

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQS

Why change the name of the church?

- A name is a perceived identity. It does not always equal reality. The name of the church has long been distinct and different. This has been good and bad. It has set us apart in many ways. It has served us well for over 16 years. We are a Baptist church with many distinctions. We are strongly Baptist because of the doctrinal stance on many issues and beliefs. However, we are Christian first and Baptist second. The name Baptist has become a stumbling block for many people in our society. In an effort to knock down some barriers in reaching this community for Christ we feel strongly feel a name change helps us reach this community for Christ.

Why take “Lord” out of the name?

- Name is defined as a word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person or thing. The name Harvest Church is does not include “Lord” but it is no way saying we are taking “Lord” from who we are. There are few churches around the world that have “Lord” in their name. A name is not a description of who you are it is an identifying tag of designation.

Will we still be part of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)?

- Yes. We will be part of the SBC and the Tuscaloosa County Baptist Association (TCBA). Our doctrine will not change.

We have always have Sunday night services, why change?

- We feel this is one of the most important aspects of a Relaunch. A few important matters we want you to consider.
- In the Life Groups section of the Relaunch presentation it reads, *“Strength 1: Open groups are outreach friendly and a proven tool for multiplication.”* It has been our experience of ministry that Sunday night services produces no first time visitors or guest. We want to create environments and atmospheres that people feel comfortable becoming part of.
- At the present time our groups are very segregated. There is no mixture of adults, college, youth and children. We will be creating an environment for the wisdom, love and care to spread across generational lines. We will enable this each person to deepen their love for each other. They will share life together.
- Research reveals that we live in an age when people will belong to a group before they make a commitment to believe. This is the easiest access point to belong to group of Christian people.

- This enables our people to build lasting relationships that will impact our community in a remarkable way.

Are we stopping Harvest U?

- Yes, however, there will be Life Groups from time to time what will have a focused emphasis like the Harvest U classes.

Will AWANAS work on Wednesday night?

- We have looked at the attendance numbers and names of our current Sunday Night AWANA program and the current attendance of Wednesday are real close. We feel we can increase our attendance by offering bus pick up on Wednesday with tutoring and recreation.

Will people be required to sign up for Life Groups and 222 groups or is it voluntary?

- Everything is voluntary. We would like for the Life Groups to be mostly geographical in nature.

Are we not stopping Sunday night church?

- No. We are going to continue to have Sunday night church but in a different environment and atmosphere. The church will be gathering in homes.

How will meeting in homes work better than in church? Will it last? Will people come?

- It will work better because it deepens relationships, provides a great tool of outreach, and give us a new door of entry into our faith family.
- It will last if we are committed to it. Like any ministry it will have to be worked like a garden.
- People will come if they are invited and loved when they arrive.

How much will it cost?

- For the public relations cost and changes in signage and such the cost will be approximately \$7000.

Will staff salaries be reduced because Sunday night services are eliminated?

- No. Sunday night services will not be eliminated. The staff will be working with the groups on multiple levels.

Why reword the purpose?

- People need to be able to carry it with them. Our purpose needs to be portable. In order for it to become portable it needs to be easy to memorize. We are able to achieve both of those task with "Creating and Enabling Faithful Followers of Christ".

Why new core values?

- Over the years our core values have been ambiguous. We had none documented in the early days, then we had six, then that increased to eleven or twelve which no one can remember. We are able to reduce it to three and encompass multiple core values.
 - Creating attitudes, environments and opportunities for people to fall deeply in love with God.
 - Enabling people to demonstrate their love for God in opportunities to love others.
 - Following Christ in all areas of life.

Why Sunday nights instead of Wednesday nights?

- Our culture has programmed people to consider their “weekends” as free time. It is a time when they are not bound up with work, school and other activities.
- Sunday is a time when many people are at home in their neighborhoods. Many church people do not return to church on Sunday night.
- This is a part of ministry that we have never tapped into. If we want to reach who no one else is reaching (and who we have not been reaching) we have to do what we have not been doing.
- Sunday nights do not interfere with athletic practices.

Can we get enough greeters to greet each service?

- We should be able to have them ready and willing.

Must these changes be made all at once or can they be implemented in phases?

- For the changes to have the power and effectiveness needed they all need to happen at one-time. The relaunch date is set for April 4, Easter Sunday.