

Growing in Gratitude

For 134 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 1890, our church's willingness to dream extraordinary dreams has defined our identity. As we look to 2025, 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.

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



Our Outreach

We dream...

...to deepen our relationships with our ministry partners in Cuba and Ghana through more frequent trips and increased financial support (dream budget: \$12,000)

...to expand our Care Closet Ministry to our unhoused friends (dream budget: \$3,000)

...to increase the involvement of our youth in outreach through monthly visits to Room in the Inn - Family Inn to prepare and serve dinner to guests (dream budget: \$2,000)

...to provide for a growing number of our unhoused neighbors in need of a weekly hot meal by expanding our More Than A Meal Ministry (dream budget: \$14,400)

...to plant more seeds of hope in the Binghampton Neighborhood through our McMerton Garden Ministry (dream budget: \$4,000)

...to support our Outreach Ministry with sufficient staff as Rev. Veazey's designated term draws to a close (dream budget: \$40,000)



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 equip adult formation leaders with current facilitation and conversation methodologies through specialized training

...to grow our Vacation Bible School ministry to from 100 to 120 children and to expand beyond our half-day program to a full-day offering (dream budget: \$3,000)

...to create space for our growing children's Sunday school programming by installing a room divider to expand our space from four to five classrooms (dream budget: \$8,000)

...to expand our nursery offerings to accommodate walkers and two-year-old children with a build out our nursery space (dream budget: \$12,000)

...to encourage the faith of our youth with monthly worship in the chapel led by speakers and worship music leaders (dream budget: \$1,500)

Our Fellowship & Recreation

We dream...

...to offer full scholarships to 30 families so their children can play league sports at no cost (dream budget: \$2,700)

...to offer full scholarships to four families to attend our all-church retreat at NaCoMe and to four individuals to attend our adult retreat at NaCoMe (dream budget: \$3,000)

...to sponsor ten families to attend one of our Community and Connection events with the Redbirds, 901 FC, or the Memphis Hustle (dream budget: \$500)

...to facilitate a retreat for our 1750 Arts Ministry and cover costs for up to 15 people (dream budget: \$1,500)

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

- ♥ Secure \$2.25 million dollars in commitments
- an increase of 5% from 2024
- ♥ Secure 335 commitments
- an increase of 5% from 2024
- ♥ Secure 32 legacy commitments
to join the *Cornerstone Society*
- 10% of our 2024 commitment total

