



Haymarket Church

Where Faith & Life Connect

Launch Proposal

April 21, 2021

How We Got Here

- ▶ Haymarket Church is a new church start, birthed by St. Thomas United Methodist Church, in partnership with the Virginia Conference and Alexandria District of the United Methodist Church.
- ▶ This was a joint venture of the people of the Manassas Campus of St. Thomas and the people of what eventually became Haymarket Church. This has been a partnership, including shared resources, prayer, love, community, and more.



How We Got Here

- ▶ In late 2018, the leaders of Haymarket Church began to sense that Haymarket Church was stuck and needed change/fresh energy. We entered into a season of “breakthrough prayer.”
- ▶ A lot of things changed as a result: worship location, office location/ministry center, community connections/partnerships
- ▶ In January 2019 the Haymarket Church Leadership Team began to sense a call to launch as a separate church, no longer supported by St. Thomas UMC
- ▶ Around the same time, leaders at St. Thomas were sensing a similar thing - that it was time for a change in a relationship between the two campuses.



The Campus Partnership Team

- ▶ As a result of this shared sense of call, the Campus Partnership Team was formed.
- ▶ Key leaders from both Haymarket and Manassas.
- ▶ Membership: Bill Bixby, Deb Crawford, Pat Dodson, Abi Foerster, Tim Grembowski, Brian Johnson, Michelle Lebowitz, Eric Luetkenhaus, Don Rickerson, Josh Thom, Kevin Wolf
- ▶ Created and authorized by Church Council to make a plan for next steps for Haymarket Church (and relationship between campuses)



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The Campus Partnership Team

- ▶ Began with relationship building, developing trust, and asking hard questions about the future of Haymarket Church.
- ▶ It was determined that the two churches were no longer really functioning as one. The team believed that launching Haymarket Church as an independent UMC, no longer connected to St. Thomas, would enable both churches better to thrive, focus on their respective communities, and streamline administrative processes.



3-Year Plan, Creation Process

- ▶ Crafted by the Campus Partnership Team, with guidance from our District Superintendent.
- ▶ 6-month process of meetings, prayer, and discussion
- ▶ Presented to Haymarket Church and St. Thomas, Manassas, at congregational meetings in Summer of 2019.
- ▶ Approved in summer of 2019 by St. Thomas Church Council.
- ▶ Set a variety of goals and metrics for measurement



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3-Year Plan, Core Metrics and Goals

- ▶ Included goals for Haymarket Church, including increased worship attendance, connections with new people, growing small groups, increased financial giving
- ▶ Also included numerous administrative tasks necessary to function as a separate church
- ▶ Haymarket Church began meeting those goals more rapidly than expected.



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3 Year Plan becomes a 2 Year Plan

- ▶ Due to faster-than-expected progress, Campus Partnership Team recommended an earlier launch date: July 1, 2021.
- ▶ In November 2020, Church Council approved new launch date.



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What We've Already Done(Logistics) Finances

- ▶ Finances are already separated
 - ▶ Haymarket Church is a legally independent financial entity, paying its own bills (and payroll) from its own bank accounts
 - ▶ Separate financial processes (and controls/protections)
 - ▶ Separate EIN, nonprofit certification, state business license, etc.
 - ▶ Separate Treasurer and Financial Secretary
 - ▶ Separate quarterly/annual giving reports, etc.

What We've Already Done (Logistics) Operations

- ▶ Committee/Governance Structure established
- ▶ Operate our own membership database
- ▶ Have acquired our own insurance
- ▶ Manage our own internal paperwork and processes



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What Still Needs To Be Done (Approval)

- ▶ Official approval of this proposal is needed.
- ▶ Church Conference (Haymarket and Manassas) scheduled for May 26, 7 PM.
- ▶ Organizing Charge Conference (Haymarket only) scheduled for June 2, 7 PM.
- ▶ Celebrate all that has been accomplished.



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Motion To Be Approved

- ▶ On May 26, members of Haymarket and Manassas will vote on the following motion:

Be it resolved, Haymarket Church will launch as a separate United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2021. It will retain all its current assets, including physical property and financial assets (Haymarket Church bank account, investments, etc.). Members of St. Thomas UMC whose membership and participation is currently held primarily at Haymarket Church will be transferred from the membership roster of St. Thomas UMC to the membership roster of Haymarket Church, unless they request otherwise.



Still Needs To Be Done(Logistics)

- ▶ Finalize membership transfers and clean up membership rosters
- ▶ Finalize Inventory of Haymarket Church property
- ▶ Finalize new policies/procedures/etc.



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Still Needs To Be Done(Logistics) (After Organizing Charge Conference)

- ▶ Register Board of Trustees
- ▶ Transfers contracts, lease, etc. in to name of Haymarket Church
- ▶ Transfer trailer to Haymarket Church ownership
- ▶ Rent a storage unit for Haymarket Church in Haymarket
- ▶ Move Haymarket Church property from Manassas parsonage basement to new storage unit



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Still Needs To Be Done

CELEBRATE!

Haymarket Church has been (and remains) a labor of love by many people - at both campuses. There has also been significant investment by the Alexandria District and Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. More than that, it is a work of God! So, we give thanks to God for all the work that has happened and will happen. And we thank God for the partnership between these two campuses!



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How our Relationship Will Continue

- ▶ This is not the end of the relationship between Haymarket Church and St. Thomas.
- ▶ We will continue to explore opportunities to partner in mission, with adult mission opportunities being a particular opportunity for alignment.
- ▶ We will continue to be United Methodist Churches in the same district, which means we will have frequent and varied opportunities to work together.
- ▶ The relationships that have formed will remain, which means that organic partnerships can (and hopefully will) emerge - because we are friends and care about each other.
- ▶ We will continue to pray for each other, love each other, and support each other as siblings in Christ.

What Can You Do To Help

- ▶ Pray for Haymarket Church and for Saint Thomas as each campus continues forward in its ministry and mission.
- ▶ Pray for all the people at both churches.
- ▶ Pray for this process.
- ▶ **Show up to the May 26 meeting and vote yes on the resolution.**
- ▶ Communicate this information to others who were not present at this meeting.



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