

LOVE  
LIFE  
LEAD

# SHEPHERDING



STEPHEN KIRK, LEAD PASTOR

Hope Family, **THIS is the LIFE** captures the essence of what it means to be a multiplying disciple of Jesus. To love God wholeheartedly, to love people sacrificially—our Hope family and those outside the faith with whom we live, work and play, and to help one another multiply. This is the life we're all made for! The life that brings lasting joy deep within and makes much of God in the process. I believe the Holy Spirit is powerfully at work in us and among us, and there are great years of ministry ahead together.

When we opened our campus in 1994 Mason, OH was largely undeveloped, a vast spread of farmland and open fields. The corner of Mason-Montgomery and Western Row was surrounded by a lot of... nothing. My how things have changed. Now, we are positioned on one of the busiest corners in one of the fastest growing, bustling suburbs in America. A corner that thousands of people drive by every day. I often thank the Lord for the foresight of those who came before us, and the great privilege we have of sowing Gospel grace and an outwardly focused life of discipleship on and from this prized location.

When Amy and I attended our first service at Hope in November 2007 as a candidate for senior pastor, the vision of an equipping center for multiplying discipleship was already in my heart. The keys to the success of this vision are clarity, united and passionate leadership, and a church family committed to living it out. In all my years here, I have never felt more certain that these three ingredients are in place. **THIS is the LIFE** is being woven into the fabric of individual lives, families, and into our life together in every ministry. What a joy! And what a hopeful future is emerging!

As I have reflected, however, there is one outstanding ingredient that continues to hinder this vision from being maximized. We need to renew our campus so that it more accurately reflects our heart for people, and more intentionally promotes our worship and time in the Word, and our community life and equipping. Our current Gathering wasn't originally designed for worship. Our lobby wasn't designed for community or welcoming new guests. Our classrooms, fellowship areas and equipping spaces are tucked away in the basement. Our students don't have a space designed for them and by them. Our special needs ministry makes do, but space isn't designed for their growing ministry to flourish. Our kids' ministry needs redesigned, strategic space to better serve our children each week. These are profound challenges. But they are not insurmountable. In fact, addressing them together could become the adventure of a lifetime! That's what I'm calling us into.

Our **InsideOut** project offers real, creative architectural solutions that position Hope Church for the next 25 years of ministry. The creation of a Commons will put **relationships, community life, and equipping** at the center of our life together. The creation of a new Gathering will give the beauty of the Gospel and the glory of God a home specifically designed to enhance the quality of our worship. And targeted renovations will upgrade the experience for our Students, kids, and friends with special needs. **InsideOut** puts these central priorities of Hope Church front and center, transforming our campus from an obstacle into a catalyst for ministry.

God has blessed the vision, courage and faithfulness of people who believed in what Hope Church could be 31 years ago. I believe with all my heart He intends to do the same with us as we step forward in faith together. We are stewards of this pivotal location. Even more so, we are stewards of the Gospel and the mission of King Jesus in Mason Plus. Please join me in taking full advantage of what God has entrusted to us. Join me in prayer that God would make us wise and bold as we step out into this next chapter of our life together. I stand on tiptoe to see how God will transform us and our campus, from the **InsideOut**.

On the journey,

**STEPHEN**