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CONVERGE

MIDAMERICA | SOUTHEAST | CARIBBEAN

# 2024

## Vision Report

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# VISION UPDATE

At my first Connect Conference as President of Converge MidAmerica, I chose Psalm 118:25 as the theme verse for my report: “O Lord, save us! O LORD, grant us success!” For 37 years of ministry, this missional prayer has been on my lips. In commenting on the verse, C.H. Spurgeon wrote, “Let the church be built up: through the salvation of sinners may the number of the saints be increased; through the preservation of saints may the church be strengthened, continued, beautified, perfected.” O LORD, grant us success! This missional prayer says, “O LORD, allow us to be part of your great redemptive work! Let us play a small part in your great missional cause!”

Interestingly, the Psalmist prays for salvation and success in the midst of a Psalm whose theme is thanksgiving for deliverance. The point is clear. **Thankfulness for past victories will lead to a more desperate reliance on God’s blessing for the future.**

In 2011, I wrote the following:  
“As a movement, we need not only to see this season of favor (2000–2010) as a blessing from God **but also a call for more focused dependence on God as we seek his favor in this new decade.** O LORD, grant us success as we seek to be in the midst of your great redemptive work!”

*Can God help us plant 10–15 new churches a year?*

**Update Today:** We have averaged at least one church per month (12) for the last ten years and reached 2 per month (24) at our peak.

*Can God help us reach 100,000 people through our Easter Services?*

**Update Today:** This number has been smashed with the merger of the Southeast/Caribbean. Our estimates are that over 150,000 people gather weekly under the Converge MSC banner.

*Can God help us baptize 3,000 people a year throughout our churches?*

**Update Today:** Although we have been terrible at collecting data from our churches, we believe this number is being smashed. Also, this year alone, two churches are reporting that they have baptized nearly 1000 people in their two churches during the first nine months of the year.

*Can God help us expand our ethnic ministries beyond Chicago and into our other regions?*

**Update Today:** We have an Ethiopian congregation in Indianapolis and Hispanic congregations in Tennessee! Who knew anything about the merger with the Southeast & Caribbean when that dream was declared?

*Can God help us raise up the next generation of leaders to lead our churches?*

**Update Today:** Our Converge Pastoral Placement Network has served us very well in aiding over two-thirds of our church’s pastoral transitions.

*Can God help us to better care for pastors and their families?*

**Update Today:** Since 2010, we have invested over \$464,000 in care for our pastors and their families through the MAP program, the Pastoral Benevolence, and Special Pastoral Outings.

*Can God help us reach 100% financial participation from our member churches?*

**Update Today:** In 2010, 50% of the churches gave financially. We have averaged about 75% and, at times, reached 82% participation from our member churches. By God’s grace, the next generation will need to strive to achieve this goal.

*Can God help us top the \$1,000,000 mark in church support for our general ministry and church planting fund?*

**Update Today:** In 2021, we topped the \$1,000,000 giving mark from our churches and have not returned since. Thanks to your generosity, Converge MSC leads the way in every financial category among Converge regions.

I ended that list of questions with these words:

“The answer is a resounding yes! I learned long ago that God’s dreams are far bigger than ours because God loves those far from him much more than we do! So as a missional movement called Converge, let us unite our hearts, our talents, and our resources as we live out the gospel of Christ together”.

Friends, in my heart, I am nothing but a missional mystic. I’m a leader just seeking to be in the middle of God’s great redemptive work. We are all indebted to the courageous work done by my predecessor, Rev. Bernie Tanis, who restored this mission’s spiritual, moral, and financial integrity, which set us up for the success we have experienced for the last 27 years. I have humbly tried, with great fear and trembling, to live up to those standards and maintain the spiritual, moral, and financial integrity that has granted us a level of success beyond our imagination.

So, this old missional mystic has only one prayer to pray for our new president-elect. “O Lord, save us! O LORD, grant us success!” O Lord, save us from ourselves, from our willfulness, our pride, our can-do spirit, our manipulative efforts, and even our false humility. O Lord, grant us success! Your success, true success, success that comes from the winds of your favor. O Lord, blow your strength and power on our meager efforts. May your heavenly wisdom guide us down the path of righteousness, and may the promises of your word help us to take leaps of faith as we seek advance your kingdom for your glory.

To God Be the Glory,

Gary Rohrmayer



“

*O LORD, allow us to be part of  
your great redemptive work!  
Let us play a small part in your  
great missional cause!*

## Tribute to Mary Rohrmayer

Jesus said, “I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:27).

Mary has been a model of dedication throughout our years in ministry together. She has always been willing to step in and take on necessary responsibilities, such as when one of my assistants suddenly resigned due to a family matter. During that time, Mary filled the role until I was able to hire a new assistant. Additionally, Mary and our friend Phyllis Howie worked together to share the church planting administration role for many years. They seamlessly managed all the details of our growing movement while also caring for the young church-planting couples and their families by sending surprise gifts and even church-planting bibs to welcome the newborn church planters into the world.

When I became president in 2010, many people thought Mary had become the Director of Ministry Wives. However, we already had a Director of Ministry Wives, Mrs. Shirley Smith. Instead, Mary transitioned out of the church planting department and received a stipend to be my traveling companion. This was necessary because, under IRS rules, we couldn't pay her travel expenses unless she had a staff role or position within the organization. Two years later, Mrs. Smith stepped down from her position, and we created a volunteer position that Mary graciously stepped into. We intentionally designed the Ministry to Pastor's Wives to focus less on programs and more on one-on-one mentoring and counseling, with various engagement options within a great group called “Loving and Leading It Ministries.”

Over the last 26 years, when she has traveled with me, Mary has spent tens of thousands of hours listening to Church Planters and Pastor's Wives as they shared their joys and sorrows, highs and lows of ministry and family life.

Not only did Mary have a servant's spirit and a listening ear, but she was also a great fundraiser. She single-handedly raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the MAP program (Minister's Assistance Program) from friends, family members, pastors, and churches over the last 14 years. Why? Because she is sold out to its absolute need! She felt the impact of the testimonies she received privately from ministry couples and pastors' wives who shared them with her. Even as a family, we experienced the healing power and blessing from the godly counselors in the MAP Program. Amid all this crazy traveling and ministry frenzy, Mary displayed an unstoppable resilience as she lovingly cared for her aging parents, gently guiding them through their health and aging issues until they each slipped into eternity with Jesus while under her care.

Mary, please receive these words of love as a tribute from a husband and a partner who could not have done any of what we have achieved these last 37 years of ministry without you.

With Profound Affection & Loving Respect,



Gary Rohrmayer







**140 planters**

DEPLOYED SINCE 2010



**our budget**

51% CHURCH PLANTING

39% CHURCH STRENGTHENING

10% ADMINISTRATIONS & FUNDRAISING



**580% growth**

IN CHURCHES SINCE 2010  
(125 CHURCHES TO 838)



**26 capital  
campaigns**

TOTALING \$21.3M  
SINCE 2014



**10 language groups**

BEING REACHED

CONV  
BY  
NUM  
MIDAMERICA / SOUT



# EMERGING THE MEMBERS THE EAST / CARIBBEAN



**2,444 churches**

PLANTED INTERNATIONALLY  
THROUGH CONVERGE CHURCHES



**2,500 hours**

OF COACHING &  
CONSULTING PASTORS



**1,446  
compassion  
children**

SPONSORED THROUGH  
CONVERGE CHURCHES



**58% of stateside churches**

ARE OF COLOR OR ETHNIC



# CHURCH PLANTING

DANNY PARMELEE, VICE PRESIDENT OF CHURCH PLANTING

In the ever-evolving landscape of church planting, we at Converge MSC have recognized the need for innovative approaches to meet the changing cultural dynamics of our communities. This shift has driven us to rethink and adapt our strategies, ensuring that we remain effective in our mission to plant healthy, thriving churches.

A significant focus of our efforts has been to cultivate church planters from within our own congregations. We understand that this “long game” approach—through internships and residencies—builds a strong foundation for future leaders who are deeply rooted in our values and mission. By investing in these emerging leaders early, we are positioning ourselves for sustainable growth and long-term impact.

Our Together Groups have become more integral than ever, actively participating in the recruitment and sending out of new church planters. These groups are not just

communities of support but are now pivotal in identifying and encouraging individuals with the calling to plant new churches.

To scale our recruitment and assessment efforts, we have introduced Church Planting Catalysts across our region. These catalysts, comprised of dedicated Converge MSC pastors and planters, raise their own funds like missionaries and invest additional time into recruiting and mentoring future church planters. This initiative allows us to expand our reach and influence across diverse communities.

Thanks to the generosity of our Converge MSC churches, we continue to allocate significant financial resources to support these church planters. Our commitment to evaluate and refine our systems of recruitment, coaching, and deployment remains steadfast, all with the goal of planting healthy, life-giving churches that will impact generations to come.





# Why plant a church?

**66% OF CHURCH PLANTS ARE NON-VIABLE AFTER FOUR YEARS:** according to Ed Stetzer and Warren Bird in their book *Viral Churches*.

**ONLY 28% OF GENERATION Z ATTENDS CHURCH AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH,** and among millennials, while there has been a recent uptick in weekly attendance (**39%** in 2023 compared to 21% in 2019), *a large percentage still remains unaffiliated or irregular in their attendance.* - REACHRIGHT

Just **28%** of U.S. Christians are *actively involved in discipleship communities*, with many churches struggling to engage members in deeper spiritual growth. **THIS UNDERSCORES THE CRITICAL NEED FOR PLANTING NEW CHURCHES THAT CAN EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE AND DISCIPLE THE NEXT GENERATION.** - REACHRIGHT

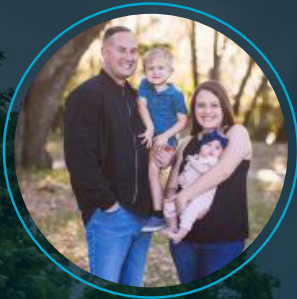
**JUST 20% OF US ADULTS BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE ACTUAL WORD OF GOD.** While **49%** believe it's the *inspired word of God*, **29%** believe the Bible is an "*ancient book of fables.*" - GALLUP

**IT'S ESTIMATED THAT 8,000-12,000 NEW CHURCHES NEED TO BE PLANTED ANNUALLY TO KEEP UP WITH POPULATION GROWTH AND TO OUTPACE CHURCH CLOSURES.** - Carey Nieuwhof





# Another Record Number of **NEW CHURCH PLANTERS**



**SPENCER & SARAH  
GREEN**  
CLERMONT, FL



**DR. ORIS & ELIZABETH  
GUILLAUME**  
ATLANTA, GA



**BRANDON & RACHEL  
BLESSMAN**  
CHICAGO, IL



**KYLE & JAMIE CHESSOR**  
ARLINGTON, TN



**JON & BETH BRICKER**  
METAMORA, IL



**DAVID & ESTEFANIA  
URIBE**  
JACKSONVILLE, FL



**ELVIN & ROXANA  
VILLANUEVA**  
ELGIN, IL



**AARON & SHEENA HICKS**  
ROMULUS, MI



**ROBERT & ROBIN  
VICKERS**  
MURFREESBORO, TN



**DAVID & MARISSA  
HEISTER**  
ORLANDO, FL



**JOEL & HOLLY  
SLATER**  
VALPARAISO, IN



**DEWAYNE & JESSICA  
STRANGE**  
CHATTANOOGA, TN





**GARY & JOHNI MORGAN**  
NASHVILLE, TN



**JOSH & CHARITY BIRKEY**  
MURFREESBORO, TN



**AARON & MEGAN LOY**  
KNOXVILLE, TN



**JOHN & EUNJU PARK**  
WHEELING, IL



**BLAKE HOUSEELY**  
NASHVILLE, TN



**TJ & JENN MCINTOSH**  
ORLANDO, FL



**PAUL MULANI & ANNE NZOMO**  
KISSIMMEE, FL

# NEW CHURCH CAMPUSES



**ANDREW & JANAЕ GRIFFITH**  
NORTH AURORA, IL



**DANIEL & MELISSA WARREN**  
JACKSONVILLE, FL



**DR. PHILL & EMMA PHILLIPS**  
NAPLES, FL



**KYLE & KRISTIN DAUBENMEYER**  
STERLING HEIGHTS, MI



**JIM & RHONDA DESMOND**  
GAINESVILLE, MO



# CHURCH STRENGTHENING

BRYAN MOAK, VICE PRESIDENT OF CHURCH STRENGTHENING

I am often asked how I would describe Converge MSC. My first answer is always the same. We are a family of churches. So, what does being a family of churches really mean? The best way I can describe it is by using the phrase we use a lot – “No One Leads Alone”. In other words, you can lead alone if you want in our movement, but we want it to be in spite of us, not because of us. If you aren’t leading alone, that means you have relationships, partnerships, and friends that walk with you as you serve. I think it best describes what the Apostle Paul means in Romans 12:15 where we are called to “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”

We rejoice together often!! We have almost 300 pastors attending 16 regional gatherings of pastors called Together Groups that meet several times a year. These pastors not only simply meet, they share resources together, have fun together, pray together and dream of planting churches together. One of our pastors shared with me, “Not only does my Together Group provide me with a wealth of information and solutions to problems, I always have others to lean on and keep me from the discouraging and isolating struggles that often accompany ministry.” Another shared, “Together Groups are a gift of grace that rescues pastors from isolation and provides a community that makes the joy multiplied and the sorrow tempered.”

We rejoice in the literal hundreds of hours of coaching that have taken place for our pastors and churches. Historically, much of that coaching has happened from a staff perspective. Our goal is that every pastor is coaching someone, and every pastor is being coached by someone. Currently, we have approximately 40 of these one-on-one coaching relationships. Most are pastor-to-pastor. One pastor shared, “Receiving coaching on a monthly basis has been such a life-giving gift. My coach was always there to listen to what I was going through in

life and ministry, celebrating the encouraging things that God was doing, and also helping me discern and think through the challenges I was facing as well.”

We rejoice each year when dozens of pastors, staff and families take advantage of our MAP program which provides counseling at a greatly reduced rate. This confidential resource has been a lifesaver for so many pastors and I hear all the time about what a blessing this is.

And we rejoice together when we have the privilege of helping churches with things like board training, conflict resolution, assessments, capital campaigns and pastoral placement, just to name a few. Only two years ago, we affiliated a church in Michigan that had about 20-30 people on a Sunday and no pastor. We helped them find a pastor, and in just one year, that church has a pastor, 80 Sunday morning attendees and several baptisms – some of whom have said yes to Jesus for the very first time! Another church in Florida was on the decline and celebrated their “best days” from at least a generation ago. That church is now seeing God move with a new vision, new pastor and a new commitment to the community of which they are a part. It is truly amazing. Each time we come alongside to encourage and help strengthen our churches, we do it with the posture of a family.

And finally, being a family means we grieve as a family. We’ve lost dear pastors and pastor’s wives in this last season. We’ve seen other losses as well that break our hearts. I’ve been humbled as I have watched our pastors gather around those who are grieving, and I know it has meant the world to each one. That is what a family does; that is who we are, and that is who we will continue to strive to be as we relentlessly serve our churches and pastors.







**300 pastors**  
IN 16 TOGETHER GROUPS



**20 couples**  
AT THREE COMPASS  
GATHERINGS



**78 pastors**  
RECEIVED COUNSELING  
THROUGH THE MINISTER'S  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



**38 churches**  
IN CHURCH HEALTH  
ASSESSMENTS  
(NCD & AUXANO ASSESSMENT  
PROCESSES)



**17 pastors**  
PLACED USING THE  
CONVERGE PLACEMENT  
NETWORK





# CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

ERNIE CABRERA, VICE PRESIDENT OF CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

We live in an amazing time where we can see God growing our movement in MidAmerica, Southeast and Caribbean. It is hard to believe the incredible ways in which God has been growing His churches, but the numbers on the map prove it. It is with humility and gratitude that we acknowledge the favor, the blessing and the love from our Heavenly Father. It is tangible and measurable, so we should feel blessed that He has chosen us for a time like this.

Our churches are filled with vibrant worship, powerful testimonies and transformative teachings. The Holy Spirit has been moving mighty among our churches, bringing salvations, spiritual growth and a deep desire to fulfill the “Great Commission.” We have seen lives transformed, hope restored, and faith strengthened.

We are humbled by God’s graciousness and benevolence towards us. His favor has opened doors for us to plant new churches, develop new partnerships and host outreach opportunities, allowing us to spread the Gospel and serve our regions in meaningful ways. We have been

putting processes and plans into place that will empower our pastors and leaders to become more connected to each other and to create a synergy that would lead them to find ways to work together toward future goals. This has allowed us to unite together to “START, STRENGTHEN, & SEND” and it explains why we are growing.

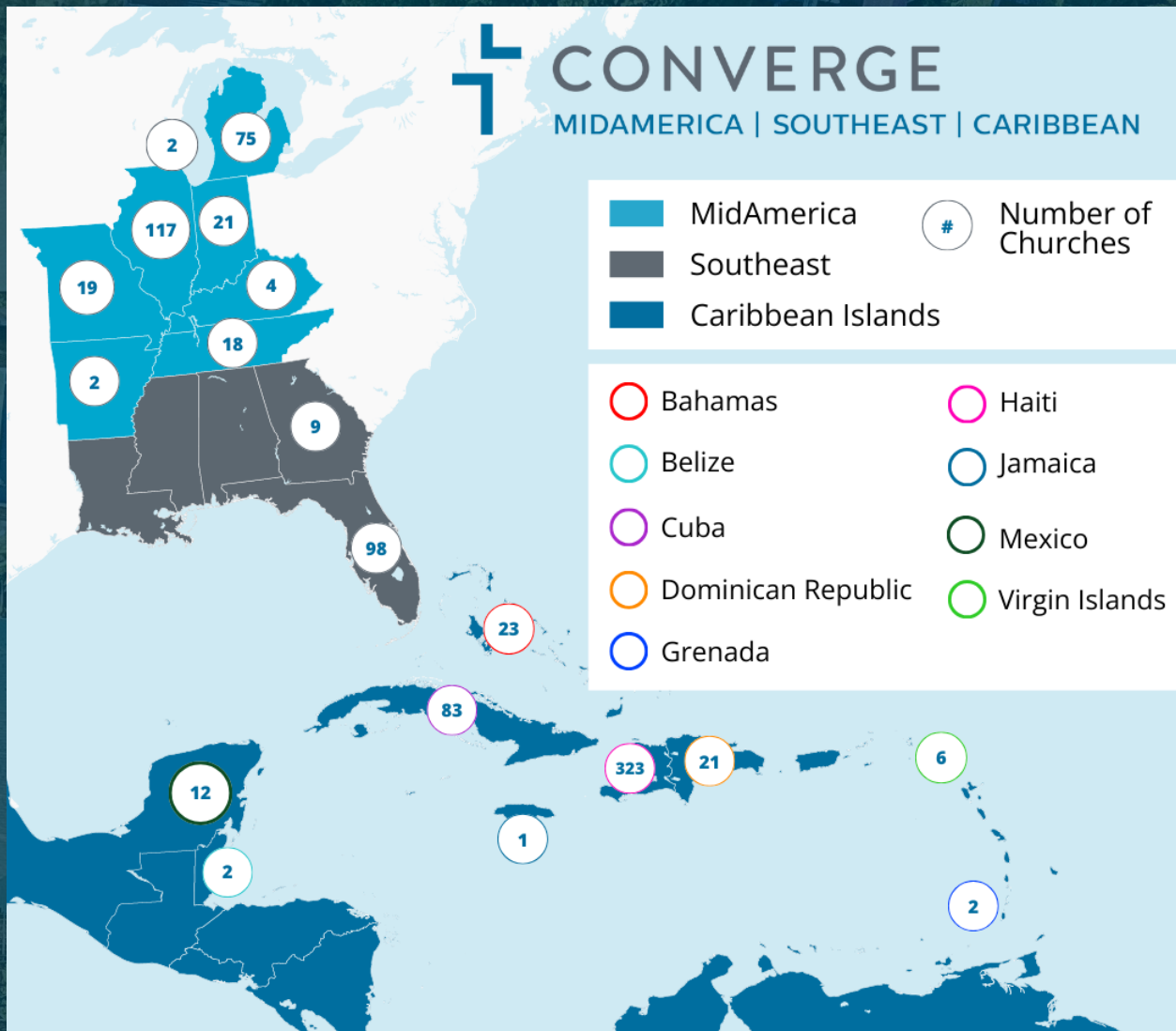
Our churches have been so faithful for so many years being generous to help change lives. I believe it is because of this obedience that we are witnessing this remarkable growth of churches joining us throughout our regions in the USA, but especially in the Greater Caribbean. This growth and blessing are not a result of our own efforts, but a testament to God’s love and faithfulness to His people. We recognize that we are just servants for His glory, and we give all praise and honor to Him.

I am grateful to be part of a movement that is faithful, obedient, and surrendered to God’s will. May we continue to seek His guidance, wisdom, and anointing as we move forward in our journey together.





## CURRENT CONVERGE MSC CHURCHES



**“God provides the *WIND*,  
Man must raise the *SAIL*.”**

- ST. AUGUSTINE





# CONVERGE MINISTRIES

We believe that **ethnic and racial diversity** are part of God's creative genius and reflect God's redemptive desires; therefore, **we highly value the nations of the world**, especially as represented in the region we serve, and **we stand against racism and bigotry** while seeking to build a unified, loving portion of His Kingdom in our work here and abroad.

(PSALM 127:1, REVELATION 5:9, EPHESIANS 2:11-22)



## AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES

### FRED OBLETON

In April 2023, following the Converge MSC Celebration Banquet, we hosted a significant gathering of African American pastors and leaders of African descent, both national and international, led by Converge President Pastor John Jenkins. His message about ministry growth and effectiveness within the African American community emboldened our initiative. His focus on mentorship, leadership development and culturally relevant engagement wove beautifully into the African American Initiative's goal to build community with African American youth and millennial pastors, as well as narrow the gap with Gen Z and the Alpha Generation.



### WITHIN CONVERGE MSC:

44

AFRICAN AMERICAN  
CHURCHES

63

PASTORS OF AFRICAN  
AMERICAN DESCENT

9

DEPLOYED AFRICAN  
AMERICAN CHURCH  
PLANTERS





# HISPANIC MINISTRIES

JESSY PADILLA

In August 2024, for the first time in Converge’s history, a church planting assessment was carried out entirely in Spanish. We praise the Lord for the seven couples who participated in this first assessment. We are sure that by the grace of God, we will have many more inside and outside the United States, as this tool is essential for the growth of Converge MSC’s movement and the Hispanic church worldwide.



# CARIBBEAN

MISSION AND VISION





## MINISTRIES

### TRIPS



“We are **grateful** for the opportunity that being a part of Converge MSC provided us to not only **join God in what He is doing to reach the nations** with the Gospel, but also **to develop a friendship with a brother** [in Dominican Republic]. We definitely believe **we are better** when we **serve together.**”

- PASTOR JAMES FLOYD, SHILOH COMMUNITY CHURCH, ORLEANS, MI



“Providing **160 people** [in Dominican Republic] with **needed medical care** and then witnessing **111 individuals accept Jesus Christ** as their Savior was a testament to the power of **God’s love and grace.**”

- PASTOR TOM TOWNSEND, TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH, SUN CITY, FL





# CENTER LAKE BIBLE CAMP

**CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**\$500,000+** from churches  
& individuals

## SUMMER CAMPS & RETREATS

**3,000+** campers throughout the year  
**6,000+** retreat attendees  
**Hundreds** of spiritual decisions



Center Lake Bible Camp and Retreat Center exists to glorify God, proclaim Jesus Christ, and magnify the Holy Spirit through year-round camping experiences. We are located in beautiful northern Michigan on 120 acres of prime real estate, with over 2,000 feet of lake frontage. Over the last few years, we have been blessed by God to see thousands of people come to our camp and be encouraged in their walk with Christ or be introduced to Jesus for the first time.

We have programs and housing to fit any type of program, whether it is a marriage retreat, pastor's retreat, or youth program. Our facilities are able to accommodate your group in any season, even including chilly weekends in October or February!

Center Lake Bible Camp and Retreat Center exists to help the church fulfill its mission to make disciples by providing a place where people of all ages can come and discover the beauty of God's creation, grow in their knowledge of Jesus Christ, and worship our Triune God.



# FAQS

## WHO IS CONVERGE MSC?

Converge is a missional network of gospel-driven churches, and we at Converge MSC are one of 10 regional missional arms of our partner churches. For over 170 years, we have served as ‘state missionaries’ who coordinated regional church planting and ethnic work. Today, we are not only active in starting new churches but are fully engaged in strengthening our partner churches through consulting, training and coaching. We are committed to starting and strengthening churches that will impact the world with the message of Jesus. We are fully engaged in supporting pastors’ families as well as sponsoring vision trips to help our churches touch the world.

## HOW DOES FUNDING WORK?

We live at the will and the funding of our partner churches, making us financially dependent on our churches to assist with the staffing and ministry programs we provide. Because of this, we recommend the following funding structures for our churches:

- 3% of church budget for Converge MSC
- 1% of church budget for Converge National

The rationale for these percentages is that Converge National has access to all of the churches in Converge, while Converge MSC only has access to the churches in our region. It is our hope that our churches will also generously support regional church planters, international missionaries, benevolence and world relief projects.

## WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONVERGE NATIONAL AND CONVERGE MSC?

Converge National has a national and international focus, deploying international missionaries and establishing national and international partnerships. Converge National provides international and national disaster relief programs, national chaplaincy program, Converge Retirement Plan and WIF for church loans and investments.

Converge MSC has a local and regional focus, deploying regional missionaries and church planters and establishing regional partnerships. Converge MSC provides pastoral care, regional fundraising, pastoral placement and interim services, local church consulting and coaching and global vision trips for pastors and key leaders.





[www.convergemidamerica.org](http://www.convergemidamerica.org)