



NEW SONG CHURCH

During this time of COVID-19 and tense national headlines, we asked several members to help us with an interview about our church. This was part of a large project overall, but we really enjoyed getting to read through many of their answers.

These members in some cases have been here since even before “New Song” was New Song! Many of them are original members, but we also asked members of our staff and Church leadership to speak up – we asked a few brand new members to join in, as well.

These are “the reviews” of our time. Some are positive and upbeat, while others are more down to earth, realistic and even a little strained. We chose to give you the unvarnished truth: we lean towards having more to gain through honesty than when we sanitize the facts. We hope you’ll enjoy reading through some of their reflections below.

Name That Tune!

We asked our members:

If you had to “title” our current chapter of ministry, what would you name it? We also posed this question: what do you see as being on the horizon?

We heard lots of answers!

- Transition in leadership and growth of digital ministries
- Change, The New Normal
- Reaching New Heights
- Growing Pains

Many summed it up with this type of statement for the future: *New Song is quickly becoming the hub for community action and faith filled fellowship.*

Tell Us Your Story!

We wanted to know:

What brought you to New Song; what has kept you part of the flock?

This question brought forth many answers. Our church LOVES to sing: all levels of worship were mentioned in almost every answer: contemporary music, the preaching, hospitality, small groups, friendships, the casual nature of not having to be phony or fake (or dressed up), and the relationships: everyone remarked about the relationship with God and one another as their top priority. Others, equally, were able to lift missions and service opportunities, along with children's and youth ministries. People love that they are able to "get in the game" and not just be spectators.

Road Blocks and Speed Bumps!

What hinders our growth and/or ministries from being their best?

Again, many patterns emerged! There is a lack of space – we have outgrown our building and that is great (except the cost of the new facility expansions, of course!). But many were able to go beyond just the money for an upgraded facility and share that we have, at times, grown too comfortable in our faith: people seem to get to a point where they become "stuck."

Another common theme in our answers was that New Song people are BUSY: with so many priorities, we are often unable to get to where we need to be because so many are pulled in various directions. We have a habit of forgetting that technology is not everyone's first choice by way of communications or platform for worship – and that has really put a strain on our system during this COVID-19 response.

I Dream a Dream...

We asked:

If you were to dream new dreams and share what's on the radar for this next season in ministry, what would your vision be as you think ahead?

The main priorities that were listed in this section had to do with being the hands and feet of Christ in our community as we grow new leaders and teams to serve through their particular gifts, talents and passions. Many reported they would love to see bigger children's and youth spaces, even a gym or the possibility of an after-school/preschool in the future.

People at New Song deeply value that sense of connection: to have people moving forward in their faith and constantly reaching new people.

Tools in the Toolbox

We inquired about resources specifically to our staff and leaders. We wanted to know:

What do you see we need to be planning for, resource-wise? (ie: building, staff, finances, etc.)

If you haven't seen the pattern, everyone stated right out front: we need a larger building with more space for children, youth and adults. We have the right people, the right chemistry and the right tools... but in order for growth to occur and for us to take that next step: we need to pay down our debt (and we've made huge progress!)... and to expand our facility and programs.

Others noted: why not leave the current space as-is and consider an additional space — a secondary location might provide room for a more targeted approach to weekday religious children's initiatives and even youth opportunities if planned correctly? (We loved this idea!) It was also noted that transportation for missional gatherings and to pick-up families who may not have a ride to services could be useful.

If Wishes Were Reality...!

**When you think of New Song, what do you wish you could change?
What do you hope we never lose or allow to be altered?**

Many prioritized discipleship across the board in this answer. The call was for even more ways to teach, inspire, and train us even more to grow in our spiritual walks. Some remarked about the facility, but this time: it was from the perspective of celebrating a "FULL" building! Some reflected on days when we weren't sure we were going to make it – but there's an awe... "just look what God is doing!" Many people also made note that our people are truly open, willing to be vulnerable, and that there's a closeness here: a comradery. People were not made to feel welcome at other churches until starting to attend here – there's a "family vibe" and people have grown through that faith and love!

We do surveys of our members all year long; this is just one example. Most recently, we conducted a series on "when to reopen" while another one is coming up on "Your Top 10 Pet-Peeves about Church!" We love to know the good, bad & ugly – so feel free to stay tuned... more will be shared soon!