

A NEW TEN-YEAR PLAN

(An Executive Summary of the Plan Adopted by the Session 11-08-10)

In the next ten years we believe the Lord wants us to pursue our mission and make progress toward our vision as a congregation. We further believe that he wants us to measure our progress by four outcomes. We conceive of these outcomes like four quarters of a football or basketball game. We recognize that we make our plans very humbly and tentatively (James 4:13-16), so after each quarter, and especially at halftime (the five-year point), we will evaluate how we are doing and make necessary adjustments. We expect each of these four outcomes to take 2-3 years of top-priority attention, involving every member in wholehearted participation.

1. Grow in impact for the glory of Jesus (First Quarter = 2-3 years).

We want to be that “regional resource church that is a center for the worship of God, a saltshaker affecting economic, cultural, and political life, and a catalyst for the evangelization of Chapel Hill/Durham and beyond” that we envisioned 25 years ago. Now, as then, we see a “thousand” as an admittedly arbitrary number, but one that represents a church large enough to make an impact in our area through significant people and financial resources yet small enough to be a family of faith with strong relationships for care, mobility, and accountability. The methods for growing this church will be made points of emphasis in the themes and goals of our annual plans for the next several years. Each of these methods has a scriptural grounding and a context in the planning process that can be seen in the full ten-year plan available from the church office. We will only grow by the grace of the Holy Spirit AND by all of us contributing our spiritual gifts, maturity, and vitality.

2, 3. Contribute to making disciples of Jesus among a broader ethnic and socio-economic range of people in our parish (the six to eight-mile radius around our facility) (Second Quarter = 2-3 years; Third Quarter = 2-3 years).

The demographic study we did to inform this ten-year plan identified rapidly growing Hispanic and African American communities in our geographic parish that are not academic, business, or professional, and we want to help reach them too. It is our desire that the mercy ministries in which our members participate grow into a deeper and fuller expression of the gospel, crossing cultural boundaries, and that through them we not only please God but also develop relationships enabling us to contribute to the growth of evangelical churches in different cultures than our historic target. Whether our contributions take the form of assisting with the formation of new congregations or of supporting the growth and work of existing ones will depend on the relationships we develop and the needs of the communities. Our intent is to contribute to the development of at least one evangelical church in each community, Hispanic and African American, in our parish during the second and third quarters of this ten-year plan, but the timing as well as the nature of the work will depend on the opportunities God provides.

4. Free more financial resources for ministry (Fourth Quarter = 2-3 years).

We are still in the middle of our “Give Us the Tools Campaign” to reduce our debt and illustrate our vision, so we do not believe we should start another campaign any time soon. Nevertheless, we believe that the Lord wants us to eliminate our debt by the year 2020 so that we can become even more of a resource church locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. We are totally dependent on God’s blessing to reach this milestone, and that is a very good place to be. We will ask him for new members to enable us to grow larger and for his grace to motivate our generosity, guide our generosity, and steward our generosity as a resource. We long to become a people whose lives counter-culturally reflect Jesus’ words, “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33).

Bring it to pass, Lord! To the glory and honor of your name we ask it. Amen.