



First Baptist Church
Lexington, NC

FBC Tomorrow **Interim DREAMS Report** August, 2016

A Report developed by the congregation of First Baptist Church
with their vision of the Dreams and Challenges
that will build our future.

As with many events in life, we begin a journey by determining where we are and where we want to go. Within our church, we have determined our starting point as a congregation by looking at our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. We have also taken the next step of asking what we want our church to become, where do we want to go, by sharing and collecting the hopes and dreams of our congregation.

The purpose of this interim report is to present a summary of the top results, prioritized by the congregation and officers, for review and use as we together move our church into a challenging and exciting future. The results offer exciting insights and implications into future program development, as well as input into upcoming staffing decisions. There are also suggestions presented for implementing the findings. We hope you will learn, benefit, and become excited for the future growth and development of our church.

The Diaconate is reviewing the following recommendations driven by the Dream survey results as new initiatives for implementation this fall:

- **Missional Leadership Team** - This is redefining Mission to a very personal level, encouraging and empowering ministry action by every church member.
- **Worship Enrichment Team** –This team will be challenged to make recommendations for improvements in the worship service experience.
- **Technology Team** - This group will review and expand technology applications for our church including social media, website enhancement, radio and other media.
- **WOW (Win Over the World) for Jesus Team** - This will be a fun, creative team that could propose fellowship, multi-generational experiences (picnics, retreats, parking lot concerts, excursions, in-church theater, etc) that in many cases could also be open to our entire community. We are limited only by our imagination!

We do not anticipate these teams to be on-going entities, but in many cases may complete their cross-function work and dissolve. Some may take a while and be a longer term challenge, but **all will need YOUR prayers, YOUR support and YOUR involvement to succeed.**

Where are we?

On June 8 and June 22, 2016, approximately 35 leaders of the church gathered for a group analysis of the current status of the church. The group developed a list of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats for the church. Each category was then prioritized by these leaders. The exercise was an opportunity to look at the church through a lens of constructive criticism to look for opportunities to improve our ministry to the community, to help insure our sustainability into the future, and to provide direction for future programming and staffing. Below are the top five in each category.

Points STRENGTHS

- 84 Senior minister
- 61 God-loving/caring people/dedicated/generous members
- 47 Facility/physical campus
- 44 Children's Center
- 36 Music ministry

Points OPPORTUNITIES

- 36 Sponsor AA/NA/Boy Scouts, etc.
- 32 Support established local ministries
- 29 Renew music program- musical instruments - orchestra
- 24 Children's programming
- 23 Interact with other churches on projects

Points WEAKNESSES

- 55 Declining members - aging vs youth, outreach, retention
- 51 Budget shortage
- 28 Apathy by membership-time, talent, resources - fear of change
- 23 Training- Sunday School teachers, mission leaders, leadership, etc.
- 22 Lack of Complete Transparency- spending/general

Points THREATS

- 37 Apathy
- 33 Inability to attract young families
- 28 Financial instability- decline in economic standard of living
- 25 Declining membership
- 17 Competing activities on Sunday and Wednesday
- 17 Aging leadership

Where do we want to go?

On June 1, 2016, over 100 members of the congregation gathered for dessert and fellowship, but more than that, to dream of the future they would envision for the church. The group shared over 165 dreams and ideas, and then prioritized these to be used as a base for the future development of the church. There was much excitement in the process as six groups worked simultaneously to begin the process of building a new future for First Baptist Church. The following are the top five dreams as identified by our congregation.

Points DREAMS

- 179 Attract younger families and singles
- 132 Youth and children's programs-Strengthen
- 79 Increase active participation of members - outings/retreats/picnics
- 74 Associate minister for youth/congregational care - more than one person
- 69 Become financially stable/exceed our budget