



2016 ANNUAL REPORT



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOSHUA GAGNON

Jennifer and I are so honored that less than 9 years ago, God chose us to start Next Level Church. There isn't a week that goes by when I'm not amazed by all that God has done and even more amazed that He uses people like me. 2016 was, without question, the most fruitful year of our short history. Throughout this report, you will see some of the amazing numbers and read stories of people who now have an intimate relationship with Jesus because of the NLCers who radically give and serve! Every number has a name, every name has a story, and every story matters to God. This report is a celebration - we celebrate that God blessed every hour and every dollar that so many people gave!

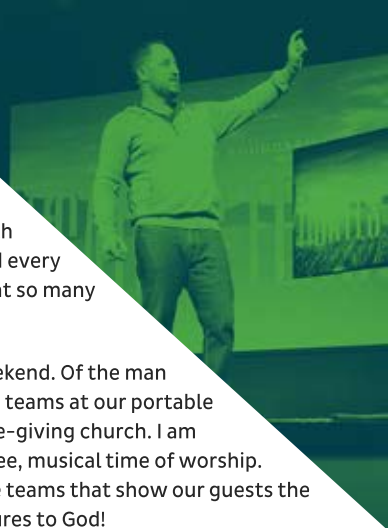
I can't help but think of the single mom or dad who gets their family ready for church, and also serves on the weekend. Of the man or woman who works 50 hours a week and still shows up on the weekend to serve. Of the set up and break down teams at our portable locations who arrive early and stay late in all kinds of weather so others can experience a loving, relevant and life-giving church. I am reminded of our band and production teams that perfect their gifts so that others can enter into a distraction free, musical time of worship. I am thankful for all of the NLC kids workers who pour themselves into the next generation and the guest service teams that show our guests the first smile of many of their weeks. NLC is made up of SO MANY amazing people who offer their talents and treasures to God!

I once heard it said that a movement isn't built on the gifts and sacrifice of one, but on the gifts and sacrifices of many! TOGETHER we are making a difference in our cities and towns. TOGETHER we are seeing the spiritually hardest regions softened by the love and grace of God. TOGETHER we are seeing lives forever changed and making a difference. TOGETHER we are seeing God write a story unlike any other in this world and TOGETHER we will see more than we've ever imagined! We have thousands of people who call NLC their home, but from my heart to yours, you alone are worth every bit of effort our staff gives every week! At NLC, you're never a number, you're always a ONE! A one who is loved, valued, cherished and a one that God has a HUGE plan for! Allow me to pray this over you as you live out this year:

Romans 15:13 "I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."



Pastor Joshua Gagnon



SALVATIONS

415

**TOTAL NUMBER OF
SALVATIONS IN 2016**

2,188

**TOTAL NUMBER OF
SALVATIONS IN NLC HISTORY**



BAPTISMS

253

TOTAL NUMBER OF
BAPTISMS IN 2016

1,118

TOTAL NUMBER OF
BAPTISMS IN NLC HISTORY



“BUT I CHOSE IN THAT MOMENT TO NO LONGER ALLOW MY CIRCUMSTANCES TO CONSUME ME.”

There are two truths that have surrounded me for much of my life. Those truths are this. You can allow the circumstances of your life to consume you or you can allow the circumstances of your life to propel you. It's easy for us to become consumed. I've found myself in many vicious cycles of hurt, frustration, and bitterness, especially while serving the church. I, in a sense, allowed my circumstance to paralyze my ability to serve God and essentially removed myself not just from the court but from the game altogether. That all changed at 6:30pm, Saturday, July 3rd, 2016. I made a choice. Now I could have ignored it. I could have said, thanks but no thanks. I could have said sorry, I don't do this anymore. I could have given some other names to try. Any number of excuses went through my head. But I chose in that moment to no longer allow my circumstances to consume me. I embraced the pursuit to find the fullness and greatness of God's potential. As much as I feared the unknown, as much as I felt unqualified, I said yes.

-Eriq





ATTENDANCE

5,476

HIGHEST ATTENDANCE // EASTER 2016

1,272

**HIGHEST KIDS ATTENDANCE //
EASTER 2016**

1,752

FIRST TIME GUESTS IN 2016





“I FELT NOTHING BUT LOVE, ACCEPTANCE, A SENSE THAT MAYBE I DO BELONG HERE.”

Four years ago, my world came crashing down. My faith, as far as I was concerned, was non-existent. How could God let this happen? I am a good person, why am I being tested to this extreme? Life has been horrifying to me. The church I attended before had abandoned me, I could not look at myself or my family and friends I have left without feeling shame and guilt. The next four years I suffered from agoraphobia and did not leave the house under any circumstance. The depression, fear, emptiness, guilt, and disgust plagued me everyday. Then, one day in January, I had to leave my house to get medicine for my parents and I saw the sign for NLC on the side of the road. I pulled over and sat for a few minutes and began to cry. It seems that God did not forget me! It took about 20 minutes of sitting in my car to send an email asking about the church. I was so scared to send that email in fear of judgement, rejection, another person telling me I didn't deserve to live for the things I had done. 10 minutes later, my location pastor called me and as soon as I answered, my heart and stomach were in my throat. But as he spoke, I felt nothing but love, acceptance, a sense that maybe I do belong here. That someone does value me. NLC has changed my life and has brought light to a dark chapter. Now, I attend NLC every Sunday and am on a path of restoration, a chapter of ever-increasing Godfidence, of building love for myself and God. I will never be able to put into words how important and special NLC is!

-Carl

NLC GROUPS

The Christian faith is deeply rooted in relationships. You were created to thrive in community with others and grow better together. NLC Groups are the people you grow, laugh, and serve with.



+18.2%

**INCREASE IN
NLC GROUPS**





“I HAVE FOUND A HOME WITH NLC.”

Approximately a year and a half ago, we moved to Maine to be closer to our families. The hardest thing for me in leaving Washington State was leaving my home church, one that was our family for over 5 years. For the longest time, leaving Washington was not an option for me BECAUSE of my church home. However, I came to realize that God would be with me wherever we went and that he had different plans for us as a family. When we arrived in Maine, I tried many different churches and none seemed to fit and then I accidentally stumbled upon NLC on Facebook. I had no idea that there was a church here that was similar to the church we attended in Washington. It was so similar, they even use the same curriculum in children's ministry, so I knew it would be a great place for my daughter to learn about Jesus and to grow in her faith. I went 7 months without a group and without a church I could call home and it was the hardest 7 months of my life. I slipped into a very deep depression as a result of some things that were happening in my life at the time. I was crying out to God to find us a church home and a women's group. That's when I discovered NLC and what a blessing it has been! Since then, the blessings have come pouring down and I can strongly say that I have found a home with NLC. Being a part of NLC has challenged me to step out of my comfort zone, has challenged me spiritually and has challenged me to be a part of something greater. NLC reminds me to keep my eyes focused on God through it all, good or bad.

-Danielle



NLC TEAMS

God is changing countless lives every week at Next Level Church, and behind every changed life are the faces of our NLC Teams volunteers. Whether it's helping guests find their way around, holding an infant, operating stage lights or anything in between, our volunteers are people's first connection to the power of Christ.



+14.6%

**INCREASE IN
NLC TEAMS**



FINANCES AND EXPENSES


+20.3%
INCREASE IN
GIVING

2016
\$3,162,178

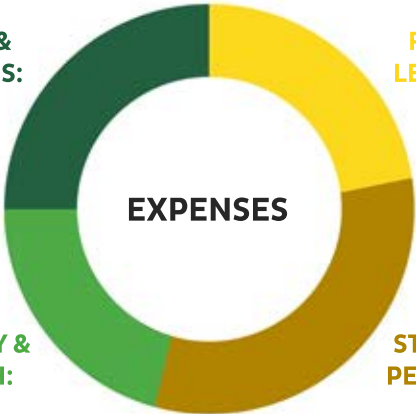
2015
\$2,628,623

**MINISTRY &
OPERATIONS:**
25.30%

**FACILITIES &
LEGAL: 22.40%**

**COMMUNITY &
OUTREACH:**
17.10%

**STAFFING &
PERSONNEL:**
35.20%





NEW LOCATIONS



3 NEW LOCATIONS

NLC SARATOGA

NLC CONWAY

NLC CHÂTEAUGUAY
(First international location!)

