



*“And it will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all humanity; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.”*

ACTS 2:17

## THE RECOMMENDATION

The Acts 2:17 Initiative Task Force respectfully recommends that the messengers of the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention affirm and adopt the following vision and priority Statements to guide further planning for the work of the convention and its related ministries beginning in November of 2024 and beyond.

THE VISION

# Every.

A collaborative network of spiritually healthy churches reaching Tennessee and beyond for Christ so that:

**Every.** Pastor is connected and supported for healthy ministry...

**Every.** Member has an active plan for spiritual maturity...

**Every.** Child has a home and gospel foundation...

**Every.** Parent has a biblical vision for their family...

**Every.** Church has growing leaders called to ministry...

**Every.** City has effective, multiplying churches...

...**Until** **Every.** Tennessean hears the gospel.

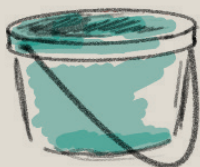
## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Fueling Church Collaboration

*Establish a culture of cooperation to advance the gospel.*

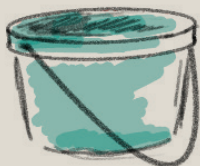
- Engage ministry partners
- Connect churches and pastors by context and size
- Develop ministry leadership pipeline
- Multiply new churches in strategic areas



### Catalyzing Spiritual Maturity

*Equip Tennessee Baptist churches with a plan to multiply disciples.*

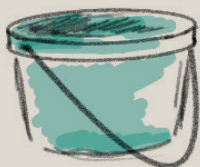
- Prioritize prayer
- Strengthen disciple making small groups
- Develop lifestyle witnesses
- Resource churches to deploy maturing believers



### Transforming Family Impact

*Engage Tennessee Baptist parents toward intentional faith formation.*

- Increase adoption and foster care utilization
- Help churches disciple children and youth
- Equip parents to disciple their children
- Resource families to address modern culture
- Strengthen gospel presence in private and public education



### Confronting Mental Health

*Expand mental health services for every church, pastor & staff member.*

- Create regional mental health resources
- Care for pastors, staff, and their families
- Promote benchmarks of physical, relational, financial, mental, and spiritual health
- Equip churches to address members emotional/mental health

## THE URGENCY

- Tennessee population growth will **increase 500,000** over next decade.
- At least **80 percent (5.6 million)** of Tennesseans are unchurched.
- There are currently **9,000 children** in the state DCS foster care system.
- There are **450-550 TBC churches** currently without pastors.
- The **mental health crisis** is rising at an alarming rate **among the general population and especially pastors/ministers**.

## NEXT STEPS

- Workgroups are being formed to begin fleshing out how the convention and related ministries can best implement these priorities.
- Workgroups will include Acts 2:17 task force members, may include pastors and ministry leaders, TBC institutional representatives, associational leadership, TBMB staff, and content experts where appropriate.
- Workgroups will engage additional content experts and resources as needed.
- Workgroups will develop specific objectives, strategies, and goals with estimated financial requirements to address the priority.
- Workgroups will submit final reports to TBMB Board of Directors for development of strategic plan.
- TBMB Board of Directors will present strategic plan with budget to messengers at 2024 Annual Meeting.

For more information,  
visit [www.tnbaptist.org/Acts217](http://www.tnbaptist.org/Acts217)



TENNESSEE | BAPTIST CONVENTION  
*Making Christ Known by Serving Churches*