

WHAT WE NEED TO DO IN 2022

State of the Church

January 9, 2022

Pastor Brian

***Whenever you feel confused about where you are,
it's best to trace where you came from.***

Acts 2 (NLT)

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were **meeting together in one place**.² Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.⁵ At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem...

⁷ They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee,⁸ and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!..."

¹⁴ Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem...what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel..."

³² "God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this."³³ Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today...

³⁶ "So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!"

³⁷ Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

³⁸ Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit..."

⁴⁰ Then **Peter continued preaching for a long time**, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

⁴³ A deep sense of **awe** came over them all...⁴⁴ And all the believers **met together** in one place and **shared** everything they had.⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

6 FOUNDATIONAL FACTS ABOUT THE CHURCH

1. THE CHURCH'S MESSAGE DOESN'T CHANGE, BUT ITS **METHODS** SHOULD CONSTANTLY BE CHANGING.

*"I am the LORD, and **I do not change.**" (Malachi 3:6a, NLT)*

*"**The word of the Lord remains forever.**" And that word is the Good News that was preached to you." (1 Peter 1:25, NLT)*

*"And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. **New wine calls for new wineskins.**" (Mark 2:22, NLT)*

Our DREAM

Design worship services lost people love.

Reach the broken and connect them to the family.

Engage people in spiritual growth.

Activate them in a ministry.

Mobilize the whole church to change the world!

2. THE CHURCH IS NOT A GATHERING, BUT IT ALWAYS **GATHERS**.

*"On the first day of the week, we **gathered** with the local believers..." (Acts 20:7, NLT)*

*"The churches here in the province of Asia send greetings in the Lord, as do Aquila and Priscilla and all the others who **gather in their home** for church meetings." (1 Corinthians 16:19, NLT)*

3. THE CHURCH IS NOT A SCHOOL, BUT ITS PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS **GROWING**.

*"Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. **Grow to maturity.** Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you." (2 Corinthians 13:11, NLT)*

*"For this very reason, make every effort to **add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, **knowledge;**" (2 Peter 1:5, NIV)*

*"...**discipline yourself** for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." (1 Timothy 4:7–8, NASB95)*

4. THE CHURCH IS FED BY THE PASTORS, BUT **FUNCTIONS BY THE PEOPLE**.

*"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. **Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work** and build up the church, the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11–12, NLT)*

*“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. **Use them** well to serve one another.” (1 Peter 4:10, NLT)*

5. THE CHURCH’S HEALTH IS NOT MEASURED BY ITS SEATING CAPACITY, BUT BY ITS SENDING CAPACITY.

*“...As the Father has sent me, so **I am sending you.**” (John 20:21, NLT)*

*“Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”” (Matthew 28:18–20, NLT)*

6. THE CHURCH HAS A RICH HERITAGE, BUT IT ALWAYS MOVES FORWARD TOWARDS A PREFERRED FUTURE.

*“...Forget the [past] – it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For **I am about to do something new**. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.” (Isaiah 43: 18-19, NLT)*

**ACTION STEP:
RECOMMITMENT COVENANT!**