

## Discipleship – 2028

First Baptist Church  
Jefferson, GA

After many hours of prayerful discussion, the Discipleship team has formulated a position track for our future story.

Our directional focus was in three areas; **Technology**, **Small Community Groups**, and **Large Fellowship Activities**. We will discuss each area in detail below.

**Technology** is here, and we cannot avoid its presence. We recognize that more of our congregation is using smart phones, social media, web-based learning, etc., in their daily lives. Today's parents are using computers to pay their bills, contact friends, view social events, and to learn. To captivate those in the technology genre, we need to bring Christian messaging, social contenting, Bible reading, financial and service giving, etc., into today's world of technology.

A more robust, interactive, and innovative website needs to be created. Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. need to be a part of our congregational communication package. We understand the need for a staff person to be devoted to this task, so we encourage the hiring of an Instructional Technology (IT) Director for our Church.

The need to upgrade our current WiFi system is paramount for today's needs and for the anticipated growth of our church. When the entire campus is covered with strong WiFi signals then other Church campus activities can be developed. Such as:

- Media giving/tithing
- Video productions that showcase our missions and Christian ministries
- Online Prayer Chains
- Media training (teaching our congregation "how to" take advantage of technology)
- Bible Training and study can be telecast over the internet to our community
- Publicity for our Church programs can be developed and disseminated through our technology

In today's and tomorrow's mobile world, we will be required to offer technology options to reach our congregations and our community. The learning curve for this technology is not difficult since more and more advances in living requires a working knowledge of computers and computer systems.

**Small Community Groups** is our next focus topic for our future. Today's populace is inundated with more options than the previous generations. We have options as to where to eat, where to buy clothes, what to do on vacation, and what to do on Sunday. Activities guide our lives today and will continue to dominate our choices in the future. The Discipleship team focuses on small community groups to harness the needs of our community.

It is the intent of our small community groups to give ample opportunities to bond together in Christian activities; building bonds, growing relationships, and sharing the knowledge of Christ through focused activities.

Additional staffing will be required to create and oversee the events of our future story. Below we have outlined a few suggestions:

- Social gatherings and Bible study groups are a necessity for church growth. We see multi-generational groups comprising members of our congregation with those from other churches.
- Mission topics and needs are more personal in smaller groups. With missions as one focus, the types of missions are endless.
- Mentorship Opportunities allow our experienced members to share their knowledge and skills with others. The focus is sharing God's gifts with others and in doing so, building relationships.
- Community partnerships allow our church to be a large part of the growth of our community. Whether it is work on a beautification project, advice through serving on community boards and/or participation in community events, our church should be ready, willing, and able to serve.
- Recovery groups offer an opportunity to share our knowledge, skills, and Christian love to those battling addictions and life challenges.
- We long to develop a viable men's ministry. We feel through this venue, we can develop smaller groups to focus on more ideas. Examples may include wood working, small engine repair, gun safety, welding, etc. These can be semester-long courses with the opportunity to move from topic to topic.

**Large Fellowship Activities** is our last focus. Like small group activities, additional staffing will need to be assigned or hired. In this genre we would schedule large activities that invite our community to the church through the offering of activities such as:

- Community game nights: ranging from cards, board games and badminton, etc. held at the church with refreshments being offered.
- Community movie nights featuring Christian themes or kid's themes for a family night out.
- Quarterly Sunday School Breakfasts between various Sunday School classes. This will give each class the opportunity to fellowship with other classes to build relationships.

## Final

In order to accommodate many of the activities and events discussed within our vision, we see a critical need to build a multi-functional facility. This structure would be designed as a multi-purpose building. Below are only a few suggestions:

- Additional small group classrooms
- Media rooms to allow for access to computers and to double as a classroom teaching space
- Recreational areas for team activities
- Large area to be dual purposed as a banquet/fellowship hall
- Conference rooms for community programs and church committee meetings

By the year 2028, we will see these suggestions come to fruition. As in any journey, we must have a beginning and a goal to achieve. So, before we board the S.S. FBC - DISCIPLESHIP, we must be clear on our destination. The stops and adventures along our way simply add to God's future vision for our Church. If we stay in our home port, we will never experience the excitement and joy of exploring new and uncharted seas, great safari's, and new lands. We need to be a Church of growth, discipleship, and commitment to the Word of Jesus Christ. If we keep this as our guiding "North Star", then when we arrive at our final destination, the harbor master will say to us, "**Well done, good and faithful servant**"!

Respectfully submitted,

### Discipleship Team 2018

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