



THE VALLEY  
**REMNANT**  
CHURCH

TAKE ROOT IN CHRIST, BEAR FRUIT IN LIFE.

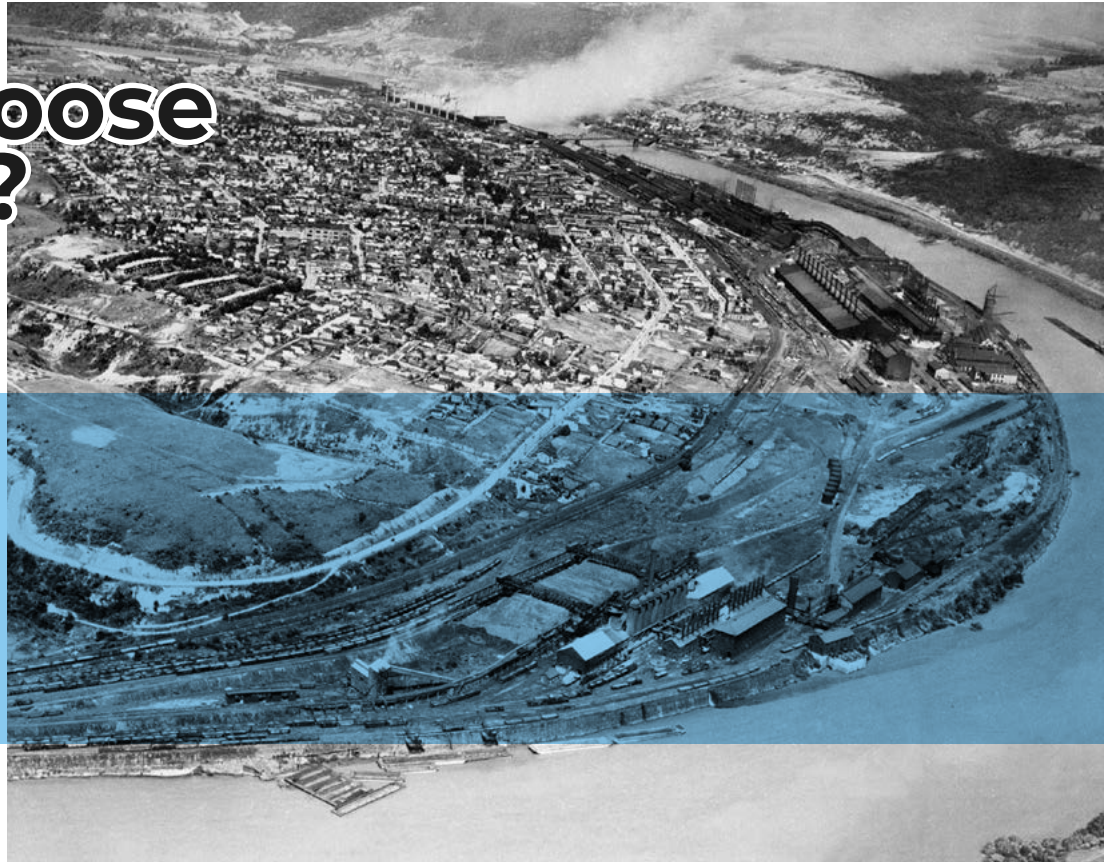


# church planting prospectus





# why choose donora?



## Welcome to Donora, PA – “Next to Yours the Best Town in the USA”

Donora, PA was established in 1901 and is known as the “Home of the Champions.” Though a very small town, Donora, PA has been home to some of the world’s greatest athletes, such as Dan L. Towler, Arnold A. Galiffa, Stan Musial, and Ken Griffey Sr. and Jr.! Most notably, though, Donora, PA is known for creation of the word “smog” – which is a combination of smoke and fog. In October 1948, the cool Donora, PA weather, combined with the warmer water from the Monongahela River, plus smoke from the world’s largest zincing facility – the Donora Zinc Works – caused smog to fall over Donora, PA. Thousands of residents were sickened and 26 people were killed by the smog. While this devastating event gave Donora, PA some fame (the Environmental Protection Agency was shaped and Earth Day resulted from the smog; Donora, PA claims “Clean Air Started Here”), it was simply notoriety. Smog, ultimately, helped create the decline of the steel industry,, killing thousands of jobs and taking the once thriving community of Donora, PA from 14,000 in population to nearly 4,500. This means that the entire population of Donora, PA can fit into Heinz Field almost 15 times.

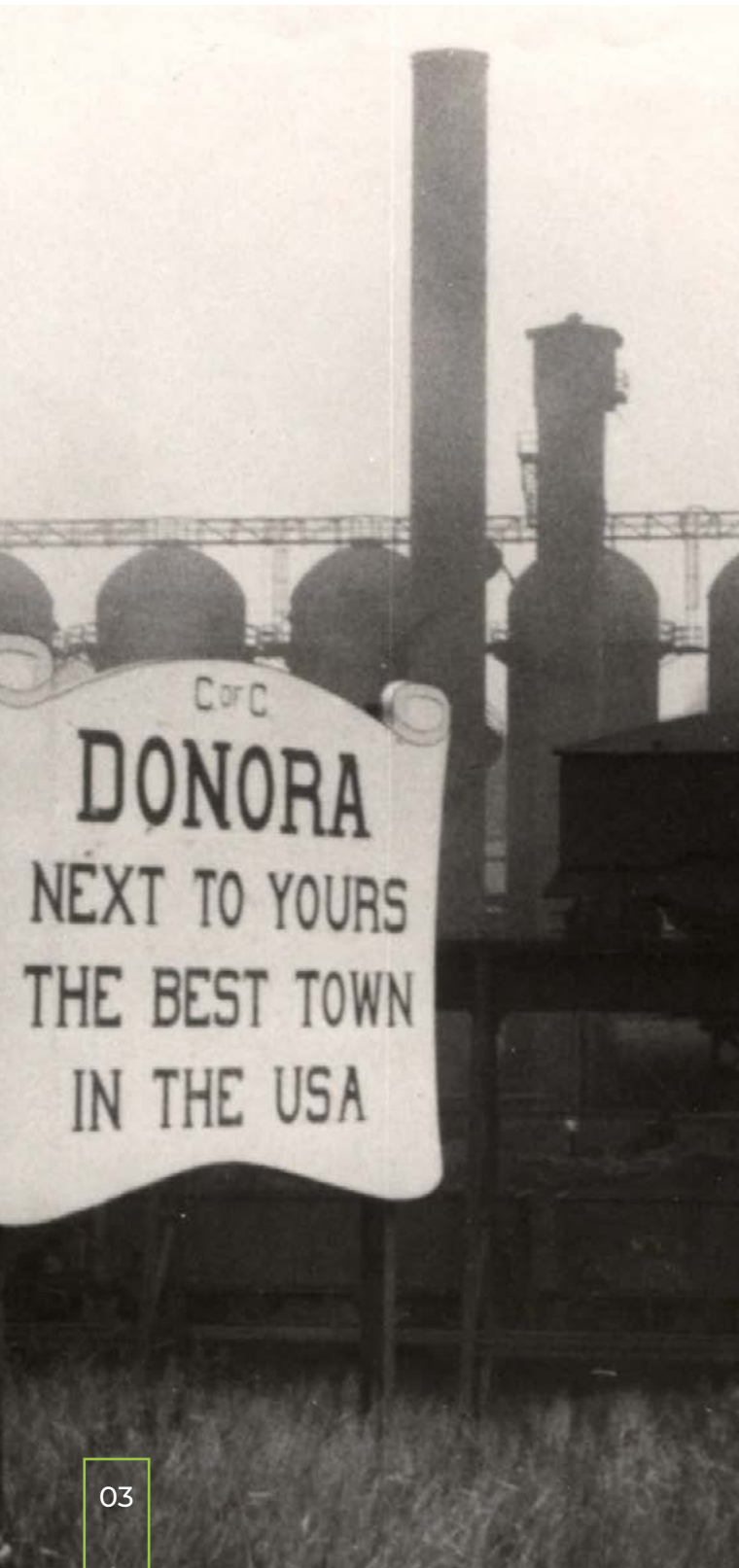
## Donora, PA Statistics\*

Donora, PA is a borough located in Washington County, Pennsylvania. In 1920, Donora, PA had a population of 14,131. But, in 2020, the population of Donora, PA was only 4,514 - which is a 5.58%



# “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.”

Matthew 9:37-38 CSB

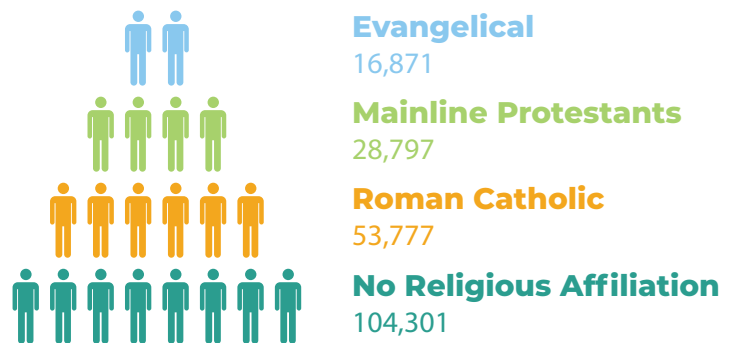


decrease since the 2010 census. Donora, PA is currently declining at a rate of -0.53% annually. Spanning over 2 miles, Donora, PA has a population density of 2,376 people per square mile.

The 3 largest ethnic groups in Donora, PA are White (Non-Hispanic) (77.01%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (19.27%), Two+ (3.28%), and Other (0.43%). 96.41% of Donora, PA residents speak only English, while 3.59% speak other languages. 99.4% of the residents in Donora, PA are U.S. citizens.

The average household income in Donora is \$43,906 with a poverty rate of 25.55%. The median rental costs in recent years comes to \$574 per month, and the median house value is \$55,700. The median age in Donora is 38 years, 32.7 years for males, and 42.7 years for females. As of 2021, there is no gas station, bank, or grocery store in the community.

\*Source: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/donora-pa-population>



Stats were created for Washington County, Pennsylvania in 2010.



# our location



## Hometown Missionary

Located along the Monongahela River, about 40 miles south of Pittsburgh, PA, stands an old, forgotten steel town that is ready for revival: called Donora, PA. Once filled with the hustle and bustle of the steel industry, and a thriving economy Donora, PA is now filled with decreasing population, deteriorating infrastructure, and debilitating stagnation. When you walk through the main streets of Donora, PA you can feel the busyness of the past – empty buildings and dilapidated factories – and that mindset carries throughout the people. Any Donora, PA native, who experienced the town

in its heyday, will express strong sentiments about the then-grandeur of the town, while also dismissing its current derelict state.

I was born and raised in Donora, PA and lived there, off and on, until I got married in 2014. Like a quintessential small town, my family has lived in Donora, PA for generations – both sets of grandparents, my parents, aunts, uncles, etc. Since the moment of my salvation, I have felt a strong Call to return to my hometown to share the Gospel. My wife, kids, and I moved to the area in January 2021, and we have made great



strides in understanding the current needs of the people. As we watch drugs, hopelessness, and memories of the past wander the streets, we know the only thing that can truly save Donora, PA: Jesus.

Almost every corner of the streets of Donora, PA has a dilapidated or dysfunctional church – Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Orthodox, Methodist, Charismatic, Satanic and more. Thus the need for the full gospel, true Christian community, and servant leadership by exam-

ple is strong. Donora, PA is begging to be filled with an outpouring of God's grace by the work of His saints – and The Valley Remnant Church seeks to be one of the means the Lord uses to rescue His people. The vision of The Valley Remnant Church is to plant a Christ-centred, multi-cultural church that glorifies God, cultivates Christian community, and by the grace of God, commissions others to do the same. We want to see the people of Donora "Take Root in Christ and Bear Fruit in Life."

# SMOG *helped create*

*the decline of the steel industry,  
killing thousands of jobs  
and taking the once  
thriving community of*

**DONORA, PA**  
*from 14,000  
in population to nearly*

**4,500**





# our intention



Life in a small town can be difficult. The increase in crime and drugs and decrease in population and morale are creating metaphorical ominous clouds over Donora, PA. Once these clouds bring a storm, the town may not recover. Thus, God has called us to plant The Valley Remnant Church in Donora, PA so that the light of the Gospel can shine through the darkness that was caused by the smog. With many churches in the community dying, the Gospel is not prevalent - a wide spiritual void exists. Yet, the people are oblivious to this spiritual drought. Their unwillingness to acknowledge the present because of the splendour of the past is harming their future.

The people of Donora, PA are in need of solid churches, with people who are able to model the Christian life by their conduct in the church, home, and community. Since most of the population of Donora, PA considers themselves to be “no religious affiliation” and the highest percentage of religious affiliation is Roman Catholic, the need for a healthy evangelical church cannot be neglected. The Valley Remnant Church seeks to come alongside the people of Donora, PA and show them the love, loyalty, and affection of Christ.



## The Achievable

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God can achieve far more than we can ask or think. Over 50% of the people in Donora, PA identify with “no religious affiliation.” With societal influences and the increasingly secular and unchurched environment, there are thousands of men and women separated from the church. These people are struggling with doubts, drug addiction, economic hardship, and depression. Because of the unfaithfulness of the churches in the area, unbiblical ideas and agendas are running rampant. How can we stop this? By being examples of an authentic Christian church. This does not mean to change the message of the Gospel or dismiss the questions of the people. The answer is to engage the doubters with compassion and without compromise. To tell them the Gospel clearly, to listen well and answer questions honestly, and to meet the felt needs of the people promptly. We desire to serve the least of these and to display the splendour of a community founded with a connection to the local church.

## The Conceivable

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We can conceivably reach approximately 4.5% of the Donora, PA population – which is about 200 people – to plant a new church, apart from The Valley Remnant Church. Of course, our goal is to reach as many people as possible, therefore missions need to be at the forefront of our minds. Through a strong evangelistic effort, and with much prayer, biblical leadership, and loving people by reflecting the love of Christ, we can accomplish this.

## The Believable

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We believe that, as the church, it is our job to reach the people around us. We want to be a church that plants Christ-centred, evangelical churches in the surrounding communities of the Mid-Mon Valley and, Lord willing, in some of the remote parts of the world. If we can grow a church to approximately 200 members, we would be able to fill the sanctuary of any of the local church buildings and multiply into other communities with healthy leaders and congregations. We want The Valley Remnant Church to grow in grace and to see the need to become a church that plants churches. In so doing, we will continue to follow the command of our Lord by Going, Sowing, and Growing the Word of God for the Kingdom of God for His glory and good of this generation and the generations to come.





# our vision

## TAKE ROOT IN CHRIST, BEAR FRUIT IN LIFE

### OUR VISION

*The vision of The Valley Remnant Church is to plant a Christ-centred, multi-cultural church that glorifies God, cultivates Christian community, and by the grace of God, commissions others to do the same.*





*Our mission is to express the transforming power of **Jesus Christ** by **GOING** to the community of **Donora, PA**, **SOWING** the seeds of the *Gospel*, and **GROWING** in the **love of God** and our neighbours.*

## GOING

The Valley Remnant Church will be founded on evangelistic principles. As we follow the commands of the Great Commission, we will live life inside of the community of Donora, PA. We will have an outward focus toward the people around us. It is a priority that we are GOING into the community and doing our best to meet the felt needs of the people.

## SOWING

As we are GOING, we will be SOWING the seeds of the Gospel. We will commit ourselves to telling people about how God sent His Son into the world to save people from their sin. We will not shrink back from telling people about the grace of God and His willingness to save a remnant out of this world to Himself. We will show the people of the community that they are made in God's Image and that they have a value and an ability to live for something greater than themselves.

## GROWING

As we gather weekly, we will be GROWING in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We will participate in worship through praying, singing Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, reading the Word of God, hearing expositional sermons, and administering the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Baptism by full emersion. We will be dedicated to the education of believers in hopes to raise biblically qualified Elders and Deacons who will be missionaries that will continue in the process of GOING, SOWING, and GROWING the Mid-Mon Valley or wherever the Lord may choose to send His people.



Let's go  
Dragons



All Scripture  
is inspired by  
God and is  
profitable for  
teaching, for  
rebuking, for  
correcting,  
for training in  
righteousness,  
work.

2 Timothy 3:16 (CSB)



# our doctrine

## Confessional

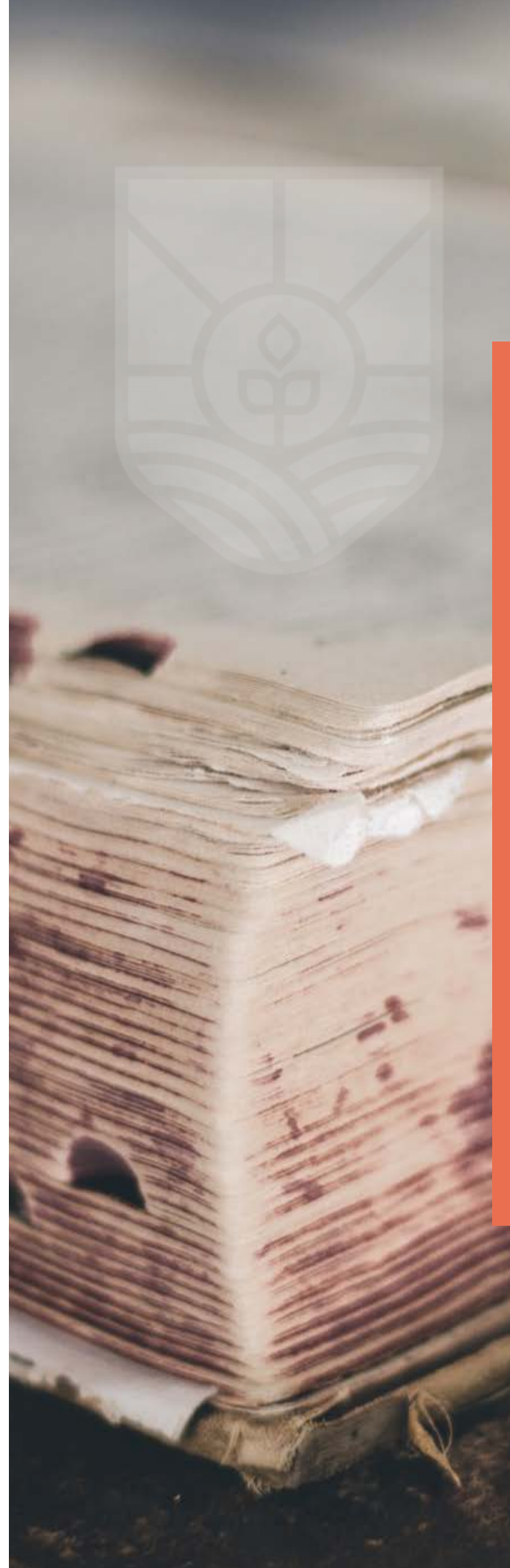
The Valley Remnant Church is founded on a commitment to historic Christianity as expressed in the Holy Scriptures. We believe the best expression of the system of doctrine that is contained in the Holy Scriptures are set forth in the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith.

## Baptistic

The Valley Remnant Church is made up of professed believers who have faith in Jesus Christ, who have been baptized, and who strive to live holy lives in the face of God and man. While we may be associated with other like-minded churches and conventions, we are independent and free to govern the life of the church to meet the needs of our community as we follow the standards of the Holy Scriptures, our confession of faith, and the church covenants.

## Elder-Led

The Valley Remnant Church will be an Elder-Led and congregational-ruled church. A local church, gathered and fully organized according to the mind of Christ, consists of officers and members. The officers appointed by Christ are overseers, or elders, and deacons.





# our leadership



## Philip A. Pagliari

My name is Philip Addison Pagliari and I was born and raised in Donora, PA. I am married to my wife, Nialyn, and we have two children - a son, Raphael, and a daughter, Sola Fide. Raised a Roman Catholic, I spent much of my early years following those principles. Around the age of 11-12 years old, I became rebellious and wanted no part of the church. Shortly after, I found myself living a drug-dealing and licentious lifestyle. Eventually, I ended up in jail. Not once, but three times.

While in prison the first two times, I attempted to find my way out – mentally and physically. So, I started reading the Bible and praying. Once I was released from prison, though, I engaged in the same activity that put me “behind the

walls.” The third prison experience, however, was different. In the days leading up to sentencing, I was placed in solitary confinement. While in solitary, they allowed us to have a Bible. I read from the book of John. Around the 13th Chapter, something happened to me. I was broken and flat on my face in repentance. I became a new man. From that moment on, I knew I had to tell everyone about what Jesus did.

Though I prayed for no jail time, I was sentenced to 3 ½ to 7 years with 5-years of probation. I wanted that get-out-of-jail-free card, but even better, I was released from the chains of my sin and misery. The conviction of my heart through the Holy Spirit was a miracle in and of itself. The Lord tested my patience, my faith,



and my trust. He allowed me to find what I was missing, the only thing that matters: Himself. All glory to God!

During my prison sentence, I stayed at the Pittsburgh Department of Corrections. There, I met Reverend Cornell Jones. Reverend Jones' passion for the Word and powerful preaching sparked my desire to share the Gospel. Once released from prison, I was placed in a halfway house and the One True Triune God continued to work on my heart and mind. I knew I needed to find a church home, so I planted my roots at First Baptist Church of Donora. The pastor at the time, Pastor Christopher Conti, challenged and directed my love and passion for Jesus Christ. Before I knew it, I found myself more hungry for the Word.

While in the halfway house, I obtained my Associate's Degree in Graphic Design from Pittsburgh Technical Institute. However, my desire to learn more about God was still in full-throttle; thus, I began to map my path to seminary. While mapping, Reverend Cornell Jones lead me to the Geneva Adult Degree Completion Program (GADCP). After completing GADCP, I enrolled and began my study at the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (RPTS).

Being a student at RPTS, studying for a Master of Divinity degree, was truly an honor. I had the opportunity to study under pastors who loved and wholeheartedly believed God's Word. The professor who left the largest impact on my journey and life was Dr. Barry York, who is currently the President of the seminary.

In order to keep a Baptist focus on my education at RPTS, I enrolled in the newly created Baptist Institute of Pittsburgh and completed all of the

available courses. It was there that I sat under the tutelage of Dr. Tom Nettles. Shortly after, because of my Reformed Baptist conviction, my wife and I became members of the Reformed Baptist Church of Pittsburgh (RBCP) under Pastor Brian Hart. As a Pastoral Intern at RBCP, I learned about church planting and preached regularly.

While at RBCP, I developed relationships with some Southern churches - Morningview Baptist Church, in particular. One of the pastors there, Dr. Jon English Lee, served and still serves as a mentor and sounding board for me.

Shortly before RBCP closed, my family and I searched for a church home that would train me as a church planter. We landed at River City Church under Pastor Eric Baldwin. Through Pastor Eric's training, I was able to locate various church planting networks - the Pillar Network (PN), being one. PN has connected me with a community of solid pastors who seek to pray, love, and support the mission on which God has set me. One pastor in particular is Pastor Grant Hinson. His wisdom and care has helped me feel confident in the path the Lord has laid out.

I intend, by God's grace, to tell all the people in Donora, PA about what Jesus has done to save His people from their sin. I am hopeful for the future, and eager to serve the Lord through preaching, teaching, discipling, counseling, and evangelism. After roughly four years of prison and more than two decades of living as an enemy of Christ, my family and I have moved back to the community that I once called home and we gather weekly to develop our core team and share the vision and mission of The Valley Remnant Church.



# our endorsements



**Eric Baldwin, Lead Pastor**  
**River City Church**  
*Swissvale, PA*

"I am very excited about what the LORD has done in Phil's life and the ministry that he is called to. The Monongahela River Valley is in desperate need of more gospel preachers and Phil is passionate about sharing the good news with everyone he meets. I have no doubt that God will be glorified through Phil's life and the church."



**Rev. Christopher T. Conti, M.D., Lead Pastor**  
**Emmanuel Pittsburgh**  
*Rankin, PA*

"I am honored to call Philip my friend and brother in Christ. I have been blessed to witness the exciting and transformative power of God's work and plan in and through his personal & professional life and ministry, as a husband, father, friend, mentor and Pastor. Philip exemplifies the biblical tenets of a servant-leader, and I have no doubt that God will continue to use him mightily in the next chapter in his ministry leadership and journey with the Lord."



**Brian K. Hart, President**  
**Baptist Institute of Pittsburgh**  
*Homestead, PA*

"I have been blessed to have known Phil as both a student and as a member of my former church, The Reformed Baptist Church of Pittsburgh. Seldom have I seen a man so committed to reaching the lost, disenfranchised, and downtrodden with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am excited to see how the Lord will bless the people of Donora, PA through Phil and his family."



**Grant Hinson, Associate Pastor**  
**Park Baptist Church**  
*Rock Hill, SC*

"From the first time I met Phil, I recognized right away his excitement and joy for serving the Lord. Phil's faith in Christ and willingness to do whatever the Lord would have him do is contagious. His desire to see healthy churches planted in Donora and across the nation is an encouragement to me as a pastor."



**Barry York, Ph.D., President**  
**Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary**  
*Pittsburgh, PA*

“A graduate of Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, I have seen up close the heart for the Lord and His Word that Pastor Phil Pagliari possesses. He desires to bring the gospel to those who are needy sinners and see the Lord create a church community that expresses the unity of Christ’s body among various social and ethnic groups.”



**Jon English Lee, Ph.D., Pastor of Discipleship**  
**Morningview Baptist Church**  
*Montgomery, AL*

“I have observed in Philip an undeniable zeal for truth and a love for people, both of which will serve him well in ministry. I’m excited to see what God will do through him and his sweet family in the coming years. His personal testimony, authenticity, and humility all serve to endear him to those whom he meets, and will be invaluable in his service to the Lord among the people of Pennsylvania.”



**Cornell Jones, Pastor**  
**Iron Cross Community Ministries**  
*Pittsburgh, PA*

“I’ve been blessed to know Philip for the past 10 years. I was his chaplain and pastor while he was incarcerated. While being locked up he was a huge support and leader for the men that he was incarcerated with. He was extremely dependable and knowledgeable about the Word of God. Philip was one of the men that kept in touch with me after leaving the prison. I’m blessed to call him my brother and my friend.”



**Thomas J. Nettles, Ph.D., Prof. Emeritus of Historical Theology**  
**The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**  
*Louisville, KY*

“Phil Pagliari is a persevering, consistent Christian. He maintains a deep love of the truth of Scripture, the beauty and power of the gospel, and the transformation it brings to life now and the hope of eternal life. His commitment to the local church and its place on God’s purpose arises from a deep sense of God’s call on his life.”



# our timeline

## GOING

June 2021 – December 2021

- Continue to build core team
- Build strategic partnerships
- Lead vision tours with potential church and ministry partners
- Develop discipleship and leadership development strategy
- Establish regular meetings with key pastors
- Attend neighborhood events
- Network with other gospel workers in the community
- Finalize church documents & solidify incorporation status
- Practice relational evangelism and hospitality
- Disciple new believers
- Identify potential Deacons and Elders
- Purchase a meeting location

## SOWING

January 2022 – April 2022

- Establish pre-launch interest and worship meetings
- Take core team through initial membership process
- Launch new small groups on a needed basis
- Establish age specific ministries
- Develop leaders
- Launch first “public” service
- Meet for corporate worship each Sunday

## GROWING

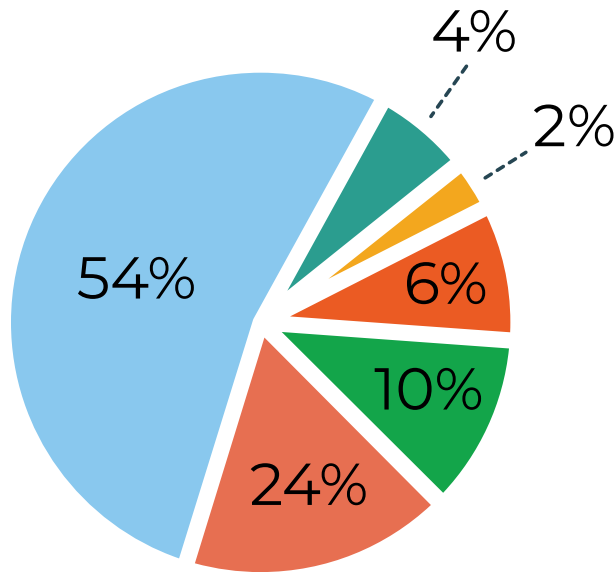
May 2022 – Beyond

- Begin formal small group leader training
- Continue different mercy ministries in the city
- Develop plans for future church planting
- Cultivate national and international missions’ partnerships
- Establish internship program
- Establish consistent national & international mission trips
- Add Elders and staff on needed basis





# our budgetary needs



**LEADERSHIP: \$54,000**

**FACILITIES: \$24,000**

**OUTREACH: \$10,000**

**EQUIPMENT: \$6,000**

**ADMINISTRATION: \$4,000**

**DISCIPLESHIP: \$2,000**

**Total Annual Budget: \$100,000**

## Our Need

While Donora, PA is not an expensive place to call home, the majority of the people are impoverished, with little or nothing to give. Proper pastoral care requires a full-time commitment to ministry. My family and I are moving directly into Donora, PA – we are in the process of selling our home (which is about 14 minutes from Donora, PA). Additionally, we are purchasing an old church building that sits smack in the middle of Donora, PA. The building is in excellent condition and is turn-key ready for worship. Our personal finances have, thus far, carried our church planting endeavours; ergo, we are in great need to raise funding support for this mission. Being a missionary in your hometown may seem strange, but the work is unique and important. Bringing a healthy church and the Gospel message to a run-down, steel-town is just as important as bringing it to a remote, uncharted land. It is often difficult to plant churches in areas of the world where the direct economy has wasted away. So, it is very likely that we will need to raise support for an extended period of time. It is our prayer that God will lead you or your church to help us on our mission as we express the transforming power of Christ by GOING to the community of Donora, PA, SOWING the seeds of the Gospel, and GROWING in the love of God and our neighbours.



# our partnership needs

## CONNECT

Do you know someone who lives in or near Donora, PA that would benefit from being part of The Valley Remnant Church? We would love to connect with them and share more about The Valley Remnant Church and how they can become a part of the mission. Please contact **Philip Pagliari** at [info@valleyremnant.com](mailto:info@valleyremnant.com) or **412-969-5499**.

## PRAY

We have not because we ask not. We need God's presence and power to accomplish His work. Would you join us in asking for God's provision and blessing upon The Valley Remnant Church? We desire to partner with others in the body of Christ to ask God to draw the lost to Himself, to establish His church in Donora, PA and to bless the work of The Valley Remnant Church. To sign up for our Prayer Update, please contact **Philip Pagliari** at [info@valleyremnant.com](mailto:info@valleyremnant.com) or **412-969-5499**.

## GIVE

We are confident that God will supply all that is needed to plant The Valley Remnant Church through the resources and gifts of God's people. He has already begun doing so through the giving from our core group. We also need the additional financial support of partnering churches and individuals to establish and build up The Valley Remnant Church. Since we are confident in what God has called us to and confident that God will provide, we ask you to give — whether that is a one-time gift or a monthly contribution. Our greatest need is to develop a team of monthly givers who support The Valley Remnant Church over the next five to eight years. To learn more about how you can give, please contact **Philip Pagliari** at [info@valleyremnant.com](mailto:info@valleyremnant.com) or **412-969-5499**.

## GO

We believe God is working to build the right team to plant their lives and reach those far from Christ in Donora, PA. Perhaps He is calling you to be a part of our team. We invite you to join our team for one of the most exciting journeys of your life as we see God move mightily together. We look forward to seeing how the Lord will call people to serve with us. If you are interested in learning more about joining our church planting team, please contact **Philip Pagliari** at [info@valleyremnant.com](mailto:info@valleyremnant.com) or **412-969-5499**.



## Giving By Check?

All gifts are tax deductible.

Checks and gifts should be made payable to “River City Church” with ***The Valley Remnant Church*** on the memo line and mailed to:

**River City Church**  
**2037 Noble Street**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15218**

## Giving Online?

**DIRECT LINK:** <https://rivercitypgh.churchcenter.com/giving/to/valley-remnant>

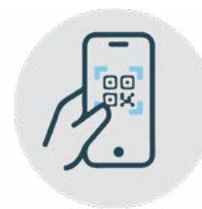
**DESKTOP COMPUTER:** Go to [rivercitypgh.com](http://rivercitypgh.com). Click “DONATE” (top right). Input the Dollar amount and click the drop down arrow to the right and select Valley Remnant. Click Frequency and select if this will be recurring or a one-time gift. Fill out your contact information and click continue to complete the transaction.

**SMARTPHONE:** Go to [rivercitypgh.com](http://rivercitypgh.com). Scroll to the bottom click “DONATE.” Input the Dollar amount and click the drop down arrow to the right and select Valley Remnant. Click Frequency and select if this will be recurring or a one-time gift. Fill out your contact information and click continue to complete the transaction.

**QR CODE:**



TURN ON  
CAMERA APP



FRAME  
THE QR



CLICK  
THE POP-UP

## Giving By Text?

Text **84321** with you donation of any amount and use keyword **valley** (ex. \$1000 valley). You may be prompted to set up an account.

# contact us



THE VALLEY  
**REMNANT**  
CHURCH

## ADDRESS

234 Starlite Circle  
Rostraver, PA 15012

## PHONE

412-969-5499

## WEB & EMAIL

Web: [www.valleyremnant.com](http://www.valleyremnant.com)  
Email: [info@valleyremnant.com](mailto:info@valleyremnant.com)

