

ELEMENT Church| Vision plan

“Element is a community of people who are falling more in love with Jesus Christ, and have committed their lives to living out His Truth.”

ELEMENT exists to ignite the passion in the souls of its people, to deepen the affection towards our God, and to awaken into action the movement of the church. The heartbeat throughout all ministries will be guided by three Elemental Standards:

Passion| Fire

Affection |Water

Action |wind

ELEMENT | The Ministry

Gatherings: *Otherwise known as “Corporate Worship.” This particular function of the church is designed to foster encouragement of the believer, truth and direction for the body. The **Gatherings** will utilize artistic expression, authentic communication, and is designed to be an overflow of what God is teaching us throughout the week. (Fire, Water, Wind)*

IN-breakings: *A unique approach to “Missions.” The concept is this; Instead of having to create separate “Christian Organizations” to further the heartbeat of the Gospel, we as a church find what the world is already doing well, and we bring the message of Christ to their organization. This promotes the idea that we are not called to be an isolated “holy huddle”, but forces us to become engaged with those who do not know Christ. (Fire, Water, Wind)*

Community: *Whether it is through traditional small groups, or through special interests groups (book clubs, softball teams, fantasy football leagues) ELEMENT communicates that life has to be done with other people. Our goal is to create avenues for people to create their own communities, or churches, and in turn both pour into and shape the lives of those they connect with. (Water, Wind)*

Connection: *What could possibly be the hardest thing to achieve in any size church is true connection. The first step in creating relationship is connecting with people. This ministry will serve to contact those who have decided to know more about ELEMENT; whether it is through the web, the Sunday gatherings, or IN-breakings, the job of this ministry is to connect with the people and to assimilate them into the growing body of Christ. (Wind)*

Generations: *ELEMENT believes that the church of tomorrow is here today, and it is the responsibility of the body to both love, equip, and lead each generation into a faith that is real, into community with their peers, to an affection towards God. In the first year a major emphasis will be put on families and children, as the church grows so will its resources to reach later generations. (Fire, Water, Wind)*

ELEMENT | Core Values

Simplicity: One of the Core values of ELEMENT is getting back to the basics, or the essentials of what it means to be the church. The desire of ELEMENT is to *“foster a movement of missional believers who are not satisfied with going to church, but strive to be the church.”* Whether it is in our Sunday Gathering, our Communities, or our In-breakings, ELEMENT believes that through minimal programs, increased ownership of the people, and a “less is more” mentality... even the largest of visions can still be simple.

Stewardship: One of the desires of ELEMENT is to meet the needs of people, and remind them that God does care, that He is working, and that His Truth is worth trusting. ELEMENT will focus on meeting both the physical (Adoption help, food and housing assistance, scholarships and grants for those in need), emotional (financial aid for counseling, Mentorships), and the spiritual (Prayer, Bible Studies, Apprenticeships) needs of the Church, and the City of Tampa. (Water, Wind)

Hospitality: Our desire is to create a culture of generous people, who share their resources, their time, and their stories with all who are in need. Whether it is in a community group, a gathering, an IN-breaking, or in a drop by the office, ELEMENT longs to show the same generosity and hospitality that God shows us. (Wind)

Ownership: ELEMENT is not something to be observed from a far, but demands that we all take part in its movement. ELEMENT puts a massive value on the ownership of its people to both the heartbeat and the action of its call. Ownership is achieved through involvement in community, through stewardship, through volunteering, and through the living out the truth of God. (Wind)

ELEMENT | Statement of Faith

The Bible: It is the inherent, infallible word of God, His love letter to his people. It is both instructional and mysterious; it answers and creates questions that draw us closer to him. It is God’s truth and final authority for our faith and lives. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peters 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:10-160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5 Matthew 5:18)

Jesus: He is the one and only son of God. He is the way the truth and the life. He is Love, Salvation, and the hope of men. He is both man, and God... the only sinless human. He was born of a virgin, He died on a cross for the payment of our sins, and he rose to life after three days of death. He now sits at the right hand of God interceding on our behalf. (John 3:16 Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; John 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; John 15:13; Romans 8:34)

The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and Son as God. He was God gift to the world, so that we might know that He is with us. The Holy Spirit, guides, directs, corrects, and confirms us. The Holy Spirit dwells in man at the point of salvation, sealing him unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; II Corinthians 3:6; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 5:18)

The Nature of Man: Man is made in the image of God, and we are the object of his affection. Though we have been fearfully and wonderfully made, we have chosen to disobey God, and because of this sin we are in need of a savior. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:306; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2.)

Salvation: Salvation is found only through Jesus Christ. It is not something we work for, or something we can achieve... it is the gift of God, for all who believe in Him. God forgives our sins wipes us clean of our transgressions and gives us the promise of eternal life. (Romans 5:1; 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6, John 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26.)

Sanctification: Because of Gods great love for us, we have been given a part to play in His story. His desire for us is that our thoughts, our motivations, and our actions would reflect the heartbeat of God. We enter into this redeemed relationship when we acknowledge that we are sinful, that we need a savior, and then we turn towards God and the life He has called us to. Our repentance is a waking up into a life that God lavished with Grace, forgiveness, peace, love and hope.(Jeremiah 29:11 , Heberew6:18-20 , Romans 12:2 , Ephesians 5:1-2)

Eternal Security: We believe that those who have been redeemed by the saving love of Christ are kept by Gods power, and thus secure in Christ forever. All who are redeemed will be in an earthly process of shaping their lives to that of the image of God, and will bear fruit in their life before they die. (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5, Titus 2:11-15).

The Church: The church is the body people, not a building, not a service, not a logo or a name. The church is the people of God. Those who vow to do life together, to both worship and serve God, by loving and serving each other. The church exists to be the light, the hope, and the heartbeat of God to the world. (1 John 4:20-21; 1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:11-13; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 4:10-11.)

Christ's Return: He will come to gather the redeemed, and with that usher in the next chapter of Gods plan. No man will know the hour, but we are called to live like it could be today. Christ Return is a message of hope... where our Hero comes for his people. (Matthew 24:44; Luke 12:40; Revelation 19:11)

ELEMENT | A Reproducing Church

Part of the vision of ELEMENT is to put the ownership of the church's responsibilities into the hands of its people. One of the ways we believe that this value is put into action is through a reproducing church model.

Once the church reaches a 500 person bench mark; the search is on for an apprentice pastor who shares the heartbeat, the vision, and the convictions of ELEMENT. This Sheppard will undergo a one year mentorship that will prepare him to plant an autonomous church. The idea is that a reproducing church can maximize ownership, decrease overhead, and still have the resources to make an impact in the community they are called to serve. The thought process is that 10 churches of

1,000 working together can make a greater impact on the city of Tampa, than one church of 10,000.

Utilizing the wisdom and resources of organizations (ELI) and the personal funds of ELEMENT, we believe that we can make a greater impact in our cities with confederations or networks of churches whose overhead is small and whose passion and ownership is great.

ELEMENT | Launch Team

The first six months of the new church launch are critical in re-enforcing the type of culture that will be lived throughout the church's existence. A "Launch Team" of 10-12 people will serve as the governing body, the leadership core, and the front runner in the ownership of the vision of ELEMENT for the first 6 to 9 months.

The function of the launch team is three fold:

One: To lay out the foundation of church government through the drafting of ELEMENT'S Bi-laws, and the adoption of the church's budget. This function is key to setting up a checks and balance system by which its leadership will operate.

Two: To lead the charge in all areas of ministry by recruiting, mentoring and shepherding the people of ELEMENT as they find their area of service. Each member will lead a specific function of ELEMENT, and will be responsible for the people that make up and carry out this function. Even though the team member is in charge, their goal is to empower and equip others to take ownership in their area of ministry.

Three: To refine and carry out the vision of ELEMENT. This function of the Launch team is necessary to the spiritual heartbeat of the church. Each member will be required to meet weekly to both dream and determine the direction by which the church is headed.

The function of the Launch team is for that purpose alone, to launch the church. Our hope is that we might focus clearly on the task at hand, and in turn give our efforts with pure motive to the call and responsibility placed on us.

After the 6-9 month period, the launch team will elect an Elder Council to act as a governing complement to the pastoral staff of ELEMENT, at which time the launch team will cease to function as such.

ELEMENT | Locations

The Sunday morning Gatherings will be held at **2016 Town Center Boulevard, Brandon, FL 33511**. (Cee Jay's Lounge). This night club serves as an ideal space for a worship Gathering. The

building seats up to 400 people, and comes fully equipped with tables, chairs, sound and lighting for an incredible weekly cost of 500\$.

The location is ideal, as it is flanked by major restaurants, Borders book store, and the Brandon Town Center Mall.

Currently ELEMENT is considering multiple warehouse / loft buildings in the Riverview / Brandon area, to use as office space. The desire is to create a space that communicates both the heartbeat of ELEMENT, and its permanence to the community.

ELEMENT | Launch Budget

ELEMENT | Needs

With any start up of any kind there are always many needs that are necessary to a successful launch. Below are a few of ELEMENTS major start up needs:

- 10-12ft Trailer
- Office Furniture
- Video Camera
- Computers (Laptop and desktop and printer 3930.95\$)
- Monitor System for Worship Team (3,500\$)
- Tables (3-5 6ft Rectangle)
- Coffee Machines (4 Restaurant grade 60 cup)
- Refrigerator

ELEMENT | Information Meetings

If you would like information about the vision of ELEMENT, or would like information as to what it would mean to be a part of this church launch, please join us for the following meetings:

- Thursday January 24th 7pm (the Rock)
- Thursday February 21st 7pm (the Rock)
- Thursday March 13th 7pm (the Rock)

If you have any questions about ELEMENT or would like to talk about your involvement at further length, please email Bobby Triplett at bobbytriplett@gmail.com .

ELEMENT | Communication

www.iamelement.org <http://bobbytriplett.com>

The communication of ELEMENT to the city of Tampa will take place through a grass roots movement of flyers, advertizing in the local music, art, and entertainment magazines, but most importantly through the ownership and excitement of its people.

The best advertizing buzz is an organic one. As our people understand that they are the church, and as a sense of ownership takes seed in their hearts, the desire to spread the word about what God is doing in ELEMENT is uncontainable.

ELEMENT | Affiliations

ELEMENT has partnered with the following organizations to aide both in council and financial resources towards the success of the church launch:

ELI (Emergent Leadership Initiative), under the guidance of Craig Whitney to serve as the plant coach, and board Chairman.

Tampa Bay Baptist Association. (A Department of the Florida Baptist Convention)