

SENT Vision and Goals (Updated 4/18/24)

Vision: To create in East Charlotte a church body that is Biblically, intentionally, and relationally engaging the international immigrant populations of Charlotte, particularly 1st and 2nd generation youth with the desire to see the establishment of at least one and potentially multiple healthy and evangelistic churches that reflect the diversity of the nations and tongues that make up East Charlotte.

Target Groups: Over the past year, we have identified three groups of 1st and 2nd generation immigrant youth and young adults. While these groups are not exhaustive and certainly contain overlap, they are helpful in defining SENT's vision. These groups might be identified as (1) those who are already detached (or never were attached) from an ethnic church and have not become meaningfully connected to another body, (2) those who are still attached to an ethnic church but are already showing signs of leaving their ethnic churches (statistics and experiential knowledge within both CCBC and other ethnic bodies consistently point to this tendency among the youth of ethnic bodies) within the next 5-10 years, (3) and those who seem to be firmly established within their ethnic bodies and are committed to their long term health, but are seeking discipleship and training in how to better serve and equip these bodies.

Response: In response to these groups, our mission is threefold: 1) to establish and build up a congregation where those who find themselves detached from an ethnic body can be discipled, nourished, and matured in the faith, and where they can also bring their unbelieving friends. 2) To establish discipling relationships with those who are in danger of leaving their own ethnic bodies over the next 5-10 years. The purpose of these relationships is not to prematurely remove them from their ethnic churches, but rather to establish a "safety net" for them should they choose to leave their ethnic church at some point in the future and need a healthy body to join. 3) To walk with, learn from, and equip, as best we can, both youth and pastors of ethnic churches who are committed to these bodies but desire discipleship and training in how to best walk with their churches through the transition from the original generation that speaks mainly in their native tongue to the next generation that is heavily Americanized.

Short term Goals:

1. Proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ faithfully to the neighborhoods and nations within our immediate proximity.
2. Build the English Ministry Congregation of CCBC into a body where the youth of group 1 and eventually group 2 can find a spiritual home and be part of a church based not on ethnicity but on belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Maintain and develop healthy working relationships with ministries like Project 658 and the Charlotte Eagles. It is our desire to help support these ministries and their staff and to also provide a place where they can send youth in need of a church home.
4. Disciple and equip the youth who are already engaged in SENT ministries, with the intention of giving them the tools and the desire to in turn reach and disciple their friends, families, and neighbors.

5. Help immigrant and refugee youth think about and navigate the questions and issues raised by secular American culture in a Biblical way.
6. Foster a sense of mission and the desire to spread the gospel among the peoples of Charlotte and ultimately the world.
7. Identify and walk with those who are mature in the faith and who potentially sense a calling to ministry, helping them discern that call and begin to be equipped toward fulfilling that call in a faithful, Biblical way.
8. Continuing to explore and develop ways to equip and walk with those who are part of group 3.

Long term goals

1. Develop a model for an ethnic church to transition into a multiethnic church that reflects the communities around them.
2. Establish avenues for those from ethnic communities who are called to ministry to be discipled, equipped, and matured in the faith so that they can help to establish and build up biblical, gospel preaching churches.