



Seed Church Story

Seed Church is a protestant, North American Baptist, reformed, intergenerational church that began in 2003. Several couples in South Carolina began to have a conversation about starting a church where they would reach those who did not believe in Christ or were disenfranchised with religion. This small group decided to move to the Seattle area to plant a church with the hope to reach one of the least churched areas of the country with the message of the gospel. Their founding philosophy was an attitude of dying to live which is a longing to live out the truth of the gospel through giving up self for the sake of Christ. As they gathered and started Seed Church, they invited people who were interested in being missionaries in their communities to be part of the church alongside non-Christians and those who had given up on church.

The founding group started Seed Church in the Lyon's Den Coffee House in Bothell, Washington. The owner of the coffee house had just recently opened with a mission to be closed on Sundays so that a church could be planted out of it. Seed had approached the owner not knowing this but through the conversation realized that this was where God would want them to start. At the Lyon's Den Coffee House, Seed Church began to preach and teach the Bible placing a high value on helping people understand it. In addition, the forming church emphasized a need to serve their community and did so by engaging with local businesses, the chamber of commerce, and getting out into their community.

In 2005, Seed Church had outgrown the space of the Lyon's Den Coffee House. After searching around, the leadership decided on renting out a wedding hall in the Country Village in Bothell Washington. During the time in the Country Village, faithful members of Seed Church would setup and tear down for their gatherings each week. The church once more reached out to local business owners, even inviting them to come share about their businesses at the weekly service. Seed engaged the community around them which allowed people to belong to this church while they worked out their belief.

Seed Church again found itself outgrowing its space. As the church looked for another place to meet, a couple of members of the church connected the leadership of Seed Church with Cypress Baptist Church. The two churches decided to partner with one another to start an AWANA program at Cypress. In time, the two churches agreed to a greater partnership and merged with one another in 2009. The two churches became one church at its current location on Cypress Way in Lynnwood, WA. Seed Church also joined the North American Baptist denomination and became part of the denomination's continued efforts to help plant more churches.

At the Cypress, location the church has continued to seek to develop strong exegetical teaching that calls people to action in their communities to live as missionaries to those around them. As a result, Seed Church has actively sought to train men to preach, as well as partnered with local and global organizations to change the world. These have included organizations such as AJS, REST, Hand in Hand, Nourishing Network, Sixth Day Dance, Friends of Kuloshe and more. Seed Church is also a founding church of the 3 Strand Network of churches. 3 Strand is a church to church network of like minded churches who are reformed in their theology and seek to strengthen churches to make disciples in the Puget Sound Area. Through its partnership with 3 Strand, Seed Church has helped to support the start of several new churches continuing the mission to make more disciples.

Mission & Vision

The mission of Seed is to be a church dying to live, a culture and community to guide you to know God, experience freedom, discover your purpose, and to make a difference.

- **Know God** through teaching, studying in bible studies, and dialoguing together on Sundays.
- **Experience Freedom** by finding ways to become free from sin to express joy and reinvest in others.
- **Discover Your Purpose** to know how you are uniquely made and connected to the church at large.
- **Make a Difference** in our culture, community, and in our world.

Attitude

The founding attitude of dying to live can be expressed as a longing to live a life for God by giving up ourselves so that we can more fully live the way God intends us to be. John 12:24-25 is the guiding verse for this concept: “Unless a seed falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, but the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

Basic Doctrine

Seed Church is theologically conservative with a high value on scripture, theology of the reformation, and dealing strongly with sin. The church adheres to the following doctrinal beliefs:

Scriptures

We believe the Old and New Testaments are the completed and holy words of God, given by divine inspiration, and are the record of God's revelation of Himself to humanity. The Bible is trustworthy, sufficient, without error—the supreme authority and guide for all doctrine and conduct.

John 16:12-13, I Thessalonians 2:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:20-21

Godhead

We believe there is only one living and true God. He exists in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – which are co-eternal in being and nature, co-equal in power and glory, and which contain the same attributes.

Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, Romans 8, I Peter 1:2, Revelation 1:5-6

Person and Work of Jesus Christ

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the second person in the Godhead. He was born of the virgin Mary and was conceived by the work of the Holy Spirit. He did not cease to be God in His humanity in order to save sinful man.

Matthew 1:21-23, Luke 1:35, John 1:1, 14

We believe that our redemption was purchased by His sinless life, substitutionary death on the cross, and literal physical resurrection from the dead, thereby making our justification sure by His resurrection.

Romans 3:24-25, I Peter 2:24, Ephesians 1:7, I Peter 1:3-5

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and is exalted at the right hand of God. He is presently our High Priest and works on our behalf as a Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate.

Acts 1:9-10, Hebrews 9:24, Romans 8:34, I John 2:1-2

He will one day return again to receive His people unto Himself to live with Him forever.

I Thessalonians 4:16

Person and Work of The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead. He is responsible for convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

John 16:8-11

He is the supernatural agent in regeneration. He baptizes all believers into the body of Christ and will forever indwell and seal them.

I Corinthians 12:12-14

The Holy Spirit is present in every believer and He is at work progressively sanctifying the whole man to be able to live unto righteousness and die unto sin.

Romans 8:9, Ephesians 4:23-24

Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in God's image. That image however, was marred on account of Adam's sin. From Adam, man inherited a corrupt nature and was alienated from God. Therefore, man does not have the capability of redeeming his lost condition.

Genesis 1:26-27, Romans 3:22-23; 5:12, Ephesians 1-3,12

Salvation

We believe salvation is an act of God's grace. He brings it to man as a free gift and man receives it by repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus was voluntarily spilt on the cross to pay for the penalty of man's sin.

Ephesians 2:8-10, John 1:12, Ephesians 1:7, I Peter 1:18-19

Church

We believe that the Church is the one Bride of Christ. She is a spiritual organism, invisible, and universal, and is composed of all those called out of the world by God. Although not perfect, she is visible in the local church or gathering of believers. We believe the New Testament formulated and defined the continual practice of the local church.

Acts 14:27; 18:22; 20:17, I Timothy 3:1,3

She is responsible to carry out the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, for they were appointed by Christ as visible testimonies, signs, and seals of the covenant.

Acts 2:41,42, I Corinthians 11:23-26

We believe the church, corporately and individually, is to be involved in evangelism and discipleship.

Matthew 28:19-20

Philosophy of Leadership

Elder Led

Seed Church is led by a plurality of elders as seen outlined in Scripture (Acts 11:30, 14:23, 20:17-28, 21:17-26, Philippians 1:1, 1 Timothy 3:1-7). The elders of Seed Church are chosen from men who display the character seen in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. They are selected by the elder board (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5) with affirmation from the Core members of the church. These men are personally committed to the work of ministry in and around Seed Church. They function as elders for an indefinite length as long as they continue to display the character of an elder and seek to further the mission of the church. The elder board is led at various times by different elders who function in the role of first among equal where God has uniquely gifted them.

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The elders are charged with the following responsibilities: directing the affairs of the church (I Tim. 5:17); praying for the church (Acts 6:4; James 5:13-15); studying the Word (Acts 6:4); teaching the people correctly, and refuting false teaching (I Pet. 5:2-3; Titus 1:9; Acts 20:17-31), being an example (I Pet. 5:2-3); working hard (I Thess. 5:12); serving in humility (I Pet. 5:2-3); equipping the people for ministry (Eph. 4:11-16); making disciples (Matt. 28:19); disciplining unrepentant Christians (Matt. 18:15-17); administering the Sacraments (I Cor. 11:25; Matt. 28:19); and taking the job seriously (Heb. 13:7, 17). It is not expected that every elder be proficient at every role in the church. Each elder is unique in their spiritual gifts, talents, and skill-sets. The elder board as a whole must have elders who are proficient in areas of oversight, teaching, and shepherding. Seed seeks to balance the board with men having differing gifts.

The elders make decisions based on the concept of “philosophical purity”. This decision-making philosophy is driven by four concepts:

1. Faith over fear. Seed believes that calculated risk taking is not only necessary, but also beneficial for a healthy church. Balanced risk-taking increases the faith of the church.
2. Progress over programs. Seed never does anything because that is “how it has always been.” A growing church makes changes.
3. Quality over complacency. Although seeking perfectionism without grace is unbalanced and leads to legalism, Seed believes that everyone should seek to do well in everything they attempt for God.
4. Reaching over keeping. A church that focuses on keeping people happy will always fall short of the goal. The emphasis of the Great Commission was to make disciples, not make disciples happy.

Therefore, the elders of the church determine its direction and philosophy through this principle of philosophical purity. Once this direction is determined, it should be carried out, unhindered by the fear of man. This is achieved by reaching consensus, not necessarily unanimity (Phil. 1:27; I Cor. 1:10). We strive to do this through conversation rather than using methods such as voting or Robert’s rules of order.

Deacon Run

Deacons are the “missional torch-bearers” of Seed Church meaning they are the ones who carry out the mission of the church. Deacons are the helpers who do the work of the ministry as directed by the elders (Acts 6). Deacons are men and women who meet the biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3. They function as ministry leaders over various areas such as music, technology, men’s & women’s ministry, youth ministry, community groups, and more.

Current Worship Service

There is one Sunday morning worship service at Seed Church at this time. At present Seed Church averages around 150 people in attendance with about 40% of that attendance being children and the other 60% adults who are mostly in their late 20s to mid-40s. Sunday involves the efforts of multiple people who serve to greet, provide coffee, run sound & slides, make announcements, preach, read scripture, serve communion, and play music. The service includes skilled music that is biblically and theologically sound, exegetical teaching through books of the Bible, dialog with one another directly following the sermon, and weekly participation in communion. For kids in preschool through 6th grade, Seed offers children to attend Seed Kids during the service. At end of the service, we invite kids to join us for music and communion.

Ministries of Seed

The current active ministries of Seed Church at this time are as follows:

Seed Kids & Nursery: Every Sunday Seed Kids is offered to all children from toddler to 6th grade as an opportunity to partner with parents to teach their kids the truths of the Bible. In addition, for all young babies there is a nursery room for the kids to go into and allow parents to enjoy the service. In the summer, we also run a week long VBS program that happens in the evenings. Seed Church has a high number of kids who attend (approximately 40% of the church) so our ministry to kids is important to us.

Seed Youth: The youth ministry is currently in the process of growing and developing. Seed currently has a small group of youth who regularly meet at the Youth Pastor's home to study through scripture and get to know one another. This is a ministry which is anticipated to grow as the younger kids age into it.

Seed Women: The women of Seed Church have an active ministry that is led by our Seed Women deacons. Throughout the year the ministry has events for women to engage one another relationally, retreats to get away and grow close to God, opportunities to serve with one another, and studies of scripture as well as various other books.

Seed Men: The men of Seed Church have had a more hit-or-miss approach to ministry. Currently the ministry is led by our Seed Men deacon who is in the process of developing discipleship-based groups, weekly sermon-based discussion groups, a men's retreat, and various relational events based on the interest of the men of Seed.

Missions: Seed Church missions are currently in development as we seek to partner with 6 organizations (3 local, 2 global, and 1 national) to support them both financially and in tangible acts of service. At present Seed Church supports Nourishing Network and AJS with plans to add more this year. Seed has had an active history in partnering with various organizations giving them a generous amount of financial, prayer, and service support.

Seed Acts & Seed Meals: These two ministries function as ways of helping out those in our church who are in need. Seed Acts works to help people in crisis situations whether short term or long term. This ministry works to empower others in the church to help bear the burdens on one another through financial support and service. Seed Meals works to supply a couple of weeks of meals for those who just had a surgery, baby, loss of a family member, or other needs that the body can rally around and support through giving meals.

Seed Events: Seed Church engages in church-wide events throughout the year with the intention of providing a place for us to come together in community. This currently happens four times throughout the year with a spring event, summer BBQ, fall event, and winter Cocktail Party and Seed Kids Christmas Party. Seed has also done the following kinds of events in the past – Board Game Days, Skate Nights, Trivia Night, Dinner & Dialog, Oktoberfest and more...

Relationships & Resources: Seed Church maintains a list of people and resources that can be called upon when deeper needs are expressed. This ministry seeks to match people up with others who have experienced a similar issue in their life to have someone who can walk alongside them. In addition, there is a list of resources for further in-depth counseling should that be needed.

Restoration Group: Seed Church currently has a women's Restoration Group. The group is a rest stop for women to engage with others and address issues, addictions, and idols that they are working through. The group meets once a year and more deeply pursues women in an area of choice in which they would like to see healing and growth.

Sunday Morning Ministries: Seed Church Sunday morning services are supported by several additional ministries. The Hospitality ministry works to provide friendly and knowledgeable greeters, coffee hosts, as well as announcers to share upcoming events. The Sound and Slide ministries work alongside our music ministry to provide the technological support needed for people to participate in the service. The Music ministry provides skilled music through regular practice that directs people to reflect on God and their relationship with him. The Drama ministry works to provide scripture readers who reverently and skillfully read the Word of God each week. Finally, Seed Church has several men who have been trained to preach by our former teaching pastor.

Where We Are At and Who is Around Us?

Seed Church is located in the community of Lynnwood, which is approximately 15 miles north of downtown Seattle. It is a major hub of the region located at the intersection of I-5 and I-405. This area is home to thousands of diverse people with many more moving to the community each year. Lynnwood is also an economic center for the area with large shopping malls, movie theaters, and restaurants. It possesses a bright future for much more growth and development. Seed Church has people attending from all over the greater Seattle area, pulling from King and Snohomish counties. It has members coming from anywhere in the area that is about a 30-minute drive away from the church. This means that people who attend Seed come from as far south as Kirkland, north as Everett, west as Shoreline & Seattle, and east as Lake Stevens & Snohomish.

- The greater Seattle area is a growing community. It has been ranked as the 2nd fastest growing metropolitan area in the country. Currently there are around 3.5 million people who call this area home. The technology industry continues to drive growth in this area as more people move in to work at major tech companies such as Microsoft, Amazon, Google, and Facebook. In addition, the aerospace industry continues to be a major employer of people in this community.
- The greater Seattle area is a predominantly white community (around 70%) with an increasing population of diversity especially in Seattle itself. In addition, the average age of the people around the community is mid-30s to mid-40s. Seed Church reflects this community as it is also a predominantly white church with the average age being in the 30s-40s.
- The greater Seattle area is an educated community. With around 40% of the population having an undergraduate degree or more, that means this area boasts a larger population of educated individuals. It also means that there is a great diversity of thought among the people of the area. This has led Seed Church to continue to value deep exegetical teaching which seeks to help people understand the scriptures.
- The greater Seattle area is a transitory community. There are many people who rent instead of owning a home. In addition, due to the nature of housing, it is not uncommon for people to have at least a 30-minute commute to work since they are unable to afford to live where they work. This is a large reason why Seed Church pulls from the greater Seattle area. This also creates a challenge with creating community but has increased Seed Church's desire to help people be missionaries in their own neighborhoods.
- The greater Seattle area is in need of Christians. According to recent surveys, less than 39 percent of the population identify with any religion at all, with that number including all religions. It is not common for people to ask the question "Where do you go to church?" in this area. Seed Church attempts to be a strong gospel-centered church which seeks to engage the culture through active participation with others who are already at work. This has helped our church to begin to impact the area with a better understanding of what a Christian is.