Dear Members and Friends of Forest Park Covenant Church

For several months, the Strategic Ministries Planning Team (SMPT) has been working on a 1-3 year Strategic Plan for our church. It is the final step in the Vitality Pathway that was designed by the denomination.

We want to note that some things on the report may already be in process or planning. It is our belief that if we deemed it to be strategic in the future growth of our church and its people, it should be in this report. What we are already doing may just need a new emphasis, more development or broader awareness to the entire church.

We decided to talk with people and groups in our church to gain feedback and comments to assist us in this effort. To that end we spoke with our ministry groups, home groups and staff. Individually and in groups we gained feedback from over 200 people. The primary question we asked was "Where do you see God leading our church in the next 1-2 years?" We have finished this phase of our work and submitted our report to the Lead Team (Attached).

Some common themes developed and became the basis and heart of the report that you will find in the following pages. They are:
1. GROW: There is a thirst for more leadership including more lay leaders and leadership development and training.
2. CONNECT: There is a desire for more connections and meaningful relationships including integrating new members/friends, developing intergenerational relationships, tapping into spiritual gifts and having a stronger identity with the denomination.
3. SERVE: Reinvigorate small groups. Developing small group leaders, provide training and encouragement for service and mission.

These themes fit the following Healthy Missional Markers in the Pulse Vitality Assessment.
   -Compelling Christian Community
   -Culture of Godly Leadership
   -Transforming Communities through Compassion, Mercy and Justice Ministries

We received a variety of feedback and questions around the topic of worship, but felt that this area was outside the scope of this committee's study. The Lead Team has received the feedback we gathered on this issue and is assembling a plan to address these matters in the near future.

We also had much discussion regarding prayer and its role in the SMPT process. You will not find it in the report. While it is strategic, we believe that prayer is so vital to anything we do that it must exist like an umbrella or "cloud" over the report and our entire church as we undertake initiating this plan and anything else. Everything must be committed to prayer. The anti-Christian worldview and "Cultural Christianity" is warring against the church today. We need to know what we believe, why we believe it, and how to defend it. Every aspect of our life should be informed by scriptural truth and the leading of the Holy Spirit so that we will grow deeper in our relationship with Christ and live a transformed life for Christ.

Finally, a key component to this is congregational engagement. We are asking people to participate by committing to grow individually in our faith and engaging in the ministries of the church and beyond.

We look forward to further discussing this with you.

Strategic Ministries Planning Team:
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Framework Factors	Critical Success Factors	Measurements	Objectives and Tasks	All Church Goal*
GROW Leadership Development in church community	Congregational Engagement	Number of People successfully completed leadership development and serving Benchmark 6/1/2018 • Stevens Ministry • Small Groups • Bible Studies • Lay leaders	1. To create a team to explore Stephens Ministry (SMP) 2. To implement Small Group and Bible Study leadership development 3. To create and implement leadership training for lay leaders and mentors	1. Begin SMP exploration by 9/1/2017 2. Identify current and potential leaders for SGD and Bible Study by 8/1/2017 begin training by 9/1/2017. 3. Recruit and develop leaders to begin by kickoff fall 2017. "Train the Trainer" as a model for growth and sustainability

Framework Factors	Critical Success Factors	Measurements	Objectives and Tasks	All Church Goal*
CONNECT	Congregational Participation	1. The number of people of multiple generations attending outreach, social events 2. The number new small groups developed 3. The number of small group participants who feel more "connected" to their small group 4. The number of multigenerational participants at an event	1. To expand communication tools to include more print media 2. To establish new small groups across and within generational spectrums 3. To strengthen current small groups. 4. To expand the number of events to include all generations.	1. People are more informed of church events -request feedback periodically 2. A 50% growth in small group participation 3. 50% of small group participants will feel more connected to their group 4. Conduct three focused intergenerational events

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SERVE	1. Small Groups 2. Congregation in missional activity	1. # Number of small groups involved in missional activity 2. Number of congregants and families involved in missional activity	1. To encourage each Small group* will have at least 1 internal and 1 external service project 2. To develop all church (including whole families) opportunities to serve our community	1. At least 75% of small groups participating in 1 internal and 1 external service project. 2. Two family opportunities to serve annually in community outreach 2a. Two all church opportunities to serve in community out reach
			*For SMP Morningstar can be considered small group	