

FAQs about Bear Valley's *Long Range Vision*

Q: Do we still hold to the philosophy of the “church unleashed?”

A: Absolutely. These are the principles that comprise our core values:

- Simple Structure of Church Organization (few committees)
- Maximum Use of Minimum Facility
- Blending of the Roles of Clergy and Laity
- Freedom to Experiment, Easy Permission Process
- Emphasis on Growing the Kingdom, not the Church

Q: Will we still use the slogan “Climbing Together the Upward Trails...?”

A: Yes. This is a good catch-phrase that identifies our commitment to personal spiritual growth. The Long Range Vision merely puts specifics to the concept of “Climbing Together.”

Q: What are the specifics of the Long Range Vision?

A: #1 We will implement new methodologies of making disciples:

An integrated approach to “reach/ win / teach / develop / deploy.” would give us a more seamless process to move a new person,

1st, from visitor to attender

2nd, from attender to “connected” attender (in a group or class)

3rd, through membership orientation to membership (baptism if needed)

4th, through “Life Keys” to ministry involvement

#2 We will set up a spiritual growth tracking system that does not currently exist (in our church or any church to our knowledge). We must develop a way for people to measure their starting point, their progress, and their goals.

#3 Learners will be able to measure themselves against a standard, which we call our “Portrait of a World-Moving Christian.” Thus, they can see their progress as well as areas where they need to focus.

#4 We will expand the subject areas of our adult training ministries, beyond Bible book series and studies through Christian books, on Christian life, to include: Basic Christianity , Apologetics, Reaching across Cultures, Dangers of Islamism, Leadership development, Money management, and Peacemaking.

#5 We will place greater emphasis on “family” issues, (marriage, parenting, singles) and equipping young parents to be competent and responsible to train their kids. Our strategy will be to see our church as a “partner” to parents as they serve their families by being the primary spiritual trainers of their kids.

Q: Are we in the right location to carry out this vision?

A: After much consideration on this, our church leaders say the answer is YES. Lakewood’s future is bright. Our location is central to our people. There is no competing church close to us. We have resolved the parking issues, by leasing more spaces and by using the new People Mover.

Q: Do we have the right building to carry out this vision?

A: Only if it is renovated and upgraded. People have a thirst for community, they are craving more “connection.” We can add 3,500 square feet over the gym, giving us a large welcoming/ gathering/ socializing space as well as three new classrooms. Downstairs, we can upgrade the security for children and expand areas for children, youth, and receptions.

Q: Is now the time to do the “For the Kingdom” campaign and raise the funds?

A: Our church is as strong as ever, with a good name in the community. We have strong unity between our leadership and the church body, as well as a steady flow of new people. If we were to wait many more years, the aging building could become a barrier for new people. Construction costs only go up, and if our congregation declined, it could become too difficult and too late.

Q: What about our Missions Commitments?

A: We do not plan to make any cuts in our missions investments, in order to carry out this vision. Missions will continue to be a vital strength of our church. One reason we want to renovate the building is to keep it as an asset that supports our vision and keeps it strong. This ensures solid giving to missions for years to come.

Q: How can we give to “For the Kingdom” so that this vision can come to pass?

A: We are asking every member of our church to pray and seek the will of God for their own situation: “What would the Lord have you to do, as a sacrificial gift?”

We need you to make a special commitment “over and above” regular giving, for this vision. Your gift could be made monthly for three years, or could be a single special gift (perhaps from the sale of an asset) or even a faith-promise (a commitment to trust God for resources beyond one’s own means.)