



FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA · A PROPOSAL FOR MINISTRY
PARTNERSHIP

God Is Not Finished With This Church.

Southside Christian Church is in the middle of an exciting season of renewal — moving from survival to stability, and from stability into renewal. We are seeking like-minded partners to walk with us into a season of multiplication.

50 → 140

Average Weekly Worship
over the past three years

20+

Baptisms
in the past three years

22%+

County Population Growth
since the 2020 Census

#1

Never-Churched Area in the U.S.
Barna Group study, 2016

THE STORY

From Survival to Renewal

Three years ago, Southside Christian Church was facing a prolonged season of decline. There were serious questions about the future. Many wondered if the church's best days were in the past — or if it was still possible that God might use this church and her people in a powerful way.

It was into this context that Lead Minister Paul Huyghebaert sensed a clear calling from the Lord. After a time of prayer and discernment, he and his family relocated to Fort Pierce with the specific purpose of leading a revitalization effort at Southside.

The first season focused intentionally on reestablishing stability — earning trust, building relationships, and creating healthy rhythms of worship, discipleship, and leadership.

Over time, that foundation began to bear fruit. Attendance that had averaged around 50 began to grow steadily, and today averages around 140 in weekly worship.

More importantly, there are signs of genuine renewal: stories of life change, renewed commitment to following Jesus, increased engagement in ministry, and more than twenty baptisms in a church that had seen very few in the years leading up to revitalization.

Southside has moved from survival to stability, and from stability into renewal. The question now is how to steward this moment faithfully — not only for the sake of the local church, but for the broader mission God may have in view.

"This was not a career move or a strategic upgrade—it was a conviction. I believed God was not finished with this church and that faithfulness in this season would require patience, presence, and a long-term commitment to renewal rather than quick fixes."

— Paul Huyghebaert, Lead Minister

Why Fort Pierce? Why Now?

God has not only called us to a church; He has called us to a community — at the heart of Florida's Treasure Coast, one of the fastest-growing regions in the state.

Rapid Growth

Since the 2020 Census, St. Lucie County has grown by more than 22%, adding over 70,000 new residents in five years — many of them families searching for connection, purpose, and hope.

70,000+

new residents in five years

The Highest Need

In 2016, the Barna Group published a study showing the Treasure Coast has the highest percentage of never-churched people of any area in the country.

#1

never-churched area nationally

Open, Not Hostile

Every month we meet people who are not hostile toward Christianity — they are simply disconnected, new to the community, or have never experienced a healthy disciple-making church.

Open

searching for connection and hope

WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY DONE

Recent Ministry Efforts

- ✓ First VBS in nearly a decade — relaunched two summers ago, welcoming families in a powerful way
- ✓ Four Friends & Family Days each year — natural on-ramps for guests in the Sunday environment
- ✓ Watchmen — a monthly men's gathering building relationships of encouragement and accountability
- ✓ Next — a 9-month leadership development initiative crafting the next generation of leaders
- ✓ Roughly 20% of the adult congregation trained to share the gospel using *Trust and Follow Jesus*
- ✓ A growing children's ministry that communicates the gospel with clarity and conviction

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Reaching Beyond the Walls

Renewal is not only about internal health, but about faithful presence and witness in the community.

SCHOOLS

Local Elementary Schools

Encouraging and supporting students and staff.

RECOVERY

Recovery Centers

Walking alongside people in need of healing and hope.

COUNSELING

Counseling Ministries

Helping meet deep emotional and spiritual needs.

OUR 3–5 YEAR VISION

The Next Season: Multiplication

Multiplying disciples, leaders, influence — and in the future, by God's grace, healthy churches.

01

Multiplication of Disciples

Moving beyond addition deeper into intentional disciple-making pathways.

02

Leadership Development

Launching leadership cohorts to raise up new leaders across every ministry area.

03

Strategic Staffing

Adding key staff — such as Next Gen/Family or Discipleship — to expand ministry capacity.

04

Culture Formation

Embedding values that ensure long-term health and missional focus.

05

Community Impact

Deepening partnerships with schools, community organizations, recovery centers, and counseling ministries.

06

Church Planting DNA

Building Southside to be a sending church across the Treasure Coast. Planting is already part of Southside's history.

HOW YOU CAN PARTNER

Join Us in This Vision

Prayer

We cannot do this without spiritual covering and intercession. Our vision is a bold one, and we are grateful for new prayer partners.

Encouragement

Walk alongside us by sharing wisdom, resources, and support — especially those that help us lean more successfully into the mission to be disciples who make disciples.

Financial Partnership

We are seeking 3 years of outside support to fuel this vision — funding strategic staff additions, outreach initiatives, leadership development, community partnerships, and a long-term vision to multiply healthy churches across the Treasure Coast.

The next strategic investment in Southside is not another program or building project — it is people. A dedicated Next Generation and Family Discipleship leader would help connect new families into meaningful relationships, equip parents to disciple their children, develop volunteer leaders, and make the momentum God has already given sustainable for years to come.

The Financial Picture

Seeking 3 Years of Outside Support

Toward strategic staffing and the broader multiplication vision

Southside is able to commit

\$20,000 / year

Seeking from partners

\$70,000

Support term

3 Years

CONTRIBUTIONS DIRECTLY FUND

- Strategic staff additions — especially a Next Gen/Family focus
- Outreach initiatives to reach the community with the gospel
- Leadership development for future disciple-makers and ministry leaders
- Community partnerships that open doors for gospel witness
- Long-term investment in planting, sending, and revitalization efforts

Partnership in this season is not only an investment in one church — it is an opportunity to help shape a reproducible model for church revitalization. As the North American church faces increasing numbers of aging and declining congregations, our desire is to steward this season by learning in real time, sharing what works, and contributing to a growing framework that can help other churches experience renewal as well.

Together, We Can See Renewal Turn Into Multiplication.

By partnering with us, your church can play a vital role in writing the next chapter of this story — one in which lives are changed, leaders are raised up, families are reached, churches are planted, and the gospel spreads across Fort Pierce and the entire Treasure Coast.

Please prayerfully consider whether you and your congregation might be called to partner with us during this season of renewal. We would love the opportunity to share more details and answer any questions you may have.

Paul Huyghebaert

Lead Minister · Southside Christian Church · Fort Pierce, FL