

SUMMIT COMMUNITY CHURCH

A Case Study



Intentional
Churches.

God is Moving in West Phoenix

Striving to influence and encourage the West Valley and beyond with their authentic faith, Nate Schaus and team have lead *Summit Community Church* in Buckeye, Arizona since 2007; offering relevant teaching, heart felt worship, honest friendships, and compassionate care for those in need. *Summit Community* insists you belong whether you're walking through the doors of their church for the very first time or have been attending services from the get go. "Every person counts and makes a difference," said Senior Pastor, Nate Schaus, "And God has a plan for everyone."

“ I highly recommend the process that Intentional Churches lead us through. They really get to know who you are as a church and help expand your thinking and leadership. Your faith will be stretched and you'll truly ask the question, 'What is God calling our church to do and how can we step out beyond where we are now?' It doesn't matter what your denominational background or size, these guys are great partners and they will help. ”





A Greater Vision

Summit held their first services at the “Wigwam” in western Phoenix in 2003 & then soon transitioned to Verrado High School in 2007 where they currently reside. Naturally, their church size and dynamic started to shift. “We went from being a small church to a growing, large church that needed a lot of help,” Pastor Nate said. Summit’s leadership team began to wrestle with big questions in terms of driving ministry forward.

While new full/part time employees were being hired, they were starting to outgrow their systems and leadership structures. “We wanted to have a greater impact,” Pastor Nate said, “And we were looking for someone who could help think through next steps. How could we continue to grow as a church and reach people for the Kingdom?” Pastor Nate quickly reached out to fellow churches and ministry partners for advice.



Wrestling



Intentional Churches was highly recommended and *Summit Community* quickly reached out and took on *IC's Intentional GrowthPlan* process. "I never imagined what would happen," Pastor Nate recalls, "The leadership of our lay leaders, our staff...they were taken to a whole new level!" *Summit Community's* leadership team was pushed in their kingdom minded thinking as they dreamt about the potential of what it might look like for their church to double their kingdom impact in the coming years. "I loved the Great Commission philosophy and how *IC* used this to guide their process. It really helped break molds and we as a staff, started to look at things differently. I can honestly say that we started praying, thinking, and wrestling about where God was going to lead us next and how He might guide us through this process more." *Summit Community* valued *IC's* ability to truly understand their specific culture and style throughout the Intentional GrowthPlan process. "They did it with a lot of integrity," Pastor Nate said, "And tuned in to the size and leadership dynamic issues. It was not a cookie cutter process. They got to know us and that's the beauty of the process. It becomes a customized plan for your church."

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Ready, Set, Move!

After the two-day, *Intentional GrowthPlan* Installation Experience, diverse WIN (What's Important Now) teams were formed. These strategic implementation teams helped project Summit's ministry impact forward as they quickly established teams and priorities that would coincide with their new goals. "The Framework of the WIN teams gave us a strong group of leaders united in ministry. We were able to give more freedom to our leaders, staff and lay leaders who now had a cohesive, unified way to propel forward. It helped everyone." *Summit Community* began re-branding their church and started thinking about how they could connect and engage with the people who attended there. As a result, they launched a PathFinders Group, or welcome team, to help provide a hosted experience for first time guests and simplify the overall connection process.

They also launched 'The Worship Cafe' where *Summit Community* could host live, video broadcasts. Filled with couches, high top tables, big screen TV's, coffee and more, they now found their church to have multiple venues on campus. The launching of a Youth Worship Service for Middle School and High School students even took place.

Summit Community was experiencing such a success in terms of reaching new students that their student ministry doubled in size and a year later they added an additional service to compensate.

Because Summit's first church quickly caught the overall vision and wanted to keep it clear, the team aligned and focused on "WINS" by committing to two more contracts with IC. They would repeat the *Intentional Growthplan* Process again and again (six months on, six months off) and eventually, decide to hire an executive pastor who would process the core operating and planning system for the church.

"We believed in *Intentional Churches* because of the tremendous growth we were seeing," said Pastor Nate, "So much so, we wanted to bring an Executive Pastor on board to help us drive and continue that kind of intentional planning as we worked toward our future. One of our hopes as we sought out this person, was that they would have such experience. That's how influential *Intentional Churches* and the overall experience was." In 2015, *Summit Community* hired Vince Parks as their Executive Pastor.

Expanding Kingdom Work

Summit Community's vision completely shifted from a neighborhood church to a regional church impacting all of western Phoenix! With the *Intentional GrowthPlanning* as their main operating system, their attendance has grown by 50%, giving has increased by 80%, and baptisms have nearly doubled! "*Intentional Churches* played a pivotal role in our growth and impact as a church," said Pastor Nate Schaus. Not only did they reach new people for the kingdom, *Summit Community* saw, and continues to see, tremendous growth in their ministries and community impact.

For the past several years, they have partnered with *Feed My Starving Children* to gather the funds and volunteers necessary to give meals to those in need. This year, they packed over 300,000 meals in one weekend with the help of 1,300 volunteers - a huge leap in the number of people who have gotten involved! Because of their continuous commitment and effort to the ministry, *Summit Community* staff and volunteers packed their one millionth meal this year. Now THAT is Kingdom impact! They are continuing to grow and are considering an additional campus in the near future.

SMALL GROUPS

Growth Groups that meet in homes

350

adults & youth
in 30 groups



2016 Vacation Bible School

468

Kids



BAPTISM

59

2016
Baptism



720

Total Weekend
Attendance



FUN FACT

Pizza eaten by our teardown volunteers

2,688

slices this past year



Feed My Starving Children
food packed in one weekend

357,696

Meals





Expanding Kingdom Work

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In the words of Pastor Nate Schaus, “I highly recommend the process that *Intentional Churches* lead us through. They really get to know who you are as a church and help expand your thinking and leadership. Your faith will be stretched and you’ll truly ask the question, ‘What is God calling our church to do and how can we step out beyond where we are now?’ It doesn’t matter what your denominational background or size, these guys are great partners and they will help.”

Can you relate to *Summit Community’s* story or are you inspired by its vision? Explore the possibility of doubling your Kingdom Impact with the help of church leaders from Intentional Churches, today!





www.intentionalchurches.com
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