

Dear Church:

Below is the printed version of an exciting announcement made during our 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, September 10th regarding our strategic planning committee. I wanted those who missed worship to be able to read it. I wanted those who heard it to hear it again! I can't wait to see what God will do! Here's the announcement...

Beginning last Spring, I began to feel God's gentle nudge. His Spirit was telling me, "It's time for First Baptist Church to dream!" I began to discern this message further with our deacon body. From there, God revealed to me His desire for our church to enter into a strategic planning process guided by a strategic planning committee. Our deacons have approved Dr. Mark Albertus, Mr. David Brooks, Mr. Brian Dill, Mrs. Melina Douthit, Mrs. Nichole Fanin, and Dr. Jim Prather to serve on our strategic planning committee. Guiding our committee is the Center for Healthy Churches, a consulting service that helped First Baptist during the recent interim following Dr. Steve Davis's retirement and the senior pastor search.

The purposes of the strategic planning committee are twofold. One, is to facilitate times of church-wide conversation and discernment for the purpose of understanding the kingdom dream God has in His heart for First Baptist Church. Two, to help create a plan for how to pursue God's dream together! We believe this process will ignite the hearts and minds within our church with the anticipation that the best is truly yet to come. That is why our theme for this process is fittingly entitled "FBC Ignite."

We will share the plan for how "FBC Ignite" will unfold in the upcoming days and weeks ahead. We will use regular communication via The Messenger and Sunday morning announcements in worship and Sunday School to let you know key moments when we will call our church to gather

and participate in this process together. We will need all of us working together for “FBC Ignite” to be successful! In addition, you can speak to any member on our committee, deacons, or pastoral staff at any time with questions you might have. As of now, one key date to mark down on your calendar is our first church-wide conversation on Sunday, November 12th, in our fellowship hall directly following 11 a.m. worship. Lunch will be served, and instructions for how to make your reservations will be made available shortly.

Moreover, as this is a spiritual process, we ask that you begin praying now. Here’s how...

- We ask that you pray daily for the engagement of our whole church body.
- We ask that you pray so that our church will have the ability to clearly understand who we are.
- We ask that you pray so that our church will clearly have the ability to understand what we are being called to become!

First Baptist Church, may we ignite together as we pray to God as one at this time.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Hughes

Senior Pastor & Chair of Strategic Planning Committee

Mr. David Brooks

Vice Chair of Strategic Planning Committee