

# Mount Vernon Baptist Church - Westwood

## Vision 2018



Habakkuk 2:2

<sup>2</sup>And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that reads it.

**Our Mission:** The Mount Vernon Baptist

Church- Westwood exists to *honor God* in all that we do, *proclaim the Gospel* of Jesus Christ, and *live* by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Our Vision:** Our vision is to be a growing, generous, healthy, and impactful church family; one that transforms lives, serves our community and develops leaders to impact the next generation.

## 5 Things We Must Do to Fulfill The Vision

1. We must take care of our church family- **John 13:34-35, 1 Peter 4:8-10.**  
We are obligated to love each other. Our ministries must focus on extending love and support to everyone. It is our desire to see every member of Mt. Vernon equipped to live the life God has for them, while feeling embraced and cared for by their church family.
2. We must reach new people. – **Matt. 28:19-20, Acts 6:7**  
We have to attract and engage new people, especially those who are young and unsaved, otherwise we will stop growing. Our aim is to transform families for the Glory of God. We are challenged to be relatable and compelling. We will have to adjust some things, but we are up for the challenge.
3. We must serve our community- **Luke 4:18**  
We must make an impact in our city and it begins in our community. God placed us here for a reason. Our impact must be felt. We must address the hopelessness in our community. We should not focus only on ourselves. We need to love people who may never step a foot into our church.
4. We must be good stewards- **1 Corinthians 4:2**  
God has blessed us to accomplish a major goal this year, but we must be good stewards over everything God has given us (*Time, Talent, Treasures*). As leaders we have made a renewed commitment to being better stewards.
5. We must develop future leaders- **Psalm 92:12-15.**  
We have loyalty, experience, and longevity. But our roles must begin to change. While we continue to lead we should turn our attention to helping younger members transition into leadership in a way that pleases God. The next generation is the fruit of this generation. The burden is ours to make them part of every component of Church ministry and leadership.

## What We Need From Each Member To Accomplish The Vision

1. Prayers & Encouragement. Pray for the success of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. Have an encouraging attitude that says, "*we can do this*". Speak life instead of critiques and complaints.
2. Commitment: Make yourself available. Become part of a team, join a ministry, attend the workshops. Give of your time, talent, and treasures.
3. Patience: Change requires patience. When adjustments are made, please be patient.
4. Feedback: We want to hear from you. Let us know your thoughts and possible ways we can improve.
5. Participation in Church Revitalization: We are revamping the Church Revitalization Calendar, which should encourage more participation from all members and leaders.

## *What We Need From Each Ministry To Accomplish The Vision*

1. Evangelism: There are a variety of ways to evangelize. The Evangelism Department will provide our ministries with several choices that you can embrace.
2. Outreach: Our outreach efforts in 2018 must engage the community through the Love of God. As you plan your activities, brainstorm ways to get outside the walls of the church. A list of outreach initiatives will be provided to each ministry leader in January 2018.
3. Prayer: Support The Prayer Ministry, Prayer Summits, and spend time in prayer as a ministry.
4. Fellowship: Fellowship strengthens the bonds of togetherness in the church
5. Care for each other: We want each member to feel loved and cared for. We need each other to make it through life.

## 2018 Financial Vision: Building A Financial Legacy

### **1. Maintain A High Level of Giving To Operate Ministry**

We must maintain a high level of generosity. This will be done as we:

(1) Faithfully pay our tithes. (2) Give generous offerings.

### **2. Decrease Expenses**

Decreased salaries by 15% (70,000)

All expenses are being evaluated and monitored for cuts and savings.

### **3. The Vision Offering**

What Is The Vision Offering? The Vision Offering is a commitment above your tithe. The Vision Offering replaces the following offerings: Birth Month Fellowship, Capital Improvement, and the Mortgage Burning Offering. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month in 2018 we will receive The Vision Offering. However, you can give towards your Vision Offering at any time.

What are the goals of the vision offering?

- Raise \$100,000 for General Savings Reserve.
- Pay \$50,000 on mortgage principal.
- Take care of our building/facilities.

How Much Should I Give? Our request is that you pray and be led by God. If you currently give towards the Birth Month and Capital offerings, the amount of The Vision Offering could be about \$500.00 above your tithe. Some are able to do much more. All gifts are appreciated and are applied towards the vision of building a financial legacy for Mt. Vernon Baptist Church.

### Basic Giving Categories for 2018

Tithe: 10% of what God blesses you with.

Offerings: Gifts above your tithe, but not Vision Offering.

Vision Offering: Financial gifts earmarked Vision Offering, specifically to meet the goals of the Vision Offering listed above.

## *The Next Steps of The Church Revitalization Initiative*

1. Vision and Mission Alignment – *Church Revitalization Core Team*
  - Emphasize the Church mission and vision until it's part of our DNA.
  - Host Vision and Leadership Development Workshops
  - Improve New Membership Assimilation.
  
2. Christian Education and Ministries - *Christian Education Task Force.*
  - Make Christian Education more accessible by using technology.
  - Offer unique and interesting classes by partnering with Memphis College for Urban Theological Studies.
  
3. Worship Experience- *Ministry Enhancement Task Force.*
  - Retool worship experience to reach new families.
  - Improve how we attract and retain guests. Strengthen Guest Care Ministry.
  - Allow for more expression from young people in worship.
  - Explore ways to improve church attendance.
  
4. Evangelism & Outreach – *Evangelism Task Force*
  - Strengthen ministry in the neighborhood schools.
  - Equip members to do evangelism/outreach. Provide more opportunities.
  - Demonstrate ways each member can invite more people to church.
  - Invest more in children and youth ministry.
  - Explore ways to reach and retain young families.
  
5. Stewardship – *Stewardship Task Force*
  - Increase teaching on Biblical stewardship and generosity.
  - Offer biblical solutions to help members with personal finances.
  - Begin Building A Financial Legacy
  - Consult with The Lomah Group.
  
6. Leadership Development – *Leadership Task Force*
  - Increase accountability for current ministry and official leadership.
  - Begin leadership coaching/development for current and future leaders.
  - Offer improved support for ministry leaders.