

THE COMMONS | LA

A NEW CHURCH COMMUNITY IN
WEST LA



VISION GUIDE 2019

*Following Jesus together for the
flourishing of our city.*





WHY 'THE COMMONS LA'?

In ages past, 'the commons' was a shared space in a city or university where people could gather, cultivate relationships, share their burdens, and celebrate together. At the center of 'the commons' was a vision for the flourishing of the community where all people would benefit.

As a church, the name The Commons LA embodies our hope to seek the flourishing of our city for all people. Yet The Commons LA isn't so much about a shared space bound by walls, but a shared community bound together by the love of our redeeming God. This community forms a web of relationships centered on the living Jesus, the only source for the flourishing we all desire.

In the gospel* we have the joy-bringing news that unites us: God is at work in our world renewing all that's not the way He created it to be. We get to partner in that work together!

**The gospel is the announcement that God has come to restore us to Himself: that anyone can have new life now by trusting Jesus for their reconciliation with God.*

**This verse is at the center of
who we are:**

*"For the love of Christ
controls us, because we
have concluded this:
one has died for all,
therefore all have died;
and He died for all, that
those who live would
no longer live for
themselves, but for Him
who for their sake died
and was raised."*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15



WHY WE EXIST

OUR MISSION

Following Jesus together for the flourishing of urban university regions.

As a church we are passionate about Jesus & responding to His self-giving love for us by following Him and loving people.

Jesus has given us a passion for urban university regions- those areas where the city meets the global university. The influence, education, and employment that such regions have creates a unique ecosystem that we yearn to see utilized for the spread of God's glory around the globe.

VISION | 2018 & beyond

In April 2017, a group of professionals, families, and students in the Westwood region began gathering and praying in hopes that "The Commons LA" would be a growing community where people are loved, the neighborhood served, and where Jesus is lifted up for the flourishing of all.

Starting in 2018 we look to advance the mission that Jesus has given us by equipping disciples and communities, and by prayerfully discerning where God's Spirit would lead us to plant a new church in the next 2-3 years.

OUR CONTEXT

THE WESTWOOD REGION

As The Commons LA, we exists to primarily reach the region of Los Angeles that is chiefly influenced by UCLA- Westwood & West LA. Our community blends the urban city with a top global university, UCLA, which attracts more applicants per year than any other and is also the largest non-government employer in LA. The ethnic, generational, and socio-economic diversity of this region along with the educational environment presents a unique opportunity for the gospel's advance locally and globally into other urban university settings.

PEOPLE FOCUS

We believe that lasting influence in an urban university region must hold the tension of doing two things well: 1) reach the long-term residents of the community, namely, professionals and families, and 2) be an equipping church home for those involved with the university (undergrad, grad students, residents, & researchers) to belong as family, participate in mission, grow as leaders, and be sent out across the world.

VALUES



Jesus Centered Lives

Everything we do flows from Jesus and His message. We believe that knowing the real Jesus is powerful- He has made the way for us to be fully human by reconciling us with God our creator, sustainer, and deepest joy.



Belong as Family

In a place like LA, experiencing family is fleeting. Yet God has invited us into His family. We are counter-cultural in both our care for one another and our commitment to be present with one another through thick and thin.



Pursue Holistic Health

Since Jesus cared for human beings holistically- feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and speaking truth to systems of power- we too must serve the complex needs of our communities.



Embrace Diversity

As the people of God in a city like Los Angeles, we should be a diverse community: no single ethnicity, generation, political party, or socioeconomic standing defines us or what we do. We need those who are different than us to see, enjoy, and reflect the beauty of our diverse God together- so we actively look to defer from the majority for the sake of the whole.



Build Toward Movement

Jesus invites us to participate with Him through intentional efforts to equip leaders, multiply communities, plant gospel-centered churches, and celebrate sending disciples into the next chapter God's Spirit has for them.





MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY

Ministry, God's way.

DEVOTION + DEPENDENCE

Our first (and most important) philosophy is that of devotion to Jesus and dependence on the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures are filled with examples and instruction on our need for the good news of God's love every day!

We seek to live out such devotion and dependence by striving in everything we do to first pray and look to the Scriptures, trusting God's Spirit to guide us. (Deuteronomy 8; 1 Corinthians 10; John 6:22-59; Philippians 4:4-7)

TEAM LEADERSHIP

We joyfully embrace Scripture's teaching that the church community is to be served by a plurality of qualified leaders (elders and deacons) with diversity in personalities, gifts, and perspectives. We believe that the chief aim of any team of elders is to "equip the saints for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4), so we count it a 'win' when ministry is led by non-elders who are gifted, godly, and equipped to serve well. We are always looking to create opportunities and multiply leaders.

Note - In the early stages of the church, we have an external board of pastors from other local LA churches who share in the oversight of the The Commons LA's leadership and finances until elders are raised up within the church.



MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY

Community & Mission

GET INVOLVED



SHARE A MEAL ON SUNDAY

Stay after our gathering for lunch to connect with others.



LET US BUY YOU COFFEE

Connect with a leader from TCLA- we'd love to hear your story!



SOCIAL GATHERINGS + SERVICE PROJECTS

Join us for one of our monthly social gatherings or service projects.



COMMUNITY CLASS + SERVING ON SUNDAYS

Learn how we do life together outside of Sundays or join a Sunday service team to get to know others



DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Go deeper in the Christian life by studying and applying the scriptures with 3-4 other men or women.



MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

Seek to make an impact on our city and grow in deep, committed relationships alongside a community of Jesus followers.

COMMUNITY

As a church, we place a high priority on community. Our deep longing to be known, valued, and loved by other people is a sign not of weakness but of God's fingerprints. Our relational God- Father, Son, and Spirit- made us for relationship and He loves us too much to let us flourish apart from walking deeply with others. Check out the ways to connect with others at The Commons LA.

MISSION

The dominant pattern for loving our city in the Scriptures is twofold: invest in the well-being of others and invite others into our lives (Jer 29:4-7; Matt 5:13-16). That means we look for ways to invest through serving & generosity toward our neighbors, coworkers, and friends while inviting them into community, to our various gatherings (Sundays, Social Gatherings, service projects), and most importantly- we invite them to Jesus!

STEWARDSHIP



Scripture is clear: everything we have- time, treasure, talents, & influence- *are from God*

for us to use

for His glory and our joy, through participation in His mission.

We encourage everyone who calls The Commons LA their church family to give **sacrificially** (you feel it), **regularly** (monthly, bi-weekly, etc), and a **percentage** of their income to the church.

You can give through the Pushpay app (search "The Commons LA") or via check/cash on Sunday at the giving table.



Pushpay®

How can you steward your gifts for God's mission as a part of TCLA?

PRAY SERVE GIVE GROW*



*Grow through participating in our Mission Membership pathway & Commons Academy trainings.

Giving & the "Tithe"

While the 'tithe' (giving 10% to the your income to the temple) is no longer mandated in the Christian life, the scriptures assume a kind of foundational generosity patterned after the tithe as a response to God's generosity to us (Luke 11:42). Let's put it this way: If we have received more of God's revelation and grace than those of the Old Testament, our generosity should look more grace-empowered than Old Testament believers, not less so!



BUDGET

Stewarding for faithful gospel ministry

Budgets are theological documents. They express what we believe, showing us what our hearts truly value since they show us where we invest resources in order to see fruitfulness.

God's mission takes money. There's no way around it. Money is needed to bless our community in tangible ways, to put on events that engage the community with the gospel, and for paid staff that can equip the church for growth, joy, and endurance on God's mission. Below you'll find our prayer goals for giving and general budget guidelines.

INTERNAL GIVING GOALS:

2018: \$180,000
2019: \$250,000

EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIP GOALS:

2018: \$100,000
2019: \$100,000

TCLA Mission Guidelines for Budgeting:

STAFF: 33%
SUNDAYS: 17%
EQUIPPING: 15%
GENEROSITY: 10%
CHURCH PLANTING: 10%
ADMIN: 10%
MERCY: 5%

If you ever have questions regarding finances, budgets, or the spending of The Commons LA, email Info@TheCommonsLA.com and we'd love to talk!



MEET THE DEUELLS

Pastor and Family



Jesus saved us.

Devin and Kate met during their junior year at the University of Washington (UW). Devin radically met Jesus earlier at UW while Kate met Jesus as a young girl. While in Seattle, the Deuells had their hearts grow passionate for urban university regions and from 2010-2013 they helped plant a new church near UW.



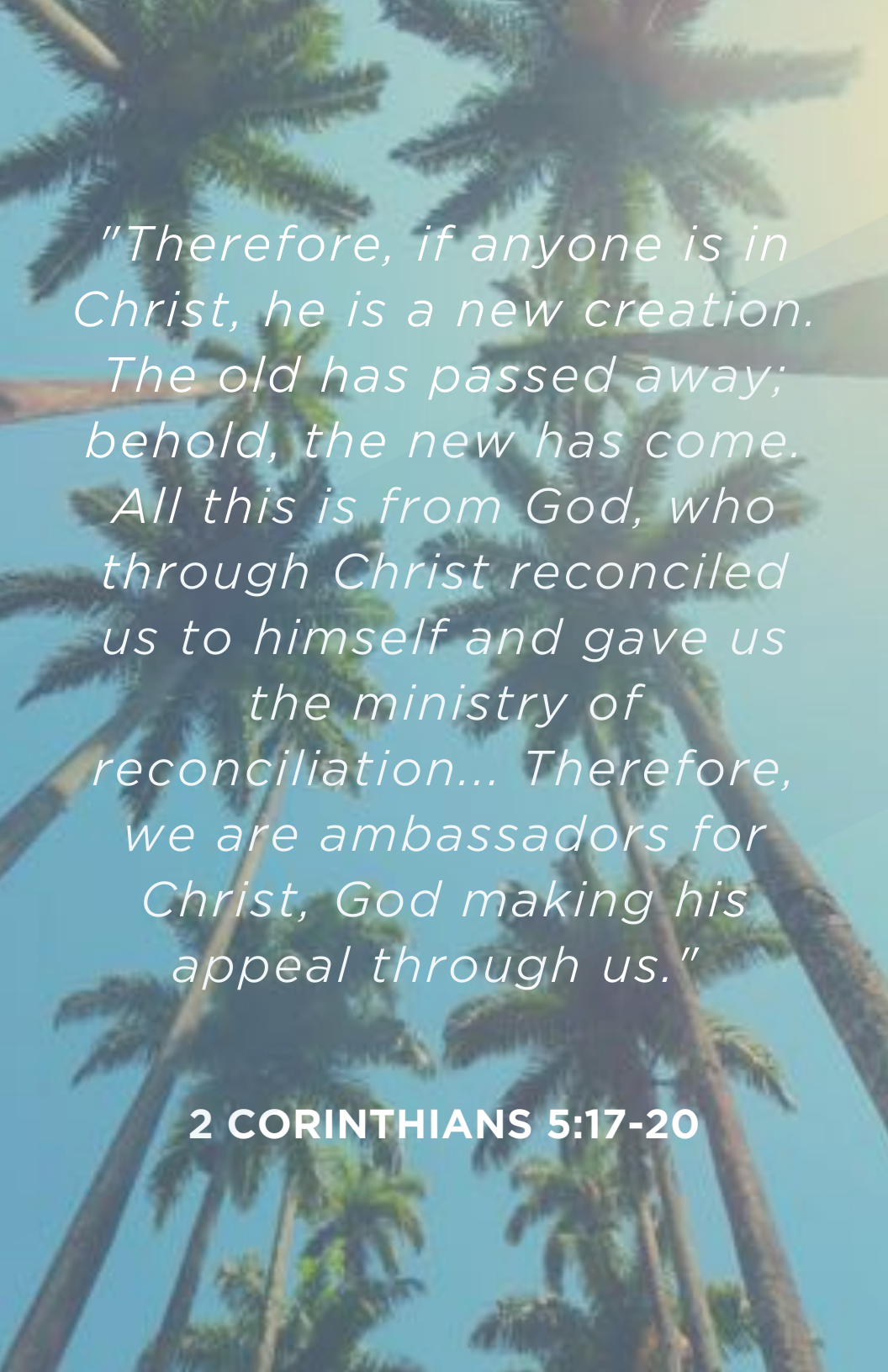
Jesus called us.

In 2013, the Deuells moved from Seattle to LA to follow Jesus' specific call to plant a church in the Westwood region near UCLA.

Upon arriving in LA, the Deuells began serving Reality LA with Devin joining the staff team. In December 2016, Devin completed the two-year Pastoral Residency program with Reality LA.

After 10 years of ministry, they've found their sweet spot in helping start The Commons LA. They would love to connect with you!





"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation... Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-20

THE COMMONS

LOS ANGELES, CA

ACTS 29

US WEST

PARTNERSHIP

We believe that partnerships are essential in church planting. Below are partners for whom we are incredibly thankful!



JOIN US?

Talk to a leader with the connect team at our Sunday gatherings or email info@thecommonsla.com to take next steps!