

Why are We Moving to Two Worship Programs?

The leadership of Adrian Christian Church believes God is preparing to do a great work through us. In fact, He already is accomplishing great things. Over the last three years, our average Sunday attendance has grown by nearly 75 people. During that time, our leadership has become more unified, we have made numerous improvements to our facility including a new outside play area, and we hired Jaime Isaac as our Children's Minister. We have also created a new membership class which has led to greater involvement within our Church and is leading to ministry outside of our walls. Great things are happening to us and through us as a Church.

God is moving and continually bringing ACC new guests every week. Because of those guests and new members we need to make room for more people. This has been a point of discussion and prayer among our leaders for a long time, but it was officially decided on August 13 to make that move a reality. After much prayer and consideration, we would like to announce we will be moving to two worship programs on October 1, 2017.

The leadership here is excited to see how God will use this move to further his kingdom in Adrian and eventually across the world. Adding this one program will allow us to reach twice as many people with the gospel at no real additional cost. Yes, it will require extra volunteers to serve, but that is about it. We think this is an exciting time to be a part of ACC and look forward to the future.

Finally, we as a leadership recognize there will be questions that accompany this decision. We hope the rest of this document will address those questions and give you some answers to satisfy your mind. Please read through this document and continue to pray for our Church and our leadership as we make this bold step of faith in Jesus name.

- The Leadership of Adrian Christian Church

1. What will the schedule of programs be each Sunday?

First worship – 9:00 am
Second Worship – 10:30 am

2. Will programs be the same?

Yes. We are going to have them as similar as possible. They will have the same songs and the same sermon in each program. The goal is for each program to last from 1 hour to 1 hour and 15 minutes and no longer.

*We are NOT moving to a traditional and contemporary format.

3. When will the new schedule begin?

We will remain with one program through September 24

*We will officially start two programs on **Sunday, October 1, 2017**

4. What is going to happen to Sunday School?

Sunday School will happen at the same time as our worship programs.

In His Steps will meet at 9:00 am in room #6.

Builders and Searchers will meet at 10:30 am, also in room #6

Special Blessing will meet at 10:30 am in their normal room (#12) but will begin using the back entrance so as not to disturb the Dive area when they are finished.

We will continue to evaluate the needs of our congregation and hope to add a couple of classes in the future as the Church develops.

5. We still have plenty of empty seats in the auditorium, so why move to two services?

Yes, we do have empty seats on Sunday, but we are at a point where we feel full.

Numerous studies have shown that when an auditorium is 75-80% full, the church will numerically stop growing. No one really likes to sit in the front and guests do not like to sit right beside a stranger. They will choose to leave a seat empty between them.

Therefore, the place is full when it begins to feel full.

6. Why not wait and see if these new people stay?

As a leadership, we see our newer folks making faith decisions and stepping up to serve every week. People who were once guests are now choosing to place their membership. Also, we are preparing for a new wave of guests in the near future. The time to add a program is now while we are in a growth pattern. If we do not move soon, we will plateau and never recover. We will settle into around 200 total people each week and stay there.

7. How are we supposed to get to know everyone in two programs?

Simply said, you do not know everyone now. Even if you did know everyone by name, you still do not know everyone on a personal level. Our goal at ACC is not for you to know everyone, rather for you to know about a dozen people really well. You will make those connections through Sunday School, small groups, the ministries you serve and by personal invitation.

Second, what we are doing now will help you to know more people in worship. What we are doing is creating two smaller programs that allow you to meet and converse with a more consistent group of people.

Finally, in conjunction with our move to two programs we are implementing at least three new small groups this fall and hope to add more in the future as leaders are developed and hosts are secured. These will be great opportunities to meet people and develop relationships.

*There is a sheet of prospective classes starting near the first of October available to everyone. Please fill one out if you wish to be a part.

8. What about our monthly fellowship time?

We are currently still planning a fellowship time on the first Sunday of every month. We will be hosting it in the kitchen from 10:00-10:25 am. This will require you to plan on staying after the first program or arriving early to the second program if you wish to participate.

9. What if some people leave?

We would hate it, but we understand that change is difficult. In order for us to reach more people with the gospel we must make this move. We risk losing people who feel our Church is too full or we lose people that are not fond of moving to two programs. Either choice leaves us with a risk, and we are hoping to err on the side of growth.

10. Will this make the auditorium seem empty?

Currently, we have 242 seats in our auditorium. For those of you attending regularly, you will understand that number means we have very little walking space. Our aisles are narrow without much room to walk around the sides. The sanctuary was clearly not built to hold these many chairs. As a result, we are going to reduce the number of chairs and create a better space to move around before and after worship. Reducing chairs and rearranging will allow us to use the space better and be closer to 60% full each week.

*If this is a concern of yours and you would like to help our Church we suggest you consider attending both programs occasionally for the first few months to add extra bodies to help us achieve a comfortable number of attendees.

11. What about parking?

The leadership is in a discussion about adding another parking area behind the church in 2018. This would include a sidewalk and entrance area in the back of the building. Until then we hope the short break between programs will open spaces to make our parking less crowded. We also know that when necessary we can park in the grass to the east and west side of the building.

12. How will we get people to attend the new program?

In a sense, they are both new programs. One is earlier, and one is later than our current worship time. That means everyone who is a part of ACC will be choosing a new worship time. In conjunction with this change, we are going to do advertising through our website, Facebook, and possibly other means to make the community aware of the change.

13. Won't we need more volunteers?

In one sense, yes, we will need more volunteers. To have more programs, we will always need more help. In another sense, no, we don't need more people to serve. We are really hoping that everyone will choose to serve in one program and attend the other. This will allow everyone a time of worship while serving regularly.

14. What is going to happen with our children's program?

This is our current plan for ACC Kids.

First Worship Program:

During our first worship program, the **nursery will be open for children birth-3 years old**. The current **toddler/2s & 3s room will not be open** during this service. Our **Dive area will be open for 4 years-5th grade**. We will use the same curriculum as we use know but will change the format up a bit. The kids will have free play, worship, and the same type of activities that we have during second worship. Lesson time will be different by incorporating videos and stories. The kids will learn the same theme, memory verse and story during both worship programs, just presented differently for those kids who may attend both worship programs.

Second Worship Program:

Our current format for Children's Church will happen during our second worship program. We believe most people with children will enjoy the extra rest and unhurried schedule that a later program allows. The **nursery, toddler & Dive rooms will all be open** during this service.