
THE BRANCH

A community united with God in the renewal of all things through Christ.



2016 Strategic Plan
Celebrating and Anticipating God's Faithfulness

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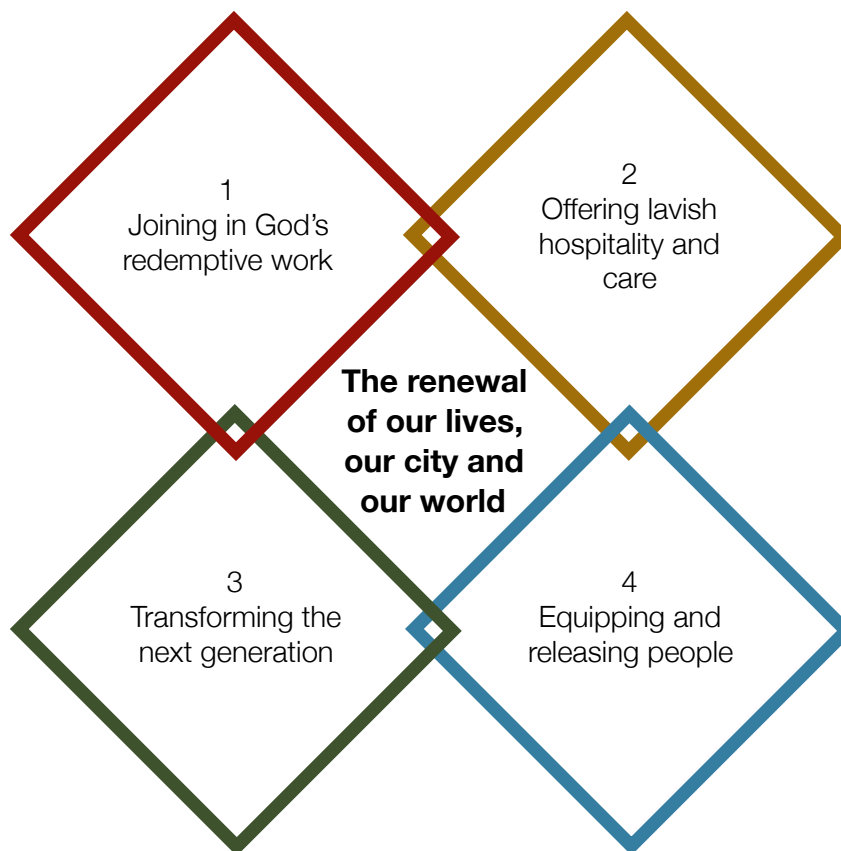
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ANCIENT VALUES LIVED OUT HERE AND NOW.

The Branch is a church rooted in a vision that echoes throughout time, across every tribe and tongue: *to join with God in the renewal of all things through Christ*. This mission, and the strategy to fulfill it, traces its roots back to Jesus who declared that he had come to bring the Kingdom of God by making disciples who would make disciples.

After 10 years of experiencing God's faithfulness as a church, we have spent significant time discerning how God wants us to live out our vision, values and strategy in the year ahead. The result of that discernment is what you find here. While this document is not a once and for all roadmap, it will serve as a framework for where we will focus our energy and efforts in the next year.

Our framework for 2016



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We believe that in 2016 God is inviting us to renew our lives, our city and our world by:

Action 1: Joining in God's Redemptive Work

God is at work all around us. We will join in that work of renewal by:

- ▶ Encouraging the continued formation of Missional Communities, who share rhythms of life and unite around a common purpose.
- ▶ Pursuing opportunities to address racial reconciliation by partnering with other churches that are different than us and/or are further down the road on this journey.
- ▶ Reinvesting locally by offering CREATE (a week long art camp) in the summer of 2016
- ▶ Partnering with the Alger Heights Collaborative to empower and serve neighbors in SE Grand Rapids
- ▶ Discerning what relationship(s) God wants us to develop in order to be a part of God's global work.

Action 2: Offering Lavish Hospitality and Care

God is open-armed, always ready to receive all people. We will reflect that hospitality and care by:

- ▶ Creating a welcoming environment on Sunday morning that allows us to add to our family
- ▶ Developing clear steps anyone can take to become more connected.
- ▶ Creating a process that helps us respond wisely to the needs of those at the Branch and in the community.

Action 3: Transforming the Next Generation

In God's family, children are held up and valued. We will invest in the next generation by:

- ▶ Hiring a BranchKids Director who will lead our efforts around growing and deepening our Sunday ministry to children birth-5th grade.
- ▶ Continuing to provide ways for kids to meaningfully give their gifts on Sunday and beyond.
- ▶ Investing in those leaders who are serving and leading our middle school students.

Action 4: Equipping and Releasing People

God calls the church to equip and release its people. We will be obedient to this call by:

- ▶ Creating sermon series and small group opportunities to spur growth.
 - ▶ Continuing to refine huddle - our main tool for developing and equipping leaders.
 - ▶ Inviting more voices, gifts and creativity into our corporate worship.
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