

Joel Team Recommendations to Church Council

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this exciting opportunity. The Joel Team was asked to use the method outlined in the *Tried & True* book written by John Ed Mathison, some of you may remember when he came to our church to help us with a "Stewardship Campaign" several years ago. In the book, it lays out a "Model for Growth", which is basically a three-part approach. Whenever we consider any plans for the future of the church, we need to understand how that will impact our "Ministries" – "Staff" – "Facilities".

The Joel Team is proposing the following recommendations to Church Council for consideration/approval.

1: Demographic Data – We used the process outlined in the book "Tried and True" to help us discern God's Vision for Nashville Methodist Church. In the book it illustrates the use of Demographic Data collected by the church to assist with making informed decisions – If you don't know where you are, it's hard to get where you want or need to be. The Joel Team highly recommends the church have a "**paid staff person**" continue to track the information the Joel Team has started compiling. We believe the data to be very valuable information as we move forward and when the congregation decides to "Cast a Vision" in the future, we will have good data to evaluate instead of "starting over" every time we go through the process. We believe that if the data is gathered, tracked, and evaluated by "paid staff" then we will be more efficient as we make small changes in our approach to the congregation and community based on the data. We also believe that if we pass the task along to a "volunteer" then we run a greater chance of our data not being up to date, as we often have changeover in our volunteers.

2: "Groups" – The Joel Team believes that we need to be more intentional about our (both individual and corporate) Discipleship. We believe the first step in "taking Jesus to our community" starts with "giving Jesus to our members". We cannot take anything to the community that we don't already possess. The Joel Team wants to encourage our congregants to become a member of a spiritually uplifting group within our church. We believe the most efficient way to accomplish this goal is to have a "**paid staff person**" (such as a Pastor of Discipleship) to oversee ALL the groups within the church. When we say "oversee" we understand that task to entail approval of curriculum, approval of space, Spiritual guidance when needed, etc. We believe that the church needs to put a process in place that each "group" will provide "Nurture/Witness/Outreach" to every member as well as the community. This is our congregation's purpose – To Lead Everyone to JESUS in everything we do.

3: Space – Everything the team considered was focused on "Making Disciples for Christ" both within the congregation AND the community. The Joel Team has several recommendations regarding "space". To start, we recommend that the church evaluate how we may increase efficiency with how the space is currently being used as these recommendations will not happen overnight.

1000 seat sanctuary (minimum) – As an example of "taking Jesus to the community" the Joel Team believes we need to bring Compassion Café back into the main building as we utilize our "kitchen at Braswell Hall". In order to provide this option to the community, we will need to transition Braswell Hall into a "full-time" Fellowship space. Additionally, we currently worship about 500 people in our Sunday morning services. We do not have space for everyone to be in the same service. We believe that at least 1000 seats (which is 16.7% of Nashville's population) will allow us to move back to a single "contemporary" service, until such a time that the data indicates otherwise. AND provide enough space for "everyone" to have the ability to meet in one location at the same time.

100/100/200 – As we strive to "make disciples" we see a need for a meeting space for 100 High School Youth AND a meeting space for 100 Middle School Youth (at the same time in different locations). Then a space for all 200 youth to be able to meet at the same time (which can be accomplished in the 1000 seat Worship Center).

Youth Recreation Center – A space where our “member/community youth” can attend/participate in activities in a safe environment.

Children’s Space – As we continue to “Make Disciples” we foresee a need to “Double” our existing children’s space which would include the opportunity to double the size of our Weekday School attendance.

Adult’s Space – Double our existing adult’s space to provide the space needed when “every member” becomes connected with a Discipleship Group (See recommendation #2)

As stated earlier, within our “Model for Growth” one of the components of this approach is “staff”. As far as additional “staff requirements”, the Joel Team understands that there will certainly be a need to increase our staff as we move forward with this “Vision”, but we do not believe it to be appropriate to make “specific recommendations” at this time.

Again, every member of the Joel Team thanks Nashville Methodist Church for the opportunity to “Advance The Kingdom” for His Glory.