



The INDIANAPOLIS Mission

www.benhein.us/planting

"I have had the privilege of working with Ben the past few years in ministry in the local church together. I have so appreciated his pastoral heart, his love for others inside and outside of the church, and his regular practice of opening his home. Most of all, though, I have appreciated his opening of the Word and reminding me afresh of Jesus' particular love for His Bride. As Ben continues to grow and rest in Jesus' love for Him, he is a pastor who will help you do the same. Isn't that what we need?"

Rev. Charlie Baile, Senior Pastor
Shady Grove Presbyterian Church

"I booked Ben on an episode of the *Oprah Conversation* for AppleTV+ and was so inspired by the passion both he and Neva have for racial justice. They have put in the hard work required to enlighten themselves of the pressing need in their community. I would gladly recommend them to others as dialogue partners and co-laborers in the work of racial justice and reconciliation."

Corinne Gilliard, Producer

"I am so encouraged by the discipleship relationship God has forged between Ben Hein and myself. I'm the older "discipler" but I've learned just as much from Ben as I hope he has learned from me. Specifically, I am so impressed by his love for people outside the church. His patient evangelistic zeal impresses and emboldens me."

Randy Newman, Senior Fellow, The C. S. Lewis Institute
Author of *Questioning Evangelism* and other works

"Through our partnership with Ben and Neva, we were able to give back to our local community by making a safe place for community-building dialogue. It is clear that Ben and Neva not only have a heart for their neighbors and community, but they also want to see the locally-owned businesses in their area thrive. We would readily recommend a partnership with them to any other local businesses who are looking to invest back into their community."

Brendan and Bailey O'Leary, Co-Owners
True Respite Brewing Company

"As a person and a pastor, Ben Hein embodies Jesus's concern for the vulnerable and survivors of abuse in his ministry. I am thankful for pastors like Ben who see the need to shift the culture in churches to better prevent and respond to abuse and create a safe space for those who have been harmed."

Mike Sloan, Director of Safeguarding
GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in a Christian Environment)

Table of Contents

The Story	4
Meet the Hein Family	5
Our Sending Church: Redeemer Presbyterian Church	6
The Residency	7
Our Values	8
Partnering with Us	10

The Story

Have you ever seen one of those viral videos from a popular audition show, such as *American Idol*? The videos almost always begin with someone who we might not expect much from. However, once they begin to sing, we are blown away by their hidden talents. When they tell us about themselves, we are amazed by their unique story, the challenges they've faced, and the opportunity they've been given.

The city of Indianapolis is a little bit like one of these contestants. Upon first hearing the name "Indianapolis," many people quickly dismiss this city as just another Midwest city. However, if you pause to let Indy tell its story, you will be blown away by its beauty and soul - just as we have.

Consider, for example, Indy's many historic neighborhoods that make up the city. Most homes in these neighborhoods have large porches in front, which have given way to a city-wide movement of "porching," where neighbors gather and hang out regularly.

Organizations like The Harrison Center, an art center in downtown Indy, are working to make the city a beautiful and artistic place. Their many initiatives, such as The Greatriarchs, are helping preserve the city's history through art and story.

Indy is also home to a wonderful zoo, museums, and a Children's Center; all help make the city a great place for families. As the city with the most war memorials after Washington D.C., Indy has many landmarks and sprawling parks that capture both state and national history.

However, like any other city, it has its many challenges. Many of Indy's neighborhoods remain heavily separated by race and socio-economic class, leaving several of these neighborhoods in poverty. The ongoing phenomenon of gentrification only adds to these challenges, favoring the "haves" and further oppressing the "have nots."



With less than 50% of the city identifying as religious in any way, there is a desperate need for more churches to be planted to reach this city. This is our desire - to plant a church that will make God's Kingdom known through the preaching of the gospel as well as through tangible works of mercy and justice in Indianapolis.

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

- Psalm 105:1



Meet the Hein Family

Ben and **Neva** have been married since 2013. **Ben** received his B.S. in Computer Science from James Madison University (2009) and his Master of Divinity from Reformed Theological Seminary, D.C. (2017). He has been serving in ministry since 2012 in a variety of contexts, including Mclean Bible Church and Sojourn Fairfax (Acts 29). He joined the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) in 2017 and has been pastoring at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church since then. **Ben** was recently featured as a special guest in two episodes of *The Oprah Conversation* with Dr. Ibram X. Kendi and Isabel Wilkerson.

Neva received her B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from UC San Diego (2009) and M.S. in Predictive Analytics from Northwestern University (2015). She has been working in a variety of roles since 2009, including engineering project management and data science.

Through their ministry together, **Ben** and **Neva** have developed a heart for hospitality, evangelism, and tangible expressions of mercy. As adult converts to Christianity, they recognize the transformative impact of the gospel and truly believe that the grace of Jesus Christ changes everything. Their desire is to make their home a safe place for the weary, hurting, abused, and skeptic to find healing and answers in Christ. Their shared hope is to help plant a church that has a corporate expression of ministry with similar values and concerns.

Ben and **Neva** are proud parents to Felix (born 2018) and Kaius (born 2020). When they have “free” time, you’ll probably catch them exploring the city, either at a park or eating at a new food joint they found on Instagram. Their 11-year-old black lab, Beau, often feels left out but is not forgotten.

Our Sending Church: Redeemer Presbyterian Church

Ben will formally begin his church planting residency at Redeemer Presbyterian in Indianapolis on June 1, 2021. As their host and sending church, Ben and Neva will be a part of Redeemer's beautiful story that God has been writing in Indy for over two decades. Their ministry DNA and values will be a big part of the future church that is planted at the end of this residency in 2023.

When Redeemer began in 1998, it drew its congregation primarily from the surrounding urban neighborhoods. The early founders of Redeemer placed a large emphasis on their urban calling. This has developed as a part of Redeemer's identity, and as they have expanded to have attendees coming from all over Indianapolis, they have grown in their understanding of what it means to live out the Gospel where they are. Redeemer believes their calling is to bring

everything we are (our intellect, organization, creativity, spreadsheets, songs, education, mechanical ability, tender spirit) into every situation and look to the Lord for what he wants us to bring there. That means our work, school, home, studio, dog walk route, apartment complex, and bus commute all need our full attentiveness as to how we can be ambassadors of a heavenly kingdom here on earth.

From their historic multi-use facility (including 30 artists, the Harrison Center, ArtMix), to their members' involvement in our city's schools, cultural institutions, and neighborhood development, Redeemer is a community in the city for the city. They truly love Indianapolis and want to serve the city in which they live. Their heart is to equip and release their members to seek the common good of our city and to see new communities of grace planted in neighborhoods all over Indianapolis.

Redeemer's stated mission is, "Connecting people to Jesus who is

bringing wholeness to the city." Ben and Neva are excited to be a part of this mission, first through this residency, and then through a new church plant.

For more information on Redeemer, please check out their [website](#) and [core values](#).



The Residency

Ben will spend two years as an Assistant Pastor and Church Planting Resident at Redeemer Presbyterian Church. This residency is design to give Ben and Neva time to get to know Redeemer and its members, get to know the city and its residents, focus on various areas of development and growth, and choose a location for the new church. At the end of this residency, Ben and Neva will partner with a core group of members from Redeemer to be sent out into the city to start a new church somewhere in Indy.

The goals and timeline of this residency are explained at a high level below.

YEAR 1: LEARN REDEEMER AND ITS MINISTRY



- Participating on pastoral team and session
- Discipleship through small groups
- Preaching occasionally and teaching
- Evangelism
- Start-up skills
- Pastoral care and shepherding
- Personal development
 - Leadership coaching
 - Counseling
 - Guided reading
- Checkpoint – confirm a mutual fit and intent to plant

YEAR 2: LEARN AND PREPARE FOR CHURCH PLANTING

- Laying groundwork for the church plant
 - Develop vision, values, and ministry philosophy
 - Identify site
 - Raise up launch team
 - Fundraise
 - Hire Assistant Pastor to join the launch team
- Personal development
 - Leadership coaching
 - Church planter training



Our Values

As planters from Redeemer Presbyterian Church, much of our “ministry DNA” will reflect the current core values and ministry philosophy of Redeemer. Our desire is for this new church to be a reflection of Redeemer while also reflecting some of our own core commitments for ministry expression. While we have not yet begun to articulate what the core values for this future church will be, here are some of our own values that make up our core convictions.

1. A Commitment to Christ-Centered Ministry and the Reformed Tradition

We happily count ourselves as part of the Reformed and Presbyterian (PCA) tradition. We find this tradition and doctrine to be biblically faithful. Most importantly, we believe this tradition helps us uphold Christ as the only hope and savior for mankind; as the true love our hearts are seeking after. In addition, we believe our appreciative articulation of this tradition gives us the ability to affirm all of this tradition’s strengths, while also growing in areas where this tradition has been historically weak or wrong (such as complicity in racial sins and injustice). See *The Westminster Standards, Confessing the Faith* by Dr. Chad Van Dixhoorn, *On Being Presbyterian* by Dr. Sean Michael Lucas, and *The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby.

2. Expressive Worship

We believe that the worship life of the church should express the joy of God’s redeemed people (Psalm 33:3, Psalm 47:1, Isaiah 12:6). As a result, we want the worship life of our church to be filled with beautiful music and expressive worshipers (Psalm 81:2, 149:3). Our hope is that our worship might express a beautiful blend of historic hymns, the gospel and spiritual tradition, and contemporary hymns. See *Give Praise to God: A Vision for Reforming Worship* edited by Philip Graham Ryken, *Free at Last?* by Dr. Carl Ellis Jr., and the *African American Heritage Hymnal*.

3. Accessible Community and Ministry

We affirm that the Christian community should have clear boundary markers (such as church membership). We also believe that our churches and spaces should be “porous,” in that they are accessible to those who are outside, with several entry points and ways to join in the life of our Christian community. Our desire is that the culture of our church will be accessible and intelligible to those who are outside the church, even those who do not share our faith (1 Corinthians 14:23-25). See *Center Church* by Tim Keller and *The Art of Community* by Charles H. Vogl

4. Encouragement and Use of Gifts

A local church should be the most encouraging place in the neighborhood (Acts 14:22, 1 Thessalonians 5:14, Hebrews 3:13). Our desire is for this church to be filled with regular encouragement, a space where we use our words and actions to build others up. We want to strengthen one another by using our gifts (1 Corinthians 12) to serve the body, as well as embolden others to grow in their gifts and leadership. See *Encouragement* by Larry Crabb, *Strong and Weak* by Andy Crouch, and *Designed to Lead* by Eric Geiger and Kevin Peck

5. Unity in Diversity

We believe that God has woven a beautiful tapestry in humanity which is made up of many different tribes, tongues, and languages. We are not naive to the very real challenges of expressing our future hope (Revelation 7:9) in a present world that is filled with racism, sexism, and abuse, let alone the many basic misunderstandings we have. Our desire is to make a safe place to talk about these issues, where we can engage present injustice as well as our many differences, in order to foster greater unity in our diversity. See *Divided by Faith* by Michael Emerson and Christian Smith, *Becoming All Things* by Dr. Michelle Reyes, and *The Beautiful Community* by Dr. Irwyn Ince.

6. Generous Hospitality

We believe that Christ has been overwhelmingly generous and hospitable toward us by welcoming us into his family. His followers are to do likewise (Luke 14:12-14). Hospitality is the means by which God not only strengthens relationships among his followers, but it is also a primary entry point for non-Christians to experience the love of the Body of Christ. See *Making Room* by Christine Pohl and *Meals with Jesus* by Tim Chester.

7. Safe Community

We believe that the transforming power of the gospel creates compassionate, empathetic, and tender-hearted Christians who want to grow in their love and care for others. As a result, we hope that our church will reflect a safe place for all people to share the most broken and wounded part of their lives; a place where they can find a community of grace, comfort, and healing. See *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Befriend* by Scott Sauls, and *A Church Called Tov: Forming a Goodness Culture* by Scot McKnight and Laura Barringer

8. Thoughtful and Respectful Evangelism

The Scriptures tell us that God's people are to be gracious, wise, and winsome toward those who do not share our faith (Colossians 4:5-6, 1 Peter 2:12). It grieves us that so many people have experienced hostile, disrespectful, and argumentative Christians as normative. We want our community of faith to be marked by evangelism that engages the good news of Jesus Christ with the real concerns and needs of people who do not share our faith in. See *Stay Salt* by Rebecca Manley Pippert, *Unlikely Converts* by Dr. Randy Newman, and *Urban Apologetics* by Dr. Eric Mason

9. Cultural Engagement and Love for the City

We believe that Christ calls his people to be present and engaged in a particular culture and place (Jeremiah 29:7, 1 Peter 2:17). As those who believe in God's gifting of common grace to the world, we want to be able to affirm and partner with individuals in our context, even if they don't share our faith (James 1:17). At the same time, God has called us to be a very particular kind of people who reflect the love and ethic of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). See *Center Church* by Tim Keller and *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society* by Lesslie Newbigin

Partnering with Us

For all our strategizing and preparation, this residency and mission cannot succeed without the Spirit of God driving our efforts. We have felt the Lord's leading in many ways, primarily through your prayers and encouragements in this journey so far. We continue to seek prayer partners who will commit to praying regularly for this new work - either for a season, or indefinitely. If you would be willing to make such a commitment, we would be honored by your support.

In addition, we are seeking financial partners who will join us in God's Kingdom work in Indianapolis. For this 2-year residency, Redeemer Presbyterian Church has generously agreed to pay 60% of Ben's compensation. We are responsible for raising 40% of our compensation, which for two years amounts to a goal of \$100,000.

We are very grateful for the support we have already received to meet this goal. Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, where we previously attended and served, has sent us with \$30,000 toward our goal. In addition, an anonymous donor has contributed \$25,000 to help us meet our goals. Along with some other gifts we have received, we are beginning our fundraising efforts at 60% of our goal.

Your support can be in any amount or duration. We are seeking 2-year pledges with monthly commitments, but we are also seeking one-time gifts. All funds being raised for this residency will come through the PCA agency known as Mission to North America (MNA). Our oversight for the use of these funds will be provided by the elders of Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

If we exceed our goal of \$100,000, any excess funds will be used for the purpose of the church plant. In addition to the general expenses of this future church, excess funds might also go toward additional training and partnerships for Ben and Neva (such as with GRACE or the Institute for Cross-Cultural Mission) as well as help provide funding for our future Assistant Pastor whom we hope to hire prior to planting this church.

Our MNA donor account can be accessed here.

If you have any questions, including partnership inquiries, please contact Ben at heinbr@gmail.com.

