particular approach for planting, we are preparing ourselves to plant in a 'mother/daughter' fashion (otherwise known as 'hiving off'), which will include the taking on and bringing up of a man who will be sent out by our church, with a portion of our congregation, with resource, and mostly prayer, to pastor this new work. This is a longview vision, and includes a process that will likely encompass a multiple year journey.

We are a church that exists to know, worship, and serve Jesus Christ, so that among all people and in all things, he might be honored as the King of kings. This Christocentric vision is ever before us as a church. It is reflected in our name and evident in our congregational life, by God's grace.

Christ is risen!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Harp". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Josh Harp, Pastor



OUR
CONGREGATIONAL
PRAYER

Our pastor, Josh Harp, at the conclusion of baptism in 2022.

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Almighty God, we recognize that you have placed our congregation within various communities across the West Valley. Concerning our area, we know that there are wonderful churches around us, and we ask that you in your wisdom would add to the host of churches a new church, birthed by King of Kings one day. Grant that we would be faithful to the Gospel and bear the fruit of your kingdom in this way, so that others may taste your goodness. In the Name of Christ, Amen.

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For many years, our congregation has petitioned the Lord to allow us to plant a church. In keeping with our history, we desire to steward well the resources God has graciously provided us and to develop and nourish a vision for growth through the establishment of confessionally Reformed congregations in the West Valley of Phoenix. Our prayer has been to plant another PCA church in a similar manner to how God chose to establish King of Kings. As we have been praying, we also have been preparing to bring on a man who would become the pastor of a new congregation, formed out of a portion of King of Kings.

The number of confessionally Reformed churches in our area is comparatively low, so

the opportunity to plant is great. In addition to this, our congregation is spread geographically over a wide area, making most of the communities in the West Valley of Phoenix a potential for a plant out of King of Kings.

This congregational prayer has echoed through us and it is our hope that it would continue to echo through us even after the establishment of another congregation. We desire to be a church that multiplies through the forming and birthing of daughter churches. In addition to this, we believe that even from the start, our daughter congregation should petition the Lord in this way; asking God to grant them the blessing of birthing a church one day by his grace.



OUR STORY
OF GOD'S GRACE

Our founding pastor, Josh Habne, leading a worship service as the church is planted in 2006.

I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.

Psalm 77:11-12

We are wise to regularly recount, speak about, and remember together the works of God in bringing our congregation together. This retelling of our story is intended to serve as a worshipful reminder of the grace of God put on display for us here at King of Kings.

Our church was planted in 2005 by a minister named Josh Hahne. In moving from Texas, Josh became an associate pastor at Fellowship of Grace – a P.C.A. church in Peoria, Arizona – under the stewardship of Pastor Bill Phillips. In due time, Fellowship of Grace launched Josh Hahne, along with several members, financial resources, and most of all, prayer to plant a church. God worked through this small group to form the church we know today. We haven't always met in our church building, but for many years, this church body would occupy hotel conference rooms or school assembly halls. No matter where we gathered, the worship of our Triune God was paramount.

In 2013, another church in the West Valley, Emmanuel Covenant Church, decided that it would be best to seek to merge with King of Kings. This means that our church is the result of a church plant *and* a church merger – two churches, who decided to come together for the glory of God and the good of the city. Much of the DNA of our church comes both from Fellowship of Grace and Emmanuel. For this, we are so grateful.

We have grown by God's grace, and years ago were in a place where we were able to purchase land and eventually build the building that we now gather within – our first worship service taking place on Palm Sunday 2016. This marked a key moment in the church's development and presence in the West Valley.

In 2019, Josh Hahne received and accepted a call to a church in California named Redeemer, and Josh Harp – through a series of events – became our pastor. Even though this transition was difficult due to our deep love and appreciation for Josh Hahne, we learned to trust in our Savior through this time as we were reminded that Jesus Christ, our Great Shepherd oversees and attends to his Church. Our desire is to continue what God has done through our story in planting other churches, as God wills.

This is our story of God's grace and kindness, and it is good to be quick to remind ourselves of how God has carried us along. Christ is our Great Shepherd, and his care for us is abundantly evident. In recalling our story, we recognize that this is something to be stewarded well for the sake of Christ. As a result, we desire this story to continue through the stories of churches birthed from King of Kings by the God who builds his Church.



THE PARTICULAR
TRAITS TO BE
INHERITED

Our Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Justin McLendon, administering baptism in 2022.

It is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ... What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

1 Corinthians 4:2,7

The Apostle Paul writes to the church in Corinth and speaks to them of the proper stewardship of what they have received in the work and ministry of the Apostle. They are responsible for what they have been given and are to remember that this is something they have received; a gift from God's hand. Our congregation has received from the Lord many good and gracious gifts that we desire to steward well to the glory of God. The following are a list of several key aspects of our stewardship as a church that we would expect to be passed along to those congregations that are birthed out of our congregation.

HISTORIC ORTHODOXY

The Bible is God-breathed and authoritative. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus sits at the marvelous center of cosmic and universal history. This divine story of redemption and salvation is made possible only by the work of Christ on the cross, involving the miraculous transformation of the heart, or conversion, applied to us by the Spirit.

We adhere to the historic and ecumenical creeds – namely, the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed – that declare the faith which binds us together. In this way, we are united by faith in Christ to the Church universal (or "catholic" as stated in the Apostles' Creed) – throughout history and around the earth.

We also as a congregation have particular convictions stemming from our tradition that inform our teaching and belief. These doctrinal distinctives largely derive from those old doctrines brought forth again in the 16th Century Reformation. Our historic confession is the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, along with

the *Westminster Larger & Shorter Catechisms* (17th Century). In terms of our polity, we are bound within the provisions set forth by the *Book of Church Order* of the Presbyterian Church in America – establishing our form of government, rules of church discipline, and our worship practices.

MISSIONAL INTEGRITY

The Church is brought into the mission of God to participate in what God is doing throughout the earth in and through his people. Theologian Chris Wright says it this way:

It is not so much the case that God has a mission for his church in the world, as that God has a church for his mission in the world. Mission was not made for the church; the church was made for mission – God's mission.

This participation in God's mission means certain things for us as a congregation. We recognize that often times, in a world given over to sin, the church will need to stand firm as a countercultural beckon of light; a city on a hill. This is often accomplished through the regular and faithful living of God's people in the midst of the world, as their faith in Christ produces God-glorifying obedience and service.

This also involves confronting society's idols with the truth of the gospel through preaching, teaching, and outreach. A community transformed by God's grace will demonstrate this in their daily living. This means we will meet people where they are, but pray and expect God to not keep us where they are; all of us are to grow in conformity to Christ by the power of the Spirit. Our evangelism and discipleship are done with this in mind.



Elvis makes an appearance at our Christmas party in 2021.

CONGREGATIONAL LITURGY

The worship of God's people on the Lord's Day informs the whole of their lives. You could also say that worship is at the heart of the church's calling and is the most important thing that any of us do all week. We gather at the Lord's call and bring to him our worship. As we do so, we conduct ourselves not in a manner that conforms to our sensibilities, but rather, in accordance with the ways he has instructed us to bring him worship. This approach encourages active participation of the congregation, as we sing together, confess together, hear God's Word, and receive from the Lord's Table together.

God has appointed instruments by which he changes us and grows us in conformity to Christ. We call these the *ordinary means of grace*, as stated in the Westminster shorter catechism:

The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption are, his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q88

There is a formational aspect to these outward and ordinary means. We are told by the Apostle Paul that ministers are "servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Corinthians 4:1). Our liturgy forms us and shapes us over time in ways often imperceptible in the moment, but seen through the years.

One final word on our congregational liturgy is the clear and evident center of Word and Sacrament. Each Sunday, we receive from both the proclamation of the Word and the nourishment of Christ at the Table. Our pastoral charge is that we would "live in accordance to what you have received today in Word and Sacrament."

GRATEFUL LIVING

The lives of God's people are lived in gratitude. We recognize the myriad ways in which God has given to us good gifts to be enjoyed together. A noticeable aspect of our congregational life is that we gather regularly from house to house, from month to month, to enjoy fellowship with one another. We are shy from enjoying the good gifts of delightful food and drink to the glory of God. A common refrain among us is that we want to be a church that parties well. Our desire is to take God very seriously but not ourselves.

The implications for this type of living are far greater than we often imagine. A Christian life of God-glorifying contentment, praise, and joy actively presses against the ways in which our culture seeks to domesticate the Gospel and relagate Christianity to simply a "religious dimension of the culture", as David Bosch states. This is part and parcel of what living out of the gratitude of the Gospel means in our world. The Church has the opportunity to put on display a better Story through the fullness that Christ brings to every dimension of life.

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These four unique traits of King of Kings are not asperational, but rather, have been evidenced in our congregational life from the very beginning of our formation as a church. These are key and crucial ways that our congregation could be distinguished from other congregations. They are traits that we eagerly desire to see reflected in any and all churches that are birthed from King of Kings.



BIRTHING
CHURCHES IN THE
WEST VALLEY

Some of our youth striking a pose in our courtyard in 2019.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

1 Peter 1:1-2

The disciple of Jesus and Apostle Peter writes to the churches in particular regions. He had these mind, and this gives us a sense that we are each called to steward the place in which God has established us. As we consider this aspect of our stewardship, we are focusing our efforts in planting to this particular region, the West Valley of Phoenix. Now, this larger area encompasses a great number of cities, but our congregation is widely spread over many of the cities in our larger region. We believe this may allow the formation of congregations in particular communities to be more readily formed and established. The following is more particular information on our state and our city of Phoenix.

First, the state of Arizona is an amazing state that is much more than the blazing-hot desert most people think of when they first hear Arizona. The state abounds with opportunities for a variety of activities, including: breathtaking natural wonders and canyons, national monuments and the second-most national parks of any state, outdoor sports such as hiking and biking (both water and snow skiing!). You can within a day's drive be in Sedona, Bisbee, Tombstone, Jerome, Prescott, Flagstaff, or even the Grand Canyon.

Second, greater Phoenix is a geographically enormous area that is surrounded by various mountain ranges with a population of 4.7 million people. On average, there are 299 days of sun per year, hence the moniker "Valley of the Sun." The average daytime temperature in winter is 70 degrees, however, the average in summer is 105 degrees, which temperatures bumping sometimes up to 118! Our city hosts

major league teams for football, basketball, baseball and soccer.

Our focus for the establishment of congregations from King of Kings is particularly directed toward the West Valley of Phoenix. This area is large, but yet quite distinct from the East Valley and central corridor of Phoenix. The West Valley is home to Luke Air Force Base, located in Goodyear, the seventh largest US Air Force installation in the world. It also includes the State Farm stadium, located in Glendale, home of our NFL team the Arizona Cardinals. In the far West, Buckeye is currently listed as the fourth fastest growing community in the United States (rate of growth = 8.6%). There are other portions of the West Valley that are increasing in population, including Surprise, a city in the Northwest.

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Our desire is to see more confessionally Reformed churches established in our region, and to that end, seek to plant PCA churches in the West Valley to the glory of God. If this is something you would like to explore, please reach out to our office at:

office@kkchurch.org



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A story of God's grace shared at a women's gathering in 2021.