



SEPTEMBER 2021 UPDATE

FELLOWSHIP DENVER FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

In fall 2019, we introduced First to the Lord. Some of us remember that and some of us have joined the story since then! But here's what I want to remind us all...

At the time, we had a lot of Kingdom of God dreams, such as:

- seeding new ministry to our most vulnerable neighbors
- increasing our investment in church planting and international missions
- training the next generation of church leaders
- becoming a multi-congregational church and launching a second expression of Fellowship Denver in North Metro

We knew all of this would require a deeper pastoral leadership team. And we were honest about the fact that it could take TEN YEARS to grow into this vision.

Then we asked: What if God wants to do in 2-3 years what would normally take ten?

This wasn't out of the realm of possibility! We actually had the capacity to see this if we were all willing to give ourselves "first to the Lord" (2 Corinthians 8: 5) and let God do a work of grace in us, releasing us in generosity.

I was reminded of this when I sat down to hear Nick and Ruth Lightner's story (inside). They recounted how faith-stretching it felt at the time. They also reminded me that we had *just finished* our "HOME" initiative for our building, how inspiring/scary it felt to be embarking on another journey and how unexpected the two years since then have been.

It's because of *many* stories like Nick and Ruth's that we're enjoying this new season. Because you are engaging - and staying engaged - with the Lord, he's preparing new works for us to walk in! I'm grateful to be on this journey with you.



With love,

Hunter Beaumont
Lead Pastor

THE LORD'S WORK **IN** US



NICK & RUTH'S STORY

To sit with Nick and Ruth Lightner is to be reminded of all the Lord has seen us through in the last three years.

The Lightners were part of Fellowship Denver when we moved into our building on South Broadway in 2018. It was the culmination of a three-year season called "HOME," and many of our folks were stretching and giving generously to make it happen. Then, with the dust barely settled, we sensed that the Lord was leading us to the next place and inviting us on another journey.

"I was excited that our church was challenging us again and saying, 'We don't want to sit back and put things on autopilot. We want to see some things move forward and see them happen quicker than ten years from now. We'd like to see them in just the next couple of years,'" remembers Ruth.

But none of us knew that "the next couple of years" would be *that* challenging. The COVID days gave Nick and Ruth a growing family and a declining income.

"Some of the security we had built into our life and giving wasn't there anymore," Nick says. "Money has this type of hold over me that I have trouble trusting God with."

What would they say to encourage other people who have experienced a similar journey? "What continually encourages me is remembering that it's not mine!" says Ruth. "All of this has been given to me in the first place - not just money but *everything*. I can remember throughout my pregnancy with Jonah (son) that even this child isn't mine. I learned that from another couple's First to the Lord story."

Adds Nick, **"It's been a challenging year for everyone and there's lots of grace for us. Christ does not love us any less based on how we're performing."**

Nick and Ruth live in Littleton, where they lead a Fellowship Group. Their children are Imogene (almost 3) and Jonah (5 months).

THE LORD'S WORK **THROUGH US**

Q&A WITH RICH DUGAN **NORTH METRO LEAD PASTOR**

PART OF OUR FIRST TO THE LORD GIVING WILL HELP LAUNCH A NEW CONGREGATION. THIS SUMMER, RICH DUGAN JOINED OUR TEAM AS LEAD PASTOR FOR NORTH METRO! LET'S GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBER...

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP AND HOW DID YOU COME TO FAITH IN JESUS?

I grew up in Southern New Jersey along the shore. It was a great place to grow up and probably less of what you imagine if you've only experienced Jersey on TV. While growing up, my mom faithfully took me and my younger brother to a little United Methodist Church that taught me the basics of the gospel and when I was around 10 or 11 years old, things started clicking. Although I probably couldn't have articulated what was happening at the time, it was then I believe God saved me and began the process of drawing me more into life with and for Him.

INTRODUCE US TO YOUR FAMILY.

My wife is Kaitlyn. She is an everyday gift to me. We have been together since high school and were married in 2013. We have two beautiful girls named Kyah (4) and Eden (nearly 2). Kyah is our outgoing and spirited little one, and Eden is our COVID baby who is a bit more shy and serious.



WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR FORMATIVE EXPERIENCES IN LIFE AND MINISTRY?

I have too many of these to name, but I'll name two common threads.

First, I have had many different men in many different seasons of life who have taken me under their wing and taught me (either directly or by example) how to be a man who loves God well, how to be a good husband, father, friend and pastor. I could name these men quickly. On the other hand, there have also been seasons where this was lacking when I really longed for it, which has shaped the man I am today and has everything to do with the kind of pastor I want to be and the kind of church I want to lead.

My second common thread is church involvement. I've always found myself around the local church and when you find yourself there long enough, you tend to catch glimpses of its beauty and also its lackluster underbelly. There have been two significant fallouts that I've experienced in the local church that have brought clarity to my love for Jesus and his radical grace that he sheds on his messy people.

There is a lot more to be said here. And I'd love to talk more about it sometime.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE NORTH METRO CONGREGATION?

I want to see my neighbors love Jesus. And I'm so thrilled that I'm not alone in that. Every FDC person from the North Metro area that I have met with has said the same thing. I want to see their neighbors love Jesus, too. And our coworkers, friends, gym buddies, baristas and so on. And, in the midst of that, my greatest hope is that we all grow together to love God and each other more, participating in His Kingdom bursting forth in North Denver!

FIRST TO THE LORD ➤ PROGRESS

FIRST TO THE LORD IS A TWO-YEAR INITIATIVE TO ACCELERATE GOSPEL MOVEMENT IN DENVER AND BEYOND.

UPDATE

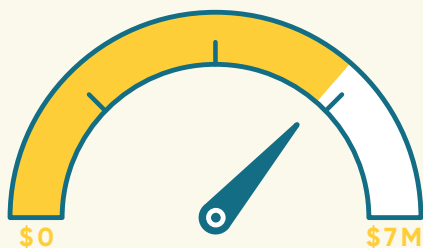
DECEMBER 1, 2019 - AUGUST 31, 2021

GOAL TO DATE:

\$5.2M

ACTUAL TO DATE:

\$5.1M



2 YEAR GOAL: \$7M

All gifts to Fellowship Denver from December 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021 go toward our \$7m goal. In addition to sustaining all of our current ministry, your contributions will:

- Grow our pastoral staff so as to fully **equip and release our members for ministry**
- Fuel our transition to a **multi-congregational church**
- Supply start-up costs and pastoral leadership for our **second congregation in North Metro**
- Support church planting and **missions** in Colorado, the western U.S, and around the world
- Resource local ministry to our **most vulnerable neighbors**

HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT GIVING?

Contact lia@fellowshipdenver.org or 303.862.4082

AUTOMATE THE IMPORTANT

Set up a weekly or monthly giving schedule at fellowshipdenver.org/give