

# Looking Forward

With 20/20 Vision

Laurel Church of Christ

*Who are we?*

*What's important to us?*

*What direction are we headed?*

## **We're on a mission:**

*The Laurel Church exists to glorify God, leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through the power of the Spirit.*

## **The values that guide our choices in ministry:**

As a congregation, we value:

**People** — At the Laurel church, people matter and we do everything possible to minister to the needs of people as Jesus did in his ministry. We try to show love and acceptance to people where they are and move them gently toward the heart of Christ. This value serves as an umbrella for everything we do as a church.

**The Word of God** — The Laurel church affirms the Bible as the inspired, infallible Word of God. While we respect and value tradition, the Bible guides all that we do as a church.

**Authenticity** — Lost people in our culture are suspicious of religion and often view it as fake, hypocritical and inauthentic. At the Laurel church, we are real people. From the pulpit, in small groups and in ministries, we believe that God wants us to be honest about who we are before Him.

**Relevance** — We must be relevant to our changing culture. We believe the church should shape culture, not be shaped by it. At the same time, we must find more effective ways to communicate the unchanging gospel in a rapidly changing culture.

**Maturity** — As we reach lost and hurting people, the Holy Spirit takes each person where he/she is and moves him/her forward in faith. At the Laurel church our ministry system is made up of small groups of people who walk through life together, holding one another up and growing together in faith.

**Prayer** — Because we believe God hears His people and wants to do a powerful work in this church, community and world, we are faithful in the work of prayer.

**Unity** — We seek to achieve the unity for which Christ prayed. We believe unity is possible when we follow God's word without binding personal opinions.

## • OUR VISION •

### Reach. Build. Release.

**Reach** every person between the Beltways who does not have a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Build** each other up to be passionately committed followers of Christ through small groups.

**Release** our people and resources to be significantly used by Jesus Christ in our community and around the world.

### Our Goals:

1. We will see the area between the beltways as our mission field, every member will see himself or herself as a missionary and we will approach our area with a missional church attitude — *“Every member a missionary.”*
2. To grow large enough that we can truly impact our region — *“A church of unavoidable influence.”*
3. Small Groups will become the way we do ministry at Laurel. Our goal is that every member will be involved in a Life Group.
4. By the time we’re averaging 300 people in this building on Sunday morning, we will:
  - Add a second Sunday morning service to accommodate additional growth.
  - Add additional paved parking.
  - Add a third full-time minister to facilitate continued growth.
5. Immediately begin to develop a “Master Plan” for growth and facilities management to include:
  - Expansion and renovation plans for current building.
  - Expansion and redevelopment of parking lots.
  - Plans to accommodate growth to a 1,000 member congregation.

## **Our 20/20 Vision:**

By the year 2020, this congregation will have grown to 1,000 members and have planted three thriving, healthy congregations along the way in our region to reach people groups we wouldn't otherwise reach.

This vision reflects the efforts of many of our members, our ministers and our elders but ultimately is the responsibility of the elders. Please feel free to direct any questions you have to them.

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