

### **I had to miss Vision Night. Can you catch me up?**

We missed you! God is at work in and through His Church! That's always remarkable, of course. But when you consider all of the obstacles that swirl around us in 2021, His grace is even more amazing! Good things are happening at all of our campuses, with people coming to know Christ and others choosing to take the next step by being baptized or stepping up to engage in serving. Every single Sunday new people are coming to our services at all three campuses. You can listen to the full recording of Vision Night at [cotnaz.org/messages](http://cotnaz.org/messages)

### **How has the church responded to COVID?**

The decisions we made in response to COVID over these past 18 months were the most difficult decisions of my ministry. There simply wasn't a way to meet everyone's needs. Sadly, we lost some people because we didn't open back up soon enough. We lost others because we opened up too soon. As hard as it seems to believe, there are those who left us because we asked them to wear masks in church for a time. That just broke my heart as a pastor. I miss them dearly. But I can assure you we sought God at every step, trying to be obedient to the Lord in caring for you. All I can promise you is that I commit to always taking that approach, even when I know some people I love will be disappointed in me. At the same time, there have been many new folks who have actually found us during the pandemic! Isn't that just like the Lord?

### **We have had some staff transitions in the last year. How is that impacting present and future ministry?**

We have made shifts in our staffing as we launched a new campus in East Rock and experienced the departures of three dear staff members. The retirements of Pastor Roger, Pastor Jim, and Vickie Dove (as of October 2021) have impacted our staffing of course. The attached document will help you understand more clearly who each person on staff is and what their roles are. Notably, Pastor Joe has shifted his role to take leadership of Pastoral Care. As our Shepherding Pastor, he leads a great team of those who are committed to caring for our people. In addition, Angela Sipe has now come alongside Pastor Joe to provide shepherding support.

### **How do we feel about being a multi-campus church?**

In a word, fantastic! We believe it is the most effective way for us to have maximum impact in our community and reach individuals who we otherwise could not reach. Because we have three campuses now, we are significantly expanding our reach. We are excited to share that East Rock continues to grow and has secured their current location for another year. That's a real answer to prayer. When the town of Elkton asked Pastor Jared to speak at their 9/11 memorial, I thanked the Lord for that affirmation. When Pastor Sam shared the story of the woman in Panama who sets up folding chairs and snacks every Sunday morning and shows the Esperanza Viva service to minister in her neighborhood, I was so deeply encouraged.

### **On Vision Night Adrian introduced a new capital campaign for the Harrisonburg campus. What is the focus of this campaign?**

By the end of 2022, our goal is to raise \$165,000 to help support and equip the infrastructure of Hope Distributed. \$15,000 of that will replace the roof of the free clothing store, and \$150,000 will go toward refurbishing our Hope Distributed parking lot. This will eliminate a significant obstacle in meeting tangible needs in our community, particularly in the winter. As I shared, I don't really care about paving, but I do care about being able to serve as many people through Hope Distributed as possible.

Additionally, by the end of 2022, our goal is to raise \$250,000 for a new roof over our auditorium, which is over 20 years old. We have done everything we can to make repairs. We know that it needs to be replaced as soon as possible. Again, a roof in and of itself doesn't mean anything to me. But the people who worship under its shelter are everything. And we care about ensuring our facility can continue to be a hub of ministry for the future. To join the campaign, earmark your gifts to "Phase 1."

### **How are Hope Distributed and Kids Harbor doing?**

Under the leadership of Jeff Wilhelm and his team, Hope Distributed is changing lives in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. The ministry really is hope, *distributed*. How? Here's just a brief list from the past year:

- 1.2 million pounds of food were distributed in our community.
- Food delivery methods and recipients were expanded.
- 33,000 clothing items were distributed.
- "Baby Hope" just launched to provide new moms in our community with the resources they need.

Angela Kohl and her team guide Kids Harbor, a ministry that is well known in our community and deservedly so.

- They are at capacity with over 130 students each day (and including a waiting list), providing care for children from birth through middle school.
- We are fully staffed – and that in and of itself is miraculous – with a team of skilled and caring people.

### **How do I engage right now?**

Here's a short list:

- Join a life group if you aren't in one.
- Worship with us at least three Sundays per month.
- Be faithful in tithing and giving.
- Join the new Capital Campaign.
- Download the Church Center app to stay connected and to find ways to serve.
- Or, if you're not a big fan of technology, stop by the Connect Center on Sunday morning, call (540) 434-1092 or email [info@cotnaz.org](mailto:info@cotnaz.org).
- Serve! We need every single person engaged. There are times when people may think that we're such a large church that we don't need everyone. But I can assure you we do! We need you!

Finally, be strong and courageous. We're living in a time when Christians must be Christians and the church must be the church. Are you willing? Let's lock arms and stand together for such a time as this.