

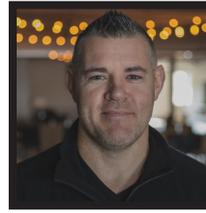


G 2021

GROWPOINT CHURCH

WE'LL SEE YOU BREAK DOWN EVERY WALL
WE'LL WATCH THE GIANTS FALL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



2021 is in the bag, and one message remains clear: God is faithful to His church! His faithfulness is thorough! His love is steadfast! His freedom restores dignity, gives hope, and produces purpose. We have heard stories of financial freedom, physical and emotional healing, restoration of relationships, and these are all wonderful evidence of spiritual growth.

The message of Jubilee was the central focus for GrowPoint throughout 2021! God revealed to us the thorough and widespread freedom made possible through Jesus. We are free FROM every debt, weight and hindrance through His work on the cross. Living in this newfound freedom, we also discover that we have been freed FOR His divine purposes! With this understanding, freedom is more than merely something God has done and we enjoy. Freedom is a state of being, an identity brand, it's who we are! We embrace freedom as a God-given lifestyle.

We must recognize that everything God does in us personally is meant to be reproduced in others. We become messengers, billboards, ambassadors of freedom! It's that whole "don't hide the light under the basket" message that Jesus talked about! One disciple named Peter spoke these words: "...you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do His work and speak out for Him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference He made for you – from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted."

That's all great, but what does that tangibly mean and how does that practically play out for GrowPoint? I'm glad you asked! Without question, God is preparing the GrowPoint Family to reproduce and take this freedom message to our neighboring communities! Let me say it more directly. GrowPoint, God is getting us ready to plant a church! He has been aligning, refining, speaking and stirring the hearts of many within our family to be sent out! We will continue to trust God to open the doors and to make the path known to us! I do know that we are closer to planting than ever before!

In the meantime, let's pick up Jesus' words from Matthew 9:37-38: "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." Prayer is the mandate right now, but in time, don't be blindsided when God nudges your heart to be one of the sent ones. Those who are sent and those who remain will be integrally and prayerfully involved in the process of GrowPoint becoming a reproducing church!

Let's pray! Let's Go! Let's see what 2022 has in store for GrowPoint!

JOSH SMITH
Lead Pastor



16
1ST TIME
SALVATIONS

28
WATER
BAPTISMS

17
HOLY SPIRIT
BAPTISMS

9
KNOWN
HEALINGS

14
CHILD
DEDICATIONS

19
NEW
MEMBERS

174
DISCIPLESHIP
PARTICIPANTS

81
FAMILIES HELPED
THROUGH THE
COMPASSION FUND





During 2021, we saw tremendous commitment by the GrowPoint community to prioritize discipleship. A recent study revealed that 85% of believers are stagnant in their faith. That is a staggering number to wrap your head around. Apathy towards intentionally following Jesus will always produce stagnant faith.

Stagnancy defined: not flowing or running, as water, air, etc. stale or foul from standing, as a pool of water. It is characterized by lack of development, advancement, or progressive movement: inactive, sluggish, or dull.

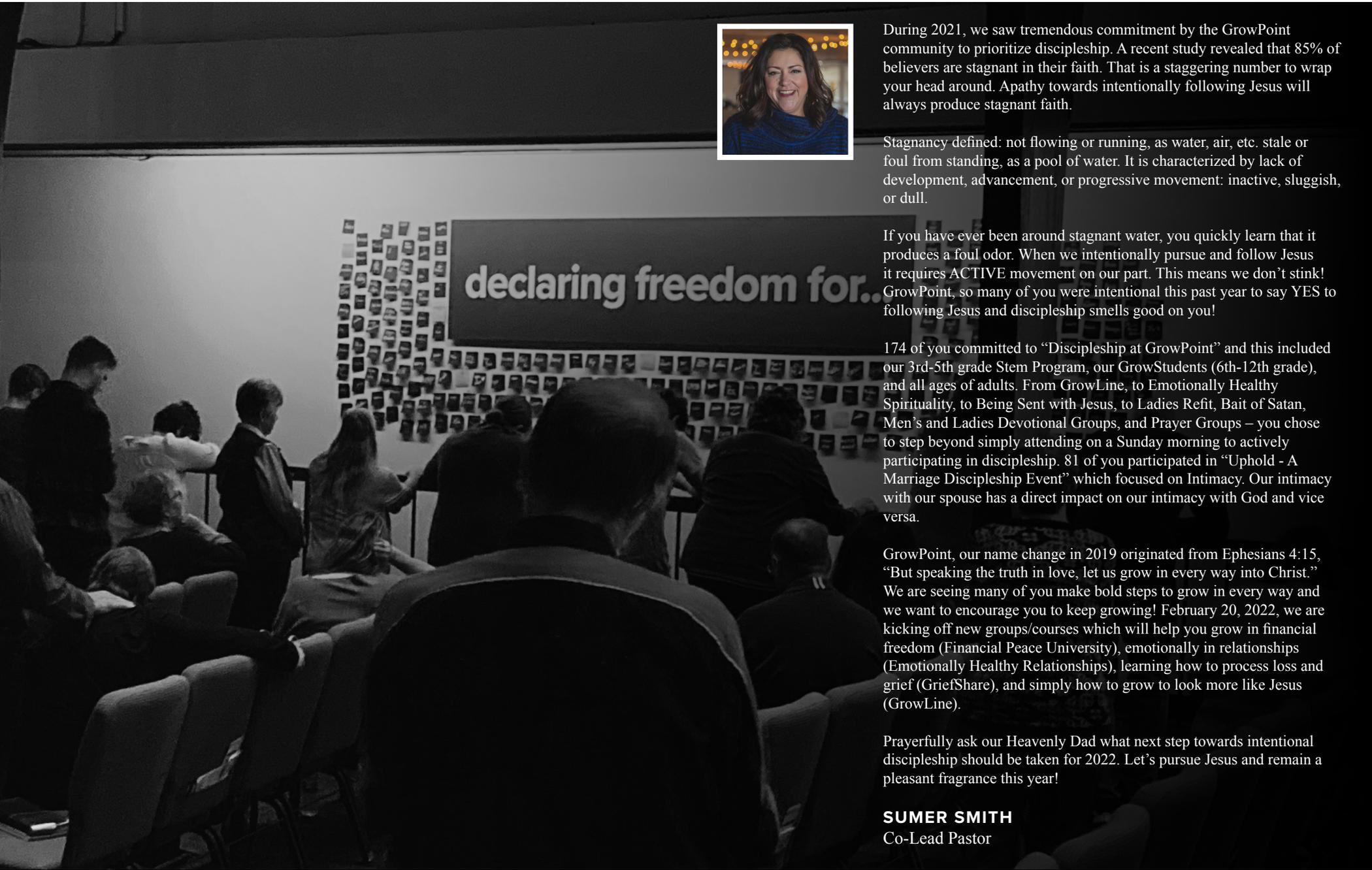
If you have ever been around stagnant water, you quickly learn that it produces a foul odor. When we intentionally pursue and follow Jesus it requires ACTIVE movement on our part. This means we don't stink! GrowPoint, so many of you were intentional this past year to say YES to following Jesus and discipleship smells good on you!

174 of you committed to "Discipleship at GrowPoint" and this included our 3rd-5th grade Stem Program, our GrowStudents (6th-12th grade), and all ages of adults. From GrowLine, to Emotionally Healthy Spirituality, to Being Sent with Jesus, to Ladies Refit, Bait of Satan, Men's and Ladies Devotional Groups, and Prayer Groups – you chose to step beyond simply attending on a Sunday morning to actively participating in discipleship. 81 of you participated in "Uphold - A Marriage Discipleship Event" which focused on Intimacy. Our intimacy with our spouse has a direct impact on our intimacy with God and vice versa.

GrowPoint, our name change in 2019 originated from Ephesians 4:15, "But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Christ." We are seeing many of you make bold steps to grow in every way and we want to encourage you to keep growing! February 20, 2022, we are kicking off new groups/courses which will help you grow in financial freedom (Financial Peace University), emotionally in relationships (Emotionally Healthy Relationships), learning how to process loss and grief (GriefShare), and simply how to grow to look more like Jesus (GrowLine).

Prayerfully ask our Heavenly Dad what next step towards intentional discipleship should be taken for 2022. Let's pursue Jesus and remain a pleasant fragrance this year!

SUMER SMITH
Co-Lead Pastor





This July, it was my privilege to begin serving as the GrowKids Pastor at GrowPoint. I wanted to take a moment and share with you, our church family, some of the wonderful and powerful experiences I have been a part of since assuming that role.

Each Sunday, GrowKids learn new Bible stories, memorize monthly verses, engage in worship, participate in meaningful small group time, and spend time with leaders who deeply care about their spiritual development. In the fall of 2021, elementary aged kids were able to join back together in The Point for an exciting Sunday morning experience, filled with games, crafts, worship, object lessons, Bible study, and small group discussions. A recently expanded Preschool-Kindergarten (Sprouts) room gave our growing class the space they needed to spread out for play and activities while enjoying learning about God and His Word.

Our Kids' ministry team gathers together for times of fellowship and training several times during the year. A few of our elementary and preschool team leaders had the amazing opportunity to attend MegaCon, a kids ministry conference in Nashville, bringing back lots of inspiration for all things Kids Ministry. We are always praying for new volunteers to join our fantastic team, and I would love to have you as part of it. One of my passions is Family Discipleship, and it is our desire to partner with families to raise their children knowing God and having a Biblical worldview.

Other highlights have been joining our Raising Sprouts group for parents with children ages birth through kindergarten. We gathered for many fun events including a summer picnic at Maude Neiding Park, Fall fun at Brazze's corn maze, family game night, and mom's night out dinners.

Myself and eight volunteers escorted our 3rd through 6th grades to Camp McPherson. During Summer camp, kids and leaders spent an entire week growing closer to God and learning more about who He is in their lives. Outdoor games, worship nights, break out sessions and more lead to an exciting and fun-filled week that most kids say is their favorite of the entire summer.

Throughout the year, GrowKids is able to bless the community and our church family. At the beginning of the school year, thanks to a generous donation, we were able to give out a dozen backpacks filled with supplies to kids in need. Christmas was a celebration all month long focusing on our theme Believe, starting with the Miracle on Main Street Parade, followed by our kids sing-a-long and culminating with a family Christmas Eve service.

Perhaps my favorite part of GrowKids this year was bringing the children into Sunday service once a month for worship and communion. During this time, they are able to fellowship with their whole church family and, it is very impactful.

Seeing our kids grow in their understanding of who God is, get water baptized, take communion, worship unashamedly, memorize scripture, read their Bibles, pray for one another and develop new friendships has blessed my heart more than I can explain in words. There is so much to look forward to in 2022, but one thing I am absolutely sure of is that God has a good purpose for every one of His children.

STEPHANIE ROTHMAN
GrowKids Pastor

 A large group photo of children and leaders from the GrowKids ministry. They are all smiling and posing for the camera. Some are wearing "GROW POINT" t-shirts. The photo is taken outdoors, possibly at a campsite or park, with trees and a building in the background.

35

**KIDS & LEADERS
ATTENDED
SUMMER CAMP**





GrowStudents embraced the Year of Jubilee to its fullest extent in 2021. Our students have been on a journey of experiencing and redefining what freedom looks like for such a time as this! We have navigated exciting transitions and a powerful move of God.

In February, our students attended One Day Winter Camp that brought about a deeper passion to pursue Jesus. Students came home with a strong desire to learn what it means to walk with the Lord daily. Throughout the year, our goal has been to steward the work that God has already begun in our students.

GrowStudents truly knows what it looks like to party in the Freedom they have been given! Some of the events we've had this year include our School's Out Party, Summer Camp, Huddle events, Back to School Lock-In and more! Community has been our heartbeat in this season as we built relationships with each other and youth groups in our region. A partnership with Harbortown Vermilion Youth Group has allowed GrowStudents to connect with those who share their passion and continue to have fellowship outside of camp.

Some of our favorite moments in 2021 surround the times that students got to share the freedom they have received. Our students have engaged every opportunity to pour into those in our region through outreach. A group of students served at the Akron Dream Center and participated with the Boys & Girls Club Christmas Parties. Our favorite addition to last year was our Youth Take-over Service during one of our Saturday Night at GrowPoint Services. Students led our church in worship, shared their testimonies, and gave encouraging words to the congregation.

Sunday nights with GrowStudents, we've been working on unity amongst our group, vulnerability, and providing a space for the students to minister to one another. We've covered topics regarding freedom, intimacy with the Lord, relationship with God and others, and discipleship. Youth gathered in homes this Fall to dive into GrowLine and discuss what it means to Be with Jesus, Grow with Jesus, and Be Sent with Jesus!

These years are foundational for our students, and we are so grateful for each of you partnering with us in prayer and support. We are heading into 2022 with momentum and a focus on community and discipleship!

BAILEE REITZ
GrowStudents Director

71
YOUTH & LEADERS
ATTENDED
SUMMER CAMP



While Covid-restrictions continued to be navigated, Holy Spirit opened up really great opportunities for GrowPoint to reach out with God's love, to humbly yet intentionally serve others and share the Joy of Life that is Jesus Christ. We give Jesus all the glory!

GrowPoint reached out to our Amherst Fire Department with tactical bags filled with a unique Firefighters Bible, tumbler, and more. We sponsored a boys baseball team and a girls softball team through the Amherst Athletic Association, and we allowed Amherst Girls Rugby and Clearview High School Boys Soccer to practice in our backyard. We sent appreciation gifts to all the Amherst School District teachers and staff. Partnering with Mercy Chefs, we helped victims of Hurricane Ida in Louisiana, and through Foursquare Disaster Relief we helped victims of both the Texas Winter Storm and the earthquake in Haiti. Locally, we provide meals to the Lorain Haven Center Homeless Shelter, and in honor of Mother's Day and Father's Day, we made donations to Lorain County Genesis House for female victims of domestic violence and to the Lorain Valor Home for male veterans. At Christmas, we entered a "Nativity Shadow Box" parade float to proclaim Jesus at Amherst Miracle on Main Street. We also reached out to over 425 kids at 10 different Boys & Girls Clubs in Lorain providing gifts that GrowPoint members donated along with snacks, music, a snow machine and a ton of fun... "Because the kids of Lorain County need to see the love of Jesus." We kicked off GrowPoint Planting by helping to support Pastors Aaron & Michelle Jones plant a new Foursquare Church in Springfield, Massachusetts. We faithfully continued our monthly financial support of our extended ministry partners: Camp McPherson, Mobile Outreach Solutions, Love INC of Lorain County, Cornerstone Pregnancy Services, Life Pacific University Virginia, Foursquare Missions International, Foursquare's Adopt-A-Pastor in Africa & the Middle East, and Foursquare Press which sends free Bibles, resources and Gospel literature around the world. When new guests come to GrowPoint, we make a donation in honor of their visit to their choice from nine different Lorain County nonprofit charities.

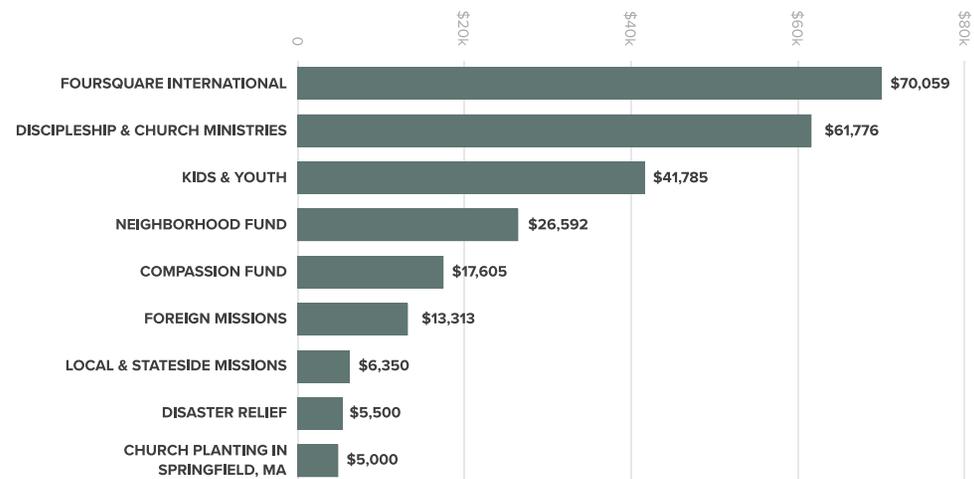
Our value of Intentional Presence was clearly seen in the dozens of ways our GrowPoint Family reached out through their personal relationships without the organization of GrowPoint... which we love! Senior adults cooked and served a monthly meal to the needy in Lorain. Christmas Shoeboxes were filled for kids through Samaritan's Purse. Students led Bible Clubs in their schools. Families hosted Light-the-Lights in their neighborhoods during Halloween, and some even started the process of creating a new nonprofit for Lorain County.



\$247,983

ALLOCATED TO REACH, TEACH & DISCIPLE PEOPLE WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS

2021 OUTREACH FUNDS 22% INCREASE FROM 2020



NEWLY LAUNCHED MICROGRANTS

In 2021, we launched GrowPoint's Microgrant Program where members can apply for assistance from the Neighborhood Fund for the relational outreaches God is birthing through them. We encourage everyone to not wait for the church to do something; you and Holy Spirit can do it!





At GrowPoint, God's Word is our guideline in what we give, how we give it and how it's used. We trust His promises to provide all we need both personally and for our church. God graciously gives to us, and we gratefully and obediently give back to Him through our regular Tithes and additional offerings. Because of God's goodness and in the faithful giving of you, Jesus's followers, GrowPoint ended the year in the **BLACK!** Praise God! Our 2021 expenses were completely covered and we had enough to cover an urgent need at the parsonage. Thank you for giving to The Lord so generously and faithfully. The Church Advisory Council meets each month to review the finances and oversee the operational budget spending. The council also works to ensure our facilities are safe, functional, and up-to-date for the honor of God. God works through our personal giving to spread His love and build His Kingdom. We thank God for every faithful giver, and we rejoice in what He did through our giving in 2021.

TODD RAINEY
Executive Pastor

FACILITY PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2021

\$184,123.02 Paid in full. No debt incurring. Praise God!

- Painted the front of the church & power washed the parsonage
- Took down one large decaying tree
- Painted the sanctuary
- Hung the new cross in the sanctuary
- Sealed and striped both parking lots
- Painted the NextGen hallway and doors
- New basement waterproofing for the parsonage
- Constructed a new Mechanical mezzanine for Sanctuary HVAC
- Installed the new Sanctuary HVAC system

NEEDED FACILITIES PROJECTS (FUNDING NEEDED)

- **URGENT:** Replace the Entire Flat Roof - upwards of \$200,000
- Finish installing the Coping on the Cafe parapet wall - \$5,000
- Replace the Rear Parking Lot and add new Drainage - \$45,000
- New Carpet and Paint in The Point (Youth & Kids) - \$22,000
- Drainage for the Front and Back Yards - \$5,000 for every sixty feet

What happens when you give?

- **TITHES & OFFERINGS** go to our annual operating budget approved and overseen by the Church Advisory Council and enables GrowPoint to provide for weekly items such as GrowKids and GrowStudents, local ministry partnerships throughout Lorain County, Discipleship at GrowPoint, utilities, cleaning, staffing, and other operational items. Leftover funds have been used for missions, outreach, and building projects.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD FUND** goes to loving and reaching Lorain County.
- **MISSIONS FUND** goes to sharing Jesus around the world through Foursquare Missions International.
- **COMPASSION FUND** goes to helping the physical needs of our GrowPoint Family and beyond.
- **BUILDING FUND** goes to maintaining this facility that God has strategically provided for us to gather and worship Him and from which to launch out into our county with His light and love.

Ways to Give

			
Online at www.growpoint.church	Mail to PO Box 146, Amherst	Text amount to 84321	Giving Stations at back of sanctuary



FOR WHO YOU ARE

God's Word

John 1:1 lays it out plainly for us, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* The Word is eternal. The Word is life. Transformation comes when the Word is embraced. This explains why God's Word is our first value!

Intentional Presence

This value confronts the cultural norm of passivity. When you are in public, intentional presence is being aware of the people around you, and understanding that you can interrupt their day with peace, love, joy, and kindness. When you come to church, intentional presence is demonstrated through an eagerness to let God speak to your heart and through serving your church family.

Humble Confidence

God detests arrogance; and He is also grieved when insecurity diminishes our life. Humble confidence is the framework we should live from. Humility acknowledges that God is God, that He is sovereign, that He is all-powerful, that we are nothing without Him. When we see who He is, and then who we are in Him, then we live in confidence; humble confidence to be more accurate.

Goodness & Kindness

With a world full of movements, we believe that a movement of goodness and kindness will bring about the greatest change. A life that is lived for Jesus should emanate these virtues.

Joy & Laughter

Nehemiah 8:10 gives us the reminder that *"...the joy of the Lord is your strength."* We also gain some joyful wisdom from Proverbs 17:22, where we read that *"A joyful (laughing) heart is good medicine..."* When our heart is filled with the presence of Jesus, we are literally filled with joy and laughter.

Unending Pursuit

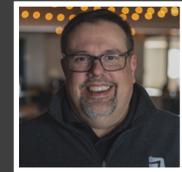
This means that we never stop craving Jesus. When we pursue Him, we are changed, and we grow. Ephesians 4:15 explains this virtue with incredible precision: *"Speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Christ."* When you say yes to Jesus, you say yes to a life of pursuing Him. (It is worth explaining that He is always pursuing you.)



Josh Smith
Lead Pastor



Sumer Smith
Co-Lead Pastor



Todd Rainey
Executive Pastor



Tammi Rainey
Ministry Coordinator



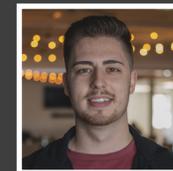
Stephanie Rothman
GrowKids Pastor



Bailee Reitz
GrowStudents Director



Sam Kamnikar
Creative Director



Nico Curtis
Worship Director



Nancy Schuster
Admin Assistant



Beverly Beidleman
Assisting Pastor



Lesli Klingemeier
Assisting Pastor



Gabby Jenkins
Assisting Pastor



Norm Shinsky
Facilities

2021 CHURCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Rick Block, Nick Genco, Gene Lampshire,
Jackie Mellen, Tiffany Perris, Josh Smith

IN BECOMING AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF GROWPOINT, EACH INDIVIDUAL IS ASKED TO AGREE AND SIGN THIS COMMITMENT.

Having confessed Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and having publicly declared this through water baptism, and being in full agreement with GrowPoint's (Amherst Foursquare Church) statements of faith, values, strategy, structure and leadership, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite in membership with this church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members of this church to do the following through the power and help of Holy Spirit.

I agree wholeheartedly with the following statements, and I enter this membership commitment of my own freewill. Should I leave this church or no longer wish to be a member, I will immediately notify the pastors and church leadership. If I fail to regularly attend and engage with this church as I am voluntarily committing to or I am unwillingly to be accountable for any of the items listed in this commitment, GrowPoint (Amherst Foursquare Church) reserves the right to remove my membership with or without notification.

.....

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

- By acting in ever-increasing love, profound kindness, peace and unity towards the other members and attenders – *“So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.” (Romans 14:19)*
- By refusing to gossip – *“Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” (Ephesians 4:29)*
- By not being easily offended and following the Word of God to resolve all conflicts and disputes – *“Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the sons of God.” (Matt. 5:9; Matt. 18:15-22; Psalm 141:5; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11)*
- By confessing to God and to trusted fellow-believers when I sin and cause hurt and seeking Jesus' victory in the areas of my life where I struggle. *(Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10)*
- By following and submitting to the pastors and church leadership – *“Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.” (Hebrews 13:17, Ephesians 4:1-3; 1 Peter 5)*

2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

- By praying for its growth, impact and spiritual maturity – *“We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.” (1 Thess. 1:2) “Speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Jesus who is the head.” (Ephesians 4:15)*
- By inviting others to attend (the broken, the un-churched, those who don't know Jesus) – *“So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.’” (Luke 14:23-24)*
- By warmly welcoming all those who attend or visit and actively engaging them in conversation and activities – *“Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.” (Romans 15:7)*

3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

- By personally pursuing the Lord Jesus Christ through daily Bible reading, prayer, Christian fellowship and spiritual disciplines. *(Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thess. 5:12-22)*
- By discovering my gifts and talents to actively serve in the church as well as in the community – *“God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” (1 Peter 4:10)*
- By being equipped through discipleship and training by my pastors, church teachers and leadership, etc. – *“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)*
- By developing a loving servant's heart – *“Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.... Jesus gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being....” (Philippians 2:3-4, 7)*

4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

- By submitting to the Bible as the final authority on all issues and daily living it out. *(Ps. 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)*
- By being present and faithfully attending in-person gatherings. I will attend way more than I am absent... missing no more than two Sundays each month, actively participating in a Group, and caring for those within and outside of this church – *“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of Jesus return is drawing near.” (Heb. 10:23-25; Acts 2:42-47; Titus 3:14)*
- By living a Godly life through the power of Holy Spirit and not abusing the freedom of God's grace – *“Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing side by side, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.” (Philippians 1:27; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 1 Peter 4:1-3; Romans 14:14-23; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13)*
- By stewarding the resources God gives me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts and finances including regular financial tithing and additional offerings to this church that is sacrificial, cheerful and voluntary – *“On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned.” (1 Corinthians 16:2) “One tenth of the produce of the land whether grains or fruits belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to God as holy.” “The Lord says, “You have robbed me of the tithes and offerings due me.” (Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 23:23-28; Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 8-9)*









 **GROWPOINT**

GROWPOINT.CHURCH

Amherst Foursquare Church
780 Cooper Foster Park Road | PO Box 146
Amherst, OH 44001