

# Imagine What God Might Do

## CATCH A VISION FOR CHURCH PLANTING IN NORFOLK

Nearly two million people live in Southeast Virginia, and over 230,000 live in Norfolk. For years, Norfolk has been given the ominous label, “where church plants go to die.” But God is bringing new life to the city. On February 6–7, 2023, nearly 30 pastors and SBCV leaders from across Virginia gathered to catch a vision for church planting in Norfolk.

Three church planters made presentations Monday evening: Tanner Hogue, planting **Port City Church** in Norfolk; Carey Julien, planting **Pillar Norfolk**; and Dylan Lebakken, planting through **Little Creek Church** in Norfolk. Those gathered learned of the deep lostness throughout Norfolk and received encouragement from the stories of God’s calling on these church planters.

Tuesday included a bus tour led by Pastor Caleb Dininny (Little Creek

Church), who pointed out aspects of the city: its historical roots, financial and cultural centers, and neighborhoods of great wealth and great poverty. The tour periodically stopped at strategic locations for the group to pray for God to raise up and strengthen new churches in Norfolk. Participants then had lunch with international students from Old Dominion University at the Global Friendship Venture ministry center. Over 25 nations were represented, displaying the Great Commission opportunity to plant churches in Norfolk.

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 contends, “It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations” (Article XI). SBCV’s partnership with the North American Mission Board through Send Virginia has opened up new channels of prepara-

tion and support for church planting in Hampton Roads.

How can your church get involved? Below are three ideas to consider.

**First**, pray that God would continue to raise up laborers for the harvest (Luke 10:2).

**Second**, give through *Vision Virginia* and support church planting across the state.

**Third**, build a relationship with an SBCV church planter and lead your church to support spreading the Gospel through church planting in Norfolk.

Imagine what God might do as your church and other SBCV churches make disciples in Norfolk and Greater Hampton Roads!

### RESOURCE:

For more information or to connect with a church planter in Norfolk, email Jeff Mingee:



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*Pastors from around Virginia gathered to learn of the deep lostness throughout Norfolk.*

