



Just as he did 2,000 years ago, Jesus call us to be disciples who share the good news of God's love with a hurting world. The early church took seriously this call to mission and sent disciples out, two by two, to plant churches. Today, we are called by our Bishop to do the same. Grace and Epiphany are being sent out in partnership, to bring God's message of love to the Las Vegas community as we seek to plant a new church.

- **Why are we planting a new church?** Jesus calls us to share the good news with all! Our task is to tell others how God's love has changed our lives; that is a timely message.
- **Why Epiphany and Grace?** We are both strong faith communities who began as new churches. Our experience as start-ups will be helpful to others as we come together in this joint ministry project.
- **Does this mean we are merging?** No. Each parish will remain independent and retain its own identity. We are forming a partnership to work together to plant the new church, but each parish will continue to be led by its own vestry.
- **What's going on with the clergy?** To enable the partnership to work more effectively, the clergy will work in a combined team to serve both parishes, and ultimately all three. They will serve the churches together, rotating among our parishes to preach, to teach, and to care for the faith communities.
- **Who will be leading the clergy?** Rick O'Brien will be the leader of the combined team and will work with the clergy as well as the vestries of both parishes. He will be on both church campuses each week and will split Sundays as well.
- **Who is paying for this?** The cost of the paid clergy will be shared by Epiphany, Grace, and the diocese. Each parish will maintain their own budget and administration and will pay into a diocesan fund to cover the cost of the clergy.
- **Will this go on indefinitely?** The plan is to get the new church up and running in 24 to 36 months. We will evaluate our progress and adjust staffing accordingly. Ultimately, we hope each of the three churches will have a full-time clergy leader.
- **What does Simunye mean?** It is a Zulu word that means We Are One. It is a reminder that we are all Christians called to serve God's people.
- **How will we plant the new church?** We will spend some time in the community, meeting people and getting to know their needs. This will help us to determine the shape of the new church. There are many things we may try: coffee shops, pubs, parks, etc. The key will be to get out and try, and it will take work from all of us.
- **Can we be involved in the new church?** YES! This work cannot be done only by the clergy or by the parish leaders, it will take all of us working together.