



Our history:

Hiawatha Church began as a dream in 2004 when word of a church building's vacancy came to Steve Treichler and the elders of Hope Community Church (www.hopecc.com), Hiawatha's eventual "sending church." They had been dreaming of continuing Hope's legacy of church planting in the city, and this opportunity, coupled with a vision and passion he was giving pastors Chris Wachter and Michael Devereaux, seemed to "fit the bill" perfectly.

Chris and Mike were finishing up their internships at Hope, and masters programs at Bethel Seminary, and wondering, along with their wives, if God might be calling them to church plant together in South Minneapolis, using this vacant building. They dreamed of a church that simultaneously helped believers persevere in the faith *and* re-presented Jesus to people who had an incomplete view of the gospel. They dreamed of a church that valued authentic community, having fun together, and cultural relevance. They dreamed of a church that would look outside its doors to the lost, brokenhearted, and downtrodden of the city, and seek to pray for and serve them in Christ's name. They dreamed of a church that took hospitality seriously, not just as a good deed, but as a Christian virtue that gets to the heart of the cross (Romans 15:7). And they dreamed of a church where the Bible would be clearly taught and communicated in everything we did, maybe understood for the first time by people seeking salvation.

In June of 2006, 25+ people from our sending church gathered to pray, plan, and prepare for the launch of Hiawatha Church. Regular public gatherings began on September 3, 2006. Since then, we've enjoyed watching these dreams come to fruition. Yet our vision of continuing to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ among our church for the sake of our growth and maturity in the faith, and also out to others who haven't heard yet, remains in the forefront of our elders' minds. We look forward to the future where things like formal leadership training, global missions, and church planting might, by God's grace, become a reality.

It is our intention to continue to dream big, for we serve a God who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ever ask or imagine. May his fame spread through the proclamation and living out of the gospel, in the church, to all generations, forever and ever. Amen! (Eph 3:20-21)