

Psalm 67:1-2

- <sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
- <sup>2</sup> that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

# Cornerstone Presbyterian Church VISION 2030

**Five-Year Strategic Ministry Plan** 

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- Introduction 3
- Current Reality 4
  - Anchors 5
- Mission and Vision 6
  - Core Values 7
- A Flourishing Church 10
  - Our Focus 12
- Key Areas for Investment 15
  - Communication 16
    - Shepherding 18
  - Leadership Development 20
    - Growth 24
    - Conclusion 26

# INTRODUCTION

Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established. **Proverbs 16:3** 

We praise God for all that he has done in and through Cornerstone particularly over past five years! Our church has emerged well from the challenges of the pandemic and is heading in a really good direction. As we look in faith to the what the next five years could look like, the senior leadership has spent much the past year working through a strategic vision process that looked a little like this:



On the following pages you will find the beginning of our work as we seek to **preserve the core** of what is most important to us, **refine the strategy** of where we believe God is calling us to go, and take steps to successfully **align for execution** of these plans.

# **CURRENT REALITY**

# **SWOT Analysis**



### STRENGTHS

- 1. Strong church community/relationships/body life
- 2. Biblical teaching/gospel focus
- 3. Programs (youth, children, Re|Engage, Preschool, MomCo)
- 4. Facility/grounds
- Finances



## **WEAKNESSES**

- 1. Lack of prayer emphasis, especially corporate prayer
- 2. Discipleship for believers and new/young believers help people see their need to grow at various stages
- 3. Assimilation of new members clarity how to plug in
- 4. Personal evangelism/going out
- 5. Leadership development



## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- 1. Partnering with other churches/parachurches in ministry, e.g. Re|Generation, Celebrate Recovery, like we've done with Financial Peace and Re|Engage
- 2. Opportunities to proclaim the gospel in the local community
- 3. Leadership development clearer process with intergenerational mentoring
- 4. Deeper pathway for discipleship to the unchurched
- 5. Website/coherent marketing strategy/online reach
- 6. Growing aging demographic



## **THREATS**

- 1. Leader burnout e.g. elders, deacons, life group leaders
- 2. Disunity/fear of change
- 3. Capacity/space issues growing too large too fast and losing the sense of community (may be connect to #2 and resistance to 2 services)
- 4. Pride/self-reliance (building Cornerstone vs God's kingdom)
- 5. Busyness e.g. secular activities and technology competing with church activities, and also too many church programs that outpaces culture of caring relationships
- 6. Lack of buy-in (this may be connected to #2)

# **ANCHORS**

**Past Anchors** (we think we have been operating according to these)

- Freedom for people to start and operate ministries
- · Ministry flows from relationship
- Home Group participation
- Program participation
- Stick with our worship service style

# **Vision 2025 Anchors** (more appropriate for the next season of our ministry strategy)

- Prioritizing participation in the church body life without detracting from purposeful relationships with others in the community.
- Small group fellowship, accountability, and growth, with different groups for different purposes
- Prayer
- Serving where people have gifts and strengths
- Utilizing a team approach to accomplish ministry goals

# **Vision 2030 Anchors**

- See above
- Ministry leader meetings
- Elders are shepherds and more admin has been delegated to staff
- Not one-size-fits-all e.g. Re|Engage can be a discipleship pathway rather than life group
- · Intentionality with flexibility
- Confessional church

# **MISSION & VISION**



# **MISSION**

Current Statement: To glorify God and build his kingdom

*Proposed New Statement:* To glorify and enjoy the triune God and join Him in building His kingdom



# **VISION**

Current Statement: To see the love of God transform people into mature disciples of Jesus Christ who love God above all else and who sacrificially love others

# **CORE VALUES**





# **#1 BEING FAITHFUL TO SCRIPTURE**

We are committed to the authority and sufficiency of Scripture as the inspired Word of God, our final guide in all matters of faith and life. In all we do, we seek to faithfully teach, live, and proclaim the truth of God's Word with humility, conviction, and love.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of Godmay be complete, equipped for every good work.



# **#2 FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION**

We are devoted to fulfilling the Great Commission by making disciples of all nations, beginning in our own community and extending to the ends of the earth. We commit to proclaiming the gospel, baptizing believers, and teaching them to obey all that Christ has commanded, trusting in His presence and power.

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.



## **#3 FOCUSING ON DISCIPLESHIP**

We are committed to intentional discipleship that goes beyond programs to foster real, transformative relationships centered on God's Word. By walking alongside one another in faith, we aim to equip every believer to grow in spiritual maturity and actively follow Jesus in every area of life.

**Colossians 1:28** Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.



# **#4 BUILDING AUTHENTIC, LOVING COMMUNITY**

We are committed to building a loving and authentic community where people can belong, grow, and be transformed by the love of Christ. Through intentional relationships, vulnerability, and mutual support, we strive to create a culture of unity that reflects the heart of God and draws others to Him.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.



## **#5 PURSUING EXCELLENCE WITH GRACE**

We believe that pursuing excellence honors God and reflects His character, but we do so with grace, not perfectionism. Our aim is to offer our best in all we do—whether in worship, service, or stewardship—while remaining humble, teachable, and rooted in the gospel. Excellence for us means faithfulness, not flawlessness.

Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

**Philippians 1:9-10** And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

## **#6 PERSISTING IN PRAYER**



We are committed to being a people rooted and grounded in prayer, believing that God works powerfully through the prayers of His people. Prayer is not a last resort but a constant, vital expression of our dependence on Him. In every season and circumstance, we seek to align our hearts with God's will through faithful and fervent prayer.

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

# **#7 DEVELOPING CHRISTLIKE LEADERS**



We believe that developing leaders is essential for the health and growth of the church. We intentionally invest in raising up men and women who are grounded in Scripture, shaped by the gospel, and equipped to lead with wisdom and integrity. Our goal is to multiply servant-hearted leaders who will impact the church and the world for Christ.

**2 Timothy 2:2** And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.



# #8 INVESTING INTENTIONALLY IN FAMILIES

We are committed to intentionally investing in families, believing that the home is a primary place of discipleship and spiritual formation. By coming alongside parents, couples, and children with biblical support and encouragement, we aim to strengthen families to reflect Christ's love and faithfully live out their calling together.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

# **A Flourishing Church**

# What kind of church do we desire to be?

# A CHURCH COMMITTED TO WORSHIP

#1 We desire to become a people who are more deeply committed to prayer as a means of communion with God, fellowship with one another, and advancement of God's kingdom.

#2 We desire to be a congregation who has a deep sense of belonging to the Lord and to one another. This would result in is a greater sense of unity and purpose across our church body.

#3 We desire to see every member understanding their need for Jesus at a deep level and actively uprooting idols from their lives.

#4 We desire to see people of all life stages and backgrounds being welcomed, listened to, and enriching our worship and other areas of ministry.

#5 We desire to continue to improve our property to better facilitate engagement for those in person and online.

## A CHURCH COMMITTED TO GROWTH

#1 We desire to see every member have at least three meaningful, transparent friendships in the church.

#2 We desire to be a church family that prioritizes shepherding care for one another. Particularly in times of crisis or hardship no one would feel alone or without help.

#3 We desire to have a church culture where the brokenness in our lives can be revealed to others without fear of judgment or gossip.

#4 We desire to see multiple pathways developed for people to grow in their faith, connect with others, and be equipped to use their gifts. These pathways would be known to the congregation and especially to newcomers.

#5 We desire to see parents equipped to be actively discipling their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord in a world that is increasingly hostile to the faith.

# A CHURCH COMMITTED TO SERVICE

#1 We desire to be a church whom the community loves and respects and would miss if we went away.

#2 We desire to be a church that would grow primarily from people coming to faith in Jesus rather than coming from another church.

#3 We desire to see all of our members delighting to share their faith where they live, work, and play. We would grow to see the world around us as our mission field.

#4 We desire all of our members to be equipped and actively serving in a manner that fits their unique calling.

#5 We desire to prioritize community and world missions commitments that reflect our desire to make disciples.

# **OUR FOCUS**

It is our prayer that through the ministry of our church you would come to **know God** deeply and personally, **find freedom** in all areas of your life, **experience** authentic **belonging** in community, and come **discover** and bold pursue your God-given **calling**.





## **#1 KNOW GOD**

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. **John 17:3** 

Knowing God truly, personally and transformationally is what the Christian life is all about. There is a huge difference between knowing *about* God rather than actually knowing God. We do not confuse *proximity* to God with actually enjoying the *presence* of God.



# #2 FIND FREEDOM

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **John 8:31-32** 

The Christian life is meant to be a life of freedom. Jesus' work on the cross not only sets us free from the *penalty* of sin the moment we first believe, he goes to work through his Spirit setting us free from the *power* of sin itself throughout the entirety of Christian life. One day in heaven we will be completely free from even the *presence* of sin. We are eager for you to truly live in this freedom offered to us in the Gospel.



# **#3 EXPERIENCE BELONGING**

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. **Ephesians 2:19** 

The Christian life is not meant to be lived alone. We were made for relationship with God. We were also made for relationship with each other. We are serious about experiencing real, grace-centered community together. You have a place to belong.

# **#4 DISCOVER CALLING**



For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2:10** 

God has a purpose for your life. He has uniquely gifted and equipped you to serve him and others. It our sincere desire to see you step boldly and confidently into your Godgiven purpose with your whole heart using your time, talent, and treasures to make a kingdom impact.

# **Areas of Intentional Investment**

As consider moving forward in faithfulness and fruitfulness we have identified 4 areas for intentional investment.



# INVESTMENT AREA #1 COMMUNICATION





### THE NEED

Particularly since the pandemic Cornerstone has made significant strides in our web presence. Our YouTube channel, for instance, which was launched the month before the pandemic has a high level of engagement for a church our size (we have about 600 subscribers).

We have made progress on other online fronts as well – Facebook, regular sermon podcasts, and of course our website. We recognize these digital outlets to be increasingly the "front door" of our church. Guests will frequently check us out online before they venture into our building. We desire to invest deeply in this digital area. We see the need to rebuild our website, reinvigorate our social media presence, and generally do a better job of making our presence known in the digital world. We do all of this, not as replacement for our "flesh and blood" ministry, but that we might be more clearly seen as a light shining in a dark place.



### **KEY OBJECTIVES**

- Communicate the Vision
  - Ensure all messaging aligns with the church's vision: "to see the love of God transform people into mature disciples of Jesus Christ."
  - Use storytelling, testimonies, and visuals that reflect life transformation and discipleship in action.
- Promote a Cohesive Brand Identity
  - Develop and maintain consistent visual branding across all platforms (colors, logos, fonts, imagery).
  - Ensure branding reflects our guiding principles such as Authentic Loving Community, Faithfulness to Scripture, and Graciously Pursuing Excellence.
- Strengthen Web and Digital Presence
  - Maintain an engaging, informative, and user-friendly website that serves members, visitors, and seekers.

- Optimize online content for mobile access, SEO visibility, and multimedia integration (sermons, videos, blogs).
- Provide clear calls to action aligned with church rhythms (e.g., worship, groups, serving, giving).
- Expand Social Media and Multimedia Presence
  - Develop a content strategy for platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to promote worship, events, and discipleship stories.
  - Use video, reels, livestream clips, and photos to reflect community life, ministries, and the love of God in action.
  - Encourage ministries to share updates and highlights that can be amplified across Cornerstone's channels.
  - Create social media templates and guidelines for consistent and effective outreach.
  - Facilitate Clear, Timely Communication
  - Create and manage a strategic communication calendar for church-wide announcements, sermon series, ministry events, and special campaigns.
  - Equip ministries with tools and templates to communicate clearly while maintaining brand standards.
- Empower Ministry Leaders
  - Provide training and support to ministry teams for managing their web content and communication.
  - Develop style guides and content best practices to ensure clarity, accuracy, and theological faithfulness.
- Engage the Community with Compassion and Clarity
  - Use digital channels (email, social media, video, livestream) to extend hospitality to newcomers and strengthen connection with members.
  - Share stories and visuals that illustrate *Purposeful Serving*, *Intentional Family Investment*, and *Obedience to the Great Commission*.
- Pray and Plan Strategically
  - Operate from a posture of *Persistent Prayer*, seeking the Lord's guidance in every campaign, post, and announcement.
  - Regularly evaluate communication effectiveness and make data-informed improvements.



# **NEXT ACTIONS SUMMARY**

Our efforts so far have been focused on rebuilding our website. We have contracted with a professional company who specializes in church websites (Subsplash) and hope to roll our new site soon. Additionally, we are making progress on professional-level videography for the website and social media.

# **INVESTMENT AREA #2 SHEPHERDING**





### THE NEED

Compassionate and thoughtful shepherding has been a long and deeply-held value at Cornerstone. In our last 5-year vision plan we expressed the desire that particularly in times of crisis or hardship no one would feel alone or without help. We believe we are making great progress in this area. By God's grace alone, shepherding care is an area of strength for our church. Our elders and deacons and significantly our female shepherding associates have labored tirelessly in love in this area.

However, as God continues to give growth to Cornerstone, our shepherd leaders find themselves increasingly stretched thin. We see the need not only for people involved in the shepherding work of our church but for new models of ministry as well.

It is our conviction that Cornerstone will not be able to grow beyond our capacity to meaningfully care for the individuals God is bringing into our fold. In other words, the number of shepherds we have involved in the work of soul care, will limit the number of people at our church.

We currently have 9 elders (including Pastor Billy and Pastor Dave) seeking to shepherd **350** Cornerstone members – not to mention over **200** regular attendees.



### **NEXT ACTIONS SUMMARY**

As we seek to invest in this area, we believe our next step is to refocus our church's shepherding efforts around Life Groups rather than just the elders. Life Groups will not replace the work of our elders but will rather work alongside our elders to better care for our congregation.

In the coming months we will seek to:

- -1- Establish a new oversight model for Life Groups. Rather than just having Pastor Dave oversee this ministry, we will transition to a committee to do this work.
- -2- Renew the vison of our Life Group ministry with particular focus on shepherding care.
- -3- Train and equip our current Life Group leaders with this new vision in mind.
- -4- Raise up new Life Group leaders.
- -5- Establish regular Life Group leader breakfasts/lunches/dinners for the purpose of training and encouragement.

# **INVESTMENT AREA #3**

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT





### THE NEED

One of the encouraging areas of growth from our last vison plan was in this area of organizational leadership. Over the past five years, we have adopted organizational charts, clarified roles and goals of various staff and volunteer positions, and worked to coordinate the efforts of

various groups within the church such as the elders, the deacons, and the staff. Communication, coordination, and cooperation amongst the various parts of the church is quickly becoming a strength!

However, as Cornerstone recovered from the pandemic we saw a gradual consolidation of our leadership. Ministries were being run with fewer people. Decisions were being made by a smaller group of people. Some of this was intentional as we were seeking to be more focused in our ministry objectives. But now we find ourselves quickly becoming an "80/20 church" where the majority of the ministry work is being done but a small group of people. Some of our leaders are becoming weary.

Many of our key leaders (elders, deacons, shepherding associates, diaconal associates, along with many, many others) have been serving in their various roles for over 5 years now. Encouragingly the church has been growing recently but overall as a church, we have been slow in raising up new leaders amongst those coming into Cornerstone.



# **TESTIMONY** (from Pastor Billy)

Earlier this year Laura and I spent some time in West Africa with our Cornerstone missionaries Jim and Karen. For them what began as an effort to be involved with a single church plant in one city, has quickly grown to be a national and even multi-nation effort to see God's kingdom

come to West Africa. It was truly inspiring to see the work being done to establish the Presbyterian Church of Senegal and the Presbyterian Church of the Gambia – all being done by training and deploying local church planters. The question that kept echoing in my heart on the trip and in the days since has been "What are we doing to build the Presbyterian Church of Landenberg?" I don't mean specifically Presbyterianism nor specifically Landenberg but generally speaking, what are we doing to see God's church established? The remarkable thing is that God does this work through you and I – through local leaders. I am more and more convinced that the next step of faithfulness in Cornerstone's journey is to grow to become the kind of church who raises up, trains, and deploys kingdom leaders.



# SOME POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO OUR NEED FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

# -1- Lack of clear leadership pipelines

Apart from a few exceptional areas of ministry, we do not have a "leadership pipeline" where potential new leaders are identified, encouraged, tested, trained, and employed into an area of service.

# -2- Over-reliance on current leadership

Particularly as we have been slowly moving to hire certain ministry positions, people might feel it is unnecessary to volunteer. We saw this years ago when we hired our first nursery coordinator. As soon as we "hired" someone to do the job, it became difficult find volunteers.

# -3- Hesitancy of current leaders to delegate

Current leaders might be hesitant to "distribute leadership" assuming it is just easier to do it themselves. It takes too much time to train others.

# -4- Potential leaders fear failure or being inadequate

Potential leaders may feel they are not equipped or fear they will fail, so they never step forward. Without encouragement and a safe environment for growth, leadership potential remains untapped.

# -5- Lack of vision or clarity

It might not be clear where the needs are or how best to serve.

# -6- Busyness of life

Many in the congregation might be willing to step up and serve but feel they don't have the time. Or they fear the leadership position might expand and require more than they originally expected.

# WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF WE DON'T ADDRESS THIS NEED

# -1- Leadership burnout

More and more is being expected of our current leaders. If we don't continue to raise up more leaders, our current leadership might become overly weary and unnecessarily burdened.

- **-2- We won't be able to care for the new people God is bringing into our church** Cornerstone has been in seasons of growth before. There are perhaps many reasons why the church began to shrink 15 years ago but we should consider the possibility that did not the ability to effectively shepherd the people who were coming in our doors.
- **-3- We will limp along being "ineffective and unproductive" in our faith** We will continue to outwardly exist as a church but will fail to bear the fruit that God wants to bear through us.



# WHAT GOD MIGHT DO IF ARE SUCCESSFUL IN ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE

# -1- Cornerstone will continue to grow.

As we effectively shepherd the people coming in our doors, we will increase our capacity for growth.

# -2- We could increase our capacity to pursue new areas of investment as a church.

With more people shouldering the burden of leadership, we might take on additional areas of investment pursuing mission, serving the community and building up the body of believers. For instance, we are exploring the idea of launching a Re-Generation a potential follow up ministry to our successful marriage ministry Re-Engage.

# -3- We can become effective outside the walls of our church

As we train and develop leaders, we can have a reach beyond our own church. We could grow to become even more effective in having a kingdom impact beyond our walls.

# -4- The burden will be lighter for our current leaders

Current leaders could be free to pursue a deeper investment in their areas of service.

# **SUMMARY OF NEXT STEPS**

# -1- More leadership training opportunities

Would like to develop a series of leadership seminars focused on specific topics. This would be a critical part of our leadership "pipeline." Current and potential leaders would encouraged to participate in relevant seminars.

# -2- Greater clarity for our current leaders

Would like to work to define the roles and goals of our current leaders. Where appropriate this would look like creating a "job description" of various positions.

# -3- Increased communication to our current leaders

Would like to increase the frequency of leadership emails.

# -4- Develop a plan to create a "culture" of leadership development

We need to catch a vision as a church for leadership development. We need to see how this serves God's purposes for us locally within Cornerstone and beyond.

## **APPENDIX**

# **Leadership Training Seminars**

## **FORMAT**

Ideally done in small group format. Over the summer this could be before church. In the fall this might be done after church over lunch. We might consider how to do this during the Sunday School hour. Each seminar would be repeated ideally a few times a year with different people attending each time. This would also allow for the teacher to develop and refine the material over time.

## SOME IDEAS OF TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- Spiritual Gifts Class
- Developing a Personal Ministry Vision & Plan
- How to Lead a Small Group
- Troubleshooting Common Small Group Challenges
- Real Conversations
- Caring for People in Crisis

# GROWTH





## THE NEED

Cornerstone is in a season of growth. Not only is the Sunday worship service increasingly full but many of us look around the room and find ourselves saying *I don't know half the people here!* In some ways we are keeping pace with the national trends (see *New York Times* graphic below) but locally there aren't many obvious reasons to explain

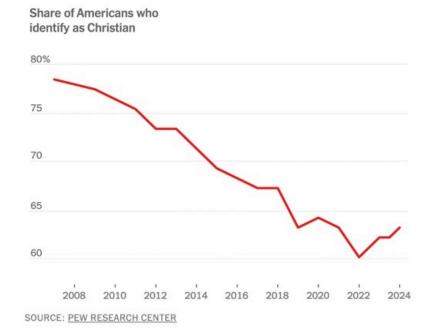
our growth. Apart from Oxford, where there is some new development, there are no new homes being built in our area. Very little real estate is being bought and sold which means we generally do not have new people moving into our area.

And yet Cornerstone is growing. Part of the story to be told is in Sunday morning attendance: we have returned to our pre-pandemic attendance. This is exciting! The other part of the story is more complicated but seems to be a trend at least locally. As people are returning to church (or coming to church for the first time), they are not attending weekly as was the general habit of previous churchgoers. This makes it more difficult to gauge where we are as a church. However, those who are committing to Cornerstone are more deeply engaged. Membership for instance is at all time high. (We are set to receive about 50 people into membership this year!) We have lots of young adults and young families engaging with us. We regularly have spiritually-curious people who are not yet Christians with us Sunday morning.

Growth is exciting but it can be challenging as well. We are increasingly having to consider how we will we need to adapt as a church to make room for all that God is doing in our midst.

# "The histories of pandemics suggested this one might produce a spiritual revival, too..."

-- NYT, How Covid Remade America, March 4, 2025





# **NEXT ACTIONS SUMMARY**

We want to be ready for all that God is doing in our midst. We view these efforts as a matter of stewardship. We are not seeking to "generate" growth but we want to respond to what God is already doing. To this end we focus our energy with the following action steps.

# -1- Work towards greater shepherding particularly of newcomers.

Our church could become a "revolving door" if we do not enfold the newcomers who have entered our church. While we want to continue to encourage a culture of hospitality to newcomers, we believe the path forward will in gathering people together in small groups. We will, therefore, rely heavily on Life Groups as the means of enfolding newcomers.

# -2- Explore adding an additional worship service.

A lot of work has already been done in this area. We will continue to maximize our space to remain at one service for as long as we can. However, if growth continues, we anticipate adding an additional worship as early as January 2026. We believe this will increase both a capacity to welcome newcomers *and* to raise up new leaders.

# -3- Explore the idea of building a sanctuary.

This was part of a theoretical Phase 3 of our building plan where a new sanctuary would be built on the opposite end of our education wing. While this not the highest priority for us over the next 6 months, we do intend to evaluate whether or not it would be wise to begin exploring this idea.

# CONCLUSION

As we set our sights on the future, we humbly acknowledge that all our plans and labors are in vain unless the Lord builds the house. Vision 2030 is not merely a roadmap for ministry—it is a prayerful invitation to join in the work God is already doing among us and through us. Let us, therefore, be a people who persist in prayer, asking God to pour out his Spirit upon Cornerstone in fresh ways. Let us commit ourselves anew to his purposes—growing in Christ, serving one another, reaching the lost, and raising up leaders for his glory. May Psalm 67 be our collective prayer: that God would be gracious to us and bless us, so that his way may be known on earth, and his saving power among all nations. With hearts dependent on God and hands ready to serve, let us move forward together in faith, hope, and love.