

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches."

John 15:4-5 (NIV)

WHY ARE WE MAKING ROOM

Jesus spoke these words to His fledgling Church hours before He would give His life by crucifixion. He knew full well what was coming for Him and for them.

Jesus saw difficult times for His Church, but difficult times would produce an incredible amount of "fruit."

Seasons to bear "fruit" would be coming for His Church not once or twice, but for years and generations to come. When we talk about "bearing fruit" we understand there are seasons for sowing, reaping, pruning and reaping even more.

There will be seasons where the "fruit" is lean and seasons when the "fruit" is in abundance.

The early disciples, all being men and women of the soil and the sea, would have understood the value of preparation. It's what was needed as they anticipated the coming season when they would "bear much fruit."

A SEASON WE RECOGNIZE

Heights Church, we have been experiencing these same seasons. Over these last 5 years we have been in a continual process of sowing, reaping, pruning and reaping even more. Over the last 5 years we have added over 1,100 men, women, teens and kids. Many of these have made first-time commitments to follow Jesus, and many have recommitted their lives to Christ. Clearly, we are experiencing a move of God in our region that is rare.

The last 5 years have been exactly what we have prayed for in the decades leading up to it. **People are coming to Jesus in astounding numbers across the US.** Record numbers of twenty-somethings are changing course as a generation, as well as many others from all generational age groups. We are in a moment when people are turning to the Church, asking if God has anything for them. We know the answer is a resounding yes!



WHY PREPARATION MATTERS NOW

Over the last 4 years we have continued to grow in numbers and in our giving as well. Currently we recognize our giving has not kept pace with our numerical growth. But a new season of fruit-bearing is coming again. As a Church that takes its calling from Jesus seriously, we know it's time to prepare, which means it's time to prune.

What is pruning? It's about making room for more fruit. When we prune, **we make room for the people who are turning to God for answers. We exist for this purpose.** Because we are mature followers of Jesus, we understand what maturity means: we don't just help ourselves, we help others also.

In our case, it's about making room for the people who are already coming to us by expanding and updating our facilities.



WHAT MAKING ROOM LOOKS LIKE

Our biggest efforts will be to expand our seating capacity in the main sanctuary and update the room itself. This includes new chairs, carpet and addressing electrical problems, along with outdated and deteriorating technology. It's been 24 years since the building of these facilities, and the time to address these issues is upon us.

And of course, we also want to expand ministries to accommodate the influx of new people. **One of those would be to provide children's ministry on Wednesday nights.** This allows more families to attend our studies, and we could expand Life Group's capacity.



HOW ARE WE STEPPING INTO THIS TOGETHER

The leadership of Heights Church, both Staff and Board, has been in this process of pruning for the last 5 years and is committed to stretching every dollar. We will continue to cut back financially all we don't need for the next season and reallocate existing budgets to the areas most needed.

Pruning is about making room for what is about to come.

But we can't do it by just cutting back existing budgets—we need the help of the whole church to grow our capacity for the "more" God is entrusting to us. We are mobilizing Heights Church to join God as He moves in our city and region. We can join Him specifically through a **commitment to pray for His work in people's lives, faithfulness in serving, joyfulness in giving, and an eagerness to share the hope we have in Jesus with someone else.** This is a call to exercise our faith and step into greater maturity in all 4 of these areas.

None of us can do this alone, but together we can do all this and more as we harness the power of His Church.



OURSTORIES



TAMMI



This church means so much to me. It's changed my life. I even got baptized!



MASON



For God to bring the opportunity for me to pour into Heights Youth, and be a part of this church is a blessing.