

Developing a Vision

FOR THE FELLOWSHIP | EASTON, MA

Vision

Where there is no [prophetic] vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he.

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) - Parenthesis added

Vision Quiz

Do you have a mental picture of what this church could look like in the next 3 to 5 years and does it excite you?

Strategic Planning Overview

- Mission
- Values
- Strategy
 - Community
 - Disciple Making
 - Team
 - Facilities/location*
 - Finances
- Vision

Vision Overview

- **Need for a vision**
- **Definition of a vision**
- **Characteristics of a vision**
- Development of a vision*
- Communication of a vision*
- * = Saturday!

The Need for a Vision

Vision Dearth

"Less than one out of every ten senior pastors can articulate what he believes is God's vision for the church he is leading."

George Barna, *The Second Coming of the Church*, p. 36.

Vision Dearth

If 65%* of churches are plateaued or dying, what does this say about vision?



* Thom Rainer
<http://thomrainer.com/2017/06/dispelling-80-percent-myth-declining-churches/>

Vision Dearth

- If the average tenure of a senior pastor is 3.5 years (some evidence is under 2 years), what does this say about vision?
- Could it be that the vision has been lost somewhere along the way?

The Importance of a Vision

Importance of Vision

- A vision provides energy.
- A vision fosters risk taking.
- A vision legitimizes leadership.
- A vision energizes leadership.
- A vision sustains ministry.

Importance of Vision

- A vision clarifies direction.
- A vision focuses the future.
- A vision motivates giving.
- A vision is key to change*.

Vision and Change

The most ineffective way to lead a church to change is to talk about what needs to change. Never begin a conversation about change by addressing where you are now. Begin that conversation with where you want to be (vision). Once you begin to arrive at where you want to be, you'll see the short comings of where you are.

Andy Stanley

The Definition of a Vision

Definition of Vision

A vision is a clear, common, exciting picture of God's future for your church as you believe it can and must be.

A Vision is Clear

- Vision clarity is essential.
- People can't act on what isn't clear or what they can't see.
- "If the trumpet doesn't sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?"

(1 Cor. 14:8)

A Vision is Common

- It's shared.
- The majority of your people see and agree with your vision!
- Otherwise something is wrong!

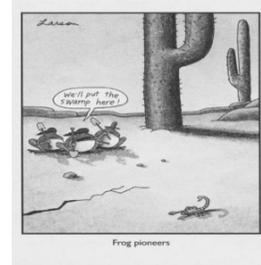
A Vision is Exciting

- It makes you feel good about the church's direction. You want to be a part of it.
- It captivates and moves you.
- It's like caffeine for the soul – it has the potential to keep you up at night.

A Vision is a Picture

- People can see it!
- It's a snapshot of where the church is going.

What Do You See?



A Vision is a Picture

- Vision question isn't "What do you see?"
- Vision question is "What do the frogs see?"
- Vision formation question: "When you picture this church five to ten years from now, what do you see?"

A Vision is God's Picture

- It's where you want to see the church go.
- More important, it's where God wants it to go!
- It's God's vision for your church!

A Vision is the Church's Future

- Every church has a past, a present, and a future.
- 80-85% are living in the church's past (driving by looking through the rearview mirror.)
- The church's vision is a picture of its future.

A Vision Can Be

Vision Drips With Potential

"Some men see things as they are, and ask why. I dream of things that never were, and ask why not."

Robert Kennedy

A Vision Can Be

- What is versus what can be!
- "Holy discontent with the status quo"

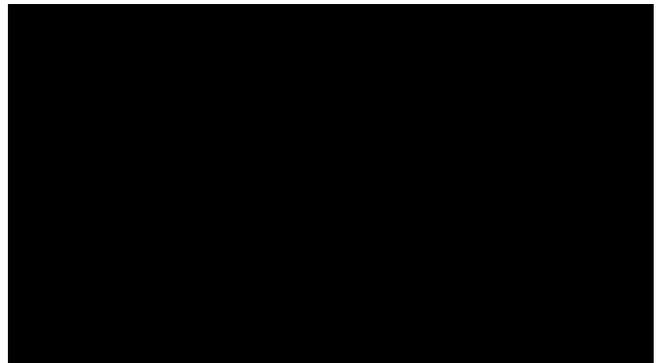
A Vision Can Be

"What defines a leader is his preoccupation with the future. In his head he carries a vivid image of what the future could be, and this image drives him on."

Marcus Buckingham, *One Thing You Need to Know*, p. 59.

A Vision Must Be

- This is the passion part.
- The passion part: What you care deeply about, what you feel strongly about.
- It's the emotional element of the vision - it touches your very soul!



Test of a Good Vision

- Is it clear?
- Is it common/shared?
- Can people see it (picture)?
- Is it future-focused?
- Do you believe it can be?
- Do you believe it must be?

Example of Biblical Mission

"So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

Exodus 3:10

Example of a Biblical Vision

“For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing, a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.”

Deuteronomy 8:7-10

Mission vs. Vision

	MISSION	VISION
DEFINITION	Statement	Snapshot
APPLICATION	Planning	Communication
LENGTH	Short	Long
PURPOSE	Informs	Inspires
ACTIVITY	Knowing	Seeing
SOURCE	Head (intellect)	Heart (emotions)

Mission vs. Vision

	MISSION	VISION
ORDER	First	Second
FOCUS	Broad	Narrow
EFFECT	Clarifies	Challenges
COMMUNICATION	Visual	Verbal
PERCEPTION	Abstract	Concrete

	Mission	Vision
Order:	First	Second
Focus:	Broad	Narrow
Effect:	Clarifies	Challenges
Development:	Science (Caught)	Art (Taught)
Communication:	Visual	Verbal
Perception:	Abstract	Concrete