

His Vision Our Mission (HVOM) Process Details

Beginning in January of 2017, the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) and Ministerial Staff (MS) began meeting to discuss the need for discerning a new 3-5 year plan for the church that would provide us a fresh perspective of how God might best use Wake Forest Baptist Church (WFBC) to further His Kingdom. “His Vision Our Mission” was adopted as the campaign name because it encompasses the goal of long term planning, as the ministries that connect us all as members should be for His Glory.

From the beginning the LRPC asked the question “why now?” The continued and projected population growth of our area provides us both blessings and challenges. Discerning God’s work in the midst of this, and how we as a church can align with Him in that work, has never been more important.

The other major driver behind this initiative was the question “what’s next?” In recent years WFBC has been busy and focused on major undertakings such as the programming change to Dual Worship/Dual Sunday School, two capital fund-raising campaigns, and the completion of a new building. As those undertakings have now come to completion, there was a shared sense that the church needs to turn back to a time of discerning where God might be inviting us to join Him in his work.

The LRPC and MS met every month in 2017 and considered many models for this new season of planning. The committee invited the pastor of another local church to come and share their recent planning model. In the end, the committee was unanimously in favor of a self-directed process that would involve all members and leaders.

During the first quarter of 2018, listening sessions were conducted church-wide, led by various Council Team Leaders, Committee Chairs, and Team Leaders. A Church-wide listening session was also conducted in February. Each meeting focused on a pre-determined set of questions (see *Leader Training Guide*) that asked the participants to discern what they felt was God’s vision for WFBC and also for their individual ministries. This led to creating goals for the next 3-5 years (see *Goals from the various Councils and Open Listening Session*) that were shared in May at a church-wide summit meeting where those goals were prioritized, resulting in 15 top goals.

The Adult Sunday School Teachers played a major role in spiritual preparation by leading a 12-week study of Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby during the first quarter of 2018. Leading up to the summit meeting in May, the Diaconate provide prayer leadership to ensure God’s will was the priority.

The LRPC created a final report, reviewed and approved by the Diaconate and the Leadership Council, that will be presented to the church at the Quarterly Conference in October 2018.