

## Our Brands



A church of 16 house churches in Central Iowa.



A ministry organization that accelerates the progress of the Gospel primarily through support for the training of leaders in the context of churches and church planting movements.



The packaging of BILD resources for use in basic training of all believers and local leaders.



The packaging of BILD resources for use in advanced training and accredited, academic credentialing of leaders.



An endeavor to see churches, especially in urban centers, truly engaged in training leaders, meeting the needs of their local communities, and participating in the progress of the Gospel globally.



An endeavor to see Antioch Initiatives in 30 North American cities.



A network of likeminded churches that are committed to the concepts of a "CityChurch" and partnering with BILD in training leaders, meeting the needs of their local communities, and participating in the progress of the Gospel globally.

## Connecting Our Brands with Our Distinctives



1. Building



2. Sunday AM



3. Sunday PM



4. Lord's Supper

5. Seek the Welfare of the City

6. Ordered Learning



7. Kerygma and Didache

8. Church Planting

9. Apostolic



10. Pastors



## Ames Des Moines CityChurch Distinctives

1. Building. “Cool building. Thanks so much for letting us use it.” The building won an architectural innovation award, but not just because we are architecture geeks. We intended for it to make a contribution to the community. Hence, it anticipated and fits with the architecture of the emerging university research park (“farm-scape” meets “church-scape”). However, the use of the building is shared with the Ames Des Moines CityChurch, BILD, and the community which holds events here almost every day.
2. Sunday AM. “This doesn’t quite feel like a normal church service.” Regardless of your church tradition, our Sunday morning gathering probably doesn’t feel quite right. The fact is that we are not trying to provide a Sunday morning church service characterized by worship and a sermon. Rather, our Sunday morning gathering is equipping of more established members, providing network identity, developing resources for publication, and modeling use of arts and music for teaching.
3. Sunday PM. “Do you have small groups?” Well, yes. In fact, we would say that we are not a church that has small groups, but a church composed of house churches. We think that the essence of church participation is belonging to a God’s household, not just as a metaphor, but in communities that are very much like extended families who care for one another and join together in common causes.
4. Lord’s Supper. “When do you take holy communion?” A lot of church traditions have developed regarding what the early church called “the breaking of bread” or “the Lord’s supper.” We try to go back to the essence of what it was during the early church. We don’t consider it to be a sacramental experience in which you literally eat and drink the body and blood of Christ in order to benefit from God’s grace. We also don’t consider it to be somber moment of introspection at the end of a church service. Rather, we consider it to be the “branding” of the normal Sunday evening church gathering as we use the bread and wine as reminders of why we are gathering. We are not simply a group of friends gathering for a great meal and a good time, but we are gathering as an expression of God’s household.
5. Seek the Welfare of the City. “This room doesn’t seem much like a church sanctuary.” Some churches become characterized so much by their Sunday morning worship services that they are defined by their building (“place of worship”). Although we have a building, we think beneficial engagement with our local community is essential to our identity as a church. Hence, we make the building itself available to the community. And we prioritize things like ReBuild, Life Development Groups, Walk Through the Bible programs, and leaders moving to the east side of Des Moines.

6. **Ordered Learning.** “Do you have Sunday School?” We think that every believer should be engaged in a process of strengthening their faith, experiencing the transformational influence of biblical truth, and being equipped for participation in the church according to giftedness and roles. This includes all children, parents, and church leaders. And it goes far beyond an hour or so in a classroom with people your same age on Sunday morning. It includes First Principles (a series of booklets to help you be established in your faith), Leadership Series (courses to help you develop as a ministry leader), Personal Development Assessments (tools to help you be mentored in your life and ministry development), and more.
7. **Kerygma (Proclamation) and Didache (Teaching).** “Huh? Kirr-ig-ma and did-ah-kay?” Two Greek words were used by the early church to describe their beliefs and philosophy. Kerygma is the proclamation of the good news (“gospel”) of Jesus Christ in God’s plan. Didache is the teaching of a way of life that corresponds with belief in the kerygma. It includes putting off old lives of sin and selfishness/putting on new lives of obedience to God, participating in individual households, the church (the household of God), local community, and global community according to God’s design.
8. **Church Planting.** “Do you offer a landscape architecture program?” We use the term church planting to refer to the ongoing work of God in the work. Jesus ended his ministry on earth with his “great commission” which we see enacted by the first century apostles preaching the gospel (kerygma), gathering believers into churches to be equipped and strengthened, and developing leaders to protect and lead the churches. We are still engaged in the fulfillment of the great commission of Jesus. In fact, we would like to see the Ames Des Moines CityChurch be composed of churches that are within reach, geographically and by affinity groups, of everyone in Central Iowa.
9. **Apostolic.** “That sounds so Catholic or Pentecostal.” Apostolic is a term that spooks many people, particularly those from traditional evangelical church backgrounds. However, an “apostle” literally means “one who is sent on a mission.” It is mostly a recognition of giftedness, function, and responsibility. We use the term “apostolic leader” to refer to those who are specially gifted for leadership in our local community, particularly to help strengthen us and keep us engaged with the larger work of God in the world. It is also the term used for leaders of church planting networks throughout the world who function as a global apostolic team (without a pope). Support for apostolic leaders, particularly those using BILD resources to train the leaders of their networks, is the essence of our missions program.
10. **Pastors.** “How many pastors do you have?” 50! Seriously, we don’t think of the role of pastor as a full-time professional vocation of leading church services, counseling, or church administration. Rather, we think about it as the shepherding of small groups of people who gather together as expressions of God’s household. We think that it is a normal thing for believers to become strong in their faith and step up in service to others.

## Our Distinctives

August 21, 2016

### Discussion Questions:

- What was/is different about this church? What is strange? What is wonderful? Or in-between?
- How have you addressed these things? Kept quiet? Asked a friend? Asked a house church leader? Did a Google search?

Let folks who are newer answer first.

### Tonight in House Churches:

- Help newer folks understand these distinctives.
- Help older folks be able to explain these brands and distinctives.

## Ames Des Moines CityChurch Commitments (Participation)

1. Building. “Cool building. Thanks so much for letting us use it.”
  - Be here on Sunday mornings as appropriate.
  - Use it for house church and cluster events as needed.
  - Volunteer in the BILD Office.
  - Volunteer during the BILD conference and other special events.
  - Use it for community needs.
  - Help with the setup and maintenance.
  
2. Sunday AM. “This doesn’t quite feel like a normal church service.”
  - Be here for the “gathering” as appropriate for development (equipping, network, resource development, and arts and music).
  - Be here as appropriate for helping others develop.
  - Be prepared in attitude and content.
  - Use content as a point of reference afterwards.
  - Use Sunday AMs without CityChurch gatherings as intended.
  
3. Sunday PM. “Do you have small groups?”
  - Treat house churches as core and central.
  - Be committed and regular.
  - Do your part with regard to logistics.
  - Do your part with regard to giftedness.
  - Be a part and give, not just get or to fulfill an obligation.
  - Bring a teaching.
  - Receive a teaching.
  
4. Lord’s Supper. “When do you take holy communion?”
  - View your tradition in light of biblical teaching.
  - Welcome it as a weekly re-calibration toward Christ, not a mere token.
  - Use it as a way of helping visitors see Christ through your church.
  
5. Seek the Welfare of the City. “This room doesn’t seem much like a church sanctuary.”
  - Have an outward focus.
  - Participate in ReBuild as appropriate.
  - Participate in other forms of outreach and service, such as using Life Development Groups (e.g. university students), Walk through the Bible programs, etc.
  - Take civic roles as individuals, but keeping the church in mind.

6. Ordered Learning. "Do you have Sunday School?"
  - Everyone should participate in First Principles.
  - Leaders should participate in Leadership Series courses (in BILD Institute or Antioch School programs).
  - Include assessment (by self, peers, leaders).
  - Use it to help you bring a teaching.
  - Rely on it as points of reference for other aspects of development.
  
7. Kerygma (Proclamation) and Didache (Teaching). "Huh? Kirr-ig-ma and did-ah-kay?"
  - Know the content of the kerygma and didache.
  - Do your own study of the biblical teaching leading to categorization and statements.
  - Use kerygma and didache as points of reference for following Christ.
  - Use kerygma and didache as tools for measuring maturity in your faith.
  
8. Church Planting. "Do you offer a landscape architecture program?"
  - Understand the work of God in the world today as largely a church planting movement.
  - Care about church planting globally and in urban centers.
  - Care about church planting locally (Ames, Des Moines, Central Iowa).
  - Have a church planter mindset.
  - Be open to how God may use you as part of a church plant.
  
9. Apostolic. "That sounds so Catholic or Pentecostal."
  - View church as mission.
  - View church leaders as mission leaders.
  - Partner in the progress of the Gospel globally by supporting sodal leaders.
  - Partner in the progress of the Gospel locally.
  
10. Pastors. "How many pastors do you have?"
  - Welcome the shepherding provided by your house church leaders.
  - House church leaders should seriously their responsibilities.
  - Recognize that your path to maturity may include shepherding of others as a natural expression of 2 Tim. 2:2 "entrust to reliable men who will be able to teach others."

Discussion (Sunday AM, August 28, 2016):

- Where are your commitments (participation) the strongest? Weakest? Why?
- What are the next steps in your commitments (participation)?

House Church (Sunday PM, August 28, 2016 and beyond):

- Are you committed to all these things? Are you participating in all these ways?
- How can you help one another in the next steps of our commitments (participation)?