



April 21, 2014

Dear church member,

In our quest to continue in the great tradition of people who seek to follow God, the Broadway Leadership Team (elders and staff) entered into a season of prayerful and deliberate discussions concerning the direction of the Broadway Church in the fall of 2013. Broadway enjoys a broad range of generations with a variety of needs, desires, and dreams. We strive to honor our heritage and our diversity, things we believe God has used to shape and direct His mission for our church over the past 120 years and continues to use to carry forward that mission today.

We prayed, discussed, and intently listened for the voice of God in Scripture. From the richness of His Word we sought direction that could be distilled into an active and vibrant message that would describe guiding principles to inspire our work in the Kingdom. Together we settled on this passage from the gospel of Matthew:

**“Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”**

**Matthew 28:18-20 ESV**

These words of direction come at the end of the ministry of Jesus and they are some of the last instructions given to His followers. As fellow disciples, these words continue to inspire us. During our time together in the mountains of New Mexico in October 2013, we asked ourselves how Broadway could become a church more focused on **Evangelism** and **Discipleship**. At Broadway we have seen a great cloud of believers focused on these commands of Jesus, and we believe they are still our legacy today. But the question always comes up from nay-sayers, can a 120 year old church be an effective instrument in the Kingdom? We boldly proclaim Yes – Certainly! We are children of the King, the family of God. We are followers of Jesus, the one to whom all authority on heaven and earth has been given. If He can part the Red Sea, heal the blind, walk on water, and love the lost, then certainly He can work through us to participate in His great work in Lubbock and the world. Not by our power or intelligence, not by our dedication or devotion, not by our superior methods, but only by the power of God through His son Jesus and the Holy Spirit who indwells His followers.

**“We do all of these things because of the gospel, so that we can become participants in it.”**  
**1 Corinthians 9:23 NET**

This call is inspiring and compelling. It is not a call for the Leadership Team alone; it is a call to each of us at Broadway, in every area of our lives and especially in our homes (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). As elders we take the responsibility of shepherding the souls of this congregation very seriously. We intentionally love, guard, pray for, and seek to nurture every soul in this body, so that all may flourish and live up to their full potential in Christ.

Where do we begin? What do we keep? What do we add? And what do we change? We begin with the humble attitude of a servant and a willingness to submit our desires and needs to God in order to reach the lost (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). It extends to the recognition that God’s desire is for all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4). We want to be passionate about reaching the lost, passionate about equipping our church family to be faithful to the Lord, and passionate about seeing the Kingdom of God expand in our homes, cities, country, and world.

God designed the family to be a vessel for **Evangelism** and **Discipleship** in the world. We are called to be the family of God, all of us together - men and women, old and young, married, single; it includes us all. Therefore, we want to strengthen, encourage, support, and equip our families to succeed in their role to disciple their children and grandchildren. We are very conscious of how God empowers those who are single, such as the apostle Paul, as instruments of His kingdom, and we also seek to encourage and equip them as part of our family to **Evangelize** and **Disciple** the world. Our hearts break for every precious soul that walks away from Christ’s church. Therefore, we choose to join the fight for our children’s souls, for our marriages, our single parent families, our singles, every widow and orphan - for all God’s beloved children.

We recognize that our goals to **Evangelize** and **Disciple** our world will require us at times to stretch beyond our comfort zones and expand our conventional practices. However, this is not new to the Broadway Church, for we come from a long line of courageous men and women who were willing to take bold risks in the name and for the sake of Christ and His Kingdom. Our first priority of evangelism is to our own children and families. Satan has undermined many of our children, causing them to lose their faith. Therefore, we ask for a loving and selfless attitude of tolerance from those of us who are not babes in Christ as we work to minister in both conventional and unconventional ways to our youth and the unchurched whom we eagerly desire to reach. We are willing to use any Godly method to engage our culture, where it lives, in the places it knows. We will seek ways to multiply opportunities to **Evangelize** and **Disciple**, not only by our traditional methods, but also by employing the arts such as literature, music (a cappella and instrumental), song, visual arts, and video, in order to inspire and enlighten. We will seek avenues of participation with followers of Christ in other groups who also desire to **Evangelize** and **Disciple** the world. We pray that God will open up new directions and reveal

new ways to share His love to the lost. We will maintain our evangelistic focus based on the guidelines of Paul in His letter to the Philippians.

**“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of respect, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if something is excellent or praiseworthy, think about these things.”** **Philippians 4:8 NET**

We are proud of and desire to honor our rich heritage, so our corporate worship assembly on Sunday morning utilizes a cappella singing during congregational singing. We hope you are blessed by this unique aspect of our heritage, one we affirm and cherish. As followers of Christ, we believe our greatest obligation is to His mission of **Evangelism** and **Discipleship**, and we must always maintain that mission as our primary focus. Paul states this forcefully in his first letter to the church in Corinth:

**“Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. We do all these things because of the gospel, so that we can become participants in it.”** **1 Corinthians 9:19-23 NET**

This call is not new or unique to Broadway. It is the call that our Lord made more than 2000 years ago, because He desired that the world would know Him and that all would receive His Truth and Salvation. We pray that God will make us a potent force in His mission. We pray that we may proclaim His message boldly. We fervently invite each member to join with us in God’s mission of **Evangelism** and **Discipleship**!

Yours Sincerely,

The Elders of the Broadway  
Church of Christ 2014

A collection of handwritten signatures in blue ink, arranged in three columns. The signatures are: Rod Blackwood, Seymour Evans, Mike R., David Katering, Brook S., Lanny C. Baum, Steve [unclear], Lanny Mulhearn, Curtis Paul, J. Crumpton, Alex Weaver, Tim [unclear], Brent S. Magers, Gary L. Hoover, and Tim Mack.