

[CHURCH NAME]

Church Vision and Goals Process For 2017 (Sample Process)

Use this process to complete the form below (Church Vision and Goals For 2017).

The mission of the [Church Name] is to *make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*, and our local churches provide the most significant place to make disciples. As a part of the [Conference Name], we all have to do our part in order to fulfill this mission by moving toward our preferred future: **Great Leaders – Great Churches – Great Disciples – Transformed World.**

The annual [Conference Name] is an opportunity to evaluate and celebrate who your congregation is aligning your vision and goals to answer God's call to greatness.

The process outlined below is designed to be used by the Church Council (or other appropriate group) as you develop your ministry for the coming year. **Prayer is essential to this process!**

Note: Some congregations use a different process or timeframe to do the vision and goal setting – You don't have to repeat the process. Record your information on the form as best as you can or provide another format.

I. Clarify Your Vision

Think of your vision as your motto: *A short phrase (10 words or less) that's easy to remember, expressing the beliefs or ideals which guide your congregation to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.* An effective vision statement should be biblical, specific, motivating and measurable. Keep it brief! You want both the community and your congregation to remember it and understand that this is why you do what you do. Recite it in worship and at meetings; use it in prayers, in print and in public;...and most of all, live it out! The vision may remain the same from year to year.

Each congregation expresses their vision in unique ways that reflect God's call for the members, their gifts, and the needs of their particular setting. For example, the vision of a congregation in a diverse neighborhood might be, *"meeting people, meeting needs, meeting Christ."* In a rural setting, challenged by declining population and services, a congregation might experience God's call to a ministry of *"living and giving God's hope for all times."*

II. Assess Your Current Reality

Gather information on your ministry setting and measurements of your ministry efforts. There are resources to include:

- **Vital Signs** – Each local church is asked to submit weekly statistics through the dashboard on the [Website Name]. If your congregation is doing so, you may access the requested numbers through the executive summary on the following site: [Website URL].

If your congregation used the vision/goal-setting process for the current year, evaluate your progress by answering the following questions:

1. How are you getting the congregation and community familiarized with your vision?
2. Which goals and strategies have worked and will be beneficial to continue?
3. What challenges and/or roadblocks have you encountered, and how do you plan to move past them?

4. What “glory sightings” and stories will you tell your congregation – when did you see God at work, deepening your discipleship and bringing transformation to others’ lives through your members and your ministries?

III. Identify 2-3 Attainable Goals for 2017 that are Aligned with Your Vision

Way too often we make a long list of things we’re going to do as a congregation and call those “Goals” but they’re not. Goals are the answer to the question, “What 2-3 big ideas can we accomplish that will have the greatest impact on our ability to live out our vision?”

Example: After prayer and discussion, the diverse neighborhood congregation (mentioned above) set two goals:

1. To have at least 50% of the congregation actively involved in at least one ministry away from the church property that is “*meeting people, meeting needs, meeting Christ*”.
2. As a congregation, to become familiar with the cultures represented in the neighborhood.

Note: If a goal isn’t accomplished in one year, it may be continued into the next year with updated strategies.

IV. Plan the Year’s Strategies

Think about steps that your committees and groups (Sunday School, Choir, Finance Committee...) can take to help reach those goals. List a few strategies for each goal. These strategies may continue to develop even after the [Conference Name].

Example: The [Committee Name] hosts cultural celebrations at the church. Education designates one month of Sunday School when all ages learn about the Great Commission and how to talk about Christ outside of the congregation. The Worship Committee will organize a “Christ for the World” worship service in a neighborhood park and involve the church’s neighbors in its planning.

V. Indicate Vitality Trainings in which you are Planning to Participate

Each year, various opportunities are offered by the conference, districts, and others in order to create **Great Churches, Great Leaders, and Great Disciples.**

Check out these options:

- Abide (leadership initiative for small membership churches) – [Website URL]
- [Conference Name] (Conference for small membership churches) – [Website URL]
- Next Steps (Process of training and support for congregations to continue moving toward greater vitality) – [Website URL]
- Transforming Communities ([State] Leadership Center) – [Website URL]
- Leadership Institute - – [Website URL]

For more ideas, check on the conference website (website url), the [Church Name] website (website url), or with your district office.

Set 2017 Goals and Strategies: What are your plans to do in the coming year? How do you plan on accomplishing it? List goals with the steps for making them happen, adding more as needed. **Note:** *Goals may be continued from the current year to the next year if they're not yet complete.*

Goal #1:
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Goal #2:
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Goal #3:
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Receive Vitality Training – Check/List those in which you’re interested or plan to participate.

- ABIDE
- Next Steps
- Transforming Communities in [City, State]
- Leadership Institute at [Church Name] in [City, State]
- District/Regional Event: _____
- Other: _____