



Next Generation

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Simply put, my experience at The People's Community Baptist Church has forged my identity in Christ. This community has encouraged me since the age of 17.

About three years ago, I reemerged in the church searching for answers. I put a halt to a nonstop cycle of attempting to find satisfaction, identity and purpose any- and everywhere but in the presence of God. My life was empty, and as a result, I felt incomplete. So, like the prodigal son, I set my gaze upon my Father's house and decided I'd make way back to the place where I knew I belonged. The journey God has placed me on since that moment has been nothing short of miraculous.

I can remember arriving to Min. Terri Prayer's *Spiritual Gifts* Bible Study class and closely observing her commitment to the task God had placed under her stewardship. There were many a Tuesday night where I was the only one who showed up to class; however, I never had the sense that Min. Terri was disappointed or deterred. She simply buckled down and dug deeper into the trench and poured into me all that God had poured into her. Min. Terri's dedication helped to save my life.

The future needs representation. Tomorrow is quickly becoming today; therefore, we need to equip and prepare leaders and visionaries and teachers and preachers and deacons and trustees for the helm they will assume shortly. How inspiring and motivating it is to lay eyes on someone who looks like me, talks like me, who's from where I'm from, doing things I never imagined possible. Young people need to be given an opportunity to both fail and excel, struggle and triumph. More than anything we need the hand of those who have gone before us, the war-torn, strong and wise hand of a generation that precedes us, to grasp hold of our eager yet inexperienced hand, and nurture and inspire us and help to make whole a generation which will succeed them. For tomorrow is quickly becoming today.

