

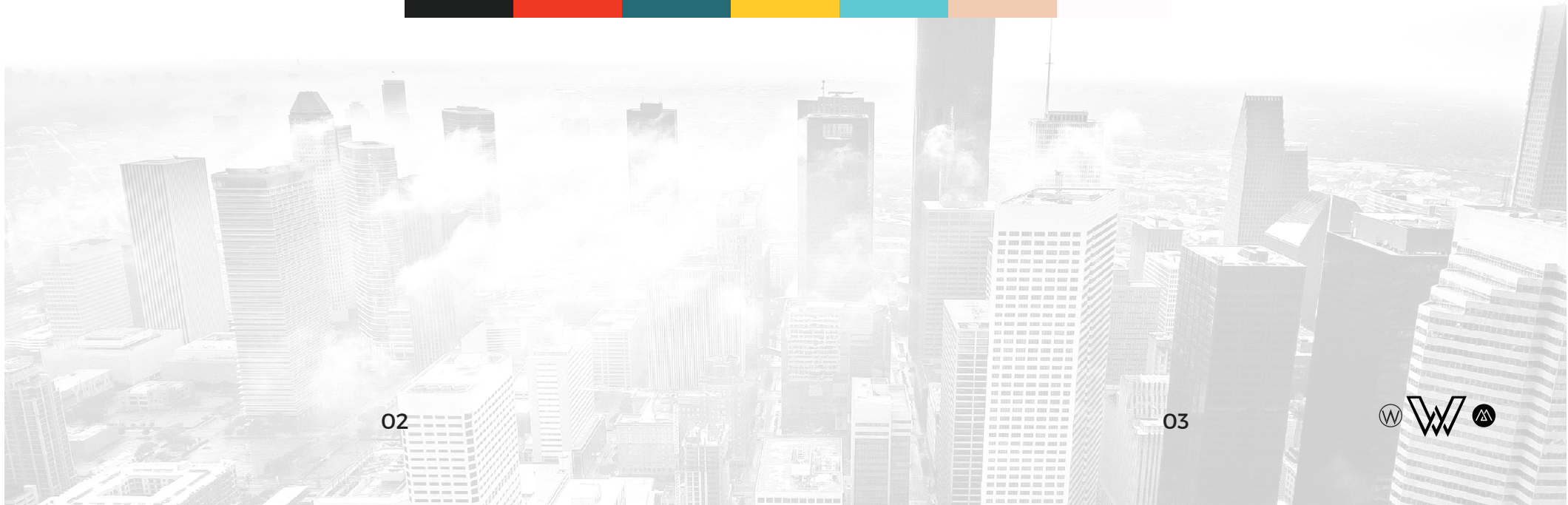


# BETTER TOGETHER





# OUR STORY



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03



## **PASTORS EFRAIN AND MEGAN**

Efrain was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and raised in the Bronx, NY. Megan was born and raised in Pennsylvania. The two met in college, where they both gave their lives over to the Lord. Soon after college, Efrain and Megan were married and began to get plugged in at a local church where they served God. It was during this time God began to stir a passion and desire for Efrain to enter into full-time ministry. After several years of schooling and mentoring, God opened a door in Kilgore, TX. Efrain and Megan made the radical decision to quit their lucrative jobs, move halfway across the country with their little ones, and serve God and His people in Texas. After 8 years of serving faithfully as a Senior Pastor in Kilgore, Texas God has led both Efrain and Megan to Conroe to plant a gospel centered multiplying church. Through partnerships with Houston Church Planting Network, Stadia, Texas Ministries of the Church of God and other partnering churches, Merge Church was planted on February 9th, 2020 with a core group of families and friends. They currently live in Conroe with their three children Grace, Josiah and Anna.



## **PASTORS JOSH AND CODI**

Josh was born and raised in Houston, TX. Codi was also born in Houston, TX, moved to a couple of different cities, and landed back in Houston. Josh and Codi met at a summer camp in 2006 and have been together since 2008. After attending college in Dallas, they served as Student Pastors for several years before answering God's call to plant a church in October 2014. Through partnerships with the Houston Church Planting Network, Stadia, and Faithbridge Church, Wake Church was planted. On September 18th, 2016 Wake Church was officially launched by a core group of families and friends. We've been on mission in our city ever since to make disciples who make disciples. They currently live in the Woodlands with their two beautiful children, Ellington Rose and Ezra Bennett.

# THE VISION



**WE BELIEVE THAT  
WE CAN REACH  
1% OF HOUSTON  
THROUGH PLANTING  
GOSPEL CENTERED  
CHURCHES THAT  
PLANT CHURCHES.**



# WHY CHURCH PLANTING?

*MATTHEW 28:18-20*


Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## TOGETHER, FOR HOUSTON


There are an estimated 190 million unchurched people in the United States and the need for more churches and church planters have never been greater. Houston is home to over 7 million people and is the most diverse city in the United States. We have a holy discontent and a biblical conviction that planting gospel-centered churches that plant churches is the most effective way to reach the lost of this great city. We will follow the pathway Jesus laid out for us by making disciples who make disciples.

## STARTING WITH CONROE, TX

Conroe is one of the top ten fastest-growing cities in the Country and ranked the fastest growing city in the US over the last 3 years. It is filled with a diverse makeup of people. In fact, 30% of the residents were born in a foreign country. More than 50% of the Conroe population has no affiliation with a local church. We see Conroe as the starting point for this endeavor.



# WHERE OUR STORY MERGES WITH HIS STORY.



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With a vision this large, we realized we are **better together.**

Merge Church and Wake Church have always deeply believed in the power of Kingdom Collaboration for the sake of multiplication. We've seen it modeled for us through the story of Faithbridge Church and the Houston Church Planting Network. The passion for planting gospel-centered churches has grown so deep within us that we began to ask, "What if our stories are supposed to merge with His story?" After all, Pastor Josh and Pastor Efrain have both been through the exact same training from Stadia, to HCPN and with our anchor Church, Faithbridge, in Spring, TX. Both churches are poised and positioned to make a significant kingdom impact in Conroe. Yet, we realized that together, the impact could be far greater.

This is where our stories merged with His story. This is where we become better together.

# 75K

**We are coming together for the sake of multiplication so we can reach 1% of the greater Houston area by planting gospel-centered churches that plant churches.**

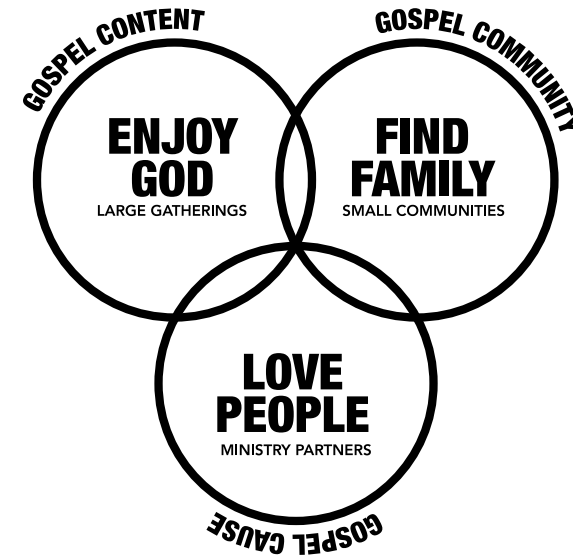
**TOGETHER, WE TRULY ARE BETTER. TOGETHER, WE CAN REACH HOUSTON.**

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# DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES.

Wake and Merge have always been committed to making disciples who make disciples. There are two major movements in the life of a believer, salvation, and sanctification. Wake's mission is to wake people up to new life in Christ. Merge's mission is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ by merging our story with His story. Coming together unifies the vision of both churches. Waking up to the gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit is the life-changing moment of salvation for the one far from God. Merging our story with His story is the lifelong devotion of a disciple being sanctified. In other words, wake up and merge.

We will remain focused on the mission of waking people up to new life in Christ, as Merge becomes the discipleship engine to move us forward.



## THE PATHWAY



We believe that each person has been given the primary calling of being a disciple-maker. Our secondary calling supports the primary calling. Our secondary calling is the gifts and jobs that God has equipped you with. No matter what gift, position, occupation - everyone is called to be disciple-makers. We desire to equip you to be a disciple-maker where you live, work, learn, and play. Equipping you starts with you following our pathway.

# STEPS TO MULTIPLICATION



## IDENTIFY

We will identify future church planters two to three years out from planting. We currently have a church planting resident already in the pipeline.



## EQUIP

We partner with HCPN to provide a year-long Functional Residency Program to lay the foundation to plant a healthy church.



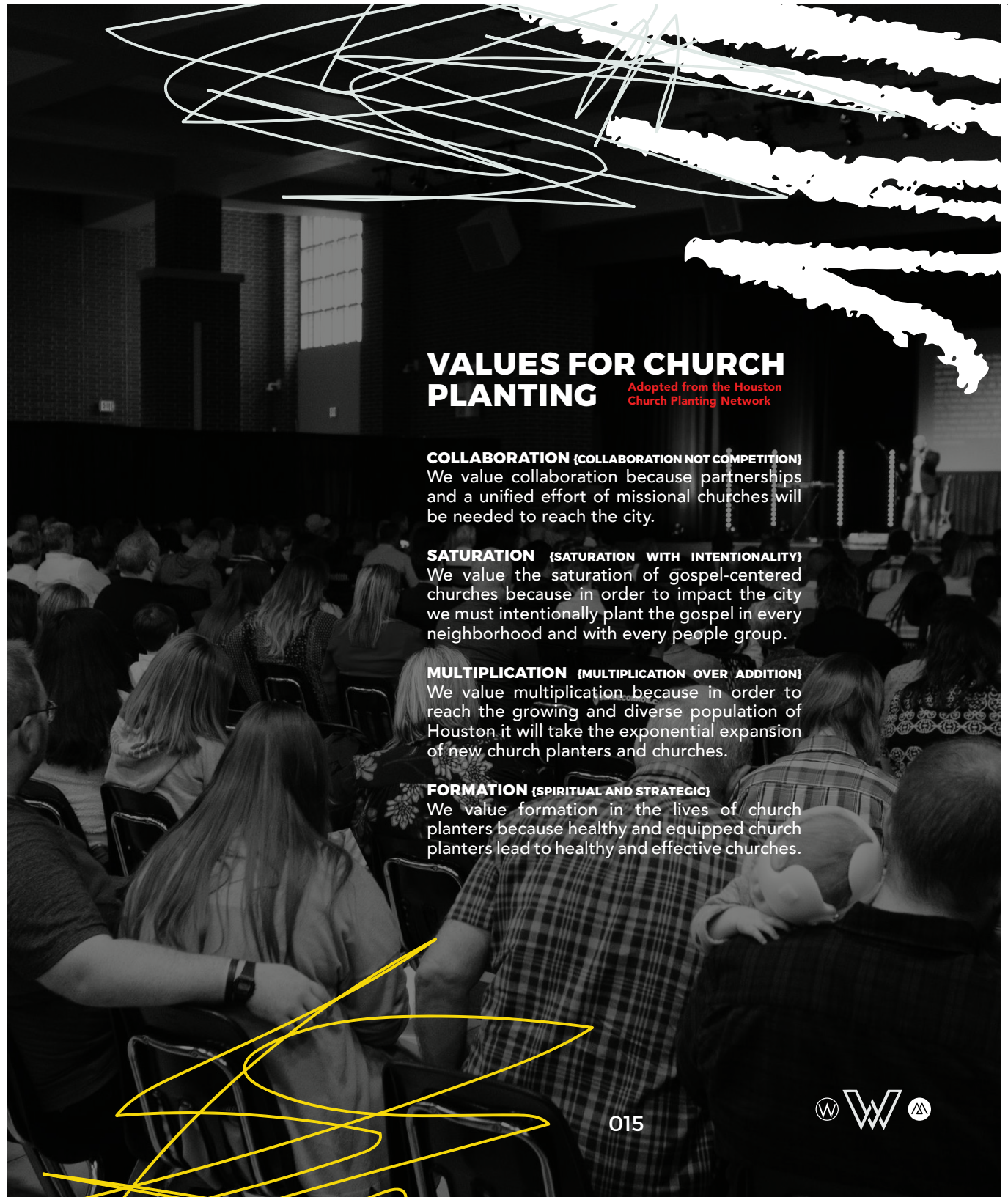
## RESOURCE

We partner with HCPN to provide a year-long Finishing Residency Program to propel you forward into planting a church that plants churches.



## SEND

We send you out to plant with relational support, healthy metrics, and financial resources in order to reach Houston with the gospel.



## VALUES FOR CHURCH PLANTING

*Adopted from the Houston  
Church Planting Network*

**COLLABORATION (COLLABORATION NOT COMPETITION)**  
We value collaboration because partnerships and a unified effort of missional churches will be needed to reach the city.

**SATURATION (SATURATION WITH INTENTIONALITY)**  
We value the saturation of gospel-centered churches because in order to impact the city we must intentionally plant the gospel in every neighborhood and with every people group.

**MULTIPLICATION (MULTIPLICATION OVER ADDITION)**  
We value multiplication because in order to reach the growing and diverse population of Houston it will take the exponential expansion of new church planters and churches.

**FORMATION (SPIRITUAL AND STRATEGIC)**  
We value formation in the lives of church planters because healthy and equipped church planters lead to healthy and effective churches.



# New look. Same mission.



016

Celebrating where we've  
come from, while moving  
ahead together.



Together, merging our story  
with His story.



Continuing to wake people up  
to new life in Christ.



Our three pillars to keep us  
focused on the mission:  
Enjoy God. Find Family.  
Love People.

017





# WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

Coming together will give us a stronger focus on the next generation. We will be able to make significant strides forward in our Children's ministry and Student ministry. Every week your kids will experience gospel-centered teaching in a fun, safe and clean environment. We will continue to strive to come alongside each parent to help disciple your children.

Our students benefit from a dynamic duo of DQ and Phill leading them. Giving our students an opportunity to experience the life changing love of God each week. We can't wait for them to gather each week and develop relationships that will last. They will love our quarterly events, retreats and Summer camps to help guide them to be a disciple who makes disciples.

## FUTURE HOME

Together, we will be one step closer to securing a future home. We will be laser focused on finding a new permanent home as the next chapter in our story. We will be looking for a location that will maximize kingdom resources and be utilized as the central hub for city collaboration. Coming together gives us greater financial resources to make the move.

## CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

We are serious about Church multiplication. Together we will be able to plant churches faster and stronger. We will have a new pipeline for church planting and a church planting resident already ready to go when the time is right. We will continue to look for church planters constantly as we move towards the vision of reaching 1% of the greater houston area.

# THE TEAM



**Josh Gosney**  
Pastor of Vision & Teaching



**Efrain Cirilo**  
Pastor of Ministry & Multiplication



**Kai Ordonio**  
Pastor of Groups & Mission



**Robert Conchola**  
Worship Pastor



**Phill Conchola**  
Creative Director & Worship Leader



**Dequalin Jackson**  
Student Pastor & Church Plant Resident

## ADMINISTRATION



**Aleatha Singleton**  
UX Strategist & Communications Director



**David Kufleldt**  
Data Analyst

## KIDS



**Tommy Lieng**  
Children's Interim Director



**Jordan Lieng**  
Children's Interim Director



**Codi Gosney**  
Nursery Director & Worship Leader



**Megan Cirilo**  
Children's Administrative Assistant



**Shanlee Babino**  
Nursery Operations Coordinator

## MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Ken Werlein**  
FaithBridge Church



**Wayne Risher**  
FaithBridge Church



**Timothy West**  
Texas Ministries of the Church of God State Administrator



**Timothy Gould**  
Houston First Church of God



**Jim Feirtag**  
Parkgate Community Church



# FAQ

Frequently  
Asked  
Questions

## WHO WILL BE OUR PASTOR?

Pastor Efrain and Pastor Josh will still be here. We are going to Co-Pastor the church together. Josh will serve as the Pastor Vision and Teaching. Efrain will serve as the Pastor of Ministry and Multiplication.

## WHERE WILL WE MEET?

We are currently looking for our future home somewhere between 242 and 336. Until we find it, we will temporarily meet at Oak Ridge High School.

## WHAT WILL BE THE NAME OF THE CHURCH?

We will come together as Wake Church. Merge is becoming the discipleship engine that is going to equip and catalyze multiplication.

## WHAT ABOUT OVERSIGHT?

Our management team will come together. In fact, our oversight becomes even stronger as we have more voices to provide even more wisdom for our church.

## COULD BOTH CHURCHES CONTINUE WITHOUT MERGING?

Yes. Both churches are stable and growing. However, we are both burdened by the same vision and truly believe that we are better and stronger together.

## WHAT ABOUT KIDS MINISTRY AND STUDENT MINISTRY?

Coming together will increase our ability to raise up the next generation. We will continue to have a strong focus on reaching families.

## DOES THIS MEAN WE AREN'T A NONDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH ANYMORE?

No. We will still be set up as a Non-denominational church.

## WHO WILL PRESENT THE MESSAGE ON SUNDAYS?

We will be on a teaching rotation together. This will make our preaching team even more diverse.

## WILL MY GROUP STOP MEETING?

No, we will continue to meet in groups weekly.

## WHAT ABOUT COMMUNITY EVENTS?

We will have even more reach in Conroe and will continue to make a significant impact in our community.

WE'RE  
BETTER  
TOGETHER

Partnerships



