



**Strategic Planning Committee
2022 Report**

CONVICTIONS

We, the members of the Strategic Planning Committee, have held the following convictions concerning our work:

- That God knows the plans He has for us as a church and that these are “plans to prosper us and not harm us” (Jeremiah 29:11).
- That God reveals His plans to His children through the Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and circumstances.
- That God has given Temple Baptist Church the overarching purpose of seeing every member *Growing in Christ, Connecting in Community, and Engaging in Mission*.
- That God instructs His people to be strategic in fulfilling their purpose by preparing for His movement among us (Isaiah 54:1-3).
- That God is continuing to move in the midst of Temple Baptist Church to foster an atmosphere conducive for future growth and expansion.
- That God is providing tremendous opportunities for Temple Baptist Church to declare and demonstrate the gospel both locally and globally.
- That God has led the Strategic Planning Committee through its discussions, deliberations, and conclusions to propose specific recommendations consistent with the church’s purpose and God’s plan.
- That God will empower His people and provide the necessary resources to accomplish His will for Temple Baptist Church, which includes the following proposals.

Respectfully Submitted by the Members of the Committee:

Glenn Scriber, Chairman
Kim Brasher
Reggie Bridges
Steve Coyle
Jeff Parks
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RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

Temple Baptist Church exists to see every member *Growing in Christ, Connecting in Community, and Engaging in Mission*. With this purpose in mind, the Strategic Planning Committee began to pray and work to attempt to bring forth proposals compatible with the church's vision. We pray these would guide us in our decision making and direction for the next few years.

The following recommendations represent the collective work of the Strategic Planning Committee. Although the committee considered many other worthwhile goals, it was drawn to eight specific recommendations which it believed to be God-sized, God-inspired objectives. This limited list should not suggest in any way that there are not other activities in which the church should be involved in future years. The Strategic Planning Committee will continue to assess the future needs of the church and recommend plans to address those needs. Moreover, the committee encourages the church staff and ministry leaders of the church to analyze their prospective ministries and set individual goals consistent with the overall mission and core values of the church.

Some final notes concerning the subsequent presentation should be observed. First, the eight recommendations have been categorized into three areas of our vision statement *Growing in Christ, Connecting in Community, and Engaging in Mission*. Second, the specific recommendation is stated in bold. Third, a brief rationale and explanation is given to support the recommendation. Fourth, certain action items (which should not be viewed as exhaustive) are proposed.

Growing in Christ

Recommendation #1: That the church leverage its influence on this generation to focus on developing leaders and future ministers to be sent out to reach the next generation at local, national, and global levels.

Rationale:

Temple Baptist Church is blessed with many gifted leaders across every local industry. Temple Baptist Church is also uniquely positioned between two universities and with great resources to make a major impact in the Kingdom locally and around the world. We want to further develop leaders to serve in our church and to be sent out for ministry and missions near and far, especially to unreached areas.

Action Items:

1. That the staff lead an emphasis to increase participation in Discipleship Groups (D Groups) to include 25% of Sunday School members in the next five years (Total of 200 people).

2. That the staff develop a leadership pipeline for church members and leaders to continue to grow in Christ and be equipped to do the work of ministry locally and in the marketplace.
3. That the church and staff seek to empower children and youth to become leaders in areas of worship, discipleship, and missions.
4. That the church and staff lead in helping introduce college students to Jesus Christ through ministry and outreach to the Tech and Grambling campuses.
5. That the church and staff renew an emphasis on “calling out the called” and prepare them for (bi)vocational ministry.
6. That the church continue to partner with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary through the Temple School of Missions and Ministry to offer training and classes for members and students who are called to ministry and missions.

Recommendation #2: That the church develops a five-year plan that will address perceived maintenance/renovation needs of its current campus and facilities.

Rationale:

A primary and regular function of Temple Baptist Church is its corporate worship and the study of God’s Word. An essential element in this is physical space. Most of the church facilities were completed in 1998, and although great attention has been given to their maintenance, they will continue to require updating/renovation/maintenance. God has blessed Temple with a tremendous campus, and a deliberate plan will allow the church to make the necessary preparations (in finance and time) for its upkeep. Simply stated, such a plan is a reflection of good stewardship. Some physical needs to be addressed could include Sanctuary renovation (platform, pews, ceiling, etc.), corridor cosmetic updates, Foyer updated, and possible areas in the Family Life Center.

Action Items:

1. That the Building and Property Committee, in cooperation with the appropriate church staff, identifies anticipated maintenance/renovation needs and prioritize those needs to formulate a five-year plan.
2. That the Finance Committee works with the Building and Property Committee to analyze the costs associated with such a plan and to recommend a method of funding (e.g. budgetary adjustments) to the Deacons Council and to the church.

Connecting in Community

Recommendation #3: That the church and its leadership investigate ways to create new connection points within the current campus to foster and encourage personal connections and relationships.

Rationale:

God has blessed Temple Baptist Church with a strategic site location and campus. The Strategic Planning Committee believes that the church should be deliberate and intentional in utilizing this resource. The Strategic Planning Committee recommends that connection points be established within the current footprint of the building. Possible areas to look at include: Church Library, Family Life Center, Room 216, recreation field near the Family Life Center, etc.

Action Items:

1. That the Building and Property Committee, in cooperation with the appropriate church staff,
 - a. examines future ministry needs/opportunities
 - b. identifies and proposes updates and remodels
 - c. determines how the current property can be utilized to meet those needs/opportunities
 - d. presents its initial recommendations to the Deacons Council and to the church by November 2022
2. That the Finance Committee works with the Building and Property Committee to analyze the costs associated with such a plan and to recommend a method of funding to the Deacons Council and to the church.

Recommendation #4: That the church and its leadership continue to examine and implement intentional ministry programs that will encourage cross-generational discipleship, fellowship, and missions.

Rationale:

For many years, Temple Baptist Church has held one of its greatest strengths to be its multigenerational character. It is a wonderful reality that both a child and a senior adult can find a place of service and ministry at Temple. However, circumstances and events can often generationally segregate the body of Christ, and its members can lose touch. Through past ministry programs such as family mission trips, adopt-a-student efforts, and church-wide fellowships, Temple has been able to encourage cross-generational interaction. These intentional efforts must continue in order to unify the faith family across generational boundaries.

Action Items:

1. That the church staff continues to examine and implement ministries/events that provide biblical contexts for cross-generational interaction.
2. That the ministerial staff and church leadership continue to pursue ministries that will evangelize, encourage, and equip people across the generational spectrum.

Engaging in Mission

Recommendation #5: That the church and its leadership continue to partner with and support local ministries and parachurch organizations that are gospel-centered and like-minded to help reach our community for Christ.

Rationale:

According to Scripture, the gospel calls upon believers to live out their faith by meeting physical and spiritual needs. This often requires us to get outside the walls of the church and into the community in our ministry efforts. Since our last report, Temple Baptist Church has expanded partnerships with many local ministries and non-profits such as Life Choices, Rolling Hills, Freedom 13, YoungLife, FCA, Teach One to Lead One, CCA, Adopt-A-School, All Pro Dad, and Habitat for Humanity. These partnerships have led to increased opportunities to impact our community for Christ as well as given our church new places of ministry. Temple Baptist Church has hired a full-time Minister of Community Engagement to help our church better serve our community. The Strategic Planning committee endorses these efforts as a biblical, practical example of Christ's love that has the potential of bringing Ruston churches together in kingdom work.

Action Items:

1. That the staff and Local Missions Committee continue to identify local ministries to support and encourage gospel work in our community.
2. That the staff continues to emphasize and provide opportunities for members to serve and lead in these local ministries.
3. That the Habitat for Humanity Ad Hoc Committee, in cooperation with the appropriate church staff continues to move toward the establishment of a Habitat Community Development with the goal of helping build three homes in the next five years.
4. That the staff and Local Missions Committee work with the Zion Traveler Community Development Corporation to support the Real Change in Ruston initiative and to partner with them to do ministry.

Recommendation #6: That the church will continue to embrace the Southern Baptist Convention's church revitalization efforts and look for opportunities to renew gospel work in declining or closed churches in North Louisiana.

Rationale:

According to denominational statistics, 70-75% of Southern Baptist churches in North America are plateaued or declining. Even more alarming, 25-30% are "at or near risk" of closing. These numbers are also indicative of the churches in North Louisiana as once vital churches are struggling to remain open. Action must be taken in order to reverse this decline and encourage vibrant faith communities. Already, Temple Baptist Church has supported the church revitalization effort of Southern Baptists and Louisiana Baptists by assisting other churches in Bible schools, community surveys, and personnel partnerships. Temple has also established The Springs in the former Barnett Springs Baptist Church. The church staff and the Strategic Planning Committee are convinced that Temple Baptist Church has been placed in North Central Louisiana to have an influence in renewal and revitalization. Previously, Temple Baptist Church has demonstrated concern for its regional responsibility by planting Southside Baptist Church (now Dayspring Ministry), Bethlehem Hispanic Mission, and The Springs. Now, Temple has another opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission in its sphere of influence. The Temple family cannot bring revitalization alone, but it must be a conduit that God uses to do what it can for His glory.

Action Items:

1. That the ministerial staff and Missions Committee, with the help of the local Baptist associations, the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the North American Mission Board, etc.
 - a. Conduct a comprehensive study of the proposed area to determine the most viable context for a revitalization opportunity
 - b. Construct a detailed process for establishing such work
 - c. Present their recommendation to the Deacons Council and church.
2. That the ministerial staff and the Local/Global Missions Committees continue to pursue new ministry opportunities to affinity groups and/or possible church revitalization sites in our parish/region. Some potential opportunities may include Sports Ministry to City Sports Complex, Simple Church options, and Lincoln Parish Detention Center, etc.
3. That the Finance Committee, working with the ministerial staff, determines the level and method of funding the new revitalization effort will require and recommends a method of funding (e.g. budgetary adjustments) to the church.

Recommendation #7: That the church will continue to expand our sending capacity by committing to plant a church in a North America Send City within the next three years.

Rationale:

As the early church took the gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, it planted local congregations that could continue to make disciples. Church planting was certainly a part of the missionary strategy. Temple Baptist Church is convinced that the gospel is the power of God for salvation and that the New Testament strategy of planting churches is still relevant. Across the globe, there is a need to establish local faith assemblies that will uphold the gospel. Even in the United States, planting biblically-based churches is required. Today, there is one church for every 6,139 people compared to the highest point of one church for every 430 during World War I. To evangelize an ever-growing, ever-changing culture, more and different churches must be planted. According to one study, new church plants demonstrate much more effectiveness in evangelism than established churches by noting that established Southern Baptist churches baptized 3.4 people per 100 resident members, while new churches baptized 11.7 per 100 resident members. God has given Temple the financial and personnel resources to be at the forefront of this church planting effort. No doubt, the “sending” spirit of Temple continues to grow, and it is demonstrated through its commitment to plant churches in North America and the world.

Action Items:

1. That the ministerial staff and Global Missions Committee, with the help of the North American Mission Board, International Mission Board, etc.
 - a. Consider existing relationships/resources that could be conducive for church planting
 - b. Conduct a comprehensive study of possible locations to determine the most viable context for a church plant
 - c. Construct a detailed timeline and process for sending people, resources, and support
 - d. Present their recommendations to the Deacons Council and church.
2. That the Finance Committee, working with the ministerial staff, Missions Committee, and other Southern Baptist organizations, determines the level and method of funding the new plant will require, and recommends appropriate measures to the Deacons Council and church.

Recommendation #8: That the church pray and prepare to send out multigenerational, long-term teams that will relocate to join in God's global mission of making disciples and establishing the church among unreached peoples and in unreached places.

Rationale:

From its beginning, Temple Baptist Church has demonstrated a strong commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. From sending short-term teams to areas like Central America and South Asia to launching out couples to Central Asia and South America, Temple has sought to take the good news of Jesus Christ to the nations. Even its financial support, the Temple family has exhibited generosity in giving to the Cooperative Program and to the special mission offerings. In the days ahead, the church has a great opportunity to advance the King and His Kingdom by intentionally sending out a multigenerational, long-term team to unreached peoples. As stated in other recommendations, Temple is uniquely positioned to equip such a diverse group of believers to carry the gospel overseas.

Action Items:

1. That the ministerial staff and Global Missions Committee, with the help of the International Mission Board, research the possibility of sending mission teams (2-4 families/singles) to an unreached people group through the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention
2. That the ministerial staff and Global Missions Committee develop a plan for a missions-sending pipeline within the church (a relational and spiritual encouragement that integrates the training from the Temple School of Ministry and Missions).
3. That the ministerial staff prepares and implements a missions education strategy (perhaps through a small group study) to train and equip believers who are pursuing a call to missions.
4. That the ministerial staff, along with lay leadership, develops a prayer strategy that will undergird the international mission sending effort.
5. That the ministerial staff, along with the Global Missions Committee and the Finance Committee, plans for the financial support of such an international team.