

# The Gathering

Elim is looking for a drummer, two bass players, and a sound technician to enable us to continue offering our Saturday night service, The Gathering, and to expand it to a weekly second service option. We also need children’s workers to be able to offer age-appropriate worship to our youngest members.

The Gathering takes its name from the word used in the New Testament to describe the church. It was a gathering of believers to worship God. This is what we are striving for at Elim.

Last year the Elders were looking at needing a second service to accommodate all the people wanting to worship at Elim. We have tried a second service on Sundays before but it has been difficult to gain traction for an earlier service.

The Elder Board considered options including planting another church and a Saturday night service as alternatives. Planting a church is a worthy option but it requires setting up an entirely separate physical location and staff. We still have a lot of untapped potential within the physical walls of Elim and a second service on our site uses the same staff and the same Elder Board and the same body of believers. A Saturday night service allows us to more fully use the assets God has already provided to us. It also opens up new attendance options for our body and for our community.

Needs	Must Have	Sustaining
Drums	1	2
Bass	2	2-3
Lead Instrumentalist		1-2
Support Instrumentalist		2-3
Sound	1	2
Male vocals		1

**We also need four children’s workers each week.**



A core group of people were gathered together and called the Creative Team. We have tried a number of things on Saturday nights including tables in the sanctuary, loaves of bread and carafes of juice for communion, lighting changes, videos, skits, disappearing ink to demonstrate expiation, and a more interactive format.

Many of these things have made their way into Sunday mornings, too. Saturday night has provided a place to try different ways to expand our understanding and practice of worship to God. In this, The Gathering has already been hugely successful.

Another generation of believers and a number of people who are not able to worship on Sundays have embraced The Gathering and taken ownership of it. Elissa Hirschfelder answered the call to lead the effort to continue and expand in creativity on both Saturdays and Sundays.

But, our original goal has been to provide a second worship service. After holding three or four services, the Creative Team, now The Gathering Team, chose to increase the frequency of services to every other week through the summer and potentially begin weekly services at the time of the fall kick-off.

We found, not surprisingly, that it is a lot of work. Our pastors have supported the additional evening of ministry, but we have found that it takes a huge time commitment from our worship and sound teams.

The worship team leaders put together a plan to support weekly services on both Saturday and Sunday. This plan has several holes that must be filled for us to begin weekly Gatherings, but there are even more needs for us to sustain them over the long haul and give our ministry teams the regular rest that God has created them to need.

For The Gathering to flourish, it must be the ministry of the body at Elim. We can provide a place for our community to connect with God and to grow, serve and multiply.

Consider what role you can play in this ministry:

If you have musical ability, please talk to Brian Waple.

If you can learn to run our sound board, please talk to Ralph Hirschfelder.

If you can operate the slide presentation software, please talk to Jerry Kasper.

If you have ideas for creative worship, please see Elissa Hirschfelder.

If you can minister to our children, please see Cheryl Weller.

If you want to be a part of The Gathering in any way, please see me, Dan Amos.

We don't need more money or more space to greatly expand His kingdom on South Hill. We just need you.

For The Gathering Team

Dan Amos