

**Church Vision & Senior Pastor Search Process**  
**Presented by the Elder Board and Hope Church pastoral staff**  
**January 6, 2008**

**Questions and themes on the minds of people**

- How is the senior pastor search process going? Who? When?
- What are the vision and direction of Hope Church?
- What does Hope stand for and how can we all move forward in united ministry?

**The Hope Elder Retreat**  
**April 20-21, 2007**

- At the start of the SP search
- We visited the role of the SP and the direction of ministry at Hope
- Dr. Michael Sabo
- A blank sheet plus the Word of God plus prayer

**The Great Commission**  
**Matthew 28:19-20**

19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

**ONE word for vision: Discipleship**

***DISCIPLESHIP: A Part or the Whole of HOPE CHURCH?***

[INSERT JPEG: DISCIPLESHIP: A PART OR THE WHOLE OF HOPE CHURCH]

**Why our senior pastor candidate is likely coming!**

- NOT to create a new vision
- BECAUSE of this vision!

***The Cost of Discipleship, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer***

“Christianity without discipleship is ALWAYS Christianity without Christ.”

**How Jesus defines discipleship in Luke 9:23-25**

23Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. 25What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?"

***Choose the Life, by Bill Hull***

*"Enough of the church has accepted a nondiscipleship Christianity to render it ineffective at its primary task - the transformation of individuals and communities into*

*the image of Christ. This Christless Christianity has created leaders who are addicted to recognition and success and congregations that believe forsaking all things to follow Jesus is optional and a separate issue from salvation."*

*"Too many have been taught that faith means to agree to a set of religious facts about Jesus rather than choosing to take up their cross daily and follow Him. Therefore, in the United States, the church continues to shrink in size, lacks relevancy because of moral duplicity, and preaches a gospel that produces more consumers of religious goods and services than disciples."*

## [INSERT JPEG: LIFE TRANSFORMATION: BECOMING LIKE CHRIST]

### **Ministry Pillars**

- BODY LIFE
- CARE and COMPASSION
- EVANGLISM
- TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING
- WORSHIP

### **BODY LIFE**

The church is to live in the power of God, which He has given through His Son and the Holy Spirit, when we live together in a community that loves and cares for each other.

- Through believers who become more like Christ (II Corinthians 3:18)
- Depends on each believer's choice to abide in Jesus through spiritual disciplines
  - Bible study
  - Prayer
  - Fellowship
  - worship
- Our choice to depend upon His empowerment (II Corinthians 3:4-5)
- We celebrate the diversity of God-given gifts and abilities while thriving in the unity of the Spirit (John 17:20-26)
- We practice regular and rich fellowship with each other (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- We "wash each other's feet" through relational restoration (John 13:1-17)
- WE carry each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- We rejoice together in true worship (John 4:23)

Then the church will be enabled to behave like she is supposed to behave!

### **CARE and COMPASSION**

- In this way we serve as Christ's hands and feet to believers and nonbelievers alike.
- Our compassionate acts are a witness to Christ's power in us!
- Biblical teaching is essential for equipping us in ministry to those in need.
- Thus equipped we can reach out every day to those in need.
- The love of Christ is expressed in the meeting of physical needs:
  - Medicine, food, clothing, shelter

- And in the meeting of emotional and spiritual needs:
  - Hope, encouragement, counseling, group support

## **EVANGELISM**

- Occurs as believers go about their daily lives in their spheres of influence (Matthew 10:5-7)
- Occurs as believers use Biblical truth and insight they gained from sound doctrine to ENGAGE nonbelievers and misled believers around them (II Timothy 4:1-5)
- Occurs as believers share their excitement and fulfillment found in a growing relationship with Christ – the very purpose of life! (Romans 1:15)
- Occurs as believers serve others with no other agenda than to demonstrate the love and grace of God (I Corinthians 9:19)
- Occurs as believers trust the Holy Spirit to give them opportunity, and trust Him for the words. (Colossians 4:2-6)

It is the living out and verbal sharing of the Good News which is in fact the BEST news! It is an act of obedience for each believer. It can be accomplished in teaching, in serving, in caring, in career ministry, and most effectively through individual believers who live out the Great Commission in their spheres of influence.

## **TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING**

- FOUR steps leading to transformation into Christ-likeness (from II Timothy 3:16-17):
  - Teaching
  - Rebuking
  - Correcting
  - Training
- It is a life-long process rooted in Scripture that grows in the believer for Christ-likeness to develop.
- It requires:
  - Knowledge (saturation)
  - Experience (application in life)
  - Obedience (choosing to know and obey)

(John 14:21 and Colossians 1:27-29)

- At its heart is a Biblical worldview
  - Answers to the tough questions of life
  - A comprehensive, “attractive” view
- Lives that are transformed through learning and obeying God’s Word undeniably proclaim the reality of the Indwelling God.
- Defend your faith
- Live your life as a simple, profound witness

## **WORSHIP**

- Worship does not obtain the presence of God; instead it is a response to the presence of God.
- This presence of God is most fully realized in obedient, mature believers.
- God does not need our worship in order to be delighted with us.

- He delights in us when we worship with open hearts unblemished by pretense or self deception.
- True worship reflects Biblical truth.
- Authentic worship is deeply linked to the life-changing teaching of God's Word.
- Our proclamations of God's greatness are shallow without the truth of His Word.
- Knowing His character and presence largely comes from the preaching of His Word; and from obedience to it (John 17:26)
- Richest realization of true worship is in the Body of believers who:
  - Christ-praising service to the "least of these"
  - Are unified with brothers and sisters
  - Revere moral purity
  - Have broken lives restored
- Richest realization of true worship is in the Body of believers who:
  - Integrate the Word into daily living
  - Proclaim the great reality of life!
  - Allow themselves to be changed in worship

## **CONCLUSION**

- Our job...
- Hope Church IS NOT...
- Hope Church IS...