



April 19, 2015

# Loaves & Fishes Overview Report

The last eight months have been a time of searching for personal and collective direction. Together, we've pursued discernment in many ways:

- Over 150 congregants engaged in monthly prayer schools.
- 100 people in and outside the congregation were interviewed.
- 130 attended the mini summit.
- Over 70 distinct ideas were raised, with 100s of variations.
- The Council devoted 2000+ hours to this process.
- We shared thousands of conversations, questions, and prayers.

As a result, we now have a grow-

ing vision for our church that is introduced on these two pages.

Throughout April and May we invite you to prayerfully dwell on this vision. In late May, the L&F Leadership Council will reconsider the overall plan based on your prayerful feedback. The final plan will be approved by the elders and voted on by the congregation in June.

The growing vision extends from LaSalle's deep roots in our local neighborhood and in the wider world – roots that grow out of the richness of our faith and our shared commitment to justice.

## Learn More

- Download a detailed version of this report at <http://loveletgo.com/L-FRecommendations/>
- Join us after 2nd service on May 3rd for a time of discussion

## Give Feedback

- Send an email with your thoughts to [LeadershipCouncil@lasall-estreetchurch.org](mailto:LeadershipCouncil@lasall-estreetchurch.org)
- Share your thoughts with your prayer school, to be submitted in the monthly summary
- Join us after second service on May 3rd for a time of discussion with the L&F Council

**Deadline for feedback:** May 18

## Vision: Better Serve Our Neighbors

Expand LaSalle Neighbors: \$125,000 | Financial Wellness Partnership with CGLA: \$125,000 | Art on Sedgwick: \$25,000

“We are committed to our turf.” We've lived out that value for six decades. Through this vision, we will stay true to the DNA of LaSalle (a phrase heard from our prayer schools) and deepen our neighborhood ministries.

First, we will establish a new LaSalle Neighbors Coordinator who will integrate and expand all our local initiatives. These resources will make it possible for Breaking Bread to grow, for senior ministries to relaunch, and for services to people with disabilities or others to be considered. LaSalle Neighbors will also make it easier for

LaSallers to volunteer in the community through NNUP, Manierre and Jenner Schools, and other partners.

Second, we will partner with CGLA to break the cycle of financial bondage for our neighbors who lack the support networks you or I might turn to for help. Imagine you've finally earned your legal freedom and now have a job, but need to pay for child care before your first paycheck arrives. Or you need a minor car repair in order to get to that job. These short-term expenses can prevent CGLA clients from pursuing a better future, force them to rely

on predatory pay day loans, or worse, drive clients back into negative means of making money. This new partnership with CGLA will equip the legal aid clinic to provide short-term loans to trusted clients. With the help of LaSalle volunteers, a handful of clients a year will also receive entrepreneurial mentoring to help them envision and start their own small businesses.

Finally, we'll support Art on Sedgwick as they help neighbors build community and foster creativity through programs in visual and performing arts.

## Vision: Transform Cornerstone Center into a Hub for Neighborhood & Church Life

Renovations to Cornerstone Center, first floor: \$400,000

Cornerstone Center is the hub of our congregational life, and it is bursting at the seams. As of May 2015, Cornerstone will be fully rented, with even Room 100 occupied. LaSalle programs will soon be in need of meeting space.

Additionally, there will be 1500 housing units in the new Atrium Village, greatly increasing foot traffic in the area and our opportunity to connect our new neighbors with the existing community.

To meet space demands and prepare for the future, as well as address neglected maintenance needs, we will undertake significant renovations: Leslie Hall will become both more welcoming and more functional; the lobby will become a pleasing place for conversation; and first floor restrooms will get repairs and a facelift. The goal is to create a vibrant, inviting physical space to serve our vibrant, engaged church and local community.

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## Vision: Expand Ministry to African Leaders, Families, and Immigrants

Jeremiah & Shaleigh Martin: \$30,000 | Femi Adeleye's Institute for Christian Impact: \$100,000 | World Vision Tanzania's One Acre Miracle: \$100,000

We will deepen our relationships with our global neighbors through three existing partnerships. First, we'll support LaSallers Jeremiah & Shaleigh Martin as they serve the Paris immigrant community, bridging ethnic and economic differences. Their small congregation has outgrown its current facility. The Martins will use this gift as a matching fund to inspire other U.S. partners to contribute.

Second, we will support LaSaller Femi Adeleye in the launch of the Institute for Christian Impact, a West Afri-

ca-based organization with the mission of developing Christian leaders in ministry and the public sector. Femi's goal is to transform the continent. We believe in Femi, in his strategic plan, and in the power of the Holy Spirit to herald a new future in Africa.

Finally, we will partner in Tanzania, where simple irrigation technology is transforming communities through year round farming. In addition to providing food security, the extra crops are sold at market, with a five-fold average increase in family income.

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## Vision: Remove Obstacles to Learning and Serving

Low Cost Ideas Fund: \$70,000 | Travel Fund: \$20,000 | Pastoral Fund: \$10,000

Following the mini summit, the clear call from the congregation was two-fold: strengthen relationships in the community and strengthen our spiritual and communal life as a church. To foster that second objective, we propose the creation of three small funds.

Many of the ideas received by the L&F Council would cost very little to enact. The Low Cost Ideas Fund is a pool of resources LaSallers can draw from to

launch "small but mighty" ministries and acts of service, for years to come.

A small travel fund will help make it possible for any LaSaller to travel internationally to learn and serve, and to experience the transformation of seeing God's global kingdom at work. Finally, a senior pastor discretionary fund will be a resource for the personal and professional development of our staff.

## Vision: Speak Truth to Systems of Injustice

Support for Black & Brown Churches: \$160,000

*Love Let Go* changed our church. We believe it can change our city, too. We propose using our blessing in order to bless a handful of black and brown congregations with grants akin to a "MacArthur Genius Grant." This idea came after much prayer, and a deep desire to address:

1. The past and current conditions of racial injustice, in part acknowledging that the gentrification that brought us this windfall also displaced others; and
2. The need for our church to exemplify the unearned grace of God.

We will continue to seek justice for all, through this and other efforts.

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## Vision: Sustain our Physical Footprint

Seed Money for Stained Glass Window Renovation Campaign: \$175,000  
Debt Reduction: \$100,000

By God's grace we have a sacred space in which to worship. We want to ensure future LaSallers also receive that grace. Our historic stained glass windows are in disrepair and require significant preservation efforts. These funds represent half the money needed to repair the Good Shepherd window and a starting point for a capital campaign in 2017. The debt reduction funds allow Cornerstone to add to its building reserves, which have been sparsely funded in the past.

### Join Us in Prayer

Please pray for wisdom and confirmation around these ideas. Consider joining the L&F Council in fasting on Wednesdays throughout April.