

Decatur City Church

Q & A with Pastor Tensley Almand

How old is Decatur City Church and how did it start?

In the beginning a group of people in the Decatur area wanted a relevant church where they could safely bring their friends who did not go to church – a church similar to North Point Community Church (NPCC) in Alpharetta or Buckhead Church in Atlanta. They were willing to drive to Alpharetta or Buckhead to attend, but knew their unchurched friends and neighbors probably wouldn't.

In the fall of 2010 five families, under the direction of Lead Pastor, Tensley Almand, began building a core team and preparing to launch a new church. In January of 2012, Stone Point Church launched as a Strategic Partner with NPCC. Meeting every other Sunday night, much like the early days of North Point, Stone Point began at Tucker High School.

In September of 2012 Stone Point began meeting every Sunday evening at Tucker High School. Throughout this time, Andy Stanley and the leadership of NPCC encouraged and advised Stone Point Church, and in October of 2014 invited them to become the sixth campus of North Point Ministries. With a strong desire to relocate to Decatur, Stone Point Church became Decatur City Church on Sunday, October 12 and while they search for a place to call home in Decatur, continue to meet every Sunday evening at Tucker High School.

I heard that Decatur City Church is a campus of North Point Ministries. What does this mean?

North Point Ministries, Inc., was founded in 1995 with the vision of creating churches that unchurched people love to attend. Since its inception, NPM has grown from one church to six in metro Atlanta and has developed a global network of more than thirty strategic partner churches. Decatur City Church, soon to be located in Decatur, is one of the six metro Atlanta area churches of NPM. Though our methods have evolved over the years, the mission has always been to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. It's what we do, whether at our Atlanta-area churches, at one of our partnerships around the world, or through our many online and broadcast offerings.

What are the mission & vision of Decatur City Church?

Our vision is to create a church that unchurched people love to attend. Our mission is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. We accomplish our

mission by creating environments where people are encouraged and equipped to pursue intimacy with God, community with insiders, and influence with outsiders.

Who is the pastor of Decatur City Church?

Andy Stanley is the founder and senior pastor of North Point Ministries, which has six churches in the Atlanta area: North Point Community Church, Buckhead Church, Browns Bridge Church, Watermarke Church, Gwinnett Church, and Decatur City Church. Tensley Almand is the Lead Pastor and leads the staff of Decatur City Church (DCC) in its day-to-day operations and in discerning the ministry needs of those who attend DCC and those who live in the community.

Tensley Almand has been the Lead Pastor of Decatur City Church since it's beginnings in September of 2010 as Stone Point Church. He grew up in the Atlanta area and is a graduate of Auburn University and Southeastern Theological Seminary. He has been in ministry for ten years. He and his wife Laurie were married in 2000 and have four amazing children: Will, Jake, Eli, and Hallie.

I heard that Decatur City Church is a non-denominational church. What does non-denominational mean?

It means that we are not affiliated with a denomination, such as Baptist, Methodist, etc. In organizing this church, our foremost desire was to be an attractive environment for those who do not regularly attend church. For the most part, our feeling is that denominational titles mean more to churched people than unchurched people.

How many people are currently participating at Decatur City Church?

Currently, Decatur City Church has almost 300 adults participating in one Sunday worship service. More than 120 children and students meet in small groups while their parents attend worship. During the week, over 150 adults meet around the city in community groups for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship.

How many staff do you have?

Currently, Decatur City Church has 5 people on staff. Tensley Almand is the Lead Pastor, Ryan Fitzgerald is the Service Programming Director, Caitlin Jones is the Associate Service Programming Director, Courtney Fitzgerald is the Preschool and Children's Director, and Mark Kimbrough is the Student Director.

What are Decatur City Church's plans for the future?

Decatur City Church plans to have a long and healthy relationship with the City of Decatur and the surrounding communities. Like all of our other Atlanta area

campuses, our desire is to partner with our city, schools, local businesses, churches and charities to ensure that the Decatur community remains a great place to live and work. We are currently in the process of locating our own property where we can build our own building. Our goal is to be in our own facility within 3 years.

What led Decatur City Church to want to move to Decatur?

From the very beginning our desire has been to create an incredible church for the people of Decatur. We have always said, "Decatur doesn't need another church. Decatur needs a different kind of church; a church where we can safely invite our unchurched friends and family." Unfortunately, many unchurched people are more familiar with what the church is against, rather than what the church is for. But we believe if God could say one thing to the people living in Decatur it would be, "Decatur, I love you!"

That's why Decatur City Church began; so the people of Decatur would have a place to grow in their relationship with a God who loves them and is for them. A place that even people who don't like church love to attend! And not only does God love this city; we do too! That's why we started this church, because we love Decatur families, couples, singles, students and children. We think men and women who are growing in a relationship with Jesus are more faithful, better parents, more generous, better citizens, better employees and generally, have a positive affect on everyone around them.

What led you to identify FBC Decatur as a possible location for Decatur City Church?

With a heart to be in the City of Decatur, your location makes a lot of sense to us; but our desire to share space goes so far beyond your great location. First Baptist Decatur has such a rich history and great legacy serving the people of Decatur that it is hard not to be attracted to your church. You have something we don't have yet—a tremendous reputation in the city of Decatur. As a new church in our community, we believe there is much we can learn from you. As churches, we also share many of the same values. While practically we may live these out differently, we both value intimacy with God, strategic service, intentional apprenticing, authentic community, relevant environments, and joyful generosity.

Our hope would be that in three years, when we have a space of our own, not only will you have given us a much-needed first step, but also we will have helped you taken many great steps too. We believe that through a partnership like this, both of our churches will be stronger and better equipped to serve the people of Decatur.

What times each week would you want to occupy FBCD facilities?

Decatur City Church currently meets on Sunday evenings. We are currently in one service at 6pm, but will likely expand to two services shortly after relocating into Decatur. While still under consideration, our service times will likely be 4:30pm and 6:00pm. For this happen, we will need full access to all agreed upon spaces each Sunday from 1pm to 8:30pm.

What spaces on the FBCD campus would you want to use, and for what purposes?

At Decatur City Church we accomplish our mission by creating environments where children, students and adults are encouraged and equipped to pursue intimacy with God, community with insiders and influence with outsiders. Some of our environments take place on Sundays and some take place in homes throughout the week in our community.

We would like to use space at FBC Decatur to host our Sunday environments. Our Sunday environments include adult worship and preschool, children and student large and small groups. We ask to use the main auditorium, fellowship hall and various classroom spaces on Sunday evenings. We will also need to use many of the common areas in the church such as the parking deck, parking lot, hallways, and restrooms.