

MINISTRY PLAN 2023 FIRST BAPTIST MONCTON

**Becoming a Revelation Church
where people from all ethnicities,
all generations, and all economic realities are challenged
to be radically transformed by God!**



Growing in DISCIPLESHIP

- 1. DISCIPLESHIP OBJECTIVE:** Encourage every member to choose a spiritual discipline to pursue in 2023.

Message: *Spiritual disciplines are an essential aspect of spiritual growth. It is important for every believer to pursue growth in one or more spiritual disciplines.*

Methods:

Each member of the congregation will be invited to choose one or two spiritual disciplines from a provided list. Resources will be made available to help our people to learn more about and grow in the chosen discipline(s).

Measurements:

1. Number of people seeking to grow in at least one spiritual discipline.
2. Number of people who have read at least one book on a particular spiritual discipline.

Goals:

1. 75 people practicing one or more spiritual disciplines.
2. 40 people who have read at least one book on a particular spiritual discipline.

2. DISCIPLESHIP OBJECTIVE: Lead every member to recognize and pursue emotional health and emotional intelligence as important elements of spiritual growth.

Message: *Every believer should recognize the importance of and intentionally foster a strategy for emotional growth.*

Methods:

The congregation will be invited to participate in an eight-week, church-wide, emotionally healthy discipleship emphasis. This emphasis will include the following elements:

1. Weekly, large-group gatherings that will include a small group component to encourage community building and accountability.
2. Weekly reading assignments on emotionally healthy spirituality.
3. Daily devotional and journaling opportunities for between-sessions personal study.
4. Sermon series emphasis on emotionally healthy spirituality.

Measurements:

1. Number of people participating in the large-group gatherings.
2. Number of people participating in weekly reading assignments and daily devotional and journaling opportunities.
3. Completing the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality sermon series.

Goals:

1. 40 people participating in the large-group gatherings.
2. 75 people participating in weekly reading assignments and daily devotional and journaling opportunities.
3. Completed Emotionally Healthy Spirituality sermon series.

CONNECTING to people/with people

3. CONNECTION OBJECTIVE: Find ways to intentionally connect with internationals both within and without our congregation.

Message: *One of our community's and church's fastest growing demographics is the international community. We need to be intentional in focusing on reaching out to this community in Moncton as well as encouraging fellowship with internationals within our congregation.*

In October 2022, an information session was held to talk to interested individuals about international ministry. This was followed later in the month by a visioning/brainstorming time where we looked at potential ministries to and with internationals both within and without our church family.

Methods:

1. Growing out of the visioning/brainstorming time, prioritize 1-2 ministries to/with internationals within our church family. In addition, prioritize 1-2 ministries to the broader international community in Moncton.

Measurements:

1. Number of new ministries to/with congregational community initiated.
2. Number of new ministries to the broader international community in Moncton initiated.

Goals:

1. 1-2 new ministries to/with congregational community initiated.
2. 1-2 new ministries to the broader international community in Moncton initiated.

4. CONNECTION OBJECTIVE: Encourage every believer to *stretch* beyond their comfort zone to discover and perhaps come to appreciate views, perspectives, and life experiences different from their own.

Message: *To realize our vision of becoming a “Revelation Church” that connects with all generations, all ethnicities, and all economic realities, we must continually and intentionally build a bigger table.*

Methods:

1. Continue to “Stretch” our congregation through the Zoom book club.
2. Preach a three-part message series on the theme, *You Had One Job*.

Measurements:

1. Number of people in the book club.
2. Completing the preaching series.

Goals:

1. 15 people participating in the book club.
2. Completed preaching series.

5. CONNECTION OBJECTIVE: Encourage every believer to discover the joy of “*the priesthood of all believers*” as we support, encourage, and care for one another.

Message: Caring for one another is a biblical principle; every believer has a responsibility to look out for the wellbeing of others.

Methods:

Each member of our congregation will be invited to care for and encourage members of our church community in practical ways. Resources and education on congregational care will be provided.

Measurements:

1. Resources and education on congregational care provided to congregation.
2. Number of people intentionally connecting with others each week through phone calls, written notes, conversations, and prayer.

Goals:

1. Resources and education provided.
2. 25 people committing to intentionally connect with others each week.

6. CONNECTION OBJECTIVE: Lead every believer to discover that caring for *the least of these* is an integral part of their vocation as believers.

Message: Part of our congregation's vision is to connect with "*all economic realities.*" This vision grew out of Jesus' command to "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind;*" and, "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" (Luke 10:27)

Methods:

1. Continue to provide a monthly community meal.
2. Restart a weekly fellowship time for our community friends.
3. Encourage our congregation to donate items to our clothes closet.
4. Continue to connect with St. George's Anglican Church, *Reconnect*, and other church and community organizations as we work with provincial and municipal representatives in seeking long-term, sustainable solutions to chronic and acute homelessness.

Measurements:

1. Number of monthly community meals served.
2. Number of weekly fellowship times offered.
3. Number of people donating items to our clothes closet.
4. Number of organizations met with and meetings held.

Goals:

1. 12 monthly meals served.
2. 40 weekly fellowship times offered.
3. 20 people donating items to our clothes closet.
4. 8 meetings with 6 churches/community organizations to discuss/strategize around homelessness in Moncton.

7. CONNECTION OBJECTIVE: Enable the children of our congregation to grow in their faith and to connect with other Christian children as well as the broader congregation.

Message: Coming out of Covid, establishing and re-establishing relationships with children is as critical as it is with adults. Of course, connecting with children means connecting as well with their parents/guardians.

Methods:

1. Continue to actively recruit Sunday morning volunteers so we can offer better, age-specific learning.
2. Facilitate training opportunities for volunteers.
3. Using tools such as video clips, special events, participation in worship and service projects, engage FirstKids with the rest of the congregation.

Measurements:

1. Number of volunteers recruited.
2. Number of training opportunities provided.
3. Number of engagement opportunities provided.

Goals:

1. 8 volunteers recruited.
5. 2 training opportunities provided.
6. 6 engagement opportunities provided.

8. CONNECTION OBJECTIVE: Equip our youth to use their gifts in service, discipleship, and evangelistic ministries. Partner with parents in the important task of raising the next generation of Christ followers.

Message: Contrary to popular opinion, Christian youth don't just want to *have fun*; they find great joy and fulfillment in using their gifts for the growth of God's Kingdom.

Methods:

1. Engage with FirstYouth parents/guardians through involving parents in the youth program.
2. Provide youth with opportunities to serve in ministry here at First Baptist and out in the community through Tidal Impact 2023.
3. Facilitate training opportunities for our adult volunteers.
4. Facilitate peer leadership opportunities for youth.

Measurements:

1. Number of parent meetings per year.
2. Number of parents involved in the youth program.
3. Number of youth volunteering at First Baptist.
4. Number of youth participating in Tidal Impact.
5. Number of training opportunities for adult volunteers.
6. Number of youth participating in peer leadership opportunities.

Goals:

1. 2 parent meetings per year.
2. 6 parents involved in the youth program.
3. 15 youth volunteering at First Baptist.
4. 12 youth participating in Tidal Impact.
5. 2 training opportunities for adult volunteers.
6. 4 youth participating in peer leadership opportunities.

9. CONNECTION OBJECTIVE: Foster an environment where organic engagement occurs naturally and regularly.

Message: What is “organic engagement”? Organic engagement occurs when connection and community happen naturally—or, more specifically, at the prompting of a single person or group.

Example: An individual has an idea for a connection event/ministry. They share the idea with others who become excited about it. The idea is then shared with the Pastor of Engagement. If the event/ministry fits within the church’s vision and seems “doable,” the church leadership will offer support/encouragement in implementing the idea.

Methods:

1. Lead a two-part teaching/preaching series on organic growth.
2. Provide a clear “path” for people with ministry/event ideas to follow in order to make these events happen.

Measurements:

1. Completing the teaching/preaching series.
2. Completing the “path” document.
3. Speed of responses to initial inquiry, initial meeting, and decision on ministry initiative.
4. Number of events/ministries that begin organically.

Goals:

1. Teaching series held.
2. “Path” document created.
3. 3 events/ministries that grow organically.
4. Responding to initial inquiries within 24 hours (workdays) and 48 hours (days off).
5. Meeting to discuss ministry initiative potential within 2 weeks of initial inquiry.
6. Decision on ministry initiative within 4 weeks of initial inquiry.

10. CONNECTION OBJECTIVE: Provide support and encouragement to those involved in the three areas of our church's vision: *"all generations, all ethnicities, and all economic realities."*

Message: Coming out of Covid, it is important for church leadership to offer support and encouragement to leaders of ministries that are central to our church's vision. Central to our focus will be our growing young adult ministry, the International Team building a strong ministry to and with our growing international community, our older adult ministries, our children and youth ministries, and our outreach ministries.

Methods:

1. Meet with ministry leaders in order to discover how their ministry is going, what the challenges are they're facing, and how we can support and encourage them.
2. Work with ministry leaders to get information about their ministries on our website.
3. Develop updated contact lists for all of our existing ministries.
4. Help ministry leaders to articulate goals for their ministries and strategies for achieving those goals.

Measurements:

1. Number of individual meetings with ministry leaders held.
2. Number of ministries highlighted on website.
3. Number of updated contact lists developed.
4. Number of ministries with clearly articulated goals and accompanying strategies.

Goals:

1. 15 individual meetings held.
2. 15 ministries highlighted on website.
3. 20 updated contact lists.
4. 3 ministries with goals/strategies.

11. CONNECTION OBJECTIVE: Provide monthly communication to inform, encourage, and support ministry leaders.

Message: Ministry can only take place effectively when leaders are connecting and communicating with one another. Connecting provides opportunities for support, encouragement, vision sharing, and communication of what is happening within the larger church community. Connecting also helps each individual leader to feel a part of a larger, church-wide ministry team that is working together towards a common vision.

Methods:

1. Email a monthly newsletter to all ministry leaders. The newsletter will include such items as updates on the overall church vision, individual ministry updates, celebratory items, a leadership devotional thought, a calendar of important dates, and introductions of ministry leaders.
2. Two larger church leadership gatherings per year for ministry leaders as well as Council members, deacons, and church staff.

Measurements:

1. Number of monthly newsletters emailed out.
2. Number of church leadership gatherings held.

Goals:

1. 10 monthly newsletters emailed out.
2. 2 church leadership gatherings held.

12. CONNECTION OBJECTIVE: Provide monthly communication to the larger congregation in order to support the church's larger vision.

Message: Congregational members can only feel a part of the larger vision and support and celebrate victories around that vision when they are kept informed of what is happening in the broader church. Vision communication will encourage unity around vision and ministries.

Methods:

Email (and make physical copies available) a quarterly newsletter to the congregation. The foci of each quarterly communication will be updates on church initiatives, celebratory items around the church's vision and ministry accomplishments, information sharing around church-wide initiatives, encouragement, and introductions of ministry leaders.

Measurements:

Number of quarterly newsletters sent out.

Goals:

4 quarterly newsletters sent out.