

THE PASTOR'S REPORT
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING
January 16, 2019

FOUR-YEAR REVIEW

THE DEBT IS NEAR THE END.

Praise God, the debt is no longer a dark cloud hanging over the church. Several years ago the Stewardship Team worked to put together a plan to pay down the debt above our monthly mortgage payments.

- The plan was simple, \$60K a year, or \$5K a month – sometime after 2022.
- This goal has been blown out of the water every year. Our debt offering this year was \$279, and for the past few years it has been at or above the \$120K mark.
- We currently sit below \$275K (around \$250K)
- If subtract our monthly payments, we can have it paid off in its entirety with \$120K in debt offerings by the end of the year.
- It would be great, God willing, to retire the debt by the end of this year.

BUDGET GIVING IS STRONG.

God has been faithful, and you have been faithful to give to budget giving.

- In 2018 our budget needs were \$596K, and you gave \$713K (which is \$117 over).
- Our budget giving in 2018 meets the projected budget needs for 2019.
- Because of the budget surplus, we have been able to take care of several needs.

WE HAVE TAKEN CARE OF MANY NEEDED PROJECTS.

In the last 4 years, we have taken care of many projects, from the deferred maintenance and building renewal needs, and church health issues regarding our processes, structures, and ministry tools. This list represents projects that we have taken on or completed to strengthen the ministry of this church, and strengthen our ministry training and sending capacity.

- New branding, logo, and church sign.
- Intentional focus on Life Groups (on-campus and off-campus)
- New screens and for worship center.
- New AC Units for Annex and Main Building (to be finished in February of 2019).

- Replaced fluorescent lights with LED's in Annex and Main Building.
- Refurbished storage shed.
- Replaced shingle roofs on both buildings, and flat roof on main building.
- Started Ministry Training Center.
- Established a campus security team.
- Adopted several church polices and Membership Covenant (fairviewchurch.org/resources)
- New web-based membership software.
- Began online giving.
- Behan hallway renovation (to complete with furniture and art).
- Strengthened staff focus.
- Established quarterly leadership training.
- Focused on developing intentional missions partnerships and missions strategy.
- Adopted intentional plan for guest follow-up and membership assimilation.
- Clarified qualifications and expectations for deacons and committee members.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN.

Numbers are not everything, but they tell part of the story. The most important number is the last one about member involvement.

- While we have lost some people, we have also seen over 100 people become active members in our church.
- We have celebrated 48 baptisms.
- We have multiplied Life Groups in concert with our growth.
- Week to Week, about 85% of our members are either in a Life Group or Serving in the Children's or Student area. This number is well above average for the American Church. This is not a consumer church; this is an actively serving church.

MISSIONS INVOLVEMENT IS STRONG.

Accomplishing our mission of making disciples not only happens here with our people, but also encompasses sending our people or supporting our partners. We send and go.

- We regularly give \$20K to special offerings to IMB (International Missions) and NAMB (Church Planters and Chaplains).
- We give 8 percent of our budget (\$57K) to support the Cooperative Program of the SBC (seminaries, international missions, national church planting).
- We allot 2% of our budget (\$14K) to Baptists on Mission through the North Carolina State Convention.

- And, out of our surplus, we have also been able to give to specific missions partners in Hungary, SE Asia, NYC, and local parachurch ministries in our area.
- This year, 145 of our members (adults and students) were on teams internationally, nationally, and locally. If you add the children's work in M&M's, that work is even stronger.
- 100% of our congregation supported by sending money, over 40% of our congregation went by serving.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We must remember our mission, be guided by our core values, and feed our strategy.

OUR MISSION

"We exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ."

OUR CORE VALUES

- **Gospel Transformation:** We are a church family that focuses on heart transformation and character growth by applying the gospel to all of life.
- **Loving Community:** We are a church family that loves one another in a way that reflects the power of the gospel.
- **Missional Living:** We are a church family that defines our lives by mission in all that we do both here and worldwide.

OUR STRATEGY

We are not here to build an audience, but an army. We are not a cruise ship, we are a battleship. Our strategy is centered on three words: Connect, Commit, and Commission. To put it another way, we want to *"connect people to Jesus Christ and membership in his family, disciple them for committed spiritual maturity, and commission them for ministry in the church and mission in the world, all for the glory of God."* Here is how we measure the process.

CONNECTED

- Attending Fairview Baptist Church.
- Connecting with a Life Group or Fairview Ministry.
 - What you attract people with, you keep them with – relationships.
 - Life Groups are and will remain central to our strategy as a church.
- Attending Starting Point.

COMMITTED

- Joining Fairview Baptist Church.

- Participating in a Fairview Ministry of Life Group.
- Contributing and volunteering regularly.

COMMISSIONED

- Multiply Life Groups to connect the unconnected.
 - The more we multiply Life Groups, the more people we can minister to.
- Serving on or leading a Ministry Team.
 - Many of the best ideas for ministry come from the congregation.
- Sent on mission – locally, nationally, and internationally.
 - Mission trips.
 - Church planting and revitalization.

Note: An “active member” of Fairview is someone who regularly participates in worship gatherings, is an active Life Group participant, serves regularly, and regularly gives to the church.

OUR SEVEN MINISTRY ANCHORS

We need a few commitments to our mission and to one another that keep us on mission. An anchor is a device used to connect a boat to the bed of a body of water. The purpose of an anchor is to prevent the boat from drifting due to wind or current. These anchor statements are meant to keep us focused and prevent mission drift.

WE WILL PRAY FOR FAITHFULNESS AND FRUITFULNESS

- We cannot rely on our own wisdom or methods, we will not rely on gimmicks or attractions, we need to be dependent on God and ask for His wisdom in prayer for all matters.
- We must remain faithful to the Word, and trust in God for the fruit.
- Prayer is central to the life of our church, and the effectiveness of our ministry.
- Question: *Will you commit to pray for the ministry?*

WE WANT EVERY MEMBER ON MISSION

- Everyone who is saved by God, is sent by God.
- Everyone who is called is commissioned.
- Our expectation is that everyone sends or is sent internationally, nationally, or locally (church planting or revitalization or in local parachurch ministries).
- Question: *Will you commit to being on mission either locally, nationally, or internationally?*

WE WILL EQUIP EVERY DISCIPLE TO BE A DISCIPLE-MAKER

- We disciple in worship services (hundreds formally), Life Groups (15-30 people informally), and discipleship groups (4-6 same-sex people, intimately).
- Every disciple is called to make disciples.
- We need to take responsibility for encouraging one another's spiritual growth.
- We need to multiply Life Groups on-campus and off-campus, raise up new leaders, and establish discipleship groups (prayer, Bible study, accountability).
- Resources for discipleship groups can be found at fairviewchurch.org/resources.
- Question: *Will you consider opening your home for, or leading a Life Group or Discipleship Group?*

WE WILL COMMIT TO MATURING LEADERS IN ORDER TO MULTIPLY AND MINISTER TO MORE PEOPLE

- We need to mature leaders through leadership training, teaching experience, and empowering.
- We need to multiply our Life Groups and discipleship groups to connect the unconnected.
- Maturing leaders and multiplying groups is how we will minister to more people.
- We need to pray that God sends us men called to pastor and enable them to prepare in our Ministry Training Center.
- Question: *Will you consider how you might support or lead in efforts to enable us to minister to more people?*

WE WILL ALLOW DISCIPLE-MAKING TO DRIVE OUR DECISION MAKING

- When it comes to ministry endeavors, money investments, and mission's partnerships we need to ask "how does this help us make disciples" or "how does this enable trusted partners make disciples".
- The ultimate goal is not more decisions for Christ (and leave it there), but more disciples who make disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Question: *Will you pray that God gives all of us wisdom in decision making in order to be more focused on disciple-making?*

WE WILL MEASURE OUR SUCCESS BY OUR SENDING CAPACITY, NOT OUR SEATING CAPACITY ¹

¹ This is adapted from Rick Warren's book "A Purpose Driven Church".

- Our ultimate goal is not to build a monument on a corner, but to multiply ministry in our community.
- We must be willing to send out our best leaders for mission, and trust that God will send others in their place.
- Again, think army over audience. Battleship over cruise ship.
- We will begin developing a plan to partner with other churches to plant and revitalize.
- Question: *Will you put your yes on the table if you can help plant or revitalize churches in our area?*

WE WILL PROTECT OUR UNITY EVEN WHEN THERE IS NOT UNIFORMITY

- As a church grows or changes it is nearly impossible to achieve consensus in decision-making. If that is the goal, conflict will often arise and halt the process.
- If we cannot achieve uniformity in every decision, we must protect our unity.
- As we adapt to our changing community, change will take place in the church more often than it used to.
- In order to do this, we must trust the leadership and teams that we have voted in.
- Our pastors, leaders, and teams must work to earn trust, and be committed to clear communication, and open to feedback.
- As a congregational church, all major decisions will be voted on. At the same time, we must entrust the leaders and teams to lead.
- Question: *As a church we will you commit to give the gift of trust to our leaders and teams?*

CONSIDERATIONS FOR OUR FUTURE

LIFE-GROUP MULTIPLICATION (ON AND OFF-CAMPUS)

The area around us is growing. We must not be content with growing attendance in worship service; we must push for active involvement in Life Groups. In 1990, there were 5,000 people in our zip code. In 2018, there were 50,000. The median age for our zip code is now 35.9, which means young families will continue to be a growing demographic in our church. This is a great opportunity for older seasoned saints to disciple younger men and women. Because of our limited space, this means that our adult Life Groups must be flexible (move on campus or off campus) in order to minister to our children. In order to shepherd those God brings to us, we must be willing to multiply in response.

CHURCH PLANTING AND REVITALIZATION

Our church was started as a church plant by three other churches. Church planting and revitalization is part of our DNA. We have clusters of members in Cary, Holly

Springs, and Fuquay-Varina. If we find an opportunity to revitalize a church in one of these areas, we have the opportunity to commission people to join that work. This will not be easy, but it is part of being obedient to the mission. We have begun conversations with The Pillar Network, which aims to connect like-minded churches to plant and revitalize. Also, our Ministry Training Center and partnership with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary will be vital to equipping and training future pastors for these endeavors. As they spend time with us, they will be encouraged to develop a planting and revitalizing team from among us.

FACILITY RENEWAL

We also remain committed to our mission on this corner. As our community grows, the need for our ministry on this corner will remain. Therefore, we will continue to revitalize and equip our facilities in order to facilitate ministry on our campus. The facility renewal team will be working with the stewardship team in order to address our needs as the funding is available. Over the next several years we will continue our process of revitalizing our facilities – worship center, fellowship hall and kitchen, children’s classrooms, and annex to continue to meet our needs. I estimate we can accomplish this goal with (hopefully) under \$500K over the next few years. Once the debt is paid off, we can address these needs at an accelerated pace.

FACILITY EXPANSION

One question I receive often is, “when are we going to build another building”. This question often comes from the need for more Life Group and Children’s space. I am hesitant with this request, because I would rather send people out to multiply ministry. However, I also understand the need to have adequate space to accomplish our ministry on this corner. I will be one of the last people to give the thumbs up to launching a new building project unless I believe it is absolutely necessary. Until then, we need to be flexible with our space to expand our ministry with out expanding our campus. If it becomes necessary to consider building again, I would like to have a substantial amount of money put away before the first brick is ever laid. For this reason, the stewardship team will consider how to put away money for this purpose if the need ever arises.