

PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE NEW CHURCH YEAR

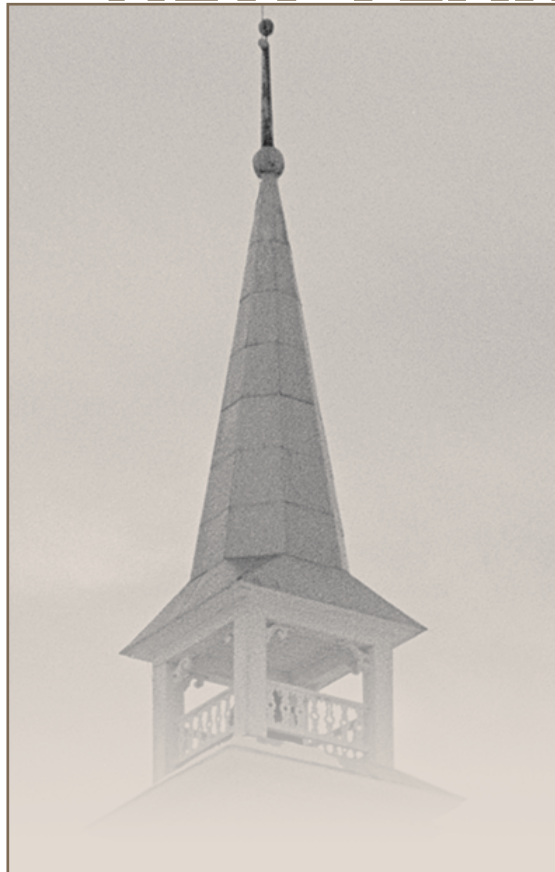


Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Pastor/Leadership Development Department

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PLANNING FOR THE NEW YEAR



The Pastor as Leader

The pastor has been called by the church to serve as leader, and his leadership is essential for the church to carry out its priorities. He should initiate the planning process and serve as chairman of the leadership planning team.

The Church Leadership Team (*Church Council*)

The leadership team will be made up of the following leaders:

- Pastor
- Church staff
- Deacon chairman
- Sunday School director
- Discipleship Training director
- WMU (Women's Ministry) director
- Men's Ministry director
- Minister of music
- Media/library director
- Finance committee chairman

Gather Resources To Aid in Planning

- Church Design Handbook — available from Church Growth Division, MBCB
- Church Leadership Team Handbook — LifeWay Christian Store
- Calendars: SBC, MS Baptist Convention, Association, and Community
- Video: "Churches on Mission ... Planning To Make a Difference," available from Communication Services, MBCB

Write or Review Church Mission Statement

Get a clear view of the purpose of the church. A purpose statement is a restatement of the Great Commission in contemporary terms. Next write your Mission Statement of how God would have you fulfill the purpose of your church as reflected in the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.



Study The Church and Community Needs

Make a list of needs or concerns you sense in the congregation, your ministries, and the community.

Select a Few Priorities

From this list of needs, choose four or five priorities to receive the church's focused attention in the new church year.

Set Challenging Goals

Set one or more goals for each priority. An effective goal should be specific, challenging, attainable, and measurable.

Develop Action Plans to Accomplish Your Priorities

You will then develop effective actions for each of the priorities. Decide on the date, the amount of money needed, and assign each action to the person or program organization that will carry out the action.

Develop a Correlated Church Calendar

The leadership team will develop a correlated calendar of events for the new church year.



Build Your Church Budget

In light of the plans made, you will work with the Budget Planning (Stewardship) Committee in developing and presenting to the church a unified church budget for the new year.

Present Plans, Calendar, and Budget to Church for Adoption

In a business meeting, discuss your plans, calendar, and budget and then ask the church to adopt your overall report.

Meet Regularly to Review

The team will meet regularly to review progress, rejoice in victories, and make adjustments to the agreed projects to assure the church that effective ministry will take place, and to make regular reports to the church.

Additional Ideas & Suggestions

- Conduct vision emphasis.
- Conduct some type of planning with age groups in all ministries in the local church.
- Conduct LIFT Weekend. (For more information contact Tom Prather, Church and Community Impact Department.)
- Request demographics of your community for survey and analysis. (For more information contact Tom Prather, Church and Community Impact Department.)
- Provide training for all key leaders in the church.
- Provide training for staff members in the areas of leadership, vision, and administration.
- Start or strengthen a prayer ministry in your local church.

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