

## Vision Sunday: Forward Together

About 18 months ago the MLT and Deacons began a process of discerning what we believe to be the vision, values and 5-year plan of BVBC. Beginning of the Year- Sure Foundations culmination of discussion, prayer and unity among church leaders about our Values- the WHY we do WHAT we do.

### Our Values- now on the wall in the lobby

Bible-Centered, Generously Orthodox

Discipleship Driven

Meaningful Membership & Community

Unity in Diversity

The Pursuit of Excellence, Relevance & Innovation

Thriving Families

Authenticity and Restoration

Gospel Partnerships for our City & World

We then wrestled with the question, if we lived out these values intentionally as a church. If we cultivate these values, resource these values, make decisions based on these values, what would Brandywine look like over the next 5 Years?

### Vision Focus

**Missional Impact** Because of time I'm going to primarily focus on Missional Impact, but let me mention the other two.

**Spiritual Health**- Shepherding and Meaningful Membership, Stewardship

**Hospitality**- We want our church building, from parking lot to pew to be welcoming to the diverse group of people that are coming from our community. This includes design, décor, space usage, a/v/l and other tech.

### Missional Impact

1 Peter 2:9

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

Peter says that the role of the church in a culture is to proclaim, "Celebrate or show forth" visibly and tangibly to the community around us, the "excellencies" - Goodness and greatness and praiseworthiness of God. This is our goal- We want to tangibly declare and demonstrate why our God is so awesome. How he sees them and loves them when others have forgotten them. Why he gives them hope when things seem hopeless. How he can restore what is broken and bring freedom and newness of life. That no matter what they have done or how much they have messed up that he offers forgiveness. That there is far more to life than the rat race and American Dream.

Specifically, there are some initiatives that we want to pursue that we believe will help us accomplish this calling from God.

### **Ministry to Marriages and Families**

Instead of just being called that church next to the Y, we want to be known in the community as the church that cares about people...marriages and families. If your marriage is struggling, if you need support and training as a parent, if your kids are struggling... that this would be the place that our community says is the best place for them to thrive. And we get to point them to the one who brings order and life and restoration- Jesus! I think we are doing that pretty well with our children and youth. Come on a Wednesday night if you haven't and you will see this place teeming with life through Awana, Student Small Groups. But there is more we need to be doing for marriages in our community. Our flagship ministry at the center of this initiative is **Re|engage**. A ministry designed to enrich, restore and resurrect marriages. We launch our pilot in September with 42 people, 21 couples and 8 leader couples. So encouraged by what is happening so far at the midpoint. Some comments- - "It is encouraging to be around other couples who admit struggles. It makes me know that we are not alone in life's ups and downs. It also makes me feel much closer to those people." "We feel fortunate to be taking part in this." "I think this has changed my life!" "Keep up the good work. Can't wait to invite our friends." In January we will publicly launch re|engage and we believe over time this ministry will not only disciple and enrich our marriages but be used as an effective tool of impact in our community.

### **Recovery Ministry**

We have been asking what it would look like to make a dent in the addiction epidemic in our community. Addiction to pornography, alcohol and substance abuse like the opioid addiction- 2<sup>nd</sup> highest per capita in the country. In the coming years, when we are financially ready and Re|engage is running stable, it is our goal to begin a gospel-oriented recovery program at the church. But also we are looking for partnerships with Christian rehabilitation facilities because this isn't something we tackle alone- Experience at: Adult and Teen Challenge in Seaford has a goal of launching a second facility here in New Castle County.

### **Effective Gospel Partnerships in Wilmington**

Gospel success in our city does not look like BVBC having lots of people attending or bigger programs or bigger budgets. Gospel success looks like the Churches in our city, both urban and suburban are working together, growing, being effective in their neighborhoods at meeting needs, loving people and spreading the gospel. Faster alone, but further together. This is the idea behind One4Wilmington, our partnership between urban and suburban churches for the sake of the Gospel in our city. Good Friday Service together, August we did a **community day in the park in W. Center city** for the second year. About 300 people from the community. One woman said that her kids asked who is doing this? Churches who love us. We have gathered for prayer walks in the City. And we are currently talking about developing a forum to discuss vital issues that affect our city. Pastor Derrick- Vision for a house in W. Center.

What will it take? Prayer. We need your prayer. Your participation. Catch the vision!