

Multi-Site Exposed Conference
Mars Hill Church, Seattle, WA April 14-15
by Phil McCallum, TodaysPastor.com

Here are some quotes that caught my attention in the conference. These are not comprehensive notes, just thoughts that took my fancy.

Multi-Sites Are Fully Functioning Churches, Not Just Download Sites

When I listen to the dialog about the multi-site approach, I hear about technology but what I'm not hearing is "what's a church"? Mark Driscoll, Preaching Pastor Mars Hill Church

You need to think through ecclesiastical issues of what is a church before a site is launched so you plant churches and not sects. Otherwise you start with a culture of permission and end in disappointment because people with wrong heart will work their way in and take over the heart and mission of the church. Mark Driscoll, Preaching Pastor Mars Hill Church

Remember there really is a Satan, sin, demons and false teachers. So watch out. We need to be sure that what we mean by church, God means by church. Mark Driscoll, Preaching Pastor Mars Hill Church

What the church is was just assumed before the Reformation. The first book written on the church was by Cyprian *On Unity in the Church* AD 251 no other book was written until Wycliffe in 1378. The Protestants define church as: the word, sacraments, church discipline and leadership. Mark Driscoll, Preaching Pastor Mars Hill Church

The printing press forced a sharper definition of the church theologically, so too has the invention of the internet and video. Mark Driscoll, Preaching Pastor Mars Hill Church

Jesus is the head of the church and you have to put him on the top of your organizational chart. This is the order of church leadership and the flow of the gospel into the world: Jesus then elders, then deacons, then members then guests taking the kingdom of God into the mission field. Jamie Munson, Lead Pastor Mars Hill

How Mars Hill Church defines the church:

1. Jesus is the head of the church. If anyone is the Senior Pastor of your church make him Jesus.
2. The Holy Spirit is the source of regenerated life. Everything is about making the world know how great God is.

3. Leaders devoted to health and well being of the church. Elders, senior pastor, staff pastors.
4. Preaching. If you don't have a preacher you don't have a church.
5. Membership
6. Sacraments rightly administered. We serve communion every week and baptise converts.
7. Discipline is rightly enacted.
8. Worship is gathered and scattered.
9. The great commandment of love.

We have found that each campus must function as a complete church. If you want to be a multi-site church, make sure you start a church and not just have an event. Mark Driscoll, Preaching Pastor Mars Hill Church

Multi-Sites Are About Developing The Leader, Not Planting Sites

What makes multi-site work best? The campus pastor. The campus pastor is number one. He is more than a glorified MC. He must be a pastor to create authentic community in the life of that church. He is a developer: leadership ability, shepherding gift, coaching, administrator, often an excellent communicator. Teaching is not necessarily their core gift but developing the team must be. Greg Ligon, Leadership Network

We are not in the multi-business. We are in the leader deployment business. It is all about leaders: identify, deploying, etc. If we have a leader we will have a site. If we don't, we won't. Dave Browning, Lead Pastor Christ the King Community Church

We want to not just develop leaders, but to develop leaders who develop leaders. Dave Browning, Lead Pastor Christ the King Community Church

In finding direction ask: Is God up to something? What is the evidence for that? If God is up to something it will show up in the heart of the leader. If we find a leader, everything else will happen. Dave Browning, Lead Pastor Christ the King Community Church

The collegial relationship between our pastors is really significant because we are not independent but interdependent as leaders. Mark Driscoll, Preaching Pastor, Mars Hills Church

Multi-Sites Are About Relationship, Not Just Technology

We can launch a new site and get the airborne attack happening (i.e. creating the event plus the technology that makes it happen) but we need to do the ground war well (being sure that it is a fully functioning church with love and the networks to make that love happen). Mark Driscoll, Mars Hills Church

Through multi-sites we have been able to care for people more effectively. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hills Church

I took the road less travelled, now where the heck am I? We have had a strong suit in information, programming and passion but road less travelled is in relationships. Dave Browning, Lead Pastor Christ the King Community Church

Relationship does not require energy to maintain, because organically developed church life generates its own energy from within. Dave Browning, Lead Pastor Christ the King Community Church

At Christ the King they begin their satellite campuses at a cafe or restaurant, informally, around tables with kids on corner table. They start informally and relationally and invite team members to help others to serve in the felt needs without child care, worship team, etc. Dave Browning, Lead Pastor Christ the King Community Church

We want to be more like Blues Clues than Sesame Street where people have to point to the screen and participate. The presenter asks, "Where's the mailbox?" Then he waits for the child to discover. We need to present the problem and then leave it for the listener to solve it. Dave Browning, Lead Pastor Christ the King Community Church

Organization requires more external support to prop it up, where organic development holds together with tension within. Dave Browning, Lead Pastor Christ the King Community Church

One of the great things about relationships is that it does cost anything to get it going, but it does take time. John Bishop, Living Hope Church

We think we can go as far as relationships will take us. That can be anywhere. Some of you are thinking of where you can start sites across town, but think bigger than that, where would God like to go? Dave Browning, Lead Pastor Christ the King Community Church

Insights from Multi-Site Masters

We try to separate influence and control between the campuses. Some things we direct, other things we suggest. We try to distinguish between the core issues

that have to be at each campus and those that are optional. Jamie Munson, Lead Pastor Mars Hill

The video campuses are full and have twice the giving level of the live campus. His observation: the ones at the video campuses are in it for the cause and those at the main site for the show. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

We tried creating a teaching pastor at each site, but the cold, dark reality is that rarely you will get a teaching team that is equal. Either there is unequal skill or personality styles that are hard for people to relate to. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

The failure rate of church planting is high. We support church planting with 10 per cent of our budget. But multi-site is a new form of church planting not just an overflow room. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

Larger multi-site churches are becoming of themselves a new kind of denomination and network to better share resources. With technology I think it is possible to have a church of millions. 3,500 churches die and close in America. Wouldn't it be better for those to become campuses rather than to cease operation all together? Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill Church

Multi-site campuses allows people to be better cared for. The bigger we get the better we care for people because we are able to specialise and develop. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

Avoid using the label, "Main Campus" or "Home Campus" because that gives the impression that one site is the main deal and the rest aren't. To have an organic church there must be a sense that all are significant and all contribute to the whole. Dave Browning, Lead Pastor Christ the King Community Church

The four leadership roles that are essential to launch a site include:

Campus pastor

Worship leader

Small groups minister

Children's ministry

Greg Ligon, Leadership Network

The name recognition of larger branded churches that multi-site helps in the trust factor in inviting others. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

Communication on the internet is instant, constant, global and permanent. Think of the implications of this for the gospel. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

Every campus has its own elder board. Membership is with the local campus.
Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

Can there be an online church? When we rightly define the church, no. They are getting word, but no relational community, church discipline, or baptism. It is great, however, that they hear the message. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

Leadership Gems

As the founding pastor, my presence is domineering, so I am trying to extract myself organizationally and legally as much as possible from the day-to-day functioning of the church. I really trust our campus pastors. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill Church

The relationship between the senior leader and the campus pastors is the most significant connection. Lead Pastor, Mars Hill

If you don't make changes you will lose new leaders and new opportunities. If you do make changes you will lose old leaders and old opportunities. One way or the other you will have losses; you must make a choice of what you will lose. Most churches don't like to prune, but eventually the church is so overgrown that there is no fruit on the limbs because the branches are so far from the source. So cut, cut, cut. When was the last time your church had a really good pruning? How do you get the church to grow? Prune. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

We owe old staff nothing, because serving on team is an act of grace. We should have a sense of awe that we are included. If we lose that sense of awe they need to be fired, for they have lost sight of Jesus, the mission, the church. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

What makes every baseball team great is spring training every year. Old players are retooled and young players are brought in. Church doesn't have spring training. Staff gets filled with old players. Young players find other teams. Old players expect more money and more staff to support them. We need spring training to keep the staff fresh. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill Church

The body of Christ needs a colon to expel the ministries that aren't bearing fruit. Jamie Munson, Lead Pastor Mars Hill

Uniformity is not unity, because the church is unified around compromise. Rarely does the best plan get everyone's plan get approval, because every plan costs someone something. A unanimous vote is not unity but compromise. Will we

compromise on essentials to get the buy in of a few so we can all vote together?
No, that is not unity. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

Yes, sure, you bet are the four words you need to speak to every opportunity.
Dave Browning, Lead Pastor Christ the King Community Church

The church involves risking everything, reaching everywhere and reaching everyone. What reaches people for Christ is a culture of risk. John Bishop, Living Hope Church

We are Charismatics with a seatbelt. Mark Driscoll.

The Apologetics For Multi-Sites

The New Testament letters to churches are written to networks of churches in cities. The New Testament is written to leaders by leaders like Paul who were not local. These were multi-site churches. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill Church

Today there are more screens in churches than in movie theatres in America. How many people are working to create movies for movie screens? How many are thinking of how to create quality content for screens in churches? Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

With more than a gap of 80 feet from the preacher, image magnification is needed. If it is being done for a preacher in the same room, why not do it from a distance? Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

All we are doing is an upgrade of Methodism. Multi-site churches are Methodism 2.0. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill Church

George Whitefield preached to 10 million. Billy Graham to 210 million in person. What was the difference with multi-site? We are advancing the gospel with technology, *by all means*. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

Fundamentalists aren't any fun. They say we can't multi-site and use technology because it changes the message. Wrong. What we believe is unchanging, but how we do it we change all the time. We are all things to all men. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill

The question is not will you contextualize but what is the cutting edge year of your contextualization? If you have pews, you are on the cutting edge of the 1300s. If you have an organ, you are on the cutting edge of the 1400s. If you

have a printed Bible you are on the cutting edge of the 1450s. If you don't have a webpage you are on the cutting edge of the 1990s. We are called to be on the cutting edge of the generation we are called to present the gospel to. Mark Driscoll, Mars Hill Church

Online Multi-Site Resources

Multi-Site Church Websites

www.MultiSiteChurchRevolution

www.MultiSiteExposed.com

http://www.leadnet.org/LC_MultiSiteChurches.asp

Featured Multi-Site Churches At The Conference

<http://www.marshallchurch.org>

www.ctkonline.com

<http://www.livinghopechurch.com>

Other Examples

Video Venue Model: <http://www.northcoastchurch.com>

Teaching Team Model: <http://www.fbcwindermere.com>

Partnership Model: <http://www.stillwaterumc.org>

Low Risk Model: <http://www.ctlibrary.com/le/2004/spring/13.11.html>

Low Risk Model: <http://www.healingplacechurch.org>