



STRATEGIC PLAN

2011-2014

Mission:

To be a God-glorifying, gospel-centered, grace-filled community that loves Jesus and is empowered by the Spirit to make and equip disciples of all nationalities to be Christ's ambassadors to all the nations

Vision:

TO BE A CHURCH TO CALL HOME

April 17, 2011

Dear Ambassadors,

It is with great joy that we share the strategic plan with you. The plan presents an opportunity for each of us to serve our great God and see Him work. Before you read the details of the plan, we wanted to invite you to celebrate, participate, and pray.

1. LET'S CELEBRATE

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:3-6)

This plan celebrates the wonderful things God is doing in our community. Ambassador is a church that people love to visit – we warmly welcome newcomers. We are blessed by a preaching ministry that honors the truth and power of God's Word. Our small group ministry is growing in size and deepening in faith. Our family ministry teaches the truths of the gospel faithfully and is growing larger every day. We are a church that is committed to God's global mission.

If you're reading this plan, you know this already. You benefit from our preaching ministry. Many of you attend a small group. If you're a parent, your kids participate in our family ministries. And maybe you've been on a short-term missions trip. In many ways, this is a time to pause and rejoice in God's faithfulness to our community. It is His Spirit's work – through many faithful Ambassadors, over nearly 15 years – that has built our church.

You also know that our church is still a work in progress. The plan doesn't cover all of the existing ministries of Ambassador – we expect that good work to continue. The focus of the plan is to identify the critical next steps we can take to best honor the gifts and vision God has given to our community.

2. LET'S PARTICIPATE

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12)

This plan is our plan. We have already seen God work as the plan has been formed. From the very moment the Next Steps process was announced, many of you have joined the elders and other leaders at Ambassador in praying for God's blessing on this time.

We have prayed for the plan together – in our services, in our small groups, in our homes – and now, God is presenting each of us with an opportunity to participate. God has gifted each of us individually and called us to serve in His body, the church.

The plan is ambitious. We serve an awesome and powerful God who works through the diverse gifts and talents of His people. He will work to achieve the vision through the unified effort of His people. Now is

the time for us to prayerfully consider how we might individually contribute to advance the work of the gospel at Ambassador.

3. LET'S PRAY

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalm 127:1)

When JP introduced the mission and vision he reminded us that the mission is not manmade. Our mission is the gospel. And we will only achieve our vision if it is truly God's vision and is blessed by Him. This means that the most important thing we can do – especially at this moment in the life of our church – is to join together in prayer. We must pray that the Lord will build it, that He will watch over us, and that He will be glorified.

Here are some opportunities for us to raise our voices together to our God who hears our prayers:

1. **PRAY THROUGH THE PLAN** – Everyone is receiving a copy of the plan as part of our service. This week, we will also post the plan on our website. Perhaps you will take your copy and pray for our church as part of your devotional time with the Lord.
2. **JOIN AMBASSADORS IN PRAYER** – On May 15, we will host a prayer service at the church office. We will talk through elements of the plan and focus on praying for the future of our church with the plan as our guide. We encourage you to join us.

Thank you for the honor of serving Ambassador throughout this process. We hope and pray you are blessed as you read through the plan. We trust you will join us in praying that God will continue to bless and watch over Ambassador Bible Church.

In Him,

Your Strategic Planning Team

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STRATEGIC GOAL #1:

To be a community of rest and refuge for all people where genuine and caring relationships are nurtured.

KEY GOAL #1: To adopt a culture of acceptance and belonging that is ongoing and flows throughout the church.

Objective #1: Teach on the culture of acceptance and belonging.

TASKS	Who?	When?
1. Preach from the pulpit on the culture of acceptance and belonging.	Staff	Ongoing
2. Teach and adopt the culture of acceptance and belonging within the small groups and ministry teams.	Staff, Small Group Leaders, Ministry Team Leaders	Ongoing

Objective #2: Reach out to newcomers and regular attendees and connect them to the church.

TASKS	Who?	When?
3. Develop and implement a process to connect newcomers to the church (e.g., provide updated info to newcomers on Sundays and via the website; offer quarterly newcomer luncheons; connect newcomers with small groups).	Connections Team and Staff	By February 1, 2012
4. Develop and implement a process to connect regular attendees to the church (e.g., use church database to connect regular attendees with ministry teams and small groups; hold regular fellowship events to connect regular attendees to the church).	Connections Team, Staff, Small Group Ministry	By February 1, 2012

KEY GOAL #2: Provide opportunities that encourage and enable people to cultivate authentic and loving relationships.

Objective #3: Organize the church into Community Groups (church-wide, regional, and affinity-diverse groups that meet together for a set period of time and complement our ongoing small group ministry).

TASKS	Who?	When?
5. Set dates for the 2012 Community Groups.	Elders and Staff	By November 1, 2011
6. Designate leaders, topic/curriculum, and regions.	Elders and Staff	TBD
7. Launch Community Groups in 2012.	Community Group Leaders	TBD
8. Evaluate the 2012 Community Groups and set the time frame for 2013.	Staff, Elders, Community Group Leaders	After completion of the 2012 Community Groups

9. Explore the possibility of forming/birthing regional, affinity-diverse small groups from the Community Groups that meet regularly throughout the year as a part of our small group ministry.	Small Group Ministry, Community Group Leaders	After completion of the 2012 Community Groups
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Objective #4: Develop a comprehensive mentoring program.

TASKS	Who?	When?
10. Develop a clear vision for church mentoring programs (to include existing programs, i.e., Heart-to-Heart and Back2Back).	Staff, Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry	Begin January 2012
11. Create and implement a plan to make the existing mentoring programs more robust.	Women's Ministry and Men's Ministry	Begin March 2012
12. Develop and implement a family mentoring program (couples and parents).	Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, Staff	Begin March 2012
13. Teach on the importance of discipleship and spiritual mentoring.	Staff and Small Group Leaders	Ongoing
14. Work with Small Group leaders to develop mentoring plans for their small groups.	Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, Small Group Ministry	Begin May 2012

STRATEGIC GOAL #2:

To be a home base where everyone is built up and equipped to live out the gospel for local and global impact.

KEY GOAL #3: To invest in opportunities for all to experience spiritual growth and be effectively engaged in gospel ministry.

Objective #5: Promote a culture of dependence on God through prayer and the Word.

TASKS	Who?	When?
15. Regularly preach about the importance of prayer in the life of the members and ministries of the church.	Staff	Ongoing
16. Create a prayer team to increase the church's focus on prayer.	Staff	By July 31, 2011
17. Develop and implement a strategy to increase our focus on prayer (e.g., incorporating prayer more fully into our ministries; holding regular congregational prayer meetings; providing the congregation with tools to pray; exploring an annual "Prayer Week" to involve all members in prayer for the church and the world).	Prayer team	Begin September 1, 2011
18. Expand the "Golden Ticket" and offer a structure for expanded church-wide Scripture memory.	Family Ministry	Begin September 1, 2011
19. Provide tools to support members in committing to regular Bible reading (e.g., Bible reading plans).	Staff	Begin January 1, 2012

Objective #6: Develop a growing team of leaders to serve the church.

TASKS	Who?	When?
20. Survey existing leaders to determine training and support needs.	Elders and Staff	By July 31, 2011
21. Investigate expanding the elder board and/or creating a deacon board to provide leadership and support to the ministries and members of the church.	Elders	By January 31, 2012
22. Hold quarterly leader meetings for all current and future leaders to cast a vision for core ABC ministries (e.g., small groups, missions, family ministry), coordinate our ministries, learn from each other, and monitor the strategic plan.	Elders and Staff	Begin September 1, 2011

Objective #7: Invest in small group leaders.

TASKS	Who?	When?
23. Refine and articulate a unified vision for small groups.	Small Group Ministry	Ongoing
24. Create a description and list of qualifications for small group coaches.	Small Group Ministry	By October 1, 2011
25. Identify small group coaches to oversee and support small group leaders (at least one male and one female coach).	Elders and Staff	Begin November 1, 2011
26. Work with small group leaders to identify and mentor future leaders.	Small Group Ministry	Begin November 1, 2011
27. Identify resources and curriculum/tools for small group leaders.	Small Group Ministry	Begin January 1, 2012

Objective #8: Develop a set of core Ambassador Bible Institute (ABI) classes.

TASKS	Who?	When?
28. Form an ABI team to develop a core curriculum and structure (review models at other churches and survey congregation to determine needs/timing).	Elders	By August 1, 2011
29. Present the core curriculum and structure to church leadership for review and approval.	ABI team	By November 1, 2011
30. Identify teachers and physical space for classes.	ABI team	By December 1, 2011
31. Offer classes, and evaluate and adjust the core curriculum and structure annually	ABI team and teachers	Begin January 1, 2012

Objective #9: Provide support and accountability to enhance member engagement with the church.

TASKS	Who?	When?
32. Form a team to design and oversee a tool/survey as an annual member check-in based on the membership covenant.	Elders	Begin February 1, 2012
33. Conduct the check-in to encourage involvement in ministries, small group, accountability relationships, missions, and other priorities of the church.	Church leadership, coordinated by "check-in team"	Begin January 1, 2013
34. Work with each member to identify key commitments for the next year and provide ongoing support as needed.	Church leadership	Begin January 1, 2013
35. Conduct annual assessments using the check-in criteria and key commitments from previous year(s).	Church leadership	Begin January 1, 2014

KEY GOAL #4: To challenge and equip the church to communicate the gospel in word and deed.

Objective #10: Set the expectation that every member will prayerfully plan to participate in Short-Term Missions (STM).

TASKS	Who?	When?
36. Develop a plan for each member to be involved in STM within three years.	Mission committee	By November 1, 2011
37. Conduct an annual vision meeting/conference focused on missions with current and future leaders.	Staff and Missions committee	Begin January 1, 2012
38. Implement a small group-focused strategy to offer opportunities to learn about missions and our missionaries, and to encourage member participation.	Missions committee	Begin September 1, 2011

Objective #11: Partner with the congregation to commit to justice and outreach ministries.

TASKS	Who?	When?
39. Create a team to identify justice and outreach opportunities in our immediate area (e.g., English classes, homeless ministry, mentoring, international students, tax preparation).	Mission committee	By November 1, 2011
40. Commit as a church to participate in 1 or 2 opportunities each year.	Missions committee and Staff	Begin April 1, 2012
41. Work with leaders to identify and commit to serving in a particular justice/outreach ministry in their community.	Missions committee	Begin January 1, 2012

STRATEGIC GOAL #3:

To be a church whose physical space enhances our ability to fulfill our mission and vision.

KEY GOAL #5: To assess the strengths and limitations of our current physical space (Colin Powell ES, church office, storage facility).

Objective #12: Conduct a comprehensive survey of the usage of our current physical space.

TASKS	Who?	When?
42. Form a survey team.	Staff	By May 15, 2011
43. Develop and implement a plan for gathering information necessary to assess our use of physical space and identify current and future needs.	Survey team	By May 31, 2011
44. Prepare a summary report based on the information gathered.	Survey team	By June 15, 2011
45. Present the summary report to the church leadership.	Survey team	By June 30, 2011
46. Make the findings of the survey and summary report available to the congregation.	Elders and Survey team	By July 15, 2011

KEY GOAL #6: To develop and implement a plan to meet our facility needs.

Objective #13: Decide on a short-term course of action for best utilizing our current physical space.

TASKS	Who?	When?
47. Form a facility team (distinct in function from the survey team).	Elders	By May 31, 2011
48. Communicate updates and prayer requests to the church on a regular basis.	Facility team	Ongoing
49. Equip team with resources related to church facility matters	Facility team	Ongoing
50. Review and analyze the findings of the survey and the summary report.	Facility team	Begin June 1, 2011
51. Recommend changes or adjustments for making better use of our current physical space.	Facility team	By August 15, 2011
52. Review the recommendation and decide on which changes or adjustments to implement.	Elders, Staff, Ministry leaders	By September 1, 2011

Objective #14: Decide on the type of long-term facility option to pursue and take steps towards occupying it.

TASKS	Who?	When?
53. Explore and consider all of our long-term facility options.	Facility team	Begin June 1, 2011
54. Recommend which facility option to pursue.	Facility team	By February 1, 2012
55. Review the recommendation and present a facility update to the congregation.	Elders	By March 25, 2012
56. Develop and implement a strategy towards occupying the long-term facility.	Elders and Facility team	March 2012 – March 2014