

TOGETHER, WE





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THE DISCOVERY TEAM

LAY MEMBERS

- Ashley Ellington, Co-chair
- Bill Kelly, Co-chair
- Lori Barfield
- Andy Davis
- Bob Hortman
- Brian Inman
- Jason Marion
- Nancy Ratcliffe
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PASTORAL TEAM

- Matt DuVall
- Kristen Pope
- Keith Reaves
- Gwen Stephens
- Tamara Tillman-Smathers
- John Uldrick





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ROME'S CONGREGATION IS CONFIDENT THAT ITS BEST DAYS ARE YET TO COME.

- Giving has steadily increased annually; the 2017-2018 budget year was the largest ever.
- Membership has fluctuated by less than 20 total people over the past five years.
- More than 50% of our active congregation is under 50 years of age.
- Mission partnerships continue to grow, and new ministry opportunities continue to arise.

Some may ask, "If things are going so well, wouldn't we want to just keep doing what we are doing?" Vibrant organizations make decisions about their future when they are in a place and time of strength, when they have opportunities to "stretch" and "risk." Healthy organizations do not wait for a crisis to make decisions about the future; they anticipate future needs while living into their present callings.

FBC Rome has long been that kind of an organization. The anticipation of our church's future needs led its earlier leaders to dream big dreams as they partnered with God to complete a new sanctuary in 1958. That willingness led the church to give more to tsunami relief in 2004 than some Fortune 500 companies. The church's forward thinking allowed it to weather the recession of the last decade without significant loss of growth or personnel layoffs.

In August 2011, the last team tasked with visioning for the future for FBC Rome began; the work of *We're Here for Good* concluded six years later. In May 2015, Pastor Joel Snider announced his anticipated retirement, and a search committee began its work a year later. Their task was to find the next pastor who would lead the church through the next visioning process. It was time to dream new dreams.

When Matt DuVall was called as pastor, he asked the church leadership to allow him one year as pastor before beginning a new visioning process. In the spring of 2018, the deacons unanimously approved retaining the services of the Center for Healthy Churches (CHC) to coach the church through the process, and the Deacon Executive Committee nominated a team of eleven people. The team chose their name—the Discovery Team—and took Jeremiah 29:11 as their guiding scripture. Led by their belief that God did indeed have a hopeful future for FBC Rome, their task was to discover what that future might be.

The Discovery Team began their work with both the present and the past in view. FBC Rome has long been a traditional Baptist church grounded in historic Baptist principles; the Discovery Team was committed to advancing that identity. A review of the church's history affirmed her commitment to spreading the gospel and to sharing her resources.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

- At least eight congregations have been established by FBC Rome, and her history is filled with stories of revivals, baptisms, and people coming to faith in Christ.
- FBC Rome has a heart for missions. She has always been a generous church, and members continue to give to the Offering for Global Missions, Cooperative Baptist Field Personnel, and many local and regional partners.

- Members love to serve their community and their world and have long- and short-term commitments to mission efforts domestically and internationally.
- FBC Rome is committed to education and spiritual growth. The Church started a college, invested in the beginning of the McAfee School of Theology, all while maintaining traditional Sunday School classes and initiating new faith development opportunities for her members.

HOW DID THE PROCESS WORK?

The Discovery Team focused on the strengths, assets, and the history of the church as they worked. They sought to identify the church's strengths and unique identity and push those forward into the future with creativity and imagination. Finally, the Team was committed to creating a process to generate dynamic movement so that First Baptist Church could continue to respond to future opportunities and challenges.

When the Discovery Team met initially, they utilized the insights the Center for Healthy Churches had helped generate during the pastor search. In that material, the team found clear connections about what drew people to FBC Rome and what was most important for members of the church.

- The team gathered statistical data from the congregation as well as the community and region. They examined demographics as well as opportunities for ministry.
- Numerous conversations with community partners provided insight and information into the greatest challenges to the community, and the team listened to the congregation as they shared their dreams, insights, and visions for FBC Rome. After hearing hundreds of suggestions and analyzing data, the Discovery Team engaged the entire ministerial staff and began to articulate the dreams for the church.
- The team focused on five ministry areas consistent with the Early Church in Acts. In Acts, early Christians did several things that built them up as the body of Christ and prepared them to share the Good News with the world.

"Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who **believed** were **together** and had all **things in common**; they would **sell their possessions and goods** and **distribute** the proceeds **to all, as any had need**. Day by day, as they **spend much time together in the temple**, they **broke bread at home** and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, **praising God** and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day **the LORD added to their number** those who were being saved."

Acts 2:43-47, NRSV

The Discovery Team took those foundational areas of the early church's ministry, service, and life together and used them as guiding stars for their work. Worshipping together, Discipleship, Serving one another and their community, Sharing the gospel, and Connecting as a body were essential to the growth of the Early Church, and those ideas became the cornerstones of developing a clear vision for the future of FBC Rome. As work continued, the team adopted Connect Authentically, Disciple Faithfully, Serve Passionately, Share Boldly, and Worship Vibrantly, as the areas of focus, and they decided to call the plan *Together, We*.

The plan for *Together, We* aspires that every part of the church family should be involved and committed in order to achieve the greatest success. The historical information prefacing the vision provides insight into how this work is simply a continuation of the dreams and deeds of prior visionaries.

A HISTORY OF VISIONING

CONNECT

As the world has grown and changed, so has FBC Rome's connections to the local community. From a tiny congregation in a small town of the antebellum south, the Church looks back on its almost 200 years in the Rome community knowing that it has gained wisdom from the lessons it has learned, honor for the accomplishments it has achieved, and confidence in a bright future as a regional leader in Christian faith. FBC Rome also has a long history of building relationships within the congregation. The hope of the *Together, We* vision is to continue the strong bonds of faith that have defined the Church's family.

- On April 8, 1837 the church elected Elijah R. Lumpkin and Thomas W. Burton as its first deacons. In June of that year, the church adopted its first constitution and gave the congregation the name "the Baptist Church of Christ at Rome."
- During the American Civil War, Pastor David W. Gwin, the church's third resident pastor, resigned as pastor in 1864 and moved to Griffin, GA further away from the fighting. Many members of the congregation followed Pastor Gwin to safer areas in Southern Georgia, and Rome Baptist closed its doors for services until after the war. During the Union occupation of the town in 1864, the church building became a hospital for Union soldiers. When the Federal army left Rome later that year, they burned much of the town but left the churches intact. By September of 1865, enough of the townspeople had returned to Rome where they began holding nondenominational services for all citizens in the Baptist church. Regular church services did not begin until October 13, 1865 and led by Rome Baptist's new pastor, James Courtney Brown.
- Twentieth Century growth and progress saw the church reach 1000 members for the first time in 1923.
- In 1932 the church's *Declaration of Faith* and *Covenant* were revised.
- On October 6, 1977, the church ordained its first women deacons: Margaret Whitworth, Jane Tucker, Mary Reynolds, and Virginia Powell.
- In 1991, the church voted overwhelmingly to support the beginning of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF).
- In 2001, the Touching Tomorrow campaign allowed the new church offices to be completed on East First Street.
- On March 15, 2005 FBC Rome withdrew from the Southern Baptist Convention and the Floyd County Baptist Association.

DISCIPLE

Throughout its history, FBC Rome has been fortunate to benefit from the knowledge, experience, and theological perspective of some excellent ministers and teachers. FBC Rome looks to honor that tradition by continuing to prayerfully mentor and guide its members to discover through the word of God His purpose in their lives.

- A. B. Ross became the first Sunday School superintendent in 1848 and organized classes for adults and children.
- In 1912 the Scrap Iron Bible Sunday School class began. It continues today as the longest continuous class in the church.
- In 1926 the Fidelis Sunday School class began and continues today as the longest continuous female group in the church.

- The first Vacation Bible School was hosted by FBC Rome in 1943.
- On July 26, 1964, the education building on East Second Street was completed and dedicated.
- Minister of Faith Development Priscilla “Prissy” Tunnell created the “Foundational Building Blocks of Faith” that created milestones for children.
- In 2016, the Adult Faith Development Committee initiated “Faith Talks” on fifth Sundays during the year. Guest speakers have been experts on a variety of topics that relate to how Christians interact with today’s world. These talks have been open to church members and the entire community.

SERVE

From its earliest days, FBC Rome has sought to help the least, the lost, and the overlooked in the local, regional, and global community.

- The first mission offering was collected on September 22, 1847, when the women of the church collected \$7.40 and distributed it equally between programs to assist Native Americans and other local charities.
- In the coming decades, women continued to lead the drive for missions by sponsoring offerings to programs such as the Lottie Moon Foreign Mission Offering, which began in 1889 and aided China, and the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Mission, beginning in 1913, and which funded charitable in the United States.
- In the early 20th century, FBC Rome began to sponsor individual missionaries in countries such as China, Burma, and numerous areas in North America. This support of individual mission work became a cornerstone of service at FBC Rome, and today many of these ministers consider the church their domestic church home.
- In 1996, FBC Rome felt led to sponsor several families of Kurdish refugees fleeing from conflict in Iraq.
- In 2001, FBC Rome created the “One Family Helping One Family” program that raised more than \$126,000 to assist with utility bill payments during a particularly difficult winter.
- This sense of community spirit eventually led to the beginning of the “Hands of Christ” program in 1999 in which volunteers helped with individual and community projects in Rome.
- In unexpected times of tragedy and disaster, FBC Rome has always been willing to serve. Many supplies and generous monetary donations were sent to devastated areas after the tsunami that struck SE Asia in 2004. The congregation raised \$130,000 for the installation of 15 water filtration systems in Indonesia. Similar efforts were accomplished after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.
- FBC Rome also sponsored water filtration systems in Ethiopia with the “Water for Hope” program led by David and Merrie Hardin.
- In 1996, FBC Rome assisted CBF missionaries Cy and Diana Farmer by providing funds to buy shoes for Bosnian refugees. The goal to donate 500 pairs of shoes was exceeded by an additional 672 pairs.
- The youth of FBC Rome participated in the first mission trip sponsored by the Home Mission Board in June 1969 when they traveled to Ayer, Massachusetts.
- From those early trips, missions at FBC Rome has developed partnerships with global organizations and projects in Switzerland, Romania, Morocco, Liberia, Kenya, the Caribbean, and a long-term commitment in Peru.

- In 2007, FBC Rome helped sponsor the Ruble International Education Initiative (RIEI), which helps promising high school or college level students from Indonesia travel to the US to further their education.
- FBC Rome has been a strong and faithful partner with many local non-profits such as: Habitat for Humanity, Davies Homeless Shelter, Action Ministries, Good Neighbor, Free Clinic, Community Kitchen, Restoration Rome, Living Proof Recovery, and many more.

SHARE

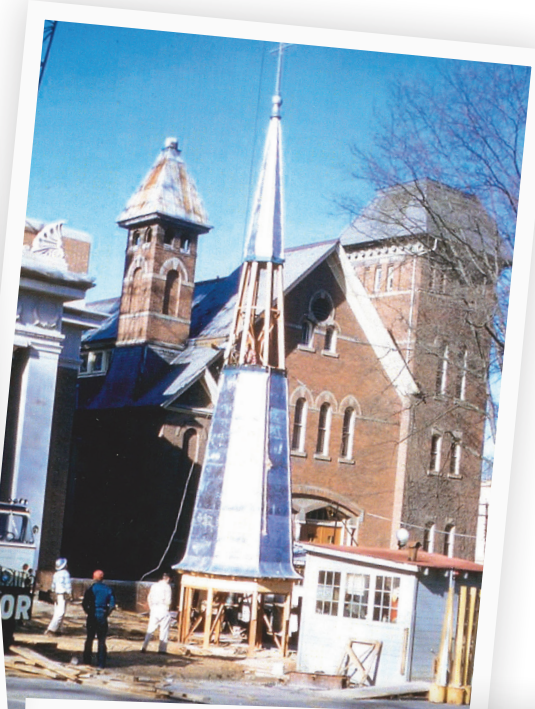
Evangelism at FBC Rome has changed over the years with advancing technologies. From seasons of revival in the 19th century to the use of the internet in the 20th century, the church has been dedicated to spreading the message of Christ's love to the world.

- During the 19th century, revivals occurred virtually every year. Meetings usually lasted from ten days to two weeks and were most often held in the church sanctuary, though a few attempts were made to hold tent revivals.
- FBC Rome began broadcasting its services over radio in 1930.
- The first edition of the Church Newsletter, *The Spire*, was published in 1960.
- The first church service aired on local television in 1972. By 1975, all morning services were broadcast, and in 1980, the church purchased the equipment to colorize the services.
- In 1979, cassette tapes of all services became available upon request.
- In 2000, the church web site, www.fbcrome.org, was launched.
- FBC began to stream all services on the website in 2012.

WORSHIP

- FBC Rome began on May 16, 1835, when six members met to elect Hugh Quinn as the first non-resident pastor for the coming year. The congregation met two to three times a month in a wooden structure until 1850 when the Ladies Working Society of the Baptist Church formed with a goal to raise funds for a new building. This building was completed and dedicated on October 21, 1855. The new church was a handsome brick structure with a vaulted ceiling and a tall spire containing a 1,000-pound bell, also purchased by the ladies of the church.
- Music has always been an integral part of worship at First Baptist Church since the earliest days. Before the congregation moved to its second home, much of the singing was done without instrumental accompaniment. After moving to the new building, the ladies of the church purchased the church's first harmonium reed organ for \$117.19 in 1856. The first hymnals were purchased ten years later.
- A larger pipe organ, purchased in 1869 from a New York company, served the Church for the next four decades.
- The third building was completed and consecrated in 1884 under the leadership of Pastor Luther R. Gwaltney. Renovations and additions continued until 1901, and this facility was the home of FBC Rome for the next seven decades.
- The current sanctuary building on East Fourth Avenue was completed and consecrated on June 15, 1958.

- A new, larger 45-rank Reuter pipe organ was purchased for the dedication of the new sanctuary in 1958. The 1869 organ was moved to the smaller chapel and is still owned by the church.
- The first Christmas Eve Candlelight service was held in 1961.
- Other musical achievements at First Baptist Church include the creation of choirs for all ages during the 1960's and 70's as well as the formation of a ladies' handbell choir in 1967.
- In 2010, the Church celebrated the dedication of the new *Celebrating Grace* hymnal, still used today.



THE "TOGETHER, WE" VISION



CONNECT AUTHENTICALLY

We take care of each other. We connect our church family by loving one another, respecting our differences, and nurturing relationships.

GOAL 1: Every person is a part of at least one relational group (Sunday Bible Study, small group, choir, etc.) within the church

INITIATIVE 1. Include homebound members in those gatherings/groups by coordinating transportation with family/caregivers

INITIATIVE 2. Encourage relational groups to have regular fellowship activities and to get to know each other in more authentic and deeper ways

GOAL 2: Utilize technology to build and strengthen personal relationships

INITIATIVE 1. Encourage increased use of technology and educate each other on how to use resources effectively

INITIATIVE 2. Contact each member by various means on a periodic and ongoing basis

GOAL 3: Support each other and the community through all phases and challenges of life

INITIATIVE 1. Offer support groups based on regular needs assessments of the church membership

INITIATIVE 2. Develop a program for members to organize and reach out to those who have been absent

INITIATIVE 3. Have a well-developed, articulated plan for welcoming guests and fostering long-term relationships with them

INITIATIVE 4. Educate the church family on best practices for helping those with special needs so that they discover God's plan for their lives

INITIATIVE 5. Actively pray with and for each other

GOAL 4: Evaluate the church campus for capacity and best use as well as accessibility and future needs

INITIATIVE 1. Cooperate with community partners in the neighborhood for shared campus utilization

INITIATIVE 2. Build accessibility opportunities for those who are experiencing various life challenges





DISCIPLE FAITHFULLY

We seek the Heart of Christ. We grow as passionate life-long followers of Jesus through intentional faith development.

GOAL 1: Each person will have a transformational relationship with Christ

- INITIATIVE 1.** Provide varied opportunities to develop deeper relationships with other Christians who share similar interests and needs
- INITIATIVE 2.** Form new small groups to reach out to those inside and outside of church who are not currently part of a group
- INITIATIVE 3.** Nurture a culture of prayer within the church family

GOAL 2: Children, youth, and adults understand discipleship and ways to live and grow as a Christian

- INITIATIVE 1.** Develop a common definition for and understanding of “disciple” and “discipleship”
- INITIATIVE 2.** Create a curriculum of Bible studies that focuses on issues facing society as well as the needs of the church
- INITIATIVE 3.** Use assessment tools to help the church family understand their God-given gifts
- INITIATIVE 4.** Set goals towards growing as a life-long disciple

GOAL 3: Provide effective, dynamic Christian education to meet the needs of the person in all ages and phases of life

- INITIATIVE 1.** Provide a broad array of resources for individuals, groups, and Bible study leaders to enhance learning and study
- INITIATIVE 2.** Deliberately engage in intergenerational opportunities to learn from each other
- INITIATIVE 3.** Provide opportunities for intentional discipleship both as a mentor and a mentee
- INITIATIVE 4.** Expand community offerings with a regular discipleship focus—for example: a “theology in the professions” in the community (teaching, business, law, healthcare, service industry, hospitality, etc.)





SERVE PASSIONATELY

Jesus changes lives. We serve as His Hands by offering our gifts and talents to transform the lives of all people.

GOAL 1: Challenge and equip the congregation to participate in service to the local, regional and/or global community

- INITIATIVE 1.** Encourage members to integrate their God-given gifts with service opportunities
- INITIATIVE 2.** Create a dynamic list of mission opportunities for all members and encourage each member to be a part of at least one project per year
- INITIATIVE 3.** Develop a common understanding of “asset-based” approaches to ministry, and integrate that approach into all mission service
- INITIATIVE 4.** Commit to understanding the causes and consequences of systemic issues such as poverty, addiction, etc.
- INITIATIVE 5.** Train members to serve effectively in their work with nonprofit boards and organizations
- INITIATIVE 6.** Encourage and provide mentoring to create a new generation of committed community partners



GOAL 2: Build mutually transformative relationships and partnerships with those who live in our local community

- INITIATIVE 1.** Implement a congregational model for supporting sustainable, long-term community transformation through broad collaboration between individuals, agencies, and institutions
- INITIATIVE 2.** Gather a coalition of our community partners to share information, ideas, and best practices
- INITIATIVE 3.** Offer opportunities for all members to encourage and develop abiding friendships with someone outside their social, political, vocational, and cultural experience

GOAL 3: Build mutually transformative relationships with regional and global partners

- INITIATIVE 1.** Develop a missional partnership with *Together for Hope* among the rural poor in Georgia
- INITIATIVE 2.** Nurture current long-term relationships with global mission partners and ask mission committee to pursue future opportunities for global ministry. This would include *CBF-Encourager Church* partnerships, mission trip opportunities, etc.
- INITIATIVE 3.** Ensure that all partnerships are regularly evaluated and committed to dynamic and effective ministry so that they are transformational and sustainable



SHARE BOLDLY

We love our neighbor. We share the Good News of God's love for the world and invite others to a saving relationship with Christ.

GOAL 1: Share Christian faith by welcoming, serving, and building relationships with all including the least, the last, the lost, and the overlooked

INITIATIVE 1. Share faith intentionally with Weekday Preschool families

INITIATIVE 2. Build deeper, long-term relationships to the marginalized of the community to welcome them to new life in Christ

INITIATIVE 3. Cultivate a relationship between FBC Rome and each of the four local colleges by offering specific opportunities for Bible study on or off campus

INITIATIVE 4. Explore ways of using the television broadcast, streaming, and web service to engage the spiritual needs of those in the community

GOAL 2: Follow the Great Commission in the community, the region, the country, and the world

INITIATIVE 1. Welcome neighbors and share the gospel

INITIATIVE 2. Equip members with the tools to share their faith story and the Christian story in ways that invite others to new life in Christ

INITIATIVE 3. Provide every member an opportunity to assess his/her personal strengths and spiritual gifts in order to develop a Christ-centered relationship with fellow believers

INITIATIVE 4. Support evangelism in global missions through prayer and seek opportunities to share the gospel with immigrants from around the world

INITIATIVE 5. Study the most effective ways to seek out, engage, and share the message of Christ in the community



TOGETHER, WE W O R S H I P

WORSHIP VIBRANTLY

God deserves our best. We worship to glorify God, experience the Living Christ, and respond to the Holy Spirit.

GOAL 1: Adhere faithfully to the Church's worship tradition while fostering creativity, diversity, inspiration, and inclusivity in the services

INITIATIVE 1. Involve members of every age in leading in worship through prayer, readings, music, and testimony

INITIATIVE 2. Provide weekly worship previews to encourage and prepare for worship

INITIATIVE 3. Train worshippers to lead and participate in the worship service



GOAL 2: Provide worship opportunities through multiple forums

INITIATIVE 1. Partner with other local congregations to promote diverse worship experiences

INITIATIVE 2. Explore opportunities for worship services at alternate times/locations

INITIATIVE 3. Pursue dynamic approaches to the live broadcast as well as our webcast and other online connection opportunities such as new lead-ins, promotions, apps, etc.

GOAL 3: Equip and inspire members to worship God individually in their daily lives through devotion and prayer

INITIATIVE 1. Provide tangible ways to continue connecting with the worship service experience throughout the week

HOW WILL THIS BE ACCOMPLISHED?

Coordinating the work of the five ministry areas will be a *Together, We* Leadership Team; each lay leader will be committed to one of the five focus areas. These members will serve alongside full-time staff members and the deacon chair and chair-elect. The *Together, We* Leadership Team will be nominated by the deacon body and then approved by a church vote. Team leaders will likely serve 2 or 3 year terms with the initial year focused on planning and strategies to accomplish their goals. The leadership rotation for this team as well as the other teams will follow the best practices FBC Rome currently employs as directed by the church leadership.

Each of the five ministry areas will have a smaller leadership team, and they might also identify action teams of people who feel called or gifted to serve in a particular area. Some groups may simply exist to accomplish a specific, short-term goal and then cease to exist when their work is completed. These processes encourage and allow more personal and individual involvement in the life and work of the church.

The structure might look something like this:



WHO SERVES ON THE "TOGETHER, WE" LEADERSHIP TEAM?

- Connect Team Leader
- Disciple Team Leader
- Serve Team Leader
- Share Team Leader
- Worship Team Leader
- Five (5) Fulltime Ministers
- Deacon Chair
- Deacon Chair-Elect

Their objective is to coordinate ministry efforts.

WHO SERVES ON EACH AREA TEAM?

- Team Leader or Co-leaders
- FBC Rome Staff Liaison
- Team members

Their objective will be to organize and implement ministry opportunities. They will form and direct Actions Teams to accomplish specific projects.

FOUR AREAS OF ALIGNMENT WILL OCCUR IN THE NEAR FUTURE:

1. **Organizational Structures**—utilizing staff and the Church effectively to accomplish its mission and ministry which may involve restructuring current committees and their roles.
2. **Facilities**—maximum utilization of the Church's physical plant
3. **Personnel**—ensuring that every staff member is deployed to accomplish the Church's Vision and Mission
4. **Finances**—aligning the church budget to support the Vision

HOW DOES THIS PLAN IMPACT EXISTING OPERATIONAL STRUCTURES?

- This plan is not intended to immediately or completely replace the Church's existing committee structure. Rather, this plan should be a catalyst to focus all of the Church's energies in the same direction. The process of organizational realignment will begin as soon as the plan is adopted and will continue to evolve over the next 3-5 years.
- Some committees will remain as they are and continue to function as they do currently (i.e., Facilities or Finance). Others might reorganize, restructure, or reprioritize their work and their processes based on insights of a shared congregational vision.
- Some committees/teams may see their work as completed or may be replaced by new teams focused on other initiatives.

FBC Rome's leadership will strive to maintain consistency with our constitution and bylaws. We anticipate asking our Committee on Committees and other appropriate leadership groups to bring a recommendation in 18 to 24 months to provide clarity about our structure and organization for Church-wide discussion and decision-making.

HOW DOES THIS PLAN IMPACT CURRENT FACILITIES?

The plan addresses the accessibility of the Church's facilities and will examine the current physical footprint. Best and highest use of the Church's facilities will be a priority, and then the long-term needs of the physical plant will be addressed. The Properties Committee will be integrally involved in this work.

HOW DOES THE PLAN IMPACT THE CHURCH STAFF?

The work of this visioning process involves the work of all of the congregation and staff members. Staff members have been very involved in the work of the Discovery Team and have helped shape these initiatives and goals. They will work in concert with the *Together, We* team to realize this multi-faceted vision. Members and ministers alike must work together to achieve God's vision for FBC Rome. This plan could involve realignment of personnel or additional personnel; should that be the case, the Personnel Committee will be involved in all conversations and decisions.

HOW DOES THIS PLAN IMPACT THE CHURCH'S FINANCES?

The new budget, recently adopted, will not be altered at this time. This budget did create a line item for strategic initiatives, and the Finance Committee voted to designate a portion of the year-end surplus to the strategic initiatives which may come as the plan is implemented. Over the next several years, the Finance and Budget Committees will work with the *Together, We* Leadership Team to pair resources and opportunities for ministry in creative new ways. The FBC Rome Foundation will continue to encourage gifts and support for the mission and ministry of the Church, and the Stewardship Committee will continue to urge all members to offer their gifts in service to God's work through the Church.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS FOR SERVICE ON THESE TEAMS?

Team leaders and members should serve in the areas where they feel gifted and called. Those lay leaders who serve on the *Together, We* Leadership Team members will serve that position for a 2 or 3-year period. Church leaders will determine the criteria for service, length of terms, etc. Meetings schedules are expected to be regular, necessary, and determined by each group. As teams strategize and plan courses of action, some may be short-term Action Teams created solely for a specific project or initiative and then dissolve after completion of their work, while others may serve for longer periods.

WHAT ABOUT EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT?

Evaluation and assessment are essential for success. The *Together, We* Leadership Team will solicit regular feedback from teams and ministry partners. Groups and processes may be adjusted as needs arise.

WHAT IS MY ROLE IN THIS VISION?

- Begin by praying about where God might be leading you to serve—whether in a leadership role or as a part of an Action Team.
- *Together, We* will be a weekly focus in January and February worship and church life, and there will be opportunities to commit to service in and support of these initiatives.
- A commissioning and commitment service on Sunday March 3, 2019, will ask every church member to commit to be a part of *Together, We*.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

- Pray for God's presence to give us clarity and excitement as FBC Rome moves toward this new vision.
- Pray for the deacons and church leadership as they nominate those who will direct the Leadership Teams.
- Pray for God's spirit to encourage leaders to step forward and embrace exciting challenges and opportunities.
- Pray for the church staff as they work to integrate this vision into their ministries.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

December 2018—The *Together, We* leadership nominated by deacons and approved by the church in January conference

Early 2019—Leadership teams begin formation

2019 and beyond—Leadership Teams act and move with bold excitement

RECOMMENDATION

With full involvement and commitment of FBC Rome, *Together, We* will become reality rather than simply a dream. The goals and initiatives presently listed in the plan are by no means a complete list. The initiatives listed are those developed after much prayer and reflection, and it is the Discovery Team's desire that these will be useful to the Teams who will work to make these dreams a reality.



The Discovery Team recommends that FBC Rome adopt this plan for ministry as presented and move forward to **Connect Authentically, Disciple Faithfully, Serve Passionately, Share Boldly, and Worship Vibrantly.**

