

inDEPENDENCE 2021 FAQs

Christ Community Chapel – Aurora Campus



In 2007, Hudson Community Chapel (Now Christ Community Chapel) was approached by Lakeview Chapel in Aurora to consider joining efforts in gospel ministry. Out of that initial meeting came the development of the Aurora Campus of Christ Community Chapel. By 2010, CCC had become a fully functioning multi-site church with campuses in Aurora, Highland Square (Akron), Hudson, and Stow. God blessed the church with healthy spiritual and numeric growth through the campus model. From the beginning, the campuses strove to create localized ministry programs while still relying on the centralized preaching and teaching of Pastor Joe Coffey, the lead pastor for CCC.

Between 2017-2020, two of CCC's original campuses (Stow and Highland Square) moved to healthy independence. They took the momentum gained by relying on the shared resources of multi-site and converted it into an energy and vision to flourish on their own! Coupled with our observation of those ministries and aware of a renewed burden of church-planting God has placed on Pastor Joe's heart (Orchard NEO), the Aurora Campus began to pray and dream about whether increased self-sufficiency and ultimately independence might be the healthy road for us.

Why are we going towards independence?

No church is truly independent. God's design for His One Church is unity and singularity. Any local church that centers on God's forgiveness graciously given in Christ's death is truly just an expression of THE Church, THE Bride of Christ.

With that said, we believe that God has prepared us to be an autonomous church. Being part of a multi-site experience for 12+ years, God has grown this campus to develop its own unique culture and values that are different from CCC in Hudson or any other church around. The apostle Paul wrote many letters to churches in the New Testament and each one contained the same timeless gospel, but it was applied to the specific needs of each local church and community he was addressing. We see our church and the Aurora community in the same way. We believe God has something very specific for us to do at this church and in this community for the cause of Christ. Because of that, we have already taken steps to become more self-sufficient with our own local preaching, livestream, and ministries that are unique to this campus. And, although we enjoy great benefits from our association with CCC, our leadership began to ask the question: Can we truly be most effective for God's Kingdom as a campus of CCC, or as a healthy, independent church born and raised in the CCC family and now commissioned to express our own personality and embrace the call God has given us to the greater-Aurora area? Over and over, the answer is being affirmed as the latter!

So, why go independent? Simply, it is the best way to express the unique personality, vision, and calling God has formed for us while we have been the Aurora Campus to impact the world from Aurora, Ohio!

So when will we ACTUALLY go independent?

Our goal is to be completely independent by January 1, 2022.

It's going to take effort and sacrifice on all our parts to make independence happen in a year. In time, we will have a new church name, a specific vision for our church, and many exciting steps that come along with moving toward independence.

We want to allow Pastor Todd to acclimate and provide him the best support needed for our journey to autonomy.

We also want to ensure we are fully DEPENDENT on God for His provision, direction, and guidance. This happens to each of us and to all of us together.

Who will be our Senior Pastor?

As this independence reality became more affirmed for our campus Leadership Team and Pastor Mark, we began to pray for God's wisdom and direction. For Pastor Mark, a key personal question was whether his ministry calling was to assume the role of senior preaching pastor. After seeking the Lord, it became evident to Mark (you can ask him yourself!) that his gifts and passion are more in being a campus pastor with his hands in a lot of things than in being a Lead Pastor for a church. Thankful for this clarity, our Leadership Team began to ask God to send us His man to lead us into the future. And then we began a search.

Little did we know after casting our net across the country and reviewing dozens of candidates, God was stirring the heart of a young pastor and his wife who had faithfully been serving at the Hudson campus for more than 16 years, Pastor Todd and Jillian Iannetta. Immediately, there was great chemistry with the Iannettas. God had gone beyond our expectations in sending us someone not only with great ministry gifts and a ministry heart, but deep knowledge of our campus's history and how we arrived at this point in our journey. Truly, we are grateful!

What's Next for Pastor Mark?

At present, Pastor Mark embraces his new role in working alongside Pastor Todd to familiarize him with "The Aurora Way" and introducing him to the amazing people that call Aurora Campus their church home. Pastor Mark is committed to stay on staff through May (a 6-month transition period), and is considering his next ministry opportunity for when the transition period is over.

In order to stand on our own, you will see both Pastors Todd and Mark doing all of the preaching live (or online as COVID dictates) moving into 2021. (Remember: you are still allowed to watch Pastor Joe online if you miss him!)

Can we still have a great relationship with CCC and the Hudson campus?

Absolutely. In fact, we will continue to stand alongside and link arms with CCC and other gospel churches for the cause of Christ!

Practically speaking, Pastor Joe and the elder team are excited (and a bit proud in the best of ways) that God has grown us to this point. They have expressed nothing but willingness to help us get on our feet, and are committed to allowing us to "borrow" ideas and resources as needed to be fully functioning.

What should I do to prepare myself for the adventure of independence?

- 1) **Pray.** The eternal work of God's Kingdom has the fiercest of foes. Apostle Paul reminds us our battle is not against flesh and blood (or budgets, or details, or new church names, etc.), but against spiritual forces. Prepare yourself for this glorious call by being spiritually healthy!
- 2) **Come to church (in-person or online) all of January and February!** Pastors Mark and Todd will be doing a series called *inDEPENDENCE*. During that series, we will answer most of the questions you have – and some you didn't know you had!
- 3) **Contact us!** You might have ideas, talents, and resources we don't know about that could help us along this journey. Let us know at independence@ccchapel.com!