

# His Vision, Our Mission

## Leader Training, January 9, 2018

### Introduction

\*The Long Range Planning Committee is a group tasked with insuring that Wake Forest Baptist Church has a 3 to 5 year plan for the future. Over the past two years, this group has met monthly, prayerfully seeking discernment about the best way to approach long-term planning for our church. Members discussed and compared several different approaches, as well as talked with leaders in other churches who have gone through similar processes. The plan proposed is the process that all members agreed upon as the best approach. The committee felt ***“His Vision, Our Mission”*** encompasses the goal of long term planning for WFBC at this time, as the ministries that connect us all as members should be for His glory.

\*This committee has been meeting since January 2016 and reports up through the Administration Council to the Leadership Council.

\*Why is this visioning important?

- 1.The Stephenson Campus (how can we best utilize this campus, how can we use it to as outreach to the community, etc)
2. What’s Next ?(Building Campaign, Dual SS/Worship, etc.)
3. Do we have a plan for growth that celebrates God’s Vision? (What does WFBC do great and how can we build upon that based on where God is leading)
4. Power of Focus (where should we focus our missions, close to home in WF, across the globe, both?, what types of missions should we consider etc)

5. Cultural Changes/Shifts (considerations such as 89% of the population of WF is less than 65 years old, over 50% of WF residents hold a bachelor's degree or above, by 2020 WF is projected to have 55,000 residents, etc)
6. Changes in our Community (our community is growing, WFBC is located right in the heart, WF is the 9<sup>th</sup> fastest growing municipality in the state of NC)
7. The Movement of God in WFBC. (where do we see God leading, what ministries are growing, which ones are reaching out to our community effectively, etc)

### **The Process**

1. Meet with your ministry teams now through March. Prepare to briefly discuss why long term planning is important and introduce the “*His Vision, Our Mission*” process. As the facilitator, you should decide ahead of time, how you want to structure your ministry group work. The LRPC recommends breaking the meetings into three sessions to allow time for reflection between meetings, Session #1- What is God's vision for the next 3 – 5 years, Session #2- How does our vision for WFBC relate to our ministry, and Session #3- develop SMART goals. Others may find that doing the entire study in one session best for them. If you decide to spread this out, please be sure to overview the entire process so that the participants understand why it's important to attend future sessions.

### **Timeline-**

Ministry Team Meetings, Now through March

Submit SMART goals by 3/31/2018

Churchwide retreat 5/19/2018

The LRPC will write a plan based upon feedback to present to the Leadership Council and Deacons in September.

A final plan will be presented at the Church Conference on 10/21/18

- **Session 1** - What is God's Vision for the Next 3 to 5 Years?  
(See attached questions to discuss with your Ministry Teams)

After introducing the planning process and overview the training session, give instructions, study questions, and divide the group into smaller groups of no more than 8 and no less than 4 to insure everyone has an opportunity to voice their thoughts. Each group chooses one person to report for the group when everyone gets back together. It's okay if an individual group has more than one answer to a question. It's not necessary to limit the group to only one answer.

- **Session 2** - How does our Vision for WFBC relate to our Ministry?  
(See attached questions to discuss with your Ministry Teams)

Take the visioning you did for the Church in Session #1 and build upon that by working through the questions in Session #2. Start this session by briefly reviewing the planning process and why it's being undertaken, followed by reviewing the list created in the first session. Once again break into smaller groups if needed, nor more than 8 and no less than 4, so that all have an opportunity to participate. Each small group will choose someone to report back to the group when all join back together.

## Session #1

### What is God's Vision for the next 3 – 5 years?

- Prayer for God's Guidance
- Divide into smaller groups with a max of 8 people and minimum of 4 if necessary.
- Study Questions
  1. What is the one thing about WFBC that you would not want to see changed over the next 3-5 years?
  2. What is one idea for a new ministry or a new way of doing ministry that you see God might be calling us to consider over the next 3-5 years?
  3. What do you perceive our community needs from us over the next 3-5 years?
  4. What do you perceive potential new members will be looking for in a church over the next 3-5 years?
  5. What do you believe God wants WFBC to look and feel like over the next 3-5 years?
  
- **Wrap up** - Record all responses and if there are multiple groups, select someone from each of the smaller groups to record all responses. Make sure that all answers get summarized, recorded and a copy sent to each member of the group.

## Session #2

### How does our Vision for WFBC relate to our Ministry?

- Prayer for God's Guidance
- Break up into smaller groups with a maximum of 8 people and minimum of 4 if necessary.
- Study Questions:
  1. What are our strengths?
    - What do we do well?
    - What unique resources do we have?
    - What are our advantages?
    - Where do we exceed expectations?
  2. Who benefits from our specific ministry?
    - Who is our target beneficiary?
    - Who is our target ministry team member?
    - Who are our partners?
    - Who should be our partners?
  3. How could our ministry become more effective?
    - Who do we need?
    - If there were no constraints, what would we like to do?
    - What do we need to do more of?
    - What do we need to do less of?
    - Do we have the right organizational structure and the right processes in place to insure we optimize our resources and opportunities?

4. What are the future opportunities for our ministry?
- Are there needs in our community or church that aren't being addressed that our ministry could help fill?
  - What social and cultural trends are likely to impact our ministry in the future?
  - What are we doing to prepare for the impact of these trends?
  - Is our local area's demographics changing? How will this impact our ministry?
  - What new people groups might we be ministering to in the future?
  - What questions are we not asking that we should be asking?
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- **Wrap Up** – Record all responses and if there are multiple groups, designate someone in each group to record responses. Make sure all answers get summarized and recorded and a copy sent to each member of the group.

## Session #3

### Summary and SMART Goals-

- As a result of your ministry group's thoughtful consideration of the questions in Session #1 and Session #2, compile a list of SMART goals that you would like the Church to consider in the upcoming Church – wide summit on May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- These should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely. For example, better use of the Stephenson Campus would not be as specific and actionable as building a meditation garden on the Stephenson Campus.
- You may want to formulate your specific goals as a group or select a few people to do this step and then reconvene as a group to do the final review. Submit to LRPC by 3/31/2018.
- At the Church-wide summit on May 19<sup>th</sup>, your Ministry team will need to have a representative to present your team's list of goals.
- Remind your team members of the importance in attending the church-wide retreat on 5/19/18

