



## WHERE WE ARE TODAY

We started 2023 with a prayer to grow in joy and satisfaction in Christ alone. We had plans of introducing personal formation plans, doing a training within MCs on reading the Bible, and re-establishing MCs through resources we developed. We called the church to be present in worship. We intentionally planned a season of rest over the summer.

We also said goodbye this last year to people we love deeply and who left their mark on our lives. We welcomed children into our lives. We had family members pass away. We got new jobs. We lost old jobs. We've finished masters degrees and started new programs. Throughout it all, Jesus was our source of joy and satisfaction.

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**Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.**

**- ROMANS 5:5**

# PRAYER AND VISION FOR 2024

This year, our vision, the one thing we want to fix our gifts, energy, and resources on and build all our strategies around, is this:

## ***TO BECOME A PEOPLE OF HOPE AND WITNESS THIS YEAR***

You'll notice. This isn't a typical organizational goal: Where's the numbers and the data? That's because this is a human transformation vision. We believe this is the work God wants to do in us as people—as a community.

This prayer will infuse everything we're doing: what we preach about, how we care for MCs, how we build DNA groups, how we disciple kids, how we grow our youth group. We believe that this vision captures the heart of God for our people in this moment.

## ***WHAT DO WE MEAN BY HOPE?***

- Hope is the expectation of what will make the world better - the thing that does the changing and what we hope in drives us.
- Hope in Jesus changes everything - not on our timeline, but on His.
- Hope transcends our current circumstances.
- Hope is exclusive - Jesus is the *only* thing that will change the world—including us.

## ***TAKE STOCK***

As we enter this year, we'll be challenged with these questions:

- Have we adopted other hopes?
- Have we downgraded our hope in Jesus a little bit?
- Have we abandoned hope for some areas of our lives?
- Have we exalted gifts to our hope for the world?
- Have we built the habit of despair?

## GOALS FOR 2024

How will we do that? We will learn to see Christ not just at work in our lives but at play in our lives. We will be present with the church, too: seeking him in every environment of our church with an intentional focus toward **hope** and **witness**.

## GATHERINGS

- Have a time of prayer in every gathering. A time for people to receive prayer and a time for people to pray.
- Soma Stories - a month where our gatherings will primarily be around sharing stories.
- Sermon series' on Hope and Testimony
- Art Installation on Hope
- Lent: Taking stock of our passion for the lost and the mission of God. Invitation to lament, confession, repentance as a path toward hope.
- Kids (toddler class and up) in the gathering for worship.

## MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

- Liturgies for Missional Communities (less content, more practice and doing) — MC Leader Training on this in January that helps MC leaders plan intentional, invitational, and inclusive gatherings
- Grow in speaking the gospel in normal ways and witnessing to one another God's work.
- Grow in welcoming new people and neighbors into our community moments
- Display the hope we have in Christ by serving and fostering relationships

## DNA GROUPS

- Continued Study - This year we're going to continue to provide resources for every sermon series and we encourage every DNA group to follow along with us. This will help each DNA read the Bible when they're together, reflect on it, and apply it within their lives.
- Sharing testimonies in DNA - It's hard talking about yourself—at least the meaningful bits. This year, we're going to create space in our DNA groups to share our stories and share what God is currently doing in our lives.

## PERSONAL FORMATION

- Offer another training on personal formation plans as we do another push for people to re-make theirs at the start of this new year.
- Provide and promote intentional practices for processing hope, lament, and confession.

# PRACTICAL UPDATES FOR 2024

## ELDER SABBATICALS

Sabbaticals are not earned by hard work or excellent work but gifts of grace to rest given for the sake of enjoying God, gaining perspective, and delighting in rest. They are planned and intentional times for the purpose of holistic rejuvenation: physical rest, emotional rest, spiritual rest, and mental rest. Staff elders get three months every seven. Brad will take a sabbatical beginning in June after seven years serving the church.

## BUDGET

For many of us, budgets aren't super exciting. However, budgets reveal our vision.

For example, this budget shows our vision to equip and support discipleship through resourcing (12%), gatherings (13%), and staffing that spend hours each week pouring into our community and equipping us (62%).

This budget also shows our generosity to invest in church plants, care for the poor, and organizations that help churches get stronger, healthier, and missional (11%). Lastly, this budget operates in unison with our calendar as our plan for the year.

The budget is overseen and kept by the finance team. This year we're adding a financial administrator: Shannon Woo!

Proposed Monthly Budget*	
<b>Expected Monthly Giving</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>
<b>Planned Monthly Expenses</b>	
Staff Salaries + Benefits	\$11,340
Gatherings & Celebrations	\$575
Rent	\$2,000
Children's Discipleship	\$800
Men's & Women's Ministry	\$250
Elder & Staff Development	\$250
Leader Development	\$150
Resources & Printing	\$105
Giving to Church Planting	\$1750
Benevolence	\$200
Financial Services & Admin & Insurance	\$453
Bookkeeping	\$200
<b>Total Monthly Expenses</b>	<b>\$18,073</b>

\*This budget is a simplified version condensing several lines to help us see at a quick glance how we're stewarding resources. We can give you a very detailed version if you would like.

## PERSONAL COMMITMENT

A church isn't a service provider. You know that! And so the vision requires all of us participating and growing together. So with all this information we would like you to pray: How will I be faithful? Here are some prompts to help you.

- Prioritize Non-Christian Friends — Who will you make space for? Who will you invite in?
- Proclaim— How will you pursue hope? Who will you tell about it?
- Pray — How will you pray?
- Participate — How will you serve the church, your MC, your family?
- Presence — How will you show up holistically into the environments of our church?