

Growing in Gratitude

For 132 years, God has shaped Idlewild to be a beacon of Christ's grace and love in Memphis. Throughout our rich history, the Holy Spirit has challenged us to grow in ways that have strengthened our witness to welcome and justice. In this moment, the leadership of Idlewild believes God is calling us to grow in gratitude.



Gratitude is our reverent response...

- ...for the vibrance of our children and youth ministries
- ...for the vitality of our formation and fellowship ministries
- ...and for the vigor of our outreach and worship ministries

Since our birth in 1891, our church's willingness to dream extraordinary dreams has defined our identity. As we look to 2024, our leadership has taken seriously the task of dreaming God-sized dreams, and we believe that by God's grace and your generosity we can accomplish every goal God has laid before our ministries. In what follows, you will read about the dreams of our ministries. Some of the dreams will necessitate greater dedication from volunteers and staff alike. Others will necessitate increased generosity from you and the Idlewild family. Most of the dreams will take both.

Our hope is that this document will invite you to dream with us and imagine the extraordinary opportunities that we have to serve Christ in Memphis and beyond.

Our Formation We dream...

...to develop an annual speaker series for adults focused on emerging concerns of faith and life led by experts (dream budget: \$25,000)

...to expand Wednesday night opportunities to provide more options for study and fellowship

...to encourage the faith of our youth and prepare for the significant influx of children making their way into our youth ministry by increasing our specialized staff support from 6 hours to 20 hours per week (current budget: \$8,000 / dream budget: \$30,000)

...to nurture the faith of our children by increasing our specialized staff support from 4 hours to 20 hours per week (current budget: \$6,500 / dream budget: \$30,000)

...to make our Sunday School classrooms accessible for diverse learners through the training of teachers, leaders, and parents in addition to the purchase of helpful physical resources (dream budget: \$12,000)

Our Worship We dream...

...to host a yearly concert series featuring guest artists alongside our Idlewild musicians (dream budget: \$25,000)

...to grow the Chancel Choir to 40 consistent participants

...to increase participation in the Children's Choirs and *grow-up* into a Middle School Choir

...to expand music staffing to include assistance for our children's choirs and an accompanist (dream budget: \$60,000)

Our Outreach We dream...

...to make Room In The Inn a weekly ministry which will require twice as many dedicated volunteer hours and a doubling of our current budget (current budget: \$1,500 / dream budget: \$3,000)

...to support 200 souls through our Compassion Fund which will double our current service (current budget: \$18,000 / dream budget: \$36,000)

...to deepen our relationships with our Cuban and Ghanian siblings through more frequent trips and increased financial support (current budget: \$11,000 / dream budget: \$20,000)

...to enable greater participation by our youth in international partnership trips from 12 to 24 youth (current budget: \$42,000 / dream budget: \$84,000)

Beyond our dreams for our formation, worship, and outreach, we also have significant dreams for both our fellowship and the property entrusted to our care.

Each dream will necessitate a greater commitment from you and the entire Idlewild Church family. To that end, the Generosity Committee has set ambitious goals for our *Growing in Gratitude* campaign:

- Secure \$2.5 million dollars in commitments - an increase of \$500,000 from 2023
- Increase the total number of commitments by at least 10% - from 301 to 331
- Increase the number of commitments from members between 30 and 49 years old by at least 50% - from 61 to 90

