

Greater Liberty Baptist Church Vision & Strategic Plan for 2020

Theme: The Church That Loves God and One Another

LOVE

Scripture: Matthew 22:37-40

³⁷Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

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Strategic Plan

For 166 years, Greater Liberty Baptist Church has been a witness in the city of New Orleans for our community and the world. This Strategic Plan document captures the Strategic Vision, Goals and Objectives of our church along with the Strategies to achieve them. This plan will be used to guide and focus project planning activities and to communicate the vision and goals to inspire, encourage, motivate, and engage the support of our members and the community. Our plan includes definitions of our mission statement, core values, strategic vision, planning theme, goals and objectives, strategies, and projects.

1. Mission Statement

Definition: Our mission statement is derived from the biblical Great Commission in Matthew 28: 18-20. It defines what we are trying to do as commanded by our Lord Jesus, and our fundamental purpose in life.

2. Core Values

Definition: Basic principles we adhere to that guide our vision, approaches, and plans to meet our Mission commitment.

3. Strategic Vision

Definition: A narrative describing the state of our church as seen or envisioned at some distant future time. It represents our dream of what we would like to be. Our Vision is updated as often as deemed necessary in response to changing circumstances.

4. Planning Theme

Definition: A short descriptive statement used to guide, scope, and shape the creation of goals & objectives.

5. Goals & Objectives

Definition: Declarative statements that represent hoped for results of our actions as we seek to achieve the Vision.

6. Strategies

Definition: General descriptions of approaches used to satisfy goals & objectives. Strategies represent how goals & objectives will be accomplished.

7. Projects

Definition: Specific actions and tasks that are resourced and scheduled to implement Strategies. Project plans represent "what" will be done, "who" will do it, "when" it will be done, and what it will "cost."

Our Mission Statement

Greater Liberty Baptist Church is committed to evangelizing the lost, exalting the Savior, equipping the saints, and engaging our members to meet the needs of mankind.

Our Core Values

Our core values are “Unity in Christ; Worship and Praise; Teaching and Preaching; Giving, Missions and Ministry; Fellowship; and Prayer.”

1. Unity in Christ

We are bound together as one Body in Christ, striving to live a life worthy of our calling with one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. Unity in Spirit demands humility, obedience, patience, respect, compassion, and love that cover all.

2. Worship and Praise

We are committed to worshipping God through prayer, praise, honor and thanksgiving. Our corporate worship includes preaching, music, prayer, and giving. Together we gather before the Lord in hopes of personal transformation.

3. Teaching and Preaching

We are devoted to the Word of God, use our gifts to share the salvation message of repentance and forgiveness. As followers of Christ, we faithfully and sincerely proclaim His compassion and love to each other and to the entire world. Our goal is a transformed will and a committed heart in service of Jesus Christ. We prayerfully and deliberately spread God’s Word by reaching out in love and faith, preaching, teaching and baptizing so that all have the opportunity of receiving salvation through the Holy Spirit.

4. Giving, Missions and Ministry

We cheerfully offer our time, spiritual gifts, and financial resources to honor Christ and to support and advance His Kingdom through Missions and Ministry. Spiritual giving demonstrates love, faith, and devotion to God and others in accordance to what we have been given.

5. Fellowship

We are committed and accountable to one another in Christian fellowship as we share joys and burdens; prayers and praise; giving and receiving both spiritual and material blessings. We share Christ with all persons as we are led by His Holy Spirit reflecting God’s light in the world.

6. Prayer

We are devoted to corporate and individual prayer. We seek to know God’s will through adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. We commit to joyful, constant, compassionate, and attentive communion with God.

Our Strategic Vision

Our vision is to operate our church with both attractional and missional components to maximize our exposure to The Lost and win more disciples for Christ.

Going Forward: What do we see happening in the next 5 to 10 years? What will it look like? What is our Vision?

We are exploring and embracing new and fresh ways of presenting the Gospel, building a new church, maintaining our properties, expressing the love of Jesus, and teaching others about Him. We are thriving to reach the Un-churched, De-churched, and the lost in our community by meeting their needs while significantly increasing membership and baptisms.

We will strive to meet the needs of the Millennial Community in the surrounding area by establishing a strong sense of community with them and others. We will routinely engage with the Student and Teachers. We will work with elementary, middle, and high schools in reaching the young family community. We will also connect with the 55+ Adult communities living in homes and apartments in our community.

We are creating and sustaining missional communities while exploring and finding places of natural engagement with new people. We will conduct celebration and outreach events for missional groups. We will establish and test new forms of worship services. We will host fellowship and recreational activities as well as ministry group meetings, events, and projects. We will reach the digital community with current information technology. We will fellowship with our members and neighbors – creating places to gather and connect with new people.

We will maintain a strong sense of partnership with our community and leaders by using our facility for local events (e.g., weddings, small gatherings). We are routinely meeting new people, meeting them where they are – from those not knowing Jesus at all to those who have a deep and passionate relationship with Him already. Each church member will be leading or supporting a personal ministry on an on-going basis as fueled by their personal passions, meeting needs of our community near and far.

Each church member takes some part in supporting a global mission, a national mission, and a local mission. Each church member grows as a disciple in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ living solely for Him as they share the Gospel with others on a routine basis.

Our Planning Theme

Planning Theme: “The Church That Loves God and One Another –Matthew 22:37-40. The following points elaborate on the theme and associate the various elements to the thrusts of our primary Mission Statement.

To Love God with all of your heart, soul, and mind involves

1. PRAYING – Each Member establishes a personal and prayer-full relationship with Jesus Christ putting Him at the Center of their lives.
2. TRANSFORMING – Each Member is taught the Bible so he/she can grow and be transformed in reaching their full God-given potential as a disciple of Jesus Christ by living for Him.
3. GROWING – Our church supports and encourages discipleship growth through evolving and out-reaching ministries of worship/prayer, teaching/preaching, fellowship/nurturing, evangelism, and service to others in today’s complex and multicultural world.

To Love Our Neighbor As Yourself involves ...

4. GOING – We go and minister to the Un-churched, De-churched, and the lost in the local community. We establish a new, more welcoming spiritual home for them to discover, learn, and grow and where they can become disciples and live for Him in their own discovered way under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
5. EXPLORING – We explore new methods of ministry, church, and worship expression to reach the broader group of God’s people.
6. REDISCOVERING – We rediscover the so-called Forgotten Ways established by the early church and activate ourselves as a missional church in the local community.
7. VENTURING – We venture into the local community as well as domestic and global mission fields ministering to The Lost and The Forgotten.
8. MULTIPLYING – We multiply establishing multiple new venues and communities of believers in the local area in addition to the one established at 1230 Desire Street, New Orleans, LA. 70117.

Our Strategic Goals & Objectives

This section presents specific goals & objectives, as shaped by the Planning Theme, to achieve the Strategic Vision.

GOAL #1. PRAY: Strengthen the prayer ministry and the prayer life of each member. Engage each member in a thriving church-wide prayer ministry that seeks to find God in everything that we do and say. Teach and preach the power of prayer.

GOAL #2. TRANSFORM: Transform and focus discipleship training on the missional culture and provide more opportunities and ways for our members to transform in their faith and maturity as a disciple of Jesus Christ so they become an effective discipler – as they go.

GOAL #3. GROW: Engage our members to be active in the ministries of the church and grow a missional culture across the entire membership. Create and maintain a culture in our church of polycentric leadership which means our people lead and act together with mutual authority under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and submit to one another in Christian service and in love.

GOAL #4. GO: Go and be witnesses in our community by building new relationships with others.

GOAL #5. EXPLORE: Explore and create new methods of ministry, church, and worship expression to reach the broader group of God’s people in the local area.

GOAL #6. REDISCOVER: Energize our membership to rediscover our spiritual gifts and talents and use them in service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOAL #7. VENTURE: Expand our efforts in New Orleans by engaging all members in local mission activities.

GOAL #8. MULTIPLY: Establish new communities of believers in New Orleans and the surrounding areas that God will use to bless His people. Think Big!

Our Strategies

STRATEGY #1: (PRAYER) Charge the Ministers and Deacons to work through the Deacon Family Ministry and establish a routine prayer plan to train and equip our members for individual and corporate prayer. Conduct periodic prayer focuses. Conduct prayer walks and/or vigils with a specific purpose and/or in support of a specific strategy. [GOAL 1]

STRATEGY #2: (DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING) To use our Department of Christian Education to maintain a missional culture training curriculum and to teach a set of lessons on missional culture. Use lessons on the early church and how the Apostles first started to spread the Gospel. Establish and maintain discipleship training class for teaching the practical aspects of conducting missional ministries. To help members implement what they learned and hopefully engage more people in missional ministries. [GOALS 2, 3, 6]

STRATEGY #3: (NEW MEMBERS TRAINING) Maintain and improve our new members class training to newer members on our church history, covenant, mission, vision, goals and objectives. Include what we believe as members of GLBC including Bible doctrine. Help them discover their spiritual gifts and plug themselves into service and ministry. [GOALS 2, 3, 6]

STRATEGY #4: (MISSIONAL TRAINING) Recruit and send members to training sessions outside the church that focus specifically on missional ministry. The next step would be to help members implement what they learned and hopefully engage more people in missional ministries. [GOALS 2, 3, 5, 6]

STRATEGY #5: (CAPITAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN) We will continue to use of Ministering 66 fundraising program along with programs that will inspire our members and others to give in our church and community. We will use social media to enhance our efforts in the community. [GOAL 4]

STRATEGY #6: (SMALL GROUPS) Establish and maintain a small group setting to train and equip leaders to start small groups in their communities. [GOAL 8]

STRATEGY #7: (EVANGELISM) Develop and execute a plan to equip members enabling them to reach out to and evangelize every home within a two-mile. [GOAL 8]

STRATEGY #8: (DIGITAL CHURCH) Establish a new church congregating totally on-line. This goes far beyond using our church website to communicate. [GOAL 8]

STRATEGY #9: (SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCOVERY) Set up a database of our members, and capture where they are currently involved in the church (ministries, committees, etc.). Preach a sermon series and conduct a spiritual gifts inventory to enable pairing with the individual member's passions. Connect these passions with community needs. The idea is to identify interests and foster communications of our ministries. [GOALS 2, 3, 6]

STRATEGY #10: (PUBLIC RELATIONS) Use our Public Relations/Communications/Marketing Director to effectively advertise, publicize, and promote GLBC ministries within our community. [GOALS 7, 8]

Our Projects

1. **Giving:** God Lovers A Cheerful Giver Program is committed to getting 100 percent of our members to become tithers in the church. We will do this by meeting with all the families in our church to teach them what the Bible says about giving and the benefits you will receive. We will introduce them to Givelify. This is an electronic method of giving. Secondly, The Ministering 66 Fundraising Project. We are asking members to pledge \$100.00 or \$50.00 a month to help us to raise the funds that we need to complete projects in the church and on our properties. The Pastor and Trustees have a priority list of projects that we have agreed upon. However, some of the major items are new floor tiles, ceiling tiles in the fellowship hall, technology to enhance our worship and teaching

ministries, and to reach our community through social media, and the Mission House repair on Piety Street.

2. **Servicing:** Every Member Counts Project. This project provides our leaders with a member's name and contact information so that he/she can call and stay connected to them throughout the year.
3. **Fellowship:** The 12 Tribes Outreach Ministry. This project will provide opportunities for us to fellowship with one another through activities like worship, birthdays, anniversaries, bowling, skating, visiting museums, concerts, plays, eating at different restaurants, attending sports games, cultural events, and other fun activities.
4. **Evangelism:** Each One, Reach One. This project involves our members witnessing to the lost and back sliders who are not attending church. Our goal is for every member to win 12 souls into the kingdom of God. Those who accomplish this goal will receive a Soul Winner's Award.
5. **Health Care:** Through our health ministry we will reactivate the biggest loser program. We will challenge our members to lose weight and change their diets. All those who lose weight will be given prizes, but the biggest loser will win the top prize each month.
6. **Financial Management:** This project is designed to help our members to get out of debt and to manage their financial affairs. It is also designed to teach our children and youth how to become great managers over their financial resources. They will learn about tithing, credit cards, budgets, checking accounts, taxes, life insurance, purchasing a home, student loans, and investments. They will learn the importance of getting a great education and a job.
7. **Family:** Through our family life outreach ministry we will build and maintain strong Christian families that love God and one another. We will strengthen our Couples, Singles, Senior Citizens, Young Adults, Youth, and Children ministries in our church. They will be used by God to draw others into the kingdom of God.
8. **Social & Political Engagement.** This project will make sure that all of our members are registered and active voters. We will be engaged in what issues our community is facing and we will appeal to our political leaders and others to address them.
9. **Economic Development.** This project will help our members and those in our community who are without jobs to find jobs by partnering with the businesses and non-profit organizations in our community.
10. **Crime Stoppers/Church Night Out Against Crime.** We will partner with law enforcement organizations and Crime Stoppers to fight against the crime and violence in our community. We will have monthly meetings to develop plans and programs to prevent and reduce crime.

LOVE

Greater Liberty Baptist Church New Year's Eve (12/ 31/2019)

Title: Thank You For Believing in Me.

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him, **they worshipped him: but some doubted.** ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Introduction

In the Great Commission, Jesus told His disciples to Go, Teach, Baptize, and Make disciples. However, Matthew tells us that when they saw Jesus after His resurrection on the mountain, some worshipped Him but some doubted Jesus. Those who worshipped Him were mature disciples who believed in Him and those who did not doubted him. After all of that time that they spent with Jesus, some people still doubted Him. However, praise God for those who committed their lives to Him as their Savior and Lord. Those who worshipped and believed in Jesus became His disciples. To become a disciple of Jesus Christ Luke 9:23 says – Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross daily, and follow me.” When we do those three things, we will become worshipper of God. How did His disciples become mature worshipper who believed in Him?

1) They spent time with the Master [**CHRIST**] John 15:5 – “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

2) They Lived in the Word [**WORD**] John 8:31-32 – Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

3) They Prayed in Faith [**PRAYER**] John 15:7 – “But if you stay joined to me and my words remain in you, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted!”

4) They Fellowshiped with Believers [**FELLOWSHIP**] John 13: 34-35 – “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

5) They Witnessed to the World [**WITNESS**] John 15:8 – “My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father.” and

6) They Ministered to Others [**MINISTRY OF SERVICE**] John 15:13 – “And here is how to measure it – the greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for their friends.”

Conclusion

How can we help those who are doubters to change to worshipper? The journey toward spiritual maturity and the development of disciples have seven stages.

1. We begin with **comfort** as we come to Christ.
2. From comfort, we move to **connection** as we begin to embrace the people and values of the kingdom
3. Through our connection we become aware of the **cause** as we begin to see our Christian life in the greater context of the mission of the Church.
4. The cause brings us to a place of **commitment** as we decide to play our part in the greater context.
5. Once we begin to get committed it is generally only a short time before life will send **crisis** our way as our faith is tested.
6. Through crisis we move to a place of **conviction** as our core values are firmly established.
7. Finally, through a life driven by our convictions, we reap a lifestyle of **consistency**.

Observation: Many believers are stuck in the first 2 stages. They desire comfort and connection but never move to being committed to the cause. However, Jesus wants to thank you for believing in Him in 2019. What happens when you believe in Jesus?

Your life will change and your soul will be saved.

Others around you will be impacted by your relationship with God.

