
VISION STATEMENT & STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

GROWING TOGETHER



WITH CHRIST
WITH ONE ANOTHER
WITH THOSE YET TO BE HERE



**BIRMINGHAM FIRST
BERKLEY FIRST**
A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ABOUT



Over the next 3-5 years, Birmingham and Berkley First: A United Methodist Church has a God-inspired desire to meet people where they are and to draw them into a community of belonging, significance, and love. We seek to be a diverse Christian community, united in our faith, and sharing God's love and grace with all. In short, our vision is:

*GROWING TOGETHER:
WITH CHRIST, WITH ONE ANOTHER,
WITH THOSE YET TO BE HERE.*



This overarching vision will be accomplished through the following strategic objectives listed on the pages that follow.



Fulfilling these strategic objectives will empower us to build a stronger church community that is grounded in Christ, while also being adaptive to the challenges facing the church today. We will utilize a “SMART” goals approach to measuring our progress. SMART goals are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. We expect every committee, staff person, and ministry department to develop their own SMART goals to move us forward.



Working together in alignment, with each of us doing our part in the power of the Holy Spirit, we will bring this vision into fulfillment. Now more than ever, we must embrace our purpose to, *“Gather, nurture, and equip disciples of Jesus Christ for ministry and mission in the world.”*



GETTING PEOPLE INTO GROUPS



Recognizing the need for meaningful relationships and genuine community, we will grow larger by getting smaller. While we already have many excellent small group offerings across our campuses, in time, we hope that Birmingham and Berkley First may become a church of groups rather than with groups – with every member being encouraged to participate in a small group.

CLASSES Seeking to understand and honor God with our mind is of great importance. While there is a relational component to all that we do, classes are primarily content driven, offering opportunities for people to learn and grow together in Christ. Both short- and long-term classes will be offered on a variety of topics with excellent teachers and facilitators.

K-GROUPS Short for “koinonia” or biblical community, the focus of these new K-Groups is not content but community. Gathering in homes or offsite, K-Groups are based on John Wesley’s class meeting and provide a place of deep relationship building. K-Group participants get to know and support one another through life’s joys and hardships.

YOUTH GROUPS Recognizing 6th-12th grade as a crucial point in life and faith development, we commit to increase staffing and volunteer leadership for student ministries. It is essential that students grow in their faith, live up to their God-given potential, and become fully integrated within the church as committed disciples of Jesus Christ.



REACHING THOSE WHO ARE YET TO BE HERE



The church does not exist only for its current members; we are also in ministry for those who are yet to be a part of this community. Recognizing that evangelism, outreach, and witness are growth areas for us.



CREATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Simply put, we need to bring the wider community into connection with the church, and the people of the church into connection with the wider community.

TRAINING IN EVANGELISM

Outreach cannot just be a program or a committee; it is the responsibility of every person connected with our church. Therefore, training will be offered through sermons, classes, and special events to equip each person to share their story, live their faith, and extend invitations to those who are yet to be part of this community.

EXCELLENCE IN HOSPITALITY

When people come through our doors, their initial experiences are crucial. Care will be given to create welcoming environments where visitors and guests can engage in meaningful connections early on. We commit to improving our follow-up process for first, second, and third-time guests, as well as first-time givers.

HANDS ON LOCAL MISSIONS

Birmingham and Berkley First currently has eleven local mission partners, and our congregation has expressed a desire for more local mission projects. Whether that means taking on additional partners or creating better on-ramps for engagement with our current partners, we want to provide regular opportunities for people of all ages to engage in hands-on mission work right in our own backyard.

PREPARING FOR FUTURE GROWTH



Drawing on our centuries of heritage and experience, and with an awareness of current realities and best practices in ministry, we will prepare ourselves for a future we do not yet inhabit. Excellence in worship, domestic and international mission opportunities, and children and family ministries are integral to our past, present, and future. Engaging in the following over the next 3-5 years will put us in a strong position for decades to come.

BECOMING ONE

Believing that Birmingham and Berkley First are better together due to shared resources, multiple options for engagement, collaborative ministries, and a wider base for outreach, and recognizing that God may yet call us to continue to launch additional locations in the future, we will create an overarching church name and brand that unites us across locations.

PROVIDING A BASE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Attentive stewardship of our annual budget and increased generosity toward our Endowment will empower us to continue our effective ministries while also establishing a financial base for mission and ministry opportunities that have yet to emerge.

OFFERING VARIETY IN WORSHIP

As of 2024, all of our worship services across campuses are between 9:30 a.m. and Noon on Sunday mornings. In order to cast a wider net and provide people with options for time and worship style, we will develop and launch an additional worship service at an alternative time. Intentionality will be given to include young adults in the leadership team for this new worship service.

