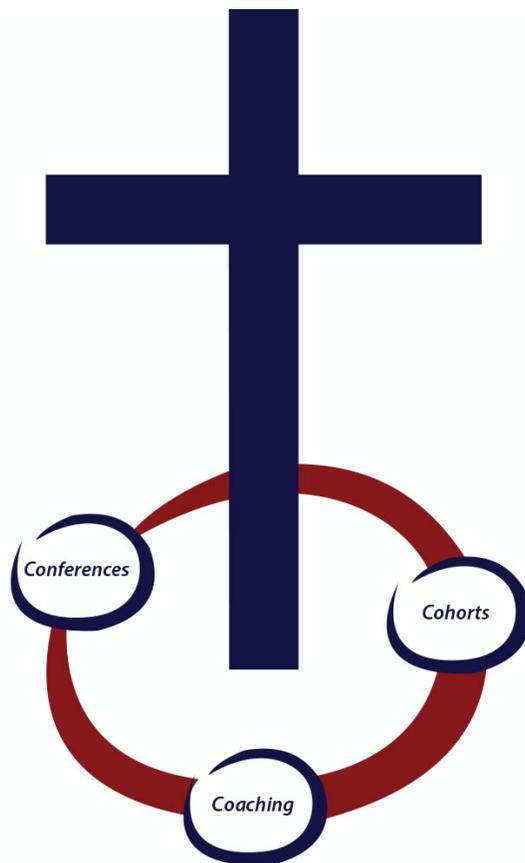


Southside Baptist Network 2020 Vision Team Report



SOUTHSIDE **Baptist Network**

*Equipping congregations and encouraging leaders to
engage our communities with the Gospel*

Vision Team Report of the Southside Baptist Network

September 10, 2020

The Southside Baptist Network Vision Team was commissioned by our Executive Team on January 16, 2020, including contracting with Will Heath to be our Vision Team Consultant. This team was asked to focus on two areas for the next 3-5 years:

1. Initial Development of an AMS Succession Planning Strategy
2. Vision Casting for the Future of the Southside Baptist Network

The 2020 Southside Baptist Network Vision Team

Randy Wood, Liberty, Fayetteville, Leader
William Bishop, Harp's Crossing, Fayetteville
Chris Brown, Southpoint, McDonough
Randy Gibson, Victory Point International, Forest Park
Emily Holley, Ellenwood Oaks, Ellenwood
Stan Jordan, North Henry, Stockbridge
Lance Wade, Union Grove, McDonough
Ray Gentry, Southside Network AMS, ex-officio

1. AMS Succession Planning, Progress and Outcomes:

An AMS Emergency Transition Management Plan was created by the Team and adopted by the Executive Council on May 14, 2020. An Emergency Transition Management Plan is something each church should considering adopting. A free template is available at <http://www.planningsuccession.com/etm-landing-page>

The Vision Team recommends the following related to AMS Succession Planning:

That there be an overlap between whenever Ray Gentry plans to leave and the transition to his successor. Overlap means the Team recommends, if possible, that Ray give enough notice so that a successor can be called and Ray can mentor him for approximately three months before Ray transitions.

This means a detailed plan will be developed for these areas.

- A communication strategy so Network Staff, Ministry Team Leaders, and member churches are aware of key milestones
- Help Ray, his family, and other leaders, process any emotions related to the eventual transition.
- Navigating the process of finding Ray's eventual successor
- Developing a process to bring the next leader on board
- Appropriately celebrating Ray's leadership

2. Vision Casting for the Southside Baptist Network for the Next 3-5 Years:

- Mission
- Values
- Strategy
- Outcomes

Mission of the Southside Baptist Network

The Mission is not external language like a tagline or a catchy phrase used to “hook” people into liking or joining the Network. It is primarily an internal expression that will rally our churches around the single, big idea. It is our compass that answers the question: WHAT are we all about?

Equipping congregations and encouraging leaders to engage our communities with the Gospel

Equipping congregations

We exist to assist our churches in advancing the Gospel, equipping them to make disciples. We provide tools and resources that help our congregations perform the work of ministry within the church and in the community. We facilitate congregations cooperating together for missions mobilization.

and encouraging leaders

We exist to inspire, motivate, and assist pastors and ministry leaders in developing their giftedness and becoming more effective leaders. Our pastors, ministry leaders, and their families are not alone in their mission to advance the gospel. Ministry can be difficult. The Southside Baptist Network provides a sense of security and stability in times of uncertainty.

to engage our communities

In the Great Commission, God has given us a clear mandate to go to those around us. We cannot wait for lost and hurting people to come to us. Our churches must go where the people are. Meeting practical needs while engaging our diverse communities takes many different forms. Individuals reaching out to their neighbors and small groups/congregations adopting those serving in their local police station, fire station, and schools, are just a few examples of how this may take place.

with the Gospel

God created the heavens and the earth, and He created you and me in His image. **Mankind** was perfect and in a perfect place until the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. The first man and woman doubted God’s word and chose to disobey God, and in so doing, brought evil into their lives and to this world. Therefore, we are all sinners with a broken relationship with God. **Christ** came from heaven to save sinners. He was God, and is God, God’s only Son, God in the flesh. He left heaven to become a Man, to take our sin upon Himself on the cross. Our **response** to be His disciple must be to repent of our sin – to turn from rebelling against a holy God and submit our life to Him, and receive the gift of eternal life through trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, those that respond to Jesus in faith have the opportunity to experience a growing relationship with God in this life and in eternity to come.

Values of the Southside Baptist Network

Our Core Values are the Network's fundamental principles that guide how we think and act. They are the WHY of who we are, and what we do. Our Values remain constant and unwavering, regardless of changing times and circumstances. They can be pictured like a flame that motivates us to carry out our Mission.

Gospel-Driven – We assist churches in advancing the Gospel

Demonstrated by...

- Pastor/Staff Cohorts working through books, such as *The Gospel-Driven Church*, which is also the theme for the Southside Summit, Feb. 18, 2021
- Encouraging churches to adopt neighborhoods, schools, fire and police stations to prayer walk and share the gospel
- Mission partnerships and initiatives such as Who's Your One? and Backpacks for Appalachia

Biblical support: Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 1:16; Philippians 1: 3-5

Peer Learning – We encourage pastors, church staff, and other ministry leaders to learn from one another

Demonstrated by...

- Initiating Cohorts for pastors and other ministry leaders
- A large percentage of workshops at the Equip Conference are led by ministry leaders from both inside and outside the network
- Facilitating interaction through Ministers Conferences and organized gatherings between ministry leaders of various ministries (Discipleship Pastors with other Discipleship Pastors; Student Pastors with other Student Pastors, etc.)

Biblical support: Proverbs 27:6; Proverbs 27:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Developing Leaders – We help current and future leaders develop their gifts and the skills necessary for effective ministry

Demonstrated by...

- Conferences to equip and train ministry leaders
- Cohorts that enable leaders to encourage one another
- Coaching to assess and develop current and future ministry leaders*

** This is currently an aspirational goal.*

Biblical support: Psalm 145:4-7; Luke 10:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:2

Strategy of the Southside Baptist Network

Strategy is the picture or process that demonstrates how the Network will accomplish its Mission on the broadest level. Strategy answers the question "HOW do we do what we do?" It is a flashlight that shows and sets the expectation of involvement for members.

Conferences for equipping and training

- **Equip Conferences** provide practical training, inspiration, and equipping for Pastors, Staff, Sunday School Teachers, and other key leaders of the church.
- **The Southside Summit** is a significant one-day Pastor/Staff/Ministry Leader Conference held for our churches as well as for others across Georgia.
- **Ministers Conferences** and **Lunch & Learns** provide equipping, fellowship, and inspiration on various topics of interest to Pastors and Ministerial Staff.
- **Specialized Conferences** are held periodically on relevant topics such as church revitalization, expository preaching, how to reopen after COVID-19, how churches can engage with their local school, etc.

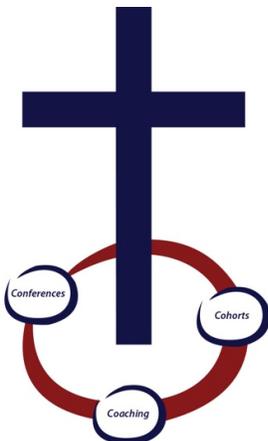
Cohorts for encouragement and peer learning

- **Pastor Cohorts** are composed of 4-7 Pastors facilitated by the Associational Mission Strategist to study a chapter a month in a designated book that supports our mission, values, strategy, and outcomes.
- **Staff Cohorts** follow the same format as Pastor Cohorts but are for other church staff positions such as Discipleship Pastors and Student Pastors.

Coaching for assessment and development

- **Coaching** is something to be developed to assist our churches in assessing and developing leadership pipelines for raising up future Bible study leaders, deacons, church planters, pastors, missionaries, etc.
- **SBN Coaching will be developed using the Gospel Coach** model. A Gospel Coach is someone who assists a pastor or ministry leader as a discipler, a spiritual guide, and a coach. Gospel coaches come alongside with words of truth and wisdom to encourage, admonish, and help in life and leadership.

Below is a concept to visually illustrate the Strategy.



Outcomes of the Southside Baptist Network

Outcomes are the marks or measures that tell us we have achieved our Mission.

Outcomes answer the question, "WHEN are we successful?"

They can be visualized as the bull's eye of a target.

We help pastors/leaders equip their congregations...

...to make disciples

- Ministry leaders regularly evaluate how effective their church is at outreach and making disciples who make disciples
- Making disciples becomes an obvious priority – such as when churches initiate and continue advocating members join discipleship groups such as D-Groups

...to impact their diverse communities with the Gospel

- Love for God and neighbor is shown as members seek creative ways to consistently engage the lost and share the Gospel.
- Through conviction of sin and repentance, people are valued as image bearers of God, not by their race, political affiliation, and/or socio-economic differences.

...to collaborate with sister churches for mission involvement and mobilization

- Congregations cooperate together on mission projects at home and abroad
- Churches help each other at their point of need – such as financial, manpower, and physical resources

We encourage pastors/leaders to be Gospel-Driven as we...

...inspire them

- To have a growing devotion to the Word of God
- To have an increasing conviction of sin and repentance
- To have an abiding commitment to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ

...equip them

- To live a life of holiness
- To have an evident love for God and neighbor
- To share the Gospel with the lost and make disciples

...assist them

- in their knowledge of theology, doctrine, and the practice of ministry and missions
- in supporting and encouraging healthy relationships (families, friends, etc.)
- in bearing fruit as Gospel-centered followers of Christ