

Pressing Forward

A Passion for God - A Heart for People

*We want to live Transformed in Christ ~ Empowered by Christ
Missional like Christ ~ Unleashed for Christ*

This is our vision and mission.

It's 2026, 4 years from now. Our Pastors are delivering powerful messages encouraging us to follow Christ. To trust and obey Him in all areas thus transforming our lives.

Our worship team and the new youth band pack the church on Friday nights with worship nights. Administration can't keep up with the rentals as different groups want to use our modern facility.

New families are bringing their youth and kids to meet our new kid's worship assistant.

Our Pastors have invested in new swimming trunks as the baptism tank is always being used. The new heater is perfect!

The property team are glowing with pride as the new lines are being painted on the fresh asphalt.

Local youth are bringing their parents to check out the activities going on in our finished basement with new outside entrance.

Imagine yourself relaxing on the new sofas in the prayer room.

Imagine your small group meeting in the sanctuary as the new carpet and chairs are so welcoming.

Our new speakers, amp, lights, and microphones provide a clear sound that is sweet to God's ears. We are now able to reach people in their homes with live streaming.

The finance team rejoice each week as our tithes and offerings reflect our obedience to God's calling. Our mortgage, though initially increased, is now being paid down steadily.

God's not dead, He surely is alive.

Leadership at HLBC has been building over the pandemic years and is anticipating that God has plans for us. Despite our circumstances, we have adapted to Live Streaming, we have replaced half of our roof, and we have hired a Worship Director. God is not stopped by a pandemic.

Leadership believes the time is now to improve our facility to allow us to provide a space for showing that our vision to have a heart for people, a heart for our community is being fulfilled.

We want to begin that conversation now with the congregation.

This spring leadership met at a retreat with Pastor Wayne, directing our attention to overcoming areas of our facility that were showing areas of neglect and, if improved, what kind of ministry impact they would have.

We are reminded by the story of Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Israelites, rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. I believe we have a spiritual battle to overcome in restoring our building journey.

When the Jews under Nehemiah and Ezra's leadership came back to God spiritually, they were eager to give what was needed for the Lord's work financially. It is also true that where men and women break covenant a downturn in financial support for the Lord's work soon follows.

Inadequate funding is often an indicator of inadequate devotion to the Lord by God's people. We do not need professional fundraisers or gimmicks to get people to come alongside our vision. We need the word of God read, explained, and understood. It will soften hearts and inspire people to obey God in everything - even giving.

So why get together to talk? So that leadership can listen to our congregation, engage the congregation where we believe God is leading and ask them to pick up a trowel and a sword and join us.

The finance team has done a great job over the years preparing a budget that reflects where God is calling us, however we struggle to meet that budget. When we have specific fundraisers, it seems additional funds do come in to support those causes, but a clear message is being sent by the congregation that we can't meet our ongoing expenses.

How is it then that when leadership looks at the budget, our sense is that nothing is out of place or out of line of what leadership is called to do. How then can leadership propose either a large fundraiser or increasing our mortgage to meet our 2026 goals?

Leadership asks you to pray and fast over this discussion and ask God to guide you and to let you know if there's a way you can participate in a larger capacity such as volunteering, using your spiritual gifts, prayer, or finances.

We are meeting over the next few weeks to discuss together in anticipation of how next year's budget reflects how we believe God is leading us.