

Longleaf 210 Presentation to Church Council  
Update September 11, 2016

Longleaf @ 210 is on the move. As most programs decrease over the summer and as people vacation, Longleaf @ 210 continued to move forward.

As you might remember at our Last council meeting, I had to leave early to begin our first marriage discipleship group.

We started with 4 couples, two from the church and two from our neighborhood. We had great discussion and with preparations for school to begin, etc... we will begin again in October. Just on our street, we have welcomed some 15 new families during the summer months to Aberdeen and St. Johns. ( I met one last night from Indiana who are huge Steeler fans!)

We are experiencing even greater growth from the last time I spoke. Since I last spoke, we have witnessed the unveiling of news of Durbin Park, a 3 Phase development project that will include some 2.3 million sq. feet of retail, 2.6 million sq. ft of office, and over 1000 homes along with hotels, Bass Pro Shops, etc... It is so detailed now, that we know exactly where Sam's Club, Lowes, Publix is coming. The tearing down of land has already occurred.

We also witnessed over the summer the announcement of North Florida's largest athletic complex to be built. This 175,000 sq. facility will house soccer, baseball, softball, football, basketball, indoor fitness and much more. This will be built in the Racetrack Road/St. Johns Parkway area.

What we are experiencing right now is a massive growth of commercial development in St. Johns County along with the potential for massive home development. I've seen recent numbers in the papers that in excess of 65,000 home build permits have been approved.

This exponential growth has captured the direct attention of our District Superintendent, Jay Therrell as well as our Bishop, Ken Carter and the attention of our Conference Director of New Church Development, Dan Jackson. We are actively involved in conversations as to how our faith sharing efforts are making a direct impact with the people in the 210 corridor.

With all of this being said, Longleaf @ 210 has plenty of faith sharing to do! During the summer, we have

Community Events:

1. Aberdeen - Had a summer welcome party at the Amenity Center, complete with food trucks, live music, swimming, booths, and more! We have struck a great partnership

with Aberdeen, who currently has 1000+ homes and is in the midst of building 1000 more homes in the next few years.

2. Renee Vrtikapa was so generous to let us use her house as a hospitality station for a Longleaf @ 210 Block Party and Movie. This event was supported heavily by our youth and our church. A special thank you to all who came out as well as Renee and Sydney Vrtikapa for their warmth and hospitality.

### Fresh Expressions

1. This past Thursday, Pastor Will and I trained almost 15 people from our church and community into being potential Fresh Expression Leaders. One of the best things about this night was seeing the passion come from their eyes and mouths as they expressed what God has laid in their hearts. We are building the base and the foundation for greater growth of Fresh Expressions.
2. Kayaking With Jeff continues to grow. In June, we had nearly 60 kayakers and paddleboarders on the water and in August we had nearly 50 kayakers. We saw many newcomers at the last event from the community and I will be meeting new people at this coming Saturday's Kayaking adventure at Guana Reserve. I learned from Will yesterday that Fresh Expression US, the national group are using one of our kayaking videos to promote in their conference.

### Discipleship Groups

1. Our discipleship group leaders met with Pastor Will and Rev. Barry Lane a few weeks back to understand the new adult discipleship model that is being presented here at Mandarin.
2. Our discipleship groups are going to be starting together the first week of October along CR 210. We have 5-6 potential groups to begin meeting or already are. Finding leaders has been the most difficult so far, but with the new model that Will and the Adult Discipleship team has developed, we are hoping for multiplication!
3. Small Group Coordinator - Because of our increasing presence along county road 210, we will be adding a Small Group Coordinator to assist with the administrative duties along with the organization of discipleship groups, fresh expressions and with community events. This person will Collect visitor information from Longleaf @ 210 events, including first-time visitor information, special requests on connection cards, and any other vital and valuable information in the growth and ministry of our church as it relates to Longleaf @ 210. We are currently engaging with about 200 people throughout the various methods of meeting people of community events, fresh expressions and discipleship groups. This position will be a 10 hr a week position at a salary of \$7,800, which has already been approved by SPR and Finance and is a part of the 2017 budget.

As our demographics have shown for CR 210, this is a highly affluent area and the religiosity is much lower than the state and national average, however, these are good,

moral people who may not realize what they are missing out on, a faith in Jesus Christ and it is our responsibility to push forward and share that faith.  
I thank God that there were pioneers some 142 years ago who said the people of a little community of Mandarin were worth going after.

We have much happening along CR 210 and it will continue to grow as we reach out in faith.

PROMO VIDEO of Longleaf @ 210 - <https://youtu.be/Sp6OncZ6Vy8>

Presentation Submitted by Rev. Jeff St. Clair