

Taking the Risk TOGETHER

August 9, 2020

Robert Courson, Elder

Last week in this service, Elder Ron talked about how not only is LNBC entering into a time of transition based on Bobby's announcement but has the opportunity to truly becoming the church we need to be for our community.

We were challenged to embrace the concepts of **REPENT**, as Jesus mentioned to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2; **RETURN** to being a church that God intends with a clear outward focus and **REIMAGINE** what LNBC could look like going forward and how we can make a significant difference in our community, state and the world.

Then we answered the first of three big questions - **What you can expect in terms of preaching in the months ahead ... by** giving you our commitment to strong pulpit preaching throughout the transition from our existing pastors, guest speakers, Elders and other church members as God has provided us great blessing in this regard.

Today, we pick back up by focusing on the other two questions:

- **What can you expect of the Elders throughout the transition?**
- **What do the Elders need/expect of you?**

Question 2 – What you can expect of the Elders throughout the transition?

A book that helped guide us, “Transformational Church”, by Ed Stetzer and Thom Rainer (SBC thought leaders), studied thousands of churches and identified 7 dimensions of a church where people become more like Christ, where the church acts more like the body of Christ and where the community becomes more of a reflection of the kingdom of God.

This study and resulting book found that churches that do well in these categories have a Kingdom impact in their community.

These dimensions are:

- **Missionary Mentality** – 1 Corinthians 9:22-23
- **Vibrant Leadership** – Matthew 20:27-28
- **Prayerful Dependence** – Psalm 116:1-2
- **Relational Intentionality** – Romans 1:11-12
- **Worship** – 1 Chronicles 16:25
- **Community** – Romans 1:11-12
- **Mission** – John 20:21

There is lots of work to be done, but here is how we are approaching this effort:

- **redefine**
 - Grow in their personal walk with Christ
 - Learn more of the character of Jesus through effective Biblical teaching and discipleship
 - Reflect that closer walk in their everyday lives
 - Display our love for one another in tangible ways
 - Are being a light to the community around us both in sharing Christ and seeking to help meet needs in the community.

- refocus
- react

Question 3 – What do the Elders need/expect from YOU?

PRAY

Colossians 1:9-11

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

Please pray that we will have Godly wisdom, patience, boldness and courage so that we can accomplish, along with you, all that the Lord would have us do from this corner of Lake Norman that will touch those in the community, the state and the world!

SERVE

You should ask:

“What would You have me do?”, “How can I better serve You?”, “How can I reflect the image of Christ in my community?”

We would ask that you use the gifts God has given you:

I Corinthians 12:4-7 provides the expectation that Paul had of the church at Corinth,

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

EVERY believer has at least one spiritual gift; and that you would be willing to use in within the church and in the community in service unto Christ!

ENGAGE

Lastly, we also need you to tell us what you think right now about where we are in the life of LNBC! We want to hear from you, and as a first step we have a structured way that we are going to allow you to do just that.

The Elders have selected a church survey / assessment tool that we believe will be helpful in giving us your opinion on where our church currently stands relative to important dimensions of a Transformational Church.

We want to hear from you!! Your points of view are an important part of the foundation from which we start answering the big questions we need to answer, and this survey will help drive that out.

The results of this assessment will help us understand where we are as a church at this point here in mid-2020; it will provide important information as we seek the Lord and HIS direction for HIS church at Lake Norman!

We are asking for ALL of you to participate in this assessment and to be completely honest in your replies; otherwise if we do not get enough responses or if the answers are not sincere and honest, then we will not have the most accurate picture of your perception of the current situation at LNBC!

Please take this request to complete the assessment as seriously as we do; it is important that we hear from each of you, because all of us together..... WE are the CHURCH!!

As you can imagine based on what I have said, much of that is still to be answered, but here are some summary thoughts on what I had to say today:

- Bobby’s decision to begin a retirement process DOES NOT lessen the importance of the larger body of work. Rather, we believe that among the outcomes associated with affirming our purposes and resetting and reordering our priorities (a vital part of which is your input from the church survey) will be foundational direction for how to proceed with replacing his leadership long-term.
- Therefore, we are going to allow this work to continue and influence our path forward at the appropriate time as opposed to immediately engaging an internal search team or an external search partner.
- As was stated earlier, we want to have a transformative impact to our community for the Gospel as where:
 - People are becoming more like Christ
 - The church acts more like the body of Christ
 - The community becomes more a reflection of the Kingdom of God.
- We are not satisfied with being CARE-TAKERS, we want to boldly go forth with you, in Prayerful Risk Taking for the glory of God!!
- Our commitment to you is frequent communication and strong transparency as we continue this process that has already begun over the coming weeks and months. Our next update on the transition process will be in late Q3, after the new church year has begun. Until then, know that our doors are open to comments, questions and feedback – we encourage you to take advantage of it, you can always use : elders@lnbc.com.

As Bobby stated a couple of weeks ago, you and I are all “PHILLIP”; an ordinary person who loves Jesus Christ and was ready to go “all in”, for HIM and HIS kingdom work! We have much to do in the days ahead and we have a great door of opportunity in this community to move through! Join us, by faith, as we follow our great Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

We have been blessed with a senior pastor who has 23 + years providing leadership in building a Biblical foundation at LNBC. He has created a legacy that is truly a blessing to carry forward and we anticipate with great excitement our journey as we “Take the Risk ... Together”, at Lake Norman Baptist Church!