FAITH FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

MEADOWBROOKCHURCH

Dear Church Family,

As we look back on our thirty-five-year history, God has done amazing things through Meadowbrook Church. He has brought people to faith, set individuals free, restored hope to the hopeless, redeemed lives that were lost, and sent people to the far ends of the earth with the message of the gospel.

And as we look forward to the next thirty-five years and beyond, I'm confident that God is going to do much more than we could ever imagine. Our mission is to **invite** *people to* **discover** *Jesus and* **become** *His fully devoted followers who* **influence** *the world.*

What you are holding in your hand is an invitation to join us on a two-year journey that has the potential to empower you to become an influential follower of Jesus. We're calling the journey FORWARD because we believe God is preparing our church for an exciting future. One that will create space for more people to discover Jesus through our church. A future that will prioritize raising up a new generation of disciples. A season where our ministry will reach new neighborhoods with the message of Christ.

My hope is that everyone who calls Meadowbrook "home" will accept this invitation and move FORWARD with us.

Bryan Narvel

Senior Pastor

Moving *FORWARD* Toward a Permanent Home

Meadowbrook started as a mobile church looking for a place to call home.

1988
Meadowbrook Church officially launches holding services at the West Suburban YMCA

1990
Services held at the 95th Street School

1987
A group of 20 people meet weekly at Hart Park to pray about a new church in Wauwatosa

1989
Mark Severson is called as Founding Pastor

1991
Meadowbrook moves to the Milwaukee School of Languages

1995
The Meadowbrook Center on Bluemound Rd. is purchased

2001
John Mackett called as Senior Pastor

2004
Meadowbrook moved into current location

2016
Bryan Marvel called as Senior Pastor

2023
FORWARD initiative launched to catalyze our future

Our story began as a church on the move, trying to find a permanent home in Wauwatosa. For the last seventeen years we've settled in at our current location. God is now leading us to prepare this facility for a new season of influence to further reach the Wauwatosa community and beyond for generations to come.

FORWARD

FORWARD

What is FORWARD?

FORWARD is an intentional two-year generosity initiative that will empower Meadowbrook to further our mission of influencing people with the gospel for many years to come.

During this season we will be sowing seeds for the sake of future generations. We believe that God has purposefully called Meadowbrook to the East Tosa community. This two-year season will further root us in this neighborhood in order to have a lasting influence for another thirty-five years and beyond.

FORWARD TWO-YEAR GOAL

PRIMARY GOAL

100%

Engagement

Moving FORWARD with 100% engagement means that every person who calls Meadowbrook Church home is willing to trust God's vision for this church. It requires that we willingly open ourselves to the practice of generosity through a commitment to pray, act, and give toward this vision of the future of Meadowbrook Church.

SECONDARY GOAL

$3.5

Million

We believe that God has called us to look to the future of Meadowbrook Church, our communities, and our surrounding world. As we commit ourselves to this FORWARD vision, we believe that God will guide us into a time of faith-filled generosity. We are trusting God to use His people and His resources to support the operational budget and expanded vision of Meadowbrook Church from April of 2023 through March of 2025.

SECONDARY GOAL: Budget Breakdown

Two-Year Ministry Budget
$1.9 Million

Meadowbrook Church is a place of kingdom-filled hope and encouragement. We will not compromise the ministries and missions that brought Meadowbrook Church to this place of growth and promise. $1.9 million represents our day-to-day operating budget for the next two years. We will continue to meet the daily needs of our congregation and community.

FORWARD Vision Budget
$1.6 Million

Our communities are crying out for a lasting kingdom presence. They are searching for a place of gospel-centered hope. Meadowbrook Church is a beacon of hope for those in need and a place of rest for the weary. This expanded giving will work to create an environment endowed with the space and leaders needed to ignite an eternal flame in this community. Over the next two years, we will be rejuvenated into a church designed to engage our community, equip our future, and expand God's mission.

ONE FUND

FORWARD is a one-fund initiative. In the past, you may have been a part of church campaigns that have asked you to give a second gift specifically dedicated to a building fund or new ministry. At Meadowbrook Church we have one mission: to INVITE people to DISCOVER Jesus Christ and BECOME His fully devoted followers who INFLUENCE their relationships, neighborhoods, communities and the world. FORWARD is an expansion of that mission. It is all one mission, so it is funded through one budget.

We are trusting God to provide for our current missional needs as well as the funds to propel Meadowbrook FORWARD. This one-fund approach means that all monies provided to Meadowbrook during the two years of this initiative will support the entire FORWARD vision. Every aspect of the ministry that God is calling Meadowbrook into will be funded through the FORWARD initiative. This is not about a building, a room, or a single ministry; it is about dedicating ourselves to the mission God has given us.

THREE MAIN GOALS : FORWARD WITH COMMUNITY

FORWARD WITH COMMUNITY

"On Sunday morning, the people just flood down the streets, around every corner and come into this building, I love seeing all the people coming and I want to see many more come. I want to see their children, and their children's children come, because this family that we have here matters. God is shining down on this place and these people and He's growing them and that's what we are here for. We want people to know Jesus." - Andrea B.

Our neighborhoods are full of people who are lost and searching for hope. We will move FORWARD, creating opportunities to engage our community in new and exciting ways. By embracing our call to be both a "hospital and a home," we can witness God's power changing lives. This starts with revitalizing our building to meet the growing needs of our community. A renewed, purpose-driven facility will allow us to provide an inviting place of spiritual care for our neighbors, friends, and families.

WE WILL

- *Expand our lobby to create a more inviting space for connection*
- *Refresh our sanctuary to maximize the worship experience*
- *Expand seating capacity to accommodate future growth*
- *Increase the number of upstairs bathrooms available to the congregation and visitors*

FORWARD FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

"As grandparents we are praying for our grandchildren. We are praying that they would find their identity in Christ at a young age, that they wouldn't be influenced so much by the world. And to know that foundation is being poured into them in Sunday School here is a blessing to our hearts. It is huge in our lives because they are reinforcing what we are praying about." - Sal C.

Our children and grandchildren are the future promise of our faith. To develop into faith-filled followers of Christ, they need efficient space for engaging programming. We will expand our children's and youth environments, creating a secure area with more classroom space designed to equip the next generation.

WE WILL

- *Increase our children's ministry space to meet our future needs*
- *Establish a secured wing dedicated to the safety of our children*
- *Expand the check-in area to promote efficiency and ease of use*
- *Develop new sensory and creative spaces to meet the vast needs of our children and youth*
- *Enhance the student ministry experience through new construction*

FORWARD INTO THE WORLD

"My hope for Meadowbrook for the future is that we live out our call as a church. We say we are here to become fully devoted followers of Jesus. And I think if we are all truly doing that, it's a growth process to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus, but imagine a church full of hundreds of people who are working toward that and in five years progressively getting closer to Him - what it looks like for our community, for this church is really truly transformational." - Annie F.

Our world needs the illuminating presence of gospel-centered churches. Every year, churches around us succumb to their limitations and leave their communities. While our space may be limited, our ability to multiply is limitless. We will grow in our community and influence our neighbors. Meadowbrook will equip kingdom-minded leaders to launch into our surrounding neighborhoods, establish new churches, and expand God's mission.

WE WILL

- *Equip future generations of innovative church leaders through residency and internship programs*
- *Inspire a gospel-centered movement throughout Wauwatosa and our surrounding communities*
- *Expand beyond the walls of Meadowbrook Church, creating opportunities for planting new churches and impacting new communities*

GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

Meadowbrook's mission is to help people become fullydevoted followers of Jesus, and Jesus cared deeply about how we view our money. In Matthew 6, He said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money" (v21, 24).

One temptation for those of us who follow Jesus is to put more confidence in our bank accounts than in Christ. One of the ways that we guard against that is through the practice of generosity. You loosen the grip of money's power over your life by giving it away.

The tool below is intended to help you prayerfully reflect on where you are in your discipleship journey regarding generosity.

The key in processing this is to remember Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 9, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (v7).

God doesn't need our money. It says in Psalm 50 that God owns "the cattle on a thousand hills" (v10). This is the psalmist's way of saying that God owns it all and we are simply stewards of what is already His.

This two-year journey is not about "going broke for Jesus" or comparing our financial commitment to anyone else's. It is about helping us grow in our faith and become fully devoted in all areas of our lives.

INITIAL GIVER
An initial giver is someone who decides to give for the first time in response to God's Word and work in their life. Many during the FORWARD journey will take this step and trust God and the church leaders with their gift.

CONSISTENT GIVER
A consistent giver gives on a consistent and predictable basis and views their giving as a discipleship practice as they follow Jesus. Each time they make a financial gift, they view it as an act of worship.

PRIORITY GIVER
A priority giver understands that all of life is a gift from God, and they are compelled to honor Him with their resources. They plan their giving as part of their monthly budget. This type of giver may also decide to provide a fixed percentage of their monthly income. Their giving informs their saving and spending, not the other way around.

SURRENDERED GIVER
A surrendered giver understands that Jesus fully surrendered His life for us and, therefore, in turn, asks how we can surrender all of our lives to Him. Their giving isn't only changing their spending habits. It's also changing them. This type of giver asks how they can give their home, car, time, expertise, and skills for the sake of the kingdom.

ETERNAL GIVER
An eternal giver is able to see how their generosity has the potential not only to change them but also impact the transformation of others. They are motivated to give in order to affect someone else's eternity. Through their giving, they have taken hold of "the life that is truly life" (1 Tim. 6:19). They evaluate all major financial decisions through the lens of eternal impact.

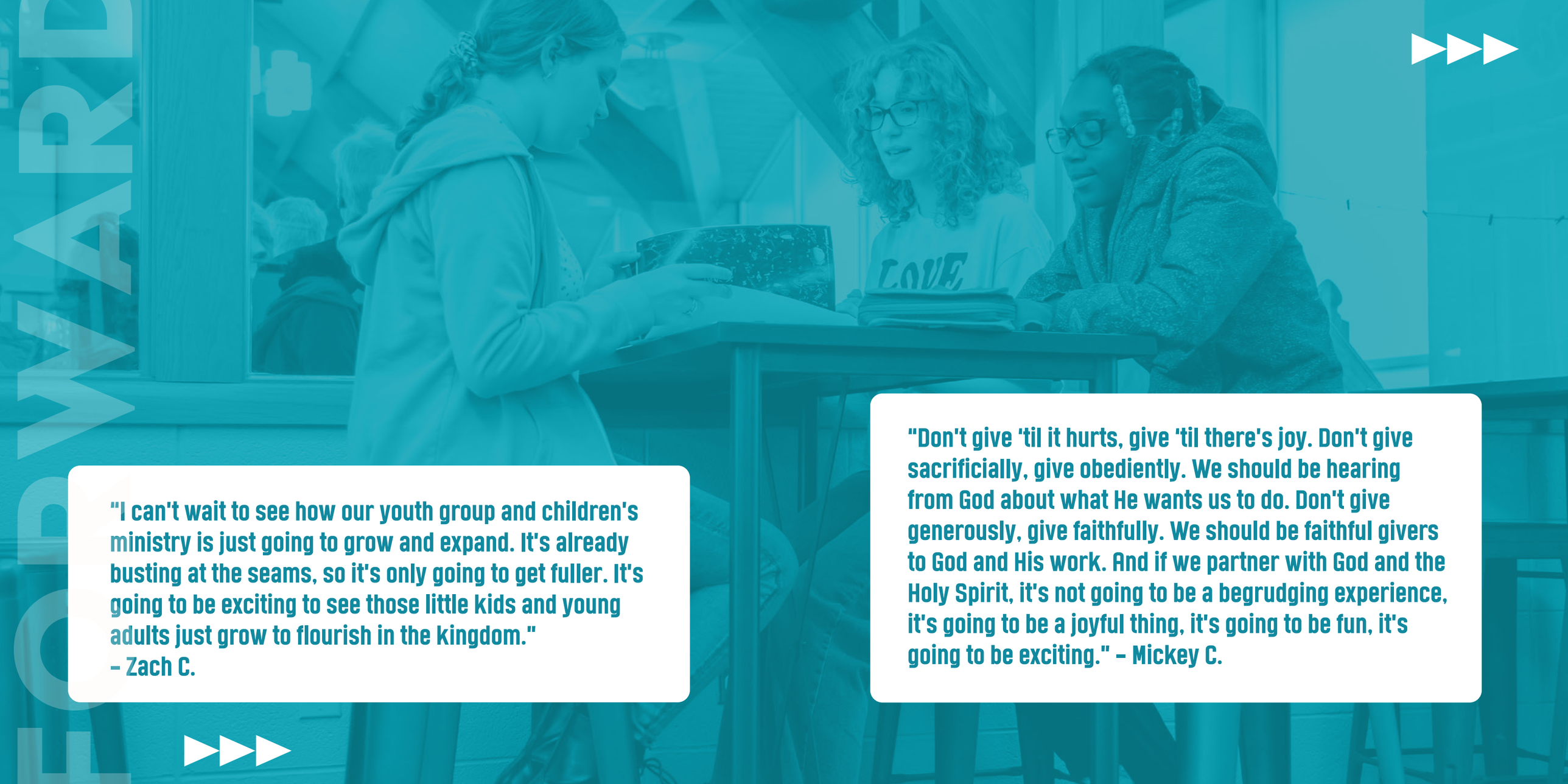
"I would encourage people to be faithful with their giving, just to see and watch what God can do." - Ricky M.

Testimonials

"The first Sunday that we came, we were instantly met with love. We saw people of different backgrounds and different age ranges and abilities, just caring for one another. And it was a bit jarring because I've come from a few different churches and I never saw that, but I almost didn't know what I was missing until I actually witnessed it being done. People just being the hands and feet of Jesus."
– Brian O.

"We come here because we are welcomed, we do know that God is here, and we feel His love. And we're taught about it and reminded of it every time we come here. We want others to know that." – Andrea B.

"The word that comes to mind with this church is FULL. We are full of joy, full of hope, full of truth, full of people. It doesn't really matter where a person is on their faith journey, they will find something that they need here. It is just a matter of showing up and seeking." – Annie F.



"I can't wait to see how our youth group and children's ministry is just going to grow and expand. It's already busting at the seams, so it's only going to get fuller. It's going to be exciting to see those little kids and young adults just grow to flourish in the kingdom."
– Zach C.

"Don't give 'til it hurts, give 'til there's joy. Don't give sacrificially, give obediently. We should be hearing from God about what He wants us to do. Don't give generously, give faithfully. We should be faithful givers to God and His work. And if we partner with God and the Holy Spirit, it's not going to be a begrudging experience, it's going to be a joyful thing, it's going to be fun, it's going to be exciting." – Mickey C.

FORWARD

SERMON NOTES

BIG IDEA

February 19

NOTES

SERMON PASSAGE

WHAT IS GOD ASKING OF ME?

BIG IDEA

February 26

NOTES

SERMON PASSAGE

WHAT IS GOD ASKING OF ME?

BIG IDEA

March 5

NOTES

SERMON PASSAGE

WHAT IS GOD ASKING OF ME?

BIG IDEA

March 12

NOTES

SERMON PASSAGE

WHAT IS GOD ASKING OF ME?

BIG IDEA

March 19

NOTES

SERMON PASSAGE

WHAT IS GOD ASKING OF ME?

FAQs

How can I participate?
Participation will look different for each person. We are asking that each person commits to praying, engaging, and contributing to the FORWARD initiative. Pray that God directs the path of MBC and leads each of us to a place of heightened generosity and obedience. Talk with your family about what it means to engage more fully. Commit to being a generous steward of your resources.

How can I give?
Because FORWARD is a one-fund initiative, you can give funds through each of our standard giving options. Giving can be mailed to the church office or placed in the offering box in the lobby. Funds can be donated through our online giving platform. For individuals or families who would like to give through stocks, securities, or legacy gifts, please review our giving website or email Kris Haugen at khaugen@mbctosa.org.

How long is my commitment?
We are asking everyone to make a 24-month commitment from April 2023 to March 2025. We are praying that God will use this time as a catalyst toward increased generosity and a lifetime of investing our resources toward the fulfillment of His mission.

What if my financial situation changes in the next two years?
Unforeseen circumstances can lead to a desire to increase your commitment or a need to reduce your giving. You can change your commitment at any time during the 24 months by contacting the church office or emailing forward@mbctosa.org. We will work with you to adjust your commitment and walk with you should you enter a time of need.

What if I am new?
If you are new, we invite you into the Meadowbrook family. We believe that real change happens within authentic relationships. To connect and grow in your faith, we encourage you to join a Neighborhood Community and to become involved in this spirit-filled congregation.
Now is a great time to commit to Meadowbrook Church, as we embark on this journey FORWARD. We would love for you to join us as we work to fulfill the mission to which God has called Meadowbrook.

What if I have never given before?
We are all on a journey of generosity. Whether you are just learning to give, or you have been giving sacrificially for a long time, giving is an opportunity to grow closer to God and embrace His will. FORWARD is a call for each of us to develop radical generosity. If you have never given before, this is a chance for you to seek out God's will for your resources and to respond.

What if I have more questions?
If you have additional questions, please review the FAQ section of the FORWARD website at www.mbctosa.org/forward. For additional inquiries, please send an email to forward@mbctosa.org.

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FAITH FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

www.mbctosa.org