

fine-tuning our future

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

CBFNC's Ministry Discernment Process (unveiled in the Jan/Feb 2017 issue of *The Gathering*) was further reviewed at our 2017 Annual Gathering. The revised priorities and sample ministry components are listed below. These priorities, built on the foundation of our Overarching Commitments (Transformation, Engagement, Community) and Areas of Focus (Clarifying Identity and Covenant; Empowering Laity for Missional Living; Nurturing Healthy Congregations; Showing Mercy and Seeking Justice) will shape our ministries.

Equip Ministers and Churches

Ministerial Transitions – Assist ministers and churches navigating changes in ministry placement and employment. Help churches with their interim process.

- Help churches have a healthy search process.
- Assist ministers seeking places of service.
- Strengthen relationships and help clarify identity between ministers, churches, and CBFNC.

Ministerial Excellence – Provide resources for ministers to grow spiritually and professionally.

- Nurture ministers, including chaplains, to grow in their spiritual life as well as in professional confidence and competence to live into their full potential.
- Offer professional development opportunities that meet needs of CBFNC clergy.
- Promote professional development opportunities initiated by trusted partners.

Church Resources – Develop a network of resource providers including peers (leaders and churches) and partners (CBF Global and others) to respond to congregational needs.

- Develop communities of practice/networks who can be resources to congregations in specific content areas.
- Maintain and expand the Virtual Resource Library.
- Develop a database of trusted resources from partners and vendors for our churches and leaders.

Embrace Neighbors through Missions

Culture Development - Develop a culture of embrace throughout the people and churches of our Fellowship.

- Through various communication outlets, provide both information and inspiration (stories) of ways the CBFNC community can embrace neighbors in word and deed through mission action.
- Conduct Fellowship-wide emphases (e.g. 40 Days of Prayer for our Neighbors) that encourage missional ministries to neighbors.
- Develop a new “culture of reporting” that encourages churches to celebrate the ways they reach neighbors.

Supporting Catalysts - Help those who embrace our neighbors.

- In-state catalysts (CBF field personnel)
- CBF field personnel outside NC
- Church planters

Hispanic Ministry – Support the work of the Hispanic Network.

- Encourage, enlist, and equip Hispanic pastors and leaders.
- Conduct retreats for Hispanic churches.
- Plant new Hispanic churches.
- Facilitate Hispanic and Anglo church partnerships.

Resource Connection - Connect churches and individuals to resources (including CBF Global and other partners) that will help them embrace their neighbors locally.

- Develop a network of coaches and mentors.
- Promote CBF resources (e.g. Pivot).
- Provide referral to other resources.

Engage Students and Young Adults

Faith Formation - Resource local church efforts to form faith.

- Provide on-site training (e.g. Annual Gathering workshops) to leaders who work with children and youth.
- Provide online resources to support leaders who work with children and youth.
- Provide retreats and events for children and youth.

Campus Ministry - Engage college students and young laity to discover and follow God's call in their lives.

- Support established and create new Cooperative Baptist Student Fellowship (CBSF) groups under the leadership of trained campus ministers.
- Connect college students and young adults with mission and ministry opportunities.
- Collaborate with campus ministry leaders at historically Baptist universities in NC.
- Resource local churches to minister with college students and young adults.

Theological Education - Support divinity students in partner theological schools and help them transition to ministry.

- Provide theological education scholarships for persons who demonstrate the capacity and affinity for ministry.
- Help students clarify identify with CBFNC.
- Cultivate positive relationships with partner schools.
- Establish internships and residencies to help students transition to vocational ministry.

Annual Gathering

- Offer a superior experience that includes meaningful worship, enriching continuing education, engaging fellowship, useful resources, and advances the mission of CBFNC.
- Invite clergy, laity, and those outside CBFNC's community.