

Crafting Our Mission and Vision Statement

1. Our 30-Second Testimony – who wants to share?!?
2. King David lived compelled by a mission and vision. To discover elements of it, read Psalm 108.

A Little Quiz

A Mission Statement is _____.

The mission statement should express to your congregation...and your community what your church is all about...Your statement should say, 'This is who we are. Do you want to join us on this big mission?' Typically, in twelve words or less...the church develops a mantra that answers the why question. Why do we exist?

A Vision Statement is _____.

The vision statement, on the other hand, describes where you picture the church to be heading in the future...Develop the vision for three to five years out. Make the vision specific and measurable. Sometimes it includes actual numerical targets. Other times it names a specific initiative that the church hopes to complete. As long as it's realistically possible with a move of God, bigger vision is always better...If you have a solid vision, it will both rally and repel people.

Our Strategy is _____.

The strategy statement clarifies how the mission and vision will be accomplished. Take the big picture and break it into bite-sized chunks to prioritize what needs to happen in the next six to twelve months. I want everyone to understand that this is what I'm supposed to be focused on today.

Discussion On “The Unstuck Church” – Chapter 3: Strategic Growth, Part 1

1. “Many of you just read the subtitle to this chapter and want to stop reading. From your perspective, the subtitle includes a four-letter word. It’s the P word: plan.”

When you hear the word “plan”, how do you react? And I’m curious, how did you find this chapter, compared to the first two?

2. Why is “planning” and creating a “strategy” necessary to nurture continued growth in the church? What did it mean for the churches mentioned on pages 66-67?

3. These churches had to ask themselves 3 questions to take the next step:

- a. What’s our **strategy**?
- b. What **systems** are needed to support our strategy?
- c. What **structure** is required to engage more people in the next season of growth?

Why are each of these important?

4. What are the six characteristics of churches experiencing strategic growth?

a. They shift from personalities to teams.

The churches that get this right learn to model team-based leadership at the top of the organization.

b. Growth pains force leaders to think more strategically.

Without this shift, complexity will continue to grow and ministry silos will begin to develop.

PBC: I would suggest that FBC’s decline happened in reverse. At some point, we *stopped* thinking strategically. Vision and mission faded from view. Ministry silos emerged. The concept of being part of a “team” was lost. Add enough time and what things started happening?

c. They confirm their discipleship path.

This is one of the key strategies that any church needs to define. In small churches, next steps are driven relationally, that is, people develop a relationship that leads to a next step. As churches grow, people will need to take a step before those relationships develop.

What is FBC's "discipleship path"?

d. Systems are established to reinforce healthy behaviors.

Rather than rely only on chance...Boundaries are established and steps are defined so that decision making can be released to more people.

Rather than saying, "Go see Sue" to learn how to be a greeter, a financial secretary, a youth leader, etc. why is it an improvement to lay down systems that we agree to and write down?

e. Structure forms to support future growth.

By structure I mean a combination of lay leadership, church governance, staff leadership, and volunteer ministry teams.

Why is working on structure something we do toward the end?

f. They begin to flex their healthy change muscles.

While it's still growing, the church needs to learn how to let go of the past and embrace the future. Now is the time to begin establishing this in the culture: change is expected and is a sign of health.

What would it take to help a church shift from seeing change as a bad thing to a good thing?

Let's Get In Our Mission & Vision Sandbox And Play!

It's time to bring together the work and study we've done on all the Bible verses about Jesus and the early Church's mission and vision. Any mission and vision statement we write should reflect these Scriptural priorities.

Using the camaraderie of Wikipedia, do the following:

1. Examine the verses one last time. For each verse, fill in the following blank:

Jesus loved _____ . Or *The early Christians loved* _____ .

2. Identify some big "categories" or "tentpoles" under which these verses can be organized. If you're confident of a category, then write it out in bold letters at the top of any piece of poster board paper hanging around the room.

3. Write out beneath the category any of the verses you find that support that category.

4. Don't duplicate a category. If someone else lists it first, you can...

a. Amend or edit the category heading, not by crossing it out, but putting alongside it another suggestion or synonym.

b. Writing out verses you've found that support that category.

5. Continue working until every verse has found a home, and every possible category has been thought of. The room should look a little messy.

CATEGORIES we've uncovered:

Discipleship / Equipping

A Growing Church / A Healthy Church

Holiness

Forgiveness / Repentance

Prayer

Staying Close to God

Shepherding

Worship / Love God

Evangelism / Witnessing

Belief / Faith

Service

Love / Caring for the Weak

Welcoming / Health

If we could boil it down to 3-5 main ideas:

Discipleship / Equipping / Shepherding / A Growing & Healthy Church

Evangelism / Witnessing

Service / Love / Caring For The Weak / Welcoming / Health

Worship / Staying Close To God / Prayer

Holiness / Forgiveness / Repentance

*Belief / Faith **

* *Belief / Faith* we found to be the foundation beneath each of the other categories. It is our belief, faith and trust in Christ that compels us to disciple & equip, to share our hope, to serve & love, to worship & pray, and to pursue holiness and repentance.

Our own mission statement will probably have a word-structure that's similar to what others have done. We can begin to formulate it by completing sentences like the following:

Faith Baptist Church exists to...

God has called us to...

Our purpose as followers of Christ is to...

Your Assignment for Next Week:

- Read, or reread, through Chapter 3 – “Strategic Growth” in “The Unstuck Church”.
- Play around with writing out a possible mission statement for both yourself and the church.
- Continue to work on the exercise we gave you last week: Prayerfully dream about what you would like to see FBC looking like 3-5 years from now. Write a paragraph describing what you see. Write a second paragraph outlining what we will have done to arrive at that place. These thoughts will give shape to our Vision statement.