



Course Name: Developing Vision #2

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Course description:

This course is designed to assist leaders develop a vision for the church. Specific components will be discussed today and in the weeks ahead that all contribute to the development of a vision for the future of the church.

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Written a one-page description of where they want the church to be THEN, 10-20 years from now!
- B. Listed five “ideal factors” that paint a picture of the church in the future.

Outline of the class:

- A. Give each person in the class a piece of paper and pencil/pen. Ask each to write a one-page description of the church as they would like to see it in 10-20 years. Give about 15-20 minutes to write this out. If additional pages of paper are needed, please provide whatever is required to write the description. If more time is needed, allow that also.
 - 1. Help students see that this exercise is one that refers to how the church will look after specific changes have been implemented to reach the vision.
 - a. Think in terms geographically and demographically.
 - b. Consider the numbers.
 - c. Look at the changed lives:
 - i. Conduct among members in their home
 - ii. Conduct on their jobs
 - iii. Conduct in the community
 - d. As with last week, think in terms of outreach, leadership development, worship, youth, benevolence, mission work, communication, transparency, cliques, etc.
 - 2. The purpose is not to list out any changes or implementation of specific plans to achieve goals (this will come in the future). For now, once all these plans have been implemented, what will the church look like at that time?
 - 3. Again, ask everyone to write this out in a paragraph style, using narrative to describe the image of the church (physically and spiritually).

- B. After everyone has written their page(s), ask students to share key words or phrases associated with the church from their report.
1. As with the previous week, make a list on the whiteboard of their responses, what Dr. Bobby Clinton describes as the “ideal factors.”
 2. These ideal factors describe the good points of the church with the problems and challenges resolved that prompted the need for change or implementation of a new plan.
- C. Once these ideal factors are written out for everyone to see, discuss how the NOW and THEN relate and how to answer the following questions:
1. When we align the NOW and THEN scenarios side by side, what relationship exists between them?
 2. What opportunities are represented in the NOW section that will help us achieve what we desire THEN?
 3. How would we identify the support / resource structure and any opposition to achieving the THEN we have described?
 4. While the purpose of this exercise is to highlight the future in a positive way, we must consider the following question: What problems or challenges might accompany a move from where we are NOW to where we want to be THEN?
 5. During this class, it is critical not to allow negativity to dominate the discussion. Ensure that everyone knows we will not all agree, but for now we want to consider the beautiful possibilities of what the perfect future might look like for the church. Dr. Clinton refers to this as “idealistic brainstorming.”

Conclusion:

- A. As we draw closer to writing a vision for the church, these two steps are critical for our foundation. We need an accurate description of where we are NOW, but we must also consider the perfect picture of the future, where we want to be THEN.
- B. Keep in mind we want to stay as positive as possible and allow ourselves an opportunity to indulge in thinking outside the box for possibilities that boggle our own thinking. Remember, God is not limited by our limitations. This is a place where we do not have to consider the “risks” involved, only the possibilities of what could be for the church.
- C. Next week, we will dive into areas that will help construct a vision for the church building upon the NOW and THEN considered these past two weeks.

Recommended Readings:

Clinton, Robert *Bridging Strategies* (see previous lesson for the link to Dr. Clinton’s material electronically)