



Dear Church,

The Vision Team is excited to present our DRAFT vision report containing recommendations for fulfilling God's vision for Oakland Baptist Church. Having discerned God's direction for our church through prayer, dialogues, and congregational meetings, we believe this report represents who we are as a church and where we believe God is calling us in the future.

What you read below is a summary report containing what we have discerned as three values, seven goals, and various strategies for fulfilling God's vision. **We encourage you to watch the Vision Team presentation from November 10 which details these values, goals and strategies.** You can view the presentation by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Our final report will contain an executive summary of the process, our timeline, and the summary data from each congregational meeting. As a reminder, everything pertaining to our vision process can be viewed on our website. We have posted the agenda for each Vision Team meeting, the data from congregational dialogues, our Zoom book studies, and other pertinent information. You can access everything by [CLICKING HERE](#).

We welcome feedback on this report as we prepare for the final draft which will be presented to the congregation on January 23, 2022. You may offer feedback on the DRAFT report by [CLICKING HERE](#).

DRAFT VISION TEAM REPORT November 10, 2021

We are a church that values RELATIONSHIPS.

Oakland is passionate about maintaining and nourishing the connections that are formed within our church while always leaving space to welcome others into the circle of faith. Mutual respect and acceptance of others in all walks of life are values we hold in high esteem.

GOAL: With God's help we will commit ourselves to being an open, inviting, and inclusive community of faith where everyone can find a place of belonging.

Our strategies to accomplish this goal include, but are not limited to:

- S1: Maintain and increase the accessibility of our facility to accommodate those with special needs.
- S2: Provide educational opportunities to learn about each other and our neighbors in a comfortable, non-confrontational environment that respects and encourages diversity and expression of different ideas.
- S3: Strengthen intergenerational relationships through activities that offer a variety of ages contributing to the same project or educational opportunity.
- S4: Explore opportunities for the use of our facilities by outside groups.
- S5: Intentionally work to increase diversity in our laity and partnerships that reflects the diversity and inclusiveness we value.

GOAL: With God's help we will find intentional ways to connect new people into the life of our church, regardless of where they are on the faith journey.

Our strategies to accomplish this goal include, but are not limited to:

- S1: Create and maintain a process for welcoming new people into the life of the church; and introducing opportunities to be involved in spiritual growth and service.

- S2: Foster mentor relationships between new persons and those well-established in the Oakland family of faith.
- S3: Create an exploratory team to discern our perception in the community as a “Baptist” church; and whether or not this title helps or hinders our influence.
- S4: Establish a marketing strategy to increase our presence and promote our values within the community.

GOAL: With God’s help we will increase the involvement of younger generations within the life of the church.

Our strategies to accomplish this goal include, but are not limited to:

- S1: Renovating space in the church building to create a dedicated children’s area for those in kindergarten through fifth grade.
- S2: Renovating space in the church building to create an authentic youth area for those in sixth through twelfth grade.
- S3: Implementing the six strategies found in the book *Growing Young: Six Essentials to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*.
- S4: Develop focused opportunities to engage with college students and young adults.

We are a church that values SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN CHRIST.

Oakland believes faith should engage the mind and the heart in an ever-growing, life-changing formative process that reflects our desire to live as devoted followers of Christ.

GOAL: With God’s help we will create opportunities for discipleship which lead to transformational relationships with Christ and impacts our everyday living.

Our strategies to accomplish this goal include, but are not limited to:

- S1: Creating and maintaining an educational tool that allows every person to know what spiritual growth is and how to implement it into their Christian journey.
- S2: Developing a discipleship blueprint for all ages.
- S3: Expand opportunities for small-groups and Bible studies outside of the normal Sunday School hour.
- S4: Broaden our worship style to incorporate opportunities to highlight and celebrate Christ at work within and among us.
- S5: Explore the possibility of having a shared worship experience with other churches in our community.

We are a church that values MISSIONS.

Oakland believes we are most impactful when we stretch beyond our walls and borders. We are intentional about knowing and serving our neighbors, locally and globally.

GOAL: With God’s help we will enable every person to participate in at least one service ministry.

Our strategies to accomplish this goal include, but are not limited to:

- S1: Take inventory of the places people are currently serving inside and outside of our church.
- S2: Take inventory of the current mission and ministry opportunities being offered within Oakland.
- S3: Offer an annual spiritual gifts inventory to allow everyone to identify their strengths, skills, and interests.
- S4: Create and maintain an educational tool that allows every person to know how to use their spiritual gifts.
- S5: Provide a variety of opportunities for service ministry ensuring there are enough opportunities for every person to be involved.
- S6: Restructure, merge, and condense committees, allowing people greater opportunities to serve in mission-focused ministries.

GOAL: With God's help we will be a leading church in the community for meeting the needs of others.

Our strategies to accomplish this goal include, but are not limited to:

- S1: Create open lines of communication with leaders of community organizations in order to listen and respond to their needs.
- S2: Establish partnerships with other churches and organizations for meeting the needs of others.
- S3: Infuse local mission opportunities and awareness into every aspect of Oakland's ministry, including Sunday School, Worship, and the Oakland Day School.
- S4: Annually establish mission groups that will consistently engage with mission partners to assess needs and formulate plans for assistance. (Examples: Hope, Habitat for Humanity, York County Medical Clinic)
- S5: Continually educate our congregation on the needs in our community and discern the needs we believe God has led us to address.
- S6: Provide opportunities for education and action related to issues of social justice.

GOAL: With God's help we will expand the excellent outreach of the Ministry Center.

Our strategies to accomplish this goal include, but are not limited to:

- S1: Expand the physical presence of the Ministry Center, including the possibility of a second location and/or a mobile location.
- S2: Increase promotion of the Ministry Center through marketing efforts.
- S3: Intentionally work to build upon our partnerships with community help organizations such as Pathways and Hope.
- S4: Intentionally work to form partnerships with new community help organizations.
- S5: Develop a leadership plan for the Ministry Center that will continue the strong emphasis of ministry created by its founding leaders and supported by the congregation.

Once again, we welcome feedback on this summary report as we prepare for the final draft which will be presented to the congregation on January 23, 2022.

To offer your feedback [CLICK HERE](#) or use the link in the November 11 *Weekly Update*. Please submit your feedback by Sunday, December 5.

We are grateful to God and the congregation of Oakland for supporting the vision process over the past year. With full hearts we look forward to the ways God will continue to bless our church in years to come!

Sincerely,

The Oakland Baptist Vision Team and Ministerial Staff