

Annual Review

Tottenham
Baptist Church

The Journey of Transformation

English

Message from Pastor Adam

It is strange how we are so uncomfortable in the uncertainty that comes with change. If we didn't, it would be easy, and everyone would already be complete in their transformation to become Christlike. As followers of Jesus, and on a constant journey of personal transformation, we know all about moving from one place to another. This doesn't make it any easier though, does it? So many earthly anchors hold us back, our past experiences, our values, who we have become over time. But, when we are saved by grace through faith, we become part of a new humanity – Christ's church. Through this we have been given a new identity and have become children of God.

This amazing privilege should never be taken lightly. As disciples, we are urged to live a life worthy of the calling we have received, (Ephesians 4:1). The unity we have through the Spirit is to be maintained while we are transformed individually and as the whole body. Every step taken, large or small, moves us closer to helping God fulfil His mission for the church. Tottenham Baptist must continue to discern how we progress forward as a church that loves God, loves others, and shares the Gospel.

Recently, the Diaconate completed the annual Baptist Union Flourishing Church survey which aims at initiating discussions across four dimensions; Spirituality, Congregational Life, Congregational Character and Congregational Mission. There is one question in particular, linked to community engagement, which plays on my mind and that I take to God a lot in prayer:

“If your church disappeared from its neighbourhood, who outside of the congregation would miss it and why would they miss it?”

There are 12 other questions on the survey that we should also be focused on, but this one troubles me. How can we be a local church, serving the needs of the community around us, when we have no local presence and a building that's closed six and a half days a week? Our neighbourhood is our mission field, and at the moment we are yet to get off the start line. This is OK, but we must begin to gather the men and women who will pick up this touch, who will burn bright for the Kingdom, who will reach out to the community around us, so that we can one day answer: “Yes, in every way!” to this question. We must have a heart for God, a heart for others, and for the saving Gospel to be known by all! This is our mission! This is God's mission for us!

Our Direction

In 2021 the Diaconate worked through our mission statement to discern the focus of the church over the next few years to help us move towards the church's vision. The two fundamentals that we will not compromise on are the Word of God and our pastoral care for each other. Under Love God, we have prioritised spiritual development for all age groups. Under Love Others we want to focus on unity and the development of servant hearts. Under Share the Gospel we want to develop relationships with the West Footscray community.

The church, which means us, all of us, now has to work through how we best use our resources and effort to serve the Kingdom in line with these key focus areas.



Our 2022 Focus

This year we identified a few things we needed to focus on immediately under these three areas:

1. Following our return to the building we didn't want to lose the online engagement we had built up during the COVID lockdowns. We also recognised that a few members of our church family were finding it difficult to come back to a face-to-face service. As a result, we **upgraded our audio visual and online capability**. We invested in a new camera and laptop so that we could provide a higher quality and more sustainable online experience.
2. Following the **leadership development** work done by the Diaconate in 2020, it was identified that further leaders were needed to propel the church forward into a new season in its history. This coincided with our need for a stronger youth presence and a few young leaders keen to be given more responsibility. We recruited two youth leaders and have invested in their leadership development through the Baptist Union of Victoria's EMERGE program.
3. Our final focus area has been the completion of our planned **transition of our Sunday morning service to English**. The change brings many benefits including providing a sustainable home for our children and youth into the future and making it easier and simpler for our local neighbourhood to engage with us. We have worked hard to ensure that the church family who prefer Spanish are and will continue to be supported. Multiple connect groups will continue to run throughout the week and Group Esperanza will be re-established as a regular in-person gathering. The Sunday morning service is changing, not our community!

Our Next Focus Areas

Well, what's next for Tottenham as we head into 2023?

The leadership group have some ideas, but we want to hear from our church family. Where do you think we should focus our efforts?

Do we need to invest in spiritual development across our church family?

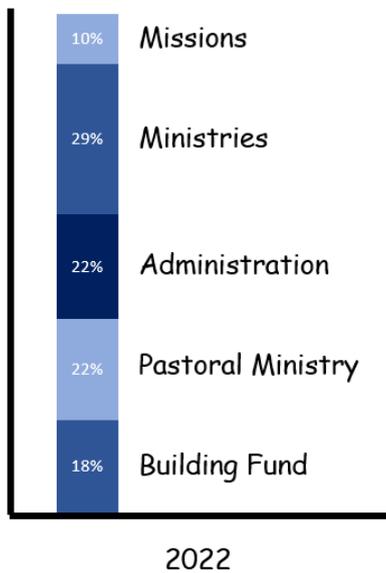
How can we show God's love to our church family and to those in the local neighbourhood and beyond?

What could we do to engage the local community and bring the Kingdom to them?

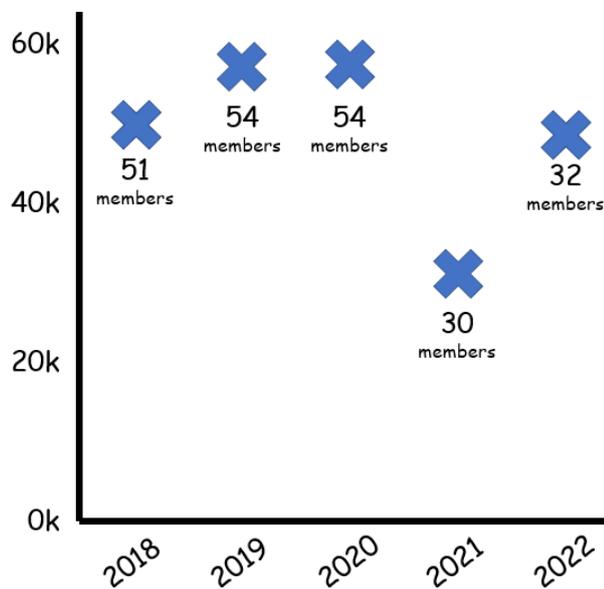
Over the next few months, we'll be asking each one of you to take part in a 20-minute exercise after the service on a Sunday. We want to walk you through the strategy in more detail and get your thoughts on what we should do.

2022 Snapshot

Actuals 21/22



Offerings



The Responsibilities of Membership

When we become a member of Tottenham, we profess repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We declare our intention to live as a follower of Christ. You commit to the mission, vision and strategy of Tottenham Baptist Church and acknowledge the following responsibilities of membership:

- You have been baptised and have a personal relationship with Jesus
- You attend church regularly
- You attend all Church Business Meetings
- You disciple other church members
- You financially support the church
- You share the Gospel with outsiders

