



EMMAUS ROAD
CHURCH

FAMILY MEETING SUMMARY

June 2025

WELCOME

As elders, we mean it when we say with the Apostle Paul, “What is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?” (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

We treasure you, the people of Emmaus Road Church, and each of you plays a vital role in the life of our church life and in our decision making process. And our annual congregational meeting is an essential way we communicate our vision with you and invite your input and participation on mission for the glory of Jesus.

ELDER DEVELOPMENT

The mission of Emmaus Road Church is to make and multiply disciples who impact Sioux Falls and the nations for the glory of Jesus (2 Tim 2:2). Since the church’s inception, Pastor Greg has prioritized investing in faithful, humble, teachable, and theologically aligned men for leadership. These efforts culminated in a Leadership Development Through Theological Reflection cohort that meets regularly for deep biblical and pastoral formation.

Fruit of the Investment

This process has led to the ordination of Ryan Chase (2014), Logan Thune (2019), Loren VenHuizen (2022), and Matt Groen (2023).

Current Cohort

Eight men have been working through the Sovereign Grace ordination standards for the past two years. Not all participants become ordained pastors—some require more time and experience—but the goal remains the same: faithful, gospel-rooted leadership. Todd Novak, Caleb Walker, Andrew Hoekstra, Stephen Willcox, Nelson Leacraft, Isaac Citrowske, Cameron Ostrom, Jason Bosch

Other Leaders

- Ben Tiemersma has completed ACBC Biblical Counseling certification.
- Caleb Dirnberger and Jordan Strand have been serving as Pastoral Residents.
- We are grateful to these men, their families, and especially their wives, for their service and example.

Encouragement to the Church

Our church is rich in mature, faithful men, and we could recognize many more. Join us in thanking God for this abundance and continue to pray for the Lord to raise up and send laborers into His harvest.

Jordan Strand — Ordination Progress

Jordan Strand is progressing through Sovereign Grace’s ordination process. He has passed the Bible Knowledge Exam and the first written Theology Exam. He has one written and one oral exam remaining. We invite congregational feedback using [this form](#) to help us discern his calling.

CHURCH PLANTING

As an eldership, we believe God is leading Emmaus Road Church to plant a second Sovereign Grace church in the Sioux Falls metro area.

Why Plant?

- Our vision from the beginning has been to be a church that plants churches.
- Our strategy has been to make and multiply disciples, and it seems good to us to take steps toward planting another congregation.
- Our recent growth stretches our current facility capacity and also makes it possible for us to deploy a church planting team.
- We have a strategic opportunity right now, with several leaders who are ready and willing:
 - Greg and Loren plan to be part of the planting plurality.
 - Caleb Dirnberger will attend Pastors College in 2025–26 and return to engage with the plant.

Timeline

Lord willing:

- Summer–Fall 2025: Prayer gatherings and planning prospectus
- Early 2026: Information meetings
- Spring 2026: Launch team formed
- Summer–Fall 2026: Public worship begins

Response

- Planting a church is not something that some of us would do; it is something that we all would do as Emmaus Road Church.
- We acknowledge the emotional/relational impact of planting, and we want to navigate that with hope and faith in light of the gospel and our mission.
- At this time, we are simply asking everyone to pray, to trust the promises of God, and to stay tuned.

BUILDING UPDATE

Concept Plans

To view building plans, [visit this Dropbox folder](#).

Cost & Timeline

- Estimated Phase 1 Cost: \$7M
- Current Building Fund: \$460K
- Need: \$5M (after financing and future sale of land)
- Goal: Raise \$3–3.75M before breaking ground (60–75%)

Next Steps

- Pray
- Give to the Building Fund as the Lord leads you