

**BUMC Vision: Phase 1**  
**DRAFT Flowing Grace Fully Functional Site**  
**October 18, 2011**

**Executive Summary**

"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,<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28: 19-20)

In 2005, a group of BUMC members and Pastor Mike attended a multi-church conference. As a result, a BUMC vision was cast in 2005 that *"We are called to go forward and make disciples by proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. We will seek to meet the growing needs of our present congregation and respond to our missionary call by reproducing one church in multiple locations to bring more people to God."* Shortly after, Flowing Grace was conceived and launched. The evangelical and mission-focused people at Batavia raised \$200,000 to launch the new worship site. Prayers were offered and leaders sent forth to meet the new community expected to be built in Aurora. Due to the economy, the homes remained as empty fields. The mission field of 15,000 people was reduced to 4 as one home was built. Not unlike the Israelites who desired the quick deliverance to the land of milk and honey, the planters and church base were eager for Flowing Grace to grow. The economic conditions forced us to be, like the Israelites, patient to God's timing. The prayers, patience and wisdom of the Council and leadership of the church remained steadfast to God's call, and we did not shut the doors.

Over the next four years, we saw small, incremental growth and even many growing pains. Both campuses sought to understand what it was God intended for us. Both campuses desired desperately to see greater growth. But, in the midst, miracles were happening and indeed even in the barren fields of Aurora, people were meeting Christ for the first time, lives were being changed, and the community was being impacted. Then God offered a gift. Aurora Christian School was offered to Flowing Grace to worship in. Since that move, we have seen dramatic growth and change.

As a part of revisiting the overall church vision, we are discerning God's call to our Christian community for the next few years. In Phase 1, the next steps for Flowing Grace's continued growth are being defined. We have the opportunity to transition Flowing Grace to a fully functional site model where the community increases significantly in programming autonomy while maintaining connectivity with Batavia United Methodist thru Disciplinary governance. It is in the spirit of the Great Commission of Jesus Christ that we put together this model to expand our church and make disciples. It also furthers our commitment to "Love God, Love others, and Serve." Under this proposed model, all BUMC sites remain united by a single vision and demonstrate to the community that BUMC is committed to continual growth. In the new model, Flowing Grace's financial giving and expenses will be managed separately with Flowing Grace responsible for balancing its annual budget. Target date for the transition is currently September 2012 with some changes occurring before this date. The transition plan includes Pastor Jeffrey Bross moving to 100% time at Flowing Grace, but the timing for this transition item is still to be determined by the Staff Parish Committee.

You are encouraged to invest the time to understand the proposed new model for Flowing Grace. Any questions or feedback can be directed to Pastor Stoner, Pastor Bross, any Church Council member, or any Flowing Grace Vision Team member. In addition, communication and listening sessions are scheduled for both sites on October 23 and 30. We rejoice in the good things God is doing in our community at Batavia United Methodist Church and we look forward to being called to do great things in His name.

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**Flowing Grace: Fully Functional Site Mission & Principles**  
**DRAFT (October 18, 2011)**

**Mission:** Love God, Love Others, and Serve.

**Fully Functional Site Principles:**

- 1) For almost five years, Flowing Grace has been a worshipping community. BUMC would like Flowing Grace to progress to the next step as part of the long-term vision. In a fully functional site model, Flowing Grace increases significantly in programmatic autonomy while maintaining connection with BUMC by Disciplinary governance.
- 2) All Batavia United Methodist sites will be united by a common vision. Pastoral and lay leadership will have processes to ensure vision alignment and re-evaluation, as needed.
- 3) BUMC will demonstrate to the outward community that it is a community of continued growth and innovative ministry thru connectivity between Batavia and Flowing Grace campuses. In the past decade, chartering new US United Methodist churches has resulted in 80+% failure rate in first five years. BUMC desires to continue supporting Flowing Grace's continued growth.
- 4) The Fully Functional model is planned to commence September 2012. Flowing Grace will start to incorporate components of this model as quickly as possible. Resources will be key to implementation. Pastors and Staff Parish Committee will structure a transition plan that enables Pastor Bross to apply 100% time toward Flowing Grace effective tbd.
- 5) Flowing Grace's financial giving and expenses, including allocated apportionments, will be managed independently with Flowing Grace being accountable for balancing its annual budget.
- 6) Members of either campus are welcome at any campus activities. Campus activity information will be available via the website. Routine communication via weekly bulletins and pulpit announcements will focus on the respective site.
- 7) Flowing Grace to have at least one member on Church Council, Staff Parish, Finance, Lay Leadership & Development, and Trustees.
- 8) Flowing Grace will make formal recommendations for Flowing Grace staffing changes to Staff Parish Committee, who will have final approval per Book of Discipline.
- 9) In the event of significant conflict, resolution team will be comprised of Batavia Pastor, Church Council Chair, Flowing Grace Pastor, Flowing Grace Vision Team representative, and issue-specific Servant Team Chair. Counsel from the District Superintendent can be sought in the event of a conflict that cannot be resolved.

**Fully Functional Site Definition  
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<b>Ministry Area</b>	<b>Separate Between Two Campuses</b>	<b>Shared By Two Campuses</b>
Pastoral Leadership	Leadership Responsibilities	
Administration	Office Space Financial Accounts Apportionment Costs Web Site Access and Accountability	Church Charter Photocopier Website Look & Feel  Attendance Personnel Policies & Procedures
Finance	Monthly Reporting of Cash Inflows/Outflows	Accounting  Bookkeeping Name on Financial Accounts (BUMC) Payroll Administration
Christian Education	Safe Sanctuary Execution Christmas Pageant Education Curriculum Weekday Programming (ex. Wed night) Leadership Development Small Groups Vacation Bible School	Safe Sanctuary Policy
Campaign Ministry	Annual Stewardship Drive Stewardship Envelopes Capital Campaigns	Stewardship theme may be shared.
Communications	Newsletter Podcasts Web site communication	
Congregational Care	Campus Pastor and Befrienders	
Evangelism & Outreach	Mailers & Postage	
Ministry Team	Nursery Coordination Sunday Morning Pastoral Vacation Coverage	
Missions & Society	Apportionments	
Music Ministry	Sunday Worship Special Events	
Trustees	Flowing Grace Rent Flowing Grace Trailer and Equipment Maintenance	Van Insurance Policy (common policy with allocated costs)

Worship	Communion Supplies Holiday Worship (ex. Christmas, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Ash Wednesday) Independent Sunday Worship 51 weeks/year	Confirmation Service Weddings
Youth Ministries	Sunday School Curriculum Confirmation (post 2011/2012 school yr) Sunday UMYF Youth Mission	

**Resource Transition Plan  
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Activity	Status Quo Accountability		Future State Accountability		Transition (Month/Year)
	Batavia Campus	Flowing Grace	Batavia Campus	Flowing Grace	
<b>Pastoral Leadership</b>					
Pastoral Accountabilities	Mike/Jeffry	Jeffry	Mike	Jeffry	tbd
New Member Class	Mike/Jeffry	Mike/Jeffry	Mike	Jeffry	Jan 2012
<b>Disciplinary Committees</b>					
Trustee Committee - Pastor Rep	Jeffry	Jeffry	Mike	N/A	Jan 2012
Church Council - Flowing Grace Rep	N/A	Vision Team Rep	N/A	Vision Team Rep	Ongoing
Staff Parish Committee - Flowing Grace Rep	N/A	Laura McKneight & John Rowe	N/A	Laura McKneight & John Rowe	Ongoing, per term requirements
Finance Committee - Flowing Grace Rep	N/A	Ray Termini	N/A	Ray Termini	Ongoing, per term requirements
Lay Leadership & Development Committee - Flowing Grace Rep	N/A	Nalene Termini	N/A	Nalene Termini	Ongoing, per term requirements
Trustee Committee - Flowing Grace Rep	N/A	None	N/A	tbd	Ongoing, per term requirements
<b>Administration</b>					
Jeffry's Office Location	Batavia	Batavia	Batavia	ACC	Jan 2012 (storage space until Sep 2012)
Web Site	Karol/Tom Fink	Karol/Tom Fink	Karol/Tom Fink	Shawn Ellis/ Thom King	Jan 2012
<b>Youth</b>					
Small Groups	DYM	DYM	DYM	tbd	Jan 2012
Youth Mission	DYM	DYM	DYM	tbd	Jan 2012 (planning for '12 trip)
UMYF	DYM	DYM	DYM	tbd	Sep 2012
Confirmation	Mike/Jeffry	Mike/Jeffry	Mike/DYM	Jeffry	Sep 2012
<b>Adult Christian Education</b>					
Weekday Bible Study	Deb	Deb	tbd or not offer	Jeffry	Jan 2012
Daytime Rest of the Story	Jeffry	Jeffry	tbd	Jeffry	Jan 2012
Outreach Opportunity (O2 Event)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Evangelism Team	Jan 2012

Discipleship Path	Mike/Jeffry	Mike/Jeffry	Mike	Jeffry	Jan 2012
Adult Small Groups	Deb	Deb	Deb	tbd	Sep 2012
<b>Children Christian Education</b>					
Family Fellowship Event	N/A	N/A	N/A	tbd	Jan 2012
Vacation Bible School	Deb	Deb	Deb	tbd	Summer 2012
Weekday Programming	Deb	Deb	Deb	tbd	Sep 2012
Safe Sanctuary Verification	Deb	Deb	Deb	Jeffry	Sep 2012
Nursery Coordination	Deb	Deb	Deb	tbd	Sep 2012
<b>Communications</b>					
Daily Devotions	Jeffry	Jeffry	tbd	Jeffry	Jan 2012
Electronic Newsletter	Karol	Karol	Karol	tbd	Sep 2012
Paper Newsletter	Karol	Karol	Karol	N/A	Sep 2012
<b>Community Care</b>					
Member Pastoral Care	Mike/Jeffry	Mike/Jeffry	Mike/Gary	Jeffry	tbd
Befrienders	Gary	Gary	Gary	tbd	Sep 2012
<b>Finance</b>					
Financial Reporting by Site	Quarterly	Quarterly	Monthly	Monthly	Sep 2012
Annual Stewardship Drive	BUMC Team	BUMC Team	Batavia Team	FG Team	Sep 2012
Capital Campaign	BUMC Team	BUMC Team	Batavia Team	FG Team	Sep 2012
<b>Mission</b>					
Mission Activities	Sue Morrison	Sue Morrison	Sue Morrison	Kristen Arnold	Jun 2012

## FAQs DRAFT

### **What is changing at Flowing Grace?**

Flowing Grace has been a worshipping community for the last five years where the community has worshiped in North Aurora and jointly participated in all programming with the Batavia site. BUMC celebrates how Flowing Grace has grown and changed lives thru Christian love. BUMC's vision for the next stage of Flowing Grace growth is one where it progresses to a fully functional site with independent ministry programming.

### **Why should Flowing Grace become a fully functional site?**

A fully functional Flowing Grace site is the next stage of growth. Experience and information learned from the PATH1 United Methodist Church directive (an initiative to increase new and exciting ministries), has led BUMC to move to a new model of Flowing Grace and its relationship to BUMC.

Reasons for the change include:

1. Growth thru Increased Local Programming: Offering education, mission, and programming ministry opportunities to the existing worship community is expected to lead to additional Flowing Grace growth. It is logistically difficult for people located in North Aurora, Sugar Grove, etc. to worship at Aurora Christian and have programming in downtown Batavia.
2. Growth thru Youth Ministry: Youth ministry and Confirmation are vital to church growth. Over the last six years, the Batavia campus has experienced growth because of its youth ministry. Flowing Grace would like to replicate that success. Flowing Grace needs to build its own youth and Confirmation ministries to be successful. Pastor Bross can use his skills and knowledge to build such programs at Flowing Grace.
3. Increased Pastoral Focus: The need for a full-time pastor for 150+ people at Flowing Grace is necessary. Typically, successful churches start a worship site with a minimum of two full-time staff. Since the inception of Flowing Grace, Pastor Bross' time has been divided between the two sites.
4. Proven Model: Church organizations, such as Willow Creek, Church of the Resurrection UMC, Ginghamberg UMC, Community Christian Church and others have developed strong multi-site models. All of them have fully functional sites, similar to the new Flowing Grace fully functional site.
5. Simplification: While the values and beliefs of both campuses are consistent, the personality of each campus is different. A fully functional Flowing Grace site simplifies the coordination and staffing of the two sites. Currently, BUMC staff has to focus its effort on both the Batavia campus and Flowing Grace.
6. Improved Communication: Two fully functional sites will streamline and improve the quality of communication. Existing communication, while a priority for leadership, has proven to be very difficult with two campuses.

### **Why doesn't Flowing Grace become an independently chartered church?**

The United Methodist Book of Discipline is a guidebook for local churches, which requires churches to have a Board of Trustees, Nominations Committee, Finance Committee, Staff Parish, and Church Council. In the fully functional site model, Flowing Grace can continue to participate in BUMC's United Methodist organizational framework. In recent years, United Methodist churches with multiple independent site models have been much more successful. At the same time, over 80% of new United Methodist church charters have failed. Keeping Flowing Grace on the charter allows BUMC to share in the celebration of

the continued growth of God's Kingdom and allows BUMC visitors to recognize that BUMC is a multi-site church, innovative and creative.

### **What will happen to Pastor Bross?**

Currently, Pastor Bross's time is split between ministering to the Batavia campus and Flowing Grace. Examples of his current ministry at the Batavia campus include counseling, Confirmation class, hospital calls, committee work, Discipleship Path, and off-the-street interactions. Starting (date tbd), Pastor Bross will start devoting 100% of his time to Flowing Grace's mission. This will enable him to focus on expanding the ministry and growth of Flowing Grace.

### **A fully functional site includes independent programming. What does this mean?**

Flowing Grace will build programming focused on bringing Flowing Grace worshipers into community beyond Sunday mornings. Many Flowing Grace worshipers live in North Aurora, Sugar Grove, etc. Programming at the downtown site is logistically difficult for many families. Programs that bring together people who worship together will encourage worshipers to develop deeper relationships with Christ and one another. Programming includes independent weeknight activities, Confirmation class, Vacation Bible School, Holiday worship (ex. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday), youth small groups, and mission trips.

### **Do I need to choose to worship at either the Batavia site or Flowing Grace?**

No. Anyone is invited to celebrate worship at any service, which is consistent with the Connectional vision of the United Methodist Church. Pledges will be assigned to the campus where you worship the majority of time. If you attend Flowing Grace and visit the Batavia Campus one week, your offering will still be counted towards the Flowing Grace campus and vice versa. Loose plate offerings will remain at the campus where it was offered.

### **Who can attend youth events, including mission trip, coordinated by the Batavia site or Flowing Grace?**

Consistent with the past, any youth is invited to attend any youth event, including mission trip. We desire to create an open and welcoming Christian environment where any youth can grow. Specific youth event advertising will be focused at the respective site.

### **What is the relationship between Batavia United Methodist, Batavia site, and Flowing Grace?**

Batavia United Methodist Church includes both the Batavia site and Flowing Grace. This is the current structure and will remain unchanged when Flowing Grace becomes a fully functional site. New members joining at Flowing Grace will continue to become members of Batavia United Methodist Church.

### **Will Flowing Grace continue to worship at Aurora Christian?**

The Flowing Grace worship and education space is leased from Aurora Christian. Over the last few months, Aurora Christian's financial challenges have been publicized in the news. Aurora Christian has secured the existing facility on 2255 Sullivan Road thru a one-year lease agreement with Fifth Third. Flowing Grace's existing lease expires June 2012. Flowing Grace remains committed to continuing to use the excellent facility that meets its worship and education needs. Aurora Christian is expected to announce its plans for the 2012/2013 school year by December 2011. Alternative locations have been identified in the event the current situation changes. Examples include Jewel Middle School, Herget Middle School, Paramount Theatre, and a vacant corporate building.

### Is a permanent building part of Flowing Grace's future?

A permanent building is not currently part of Flowing Grace's mid-term plan given current worshipping size and required finances. High-level estimates indicate a permanent facility may cost around \$1 million including the land and building structure. Leasing provides short-term flexibility. As the Flowing Grace congregation continues to grow, a permanent site may be desired to meet changing needs.

### What are the financial pledges and historical giving by site?

The table below summarizes the 2010 and 2011 forecast pledges and giving for Flowing Grace and the Batavia campus. The 2011 forecast financial information is based on September 2011 YTD actual giving and scaled for the full year. The # of giving units reflects the number of unique single individuals or families participating. Put another way, one giving unit receives one envelope for regular giving.

The Flowing Grace 2011 financial giving is forecast to increase over 20% from the 2010 offering of about \$100,000. While the overall giving is significantly lower than the Batavia campus, the year-over-year increase is significant. The average pledge amount per giving unit is approximately the same across the Batavia campus and Flowing Grace.

		<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Pledge</u>	<u># Giving Units</u>	<u>Offering Per Giving Unit</u>	<u>Pledge per Giving Unit</u>
<b>2010 DECEMBER YTD</b>						
<b>FG</b>	<b>Pledge</b>	\$84,280	\$99,784	27	\$3,121	\$3,696
	<b>Non Pledge</b>	\$14,496	\$0	13	\$1,115	
	<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$2,079	\$0			
	<b>Total</b>	\$100,855	\$99,784	40		
<b>Batavia</b>	<b>Pledge</b>	\$566,392	\$627,468	198	\$2,861	\$3,169
	<b>Non Pledge</b>	\$87,474	\$0	92	\$951	
	<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$30,771	\$0			
	<b>Total</b>	\$684,636	\$627,468	290		
<b>Grand Total</b>		\$785,491	\$727,252	330		
<b>2011 DECEMBER YTD - ESTIMATE</b>						
<b>FG</b>	<b>Pledge</b>	\$108,503	\$142,425	36	\$3,014	\$3,956
	<b>Non Pledge</b>	\$11,867	\$0	10	\$1,187	
	<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$1,793	\$0			
	<b>Total</b>	\$122,164	\$142,425	46		
<b>Batavia</b>	<b>Pledge</b>	\$614,520	\$680,435	197	\$3,119	\$3,454
	<b>Non Pledge</b>	\$88,387	\$0	82	\$1,078	
	<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$23,319	\$0			
	<b>Total</b>	\$726,227	\$680,435	279		
<b>Grand Total</b>		\$848,391	\$822,860	325		

## What are Flowing Grace's current expenses?

Quarterly, BUMC's Finance Committee reviews the allocation of BUMC giving and expenses by site to understand the financial sustainability of Flowing Grace. The table below describes the September 2011 YTD allocation. Flowing Grace 2011 operating fund revenues include \$22,500 (\$30,000 annualized) of a 3-year Northern Illinois Conference Harvest 2020 funding. 2011 is the final year of the 3-year program.

Primary expenses include 75% allocation of Pastor Bross' expenses and Aurora Christian rent.

### 2011 September YTD

#### Operating Fund

<b>Revenue</b>	<b><u>Batavia</u></b>	<b><u>Flowing Grace</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Operating Fund Contributions Received	536,461	89,799	626,260
Conference Funds	-	22,500	22,500
Other Contributions Received*	3,742	626	4,368
<b>Total Operating Fund Revenues</b>	<b>540,202</b>	<b>112,926</b>	<b>653,128</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration	17,605	489	18,094
Assm. & Hospitality	184	45	229
Christian Education	17,009	3,154	20,163
Campaign Ministry	-	-	-
Communications	40	-	40
Congregational Care	2,096	-	2,096
Evang & Outreach	12,661	4,532	17,193
Ministry Team	286,599	62,464	349,063
Missions & Society	55,972	-	55,972
Mortgage	16,132	-	16,132
Music Ministries	9,217	287	9,504
Stewardship	5,367	-	5,367
Trustees & Rent	89,953	16,089	106,041
Worship	11,781	1,206	12,987
Youth Ministries	7,891	-	7,891
<b>Total Operating Fund Expenses</b>	<b>532,507</b>	<b>88,266</b>	<b>620,773</b>
<b>Net Funds from Operations</b>	<b>7,695</b>	<b>24,660</b>	<b>32,355</b>

## How are Flowing Grace's expenses forecast to change as a fully functional site? Is this feasible?

Analysis of existing finances combined with faith that God will guide our community leads us to believe a fully functional site is financially feasible. Increased giving from existing Flowing Grace worshipers during the 2011 and 2012 stewardship drives combined with continued growth will be needed to meet anticipated fully functional site expenses.

A preliminary Flowing Grace fully functional site budget is below. Major changes include a 100% allocation of Pastor Jeffrey's expenses (75% allocation in 2011) and an allocation of BUMC's apportionments based on percentage of BUMC budgeted expenses (2012 BUMC estimate: \$84,000). The United Methodist Church is connectional church, and apportionments support the global and local Northern Illinois Conference missions.

The Northern Illinois Conference views Flowing Grace as one of only a few new, growing communities in Northern Illinois. As a result, it has committed an additional \$15,000 for 2012. A move to a fully functional site offers the possibility of increased support from the Conference beyond 2012.

**Preliminary 2012 Fully Functional Site Budget**

**Operating Fund**

<b>Revenue</b>	<b><u>Flowing Grace</u></b>
Operating Fund Contributions Received	tbd
Conference Funds	15,000
Other Contributions Received*	-
<b>Total Operating Fund Revenues</b>	<b>tbd</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Administration	1,062
Assm. & Hospitality	245
Christian Education	7,079
Campaign Ministry	-
Communications	1,950
Congregational Care	-
Evang & Outreach	5,500
Ministry Team	114,093
Missions & Society (Apportionments)	16,000
Mortgage	-
Music Ministries	1,287
Stewardship	2,075
Trustees & Rent	27,985
Worship	1,218
Youth Ministries	600
<b>Total Operating Fund Expenses</b>	<b>179,094</b>

**What will happen if the Flowing Grace annual expenses exceed giving?**

Flowing Grace will work to build a reserve fund to minimize this risk. In the unfortunate event annual expenses exceed giving, the issue will be addressed at a Church Council meeting with Flowing Grace Vision Team input. Church Council will determine any actions to be taken.

**Who can I contact if I have additional Flowing Grace financial questions?**

Questions can be directed to:

	Phone	E-mail
Pastor Stoner	630-879-7060	mike@bataviaumc.com
Pastor Bross	630-879-7060	jeffry@bataviaumc.com
Mike Conklin (BUMC Treasurer)	630-406-0401	conks0408@yahoo.com
Chuck Pelkey (BUMC Finance Committee Chair)	630-762-9312	pelkeyc@aol.com
Cathy Zimmerman (Flowing Grace Vision Team)	630-761-3470	cmzimmerman24@gmail.com

**What was the original vision for Flowing Grace?**

Flowing Grace was launched March 2007, supported by funds from the “Building Beyond” capital campaign to purchase a trailer-housed “Church in the Box”. Flowing Grace began contemporary worship

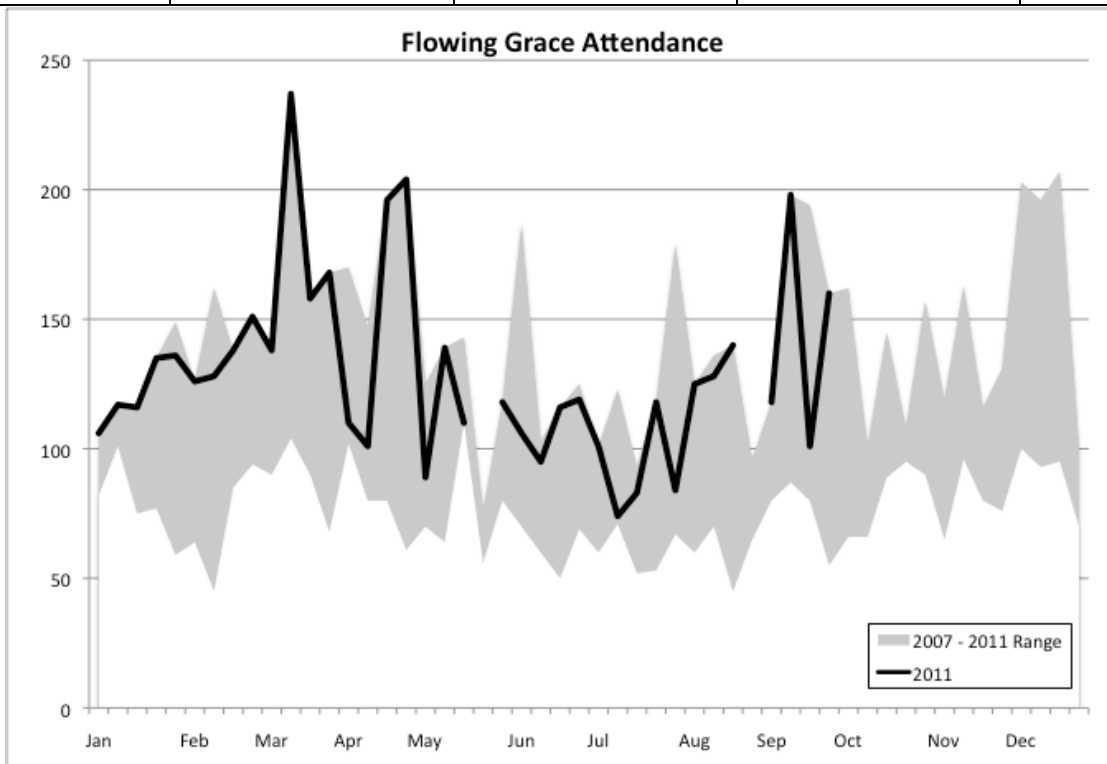
at Herget Middle School, located in North Aurora, with the intention to grow in a community expecting 4000+ new homes. Due to a significant downturn in the local and national economy, expected housing in the area never materialized. Attendance at Flowing Grace has increased every year since 2008, but not at the original rate anticipated. In November 2010, Flowing Grace moved to Aurora Christian School, a short distance from its previous location. The result is an increase in attendance, visitors and visitor retention.

**What has been the historical attendance at Flowing Grace?**

Attendance has continued to increase over the last several years. Of the 75 households that worship regularly at Flowing Grace (includes households worshipping 3 or more times this year), 22 are originally from the Batavia Campus. Aurora Christian School has provided a more worshipful space, which has positively impacted worship over the last several months.

Average Flowing Grace Attendance

2007	2008	2009	2010	Sep 2011 YTD
91	87	98	106	133



**How many new BUMC members have joined at Flowing Grace?**

Flowing Grace has been blessed with new BUMC members every year. In addition, there have been 16 baptisms, including 2 adult baptisms, at Flowing Grace since 2007.

New Members since March 2007\*

Campus	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Flowing Grace	11	11	12	27	11
Batavia	25	35	20	39	11

\*Excludes Confirmation Classes

