

Good morning, church family. I want to say thank you to Bro. Billy Bryan and the Strategic Planning Team for the great job they have done on the recommendation that was brought to the church last night for discussion. Please note that the vote on this recommendation will take place at our August 4th business meeting. If you have any questions concerning the recommendation, please call Bro. Billy or me, and we will be happy to answer them. I also want to thank you, church family, for your great questions and discussion. Please know that everything that we do must be done as a church family. No individual or committee has the right to take on a decision this large without the agreement of the body. And I also hope that you know that as your pastor, I will never lie to you, mislead you, or try to hide anything from you. That was the purpose of the meeting last night – to share the recommendation so that you can ask questions, pray about the decision, and make an informed vote on August 4th. This recommendation comes with the unanimous approval of the Deacons and the Finance Committee.

Let me share the recommendation and the information that was discussed last night:

The Strategic Planning Team recommends that the church enter an agreement with Visioneering Studios to determine the best path forward for the future growth of our church. The work with Visioneering Studios will take place in two phases.

Phase 1: The Field Guide

Visioneering's development team will provide consulting services to evaluate the church's finances, vision, culture, programming needs, demographics and other relevant factors to help establish a potential budget, scope, and schedule for the Next Phase Development Project.

The Field Guide will provide a Strategic Feasibility Report, Financial Feasibility Report, Demographics Study, LandVision, Building Program, Entitlement Research, Preliminary Project Budget, Bid Projection and Budget. Typically, this phase includes multiple virtual meetings and one onsite Recon Session.

Once the church's leadership team has determined the development scope, the projected budget, and an agreeable timeline, Visioneering will be ready to proceed with master planning and design.

Cost for Phase 1 is \$15,000.

Phase 2: Basecamp Experience (Master Planning)

Visioneering initiates each master planning project with a highly creative, interactive onsite three-hour workshop with key stakeholders called the "BaseCamp Experience." This engaging session integrates a unique discovery process powered by and engaging the unique DNA of the client. Visioneering recommends identifying and inviting a broad team of about twenty stakeholders to participate in this onsite experience.

Over a two-week period, the entire Visioneering Studios team will collaborate on the master plan design to develop a creative, compelling and unique design. During this period, designers will generate site plans, landscape concepts, architectural direction, as well as interior concepts while utilizing computer 3D modeling, sketches, and plans to make it legible to the stakeholders and to be able to generate immediate and direct feedback.

Additionally, Visioneers will develop a complete site analysis exhibit that will incorporate the following data: Site boundaries, Setbacks and easements, utility locations, traffic patterns and access, orientation, drainage, site circulation, Geotechnical data, zoning and jurisdictional approval processes, existing plans, elevations, and other construction documents.

Through their approach and multi-disciplinary efforts (including architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, interior design, construction and development managers, financial analysts, facility managers, and graphic designers), Visioneering Studios has designed a process in which projects have the best opportunity to get approved and built.

Cost for Phase 2 is \$30,000. However, whether we move into Phase 2 will be decided after the Field Guide is examined and evaluated by the Strategic Planning Team.

Whew! That is a lot to comprehend, but go back and read it several times, and I think that you will agree that this is a comprehensive strategy that will guide our church into a growth plan that will be pleasing to the Lord. Now let me share with you why the Strategic Planning Team is making this recommendation.

- We believe that our primary purpose is to share the Gospel with Dadeville and the surrounding areas. While our focus is Dadeville, our church field has already grown from Auburn to Sylacauga. While it is unlikely that we will have much growth from those two areas, we are attracting more people from Stillwaters, the rest of Lake Martin, and Alexander City. It is highly likely that that will continue. On top of that, there are 2,000 unchurched people in Dadeville who are our responsibility to reach with the Gospel.
- While we have room to grow in our worship space due to going to two morning worship services, we need additional parking and educational space. Our Sunday School is growing, but we only have one room available to us for expansion, and several of our classes are at the point of birthing new classes. We need an immediate solution, but we also need a long-range plan.
- There is a need for renovations and additions to our current facility to accommodate our membership – elevator, rest rooms, fellowship hall space, nursery and children’s area, larger choir suite, etc. For those of our people who have limited mobility, there are parts of our facility that are difficult or impossible to access.
- During a previous roundtable discussion, you, the church, said that you wanted to consider additional programs like After School Care, Mother’s Day Out, Upward Sports,

Embrace Grace Pregnancy Ministry, Widow's Luncheon, and a Korean Community Church.

All of these are great "problems" to have. In reality, they are opportunities for us to embrace God's calling to First Baptist Church and utilize all of our resources to impact our community.

The question was asked about how we would pay for this. The Finance Committee has recommended that the cost of Phase 1, \$15,000, come out of the Timber Fund and the cost of Phase 2, \$30,000, come out of the General Fund Budget. At our discussion last night, the idea of using the Timber Fund was questioned because the Acree Property Committee is in the process of planning for the future use of that property, and the money generated by future timber cutting is limited. I personally feel that where the money comes from will be the decision of the church, but if we want to see the Acree Property developed to its fullest potential, we need to consider the Committee's input. With that said, our church is extremely healthy spiritually and financially. God has blessed us with over \$550,000 in our General Fund! Read that again. The General Fund is made up of the offerings that we have given to further the work of God's Kingdom in this community. It is not designated for any purpose other than to allow us to minister in whatever way God leads. And as I preached on Sunday, we must ALWAYS go in God's direction and at His pace.

So please join your Strategic Planning Team in praying about this decision. We have been doing so for months now and believe this is part of God's plan for our church, but all of us together must make this decision. We can easily afford the cost of this proposal – if we discern together that this is God's will.

Well, if you have made it this far, thank you for sticking with me. While I have tried to share the details of this proposal completely and accurately, I will not hide the fact that I am convinced that we need to take this step forward. I wasn't at first. Like you, I had sticker shock when I heard the numbers. But as we prayed together as a Team, God changed my heart. I believe that He was reminding me that on this Great Adventure, where He guides He will provide.

We are a great church and no matter what the outcome of this recommendation is, I will always love you.

Bro. Ben

P.S. If you would like a sample Field Guide and BaseCamp Report, please let me know by sending an e-mail to bhayes@fbcdadeville.com. If possible, this recommendation and links to these documents will be added to our Website (www.fbcdadeville.com) in the near future.