

A photograph of a church service. In the center, a man with his arms raised leads a sing-along. He is standing on a stage with a microphone stand and sheet music. The stage is decorated with string lights hanging from the ceiling. The background shows a large screen displaying lyrics. The foreground shows the backs of several people in the congregation, some with their hands raised. The overall atmosphere is one of a lively worship gathering.

OUR MINISTRY PLAN

2019



"JESUS SIMPLY, INTENTIONALLY, SYSTEMATICALLY,
PATIENTLY WALKED ALONGSIDE TWELVE MEN.
JESUS REMINDS ME THAT DISCIPLES ARE NOT MASS-
PRODUCED. DISCIPLES OF JESUS - GENUINE,
COMMITTED, SELF-SACRIFICING FOLLOWERS OF
CHRIST - ARE NOT MADE OVERNIGHT."

- DAVID PLATT



THIS SEASON AND OUR FOCUS

Over the last **SEVEN** years, we have given focus to various aspects of our ministry. First it was gathering a core group of leaders to launch. Then it was preparing the warehouse God provided for us to worship in. Next it was cultivating a sense of 'family' - because we were all strangers! Lastly, it was learning what it could be like to co-operate with another church in our area. In the last year, we have focused on re-launching our Gospel Communities, leaning into church-wide spiritual formation and teaching, and recruiting some key leaders we needed in the form of a Worship Pastor and Associate Pastor.

At every point of the journey, we knew God was calling us forward - often into the unknown and uncomfortable. He has always come through and answered our prayers!

What's next for us? It shouldn't be a surprise. Discipleship! We've experienced change and growth in the past few years, and the road ahead of us is full of unexpected challenges and opportunities to grow even deeper and wider in discipleship.

But one thing is clear: our plumb line and reference point is the one that Jesus gave to us. Discipleship. New disciples. Growing disciples. Reproductive disciples. ***Everything comes down to this question: how can we make, mature, and multiply more disciples of Jesus?***

In the pages following, we submit to you what we call a Ministry Plan. It's our best (but not

perfect) effort to turn our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds towards God, and receive direction from Him.

This guide is intended to empower our family to follow Jesus in unity of heart and purpose that we might bear much fruit for His glory. It is a *guide*, not a checklist, and we remain open to the Spirit directing us throughout the year.

We know that God wants to grow our church family in spiritual depth and relational breadth. Outlined are a few main areas that we feel called to give attention to. **They're not comprehensive or exhaustive, but are obvious bottlenecks and challenges for our family.** More than anything, we want to communicate to you the areas we feel are opportunities to grow and become more fruitful and faithful in making, maturing, and multiplying disciples of Jesus.

Finally, this is not my ministry. This is our ministry. It's Our Ministry Plan. Will you join us? We need your prayer, your support, your involvement, your ideas, your solutions, your serving, and your giving. Most of all, the body of Christ needs you!

If you have any questions or would like to discuss something, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'd love to meet with you.


DREW+ WITT
LEAD PASTOR

LARGER FACILITY

Fast and pray one day a week for six weeks as a church, asking the Lord to open doors and to bring the right space to us.

Create a Facility Team to discern several possible locations in or around downtown to serve as our next place of worship. We're looking for a place that can host 200-250 people and has great kids ministry space to grow into.

Explore creative opportunities to use our next space as a way to bless our community Monday-Saturday.

MINISTRY TO KIDS & PARENTS

Hire new Kids' Pastor by Easter.

Evaluate the current stage of our Kids' Ministry and discern a plan for how God wants us to grow in our ability to disciple our children.

Create child-centered "Little Liturgy" that will foster growth in relationships with Jesus, unity in community, and a love for church.

Create a Kids' Ministry vision video to share with the church and on our website.

Create space for children to enter into worship with the adult congregation on Sunday mornings.

GOSPEL COMMUNITIES

Continue creating seasonal Devotional Guides that can be used in personal devotions and Gospel Communities.

Train 10-20 new Gospel Community Leaders.

Start 5 new additional Gospel Communities by the Fall.

Host a Spring and Fall Gospel Communities overnight retreat in Spring Branch, TX.

MAKE, MATURE, AND MULTIPLY DISCIPLES OF JESUS

TRAIN ALL MINISTRY LEADERS

Offer learn at your own pace training to anyone who wants to grow in the core competencies of local church ministry. MinistryGrid.com is an internet based training platform we've subscribed to. It allows us to virtually train Volunteers, Serve Team Leaders, Gospel Community Leaders, and Church Staff.

Explore the interest level and possibility of offering theological training and degrees through Veritas Bible College.

Continue in the formation of Gatherers' Guild curriculum that will foster the multiplication of disciples.

MISSIONS

Give 10% off all tithes and offerings to The Anglican Mission in America for the furtherance of three stream church planting in America.

Continue fostering and strengthening our relationship and service with Bowden Elementary and Hawthorne Elementary SnackPak programs.

Continue to openly explore new and Spirit led missions opportunities within our communities and neighborhoods.

DISCOVER, CONNECT, & COMMIT

Reimagine our Connections Pathways to help newcomers:

1. Discover Who We Are
2. Connect With Us in Ministry
3. Commit to Covenant Partnership

Create a Guest Gift Bag to give away to first and second time guests.

Host 3-5 Discovery Nights at the Witt Home.

LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE

Make minor tweaks to our existing logo and brand identity.

Launch a brand new simplified website by April that will help people get a better picture of who we are as a people.

Create a video sharing the vision behind our church and what to expect on Sunday.

Improve our social media presence.

INVEST IN OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER

HARDEST TO GET
MOST VALUABLE

1



SPIRITUAL

How much faith do you have to invest?

Currency: WISDOM & POWER

2



RELATIONAL

How much relational equity do you have to invest?

Currency: FAMILY & FRIENDS

3



PHYSICAL

How much time and energy do you have to invest?

Currency: HOURS & HEALTH

4



INTELLECTUAL

What intellect, skill sets, and competencies do you have to invest?

Currency: IDEAS & CONCEPTS

5



FINANCIAL

What financial resources do you have to invest?

Currency: DOLLARS & CENTS

EASIEST TO GET
LEAST VALUABLE

WHY DO WE DO PROMISE CARDS?

The reality is that ministry takes money, and **money is muscle for ministry**. That said, administrating and operating a church is tricky because it's done on a donation basis. Our expenses and overhead are fixed, but donations are inevitably flexible and fluctuate from month to month and season to season.

Our process is to make a yearly budget based off of yearly Promise Cards. We take the information given to us through Promise Cards, look at what the last year's budget was, our current and future needs, and plan accordingly. Add a huge amount of faith and prayer, and we now have a church!

Praying through and submitting a Promise Card - *even if you did one last year* - is a **HUGE** thing for us as a church. We believe it helps you in your discipleship as a giver. No one floats into spiritual maturity or generosity accidentally. It takes intention, effort, budgeting, discipline, and commitment. The Promise Card is an opportunity to grow in being intentional about giving monthly to the Gospel work that God has given us.

It also benefits our church Leadership Team and administrators.

We have big needs such as a bigger facility, ongoing ministry expense, new staff hires, liability insurance, benevolence, and missionary giving, just to name a few. Having an accurate picture of what our church income will look like helps us determine what God is calling us to do and when.

If you believe in our mission together, and Gathering Midtown is your church, will you serve our church family by making a commitment to regularly giving of your tithes and offerings? **Will you communicate that to us through a Promise Card by Sunday March 3rd?**

There are two ways you can do so:

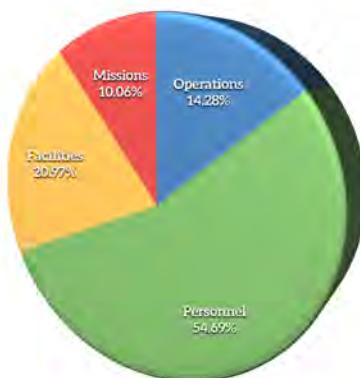
1. Fill out an analog Promise Card and drop it in the Joy Box at church.
2. Fill out the digital Promise Card at <https://tinyurl.com/y9zvttol>



2018 CHURCH FINANCES

JANUARY–DECEMBER 2018

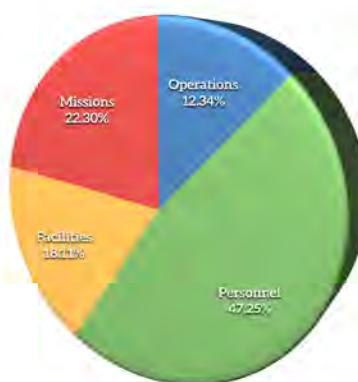
ORDINARY INCOME	\$255,455.98
ORDINARY EXPENSES	\$253,952.12
<i>Operations</i>	\$36,260.33
<i>Facilities</i>	\$53,244.36
<i>Personnel</i>	\$138,891.83
<i>Missions</i>	\$25,555.60
NET	\$1,503.86



***In December of 2018, Gathering Midtown received an anonymous extraordinary gift of \$400,000. After tithing 10% of it towards church planting outside of our church, we would like to set the amount aside to help us with our future facility and emergency reserve fund. Below is an updated financial snapshot that includes the extraordinary gift along with our ordinary income and expenses.

JANUARY–DECEMBER 2018

INCOME	\$655,455.98
EXPENSES	\$293,952.12
<i>Operations</i>	\$36,260.33
<i>Facilities</i>	\$53,244.36
<i>Personnel</i>	\$138,891.83
<i>Missions</i>	\$65,555.60
NET	\$361,503.86



2019 CHURCH FINANCES

PROJECTIONS FOR 2019

INCOME	\$261,660.00
EXPENSES	\$305,184.00
<i>Operations</i>	\$44,460.00
<i>Facilities</i>	\$56,799.96
<i>Personnel</i>	\$177,758.04
<i>Missions</i>	\$26,166.00
NET	-\$43,524.00

