

RE:NEW

Midpoint of our Kainos Initiative



HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH



*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!"*
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

\ kī-'noss \

Dear Houston's First family,

Never underestimate what God can do through His people when they say "Yes!" That simple word, though sometimes difficult to say, can make all the difference in whether we fully walk in obedience to Him and experience what He is calling us to do — as individuals or as a church family.

More than 2,700 individuals and families said "Yes!" last fall when we launched our two-year *Kainos* initiative — including 604 first-time givers. At every campus, we saw people from all ages and stages of life come forward with their generosity commitments. They said "Yes!" to being part of this bold vision, and "Yes!" to how the Lord had led them to give.

Now, just look at all that God has done since!

At this midpoint of our *Kainos* journey, let's celebrate the many opportunities the Lord has given us to minister to others in His name because we said "Yes!" together. And, let's be grateful for the transformative work He is doing in us as we call upon Him to do something new in our lives and in our relationship with our Savior.

If you are new to Houston's First in the past year, I invite you to join in on this *Kainos* journey. For those of you who are already onboard, continue to trust God as He leads and challenges you. May all of us say "Yes!" to the year ahead with open hearts ready to follow Him as He makes all things new — or *kainos*.

Pastor Gregg

In Him,
Pastor Gregg Matte





WHAT WE SET *OUT TO* *DO*

KAINOS

\ kī-'noss \

New, as in recently made, fresh, unused, unworn

New, as in unprecedented, novel, uncommon, unheard of

The story of God is one of transformation—a story about making things new. *Kainos*, the Greek word for new, appears over 40 times in the New Testament from Matthew to Revelation and is used to describe a new commandment and a new covenant, a new heaven and a new earth, a new name and a new song. For the Houston's First family, *Kainos* is our two-year generosity initiative providing us with new ways

to enhance and expand our Gospel ministry here at home and around the globe. While we pursue those endeavors, we are also calling upon the Lord to do a new work in each of our lives. Our prayer is that when the two-year *Kainos* initiative concludes, God will have done truly transformative work in our hearts—bringing us to new levels of faith, surrender, and generosity.

MATTHEW 26:28

“For this is My blood of the **KAINOS** testament, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

REVELATION 21:5

“Then the one seated on the throne said, ‘Look, I am making everything **KAINOS**.’”





PRIMARY GOAL

100% ENGAGEMENT

We desire for every person to embrace the truth that Jesus makes all things new—and prayerfully expect Him to do a new work in our lives and through our church.

A NEW LEVEL OF SURRENDER

What am I holding back from Jesus and need to relinquish to Him?

A NEW LEVEL OF FAITH

What steps do I need to take to move away from my comfort zones and toward deeper dependence upon Jesus?

A NEW LEVEL OF GENEROSITY

How can I honor God more through the stewardship of my finances and my financial generosity?

NEW SECONDARY GOAL

\$110 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS

Our COMMISSION

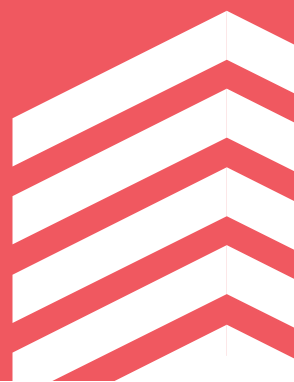
Our COMMUNITY

Our COMPASSION

As we have experienced many times before at Houston's First, God has gone beyond even our boldest of expectations! He moved among our church family to surpass our original goal of \$93 million by blessing us with nearly \$104 million in commitments and expected gifts at the start of our two-year *Kainos* journey. Approaching the second year of *Kainos*, we look forward to seeing Him continue to provide as He calls us to even more new ways to serve Him and His people.



**WHAT
GOD
HAS
DONE**



GOD MOVES

\$103,724,816

in commitments and expected giving
revealed on Dec 5, 2021

\$98,028

was committed by children and
students under 18 years old

WE RESPOND

from Dec 1, 2021–Sep 30, 2022

\$45,370,070

given to Kainos

5,189

givers to Kainos

791

first-time givers to Kainos

(Givers can be individuals, couples, or families)



OUR *COMMISSION*

Dec 1, 2021—Sep 30, 2022

847

people joined Houston's First

418

people were baptized

184,766

people attended Life Bible
Studies on Sundays

212,343

people attended Sunday
worship services

93,850

estimated digital family
members watched worship
services online

2,287

children attended
Vacation Bible School

OUR COMMUNITY

Dec 1, 2021—Sep 30, 2022



Finalized architectural plans for our new Sienna Campus facility



The Lawn at The Loop opened, our new outdoor venue



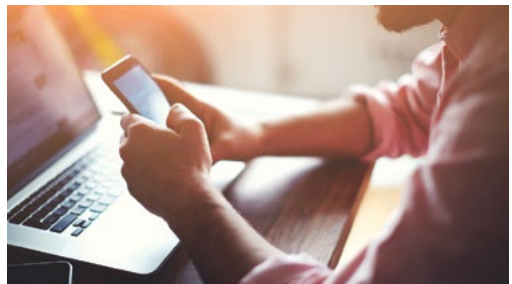
The HUB Student Ministry's renovated space opened at The Loop Campus



New indoor playland equipment installed in Fitness & Recreation Center at The Loop Campus



Finalized renovation plans for the Main Foyer and west entrance at The Loop Campus



Secured collaborative partnership with media firm to expand our digital footprint

OUR COMPASSION

Dec 1, 2021–Sep 30, 2022

FULFILLED OUR GOALS OF GIVING:

- \$300,000 to the International Mission Board to fund strategic initiatives and church planting efforts in South Asia
- Funds to Heshima Children's Center (Kenya) for new residential facility designed for special needs children and their families
- Funds to The Vine (Uganda) for building a school as they serve vulnerable children in their community

- \$500,000 to three Bible translation organizations to fund projects putting God's Word into dialects spoken in multiple regions of Asia



Extensive renovations underway at our Faith Center–Spring Branch, home of various Houston's First ministries and ministry partners



Planning began for new cottages at Hunt Retreat for use with missionary care, couples retreats, and other ministry purposes of Houston's First



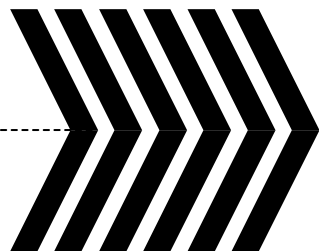
Difference Maker Ventures launched to fund church members' Gospel-focused ideas, receiving 27 applications in just the first week



Provided funds to Bethel Baptist Church and Union Baptist Association to support projects at Bethel and at other churches in the Houston area

WHERE WE ARE GOING

Kainos is a multi-faceted initiative. Aside from our ongoing programs and ministries under **Our COMMISSION** funded by our operating budget, here are just a few of the other endeavors to look forward to as we enter the second year of our journey.



Our COMMUNITY

SIENNA CAMPUS

Construction expected to begin in early 2023 with an opening in spring of 2024



MAIN FOYER AT THE LOOP

Renovations expected to begin after
Easter 2023 with completion by early 2024



CYPRESS CAMPUS

Installation of upgraded worship center
production equipment



Our COMPASSION

In addition to the projects below, we look forward to funding additional church revitalization efforts and strategic church planting initiatives in the year to come. We also continue to seek God’s direction for a new location to house our thriving Faith Center–Harwin ministry.

FAITH CENTER– SPRING BRANCH

Construction currently underway with a grand opening expected in early 2023



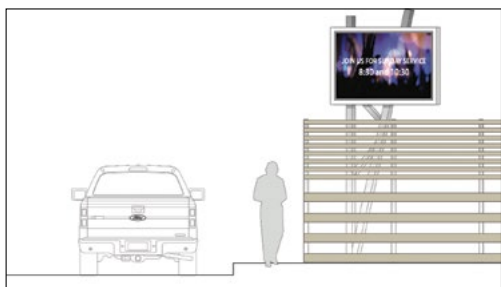
HUNT RETREAT COTTAGES

Initial research and concept development currently underway with a timeline yet to be determined



DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

Installation of exterior LED sign facing a daily average of more than 5,500 vehicles passing by



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

God is doing more than we imagined as the Houston's First family has embraced the *Kainos* vision. With generosity exceeding expectations, we are in a position to pursue new opportunities that the Lord has placed before us.

NEW CLASSROOMS AT THE LOOP

With the expansion of the Main Foyer at The Loop Campus, three classrooms will be added on Level 3 for use by our Children's Ministry, Thru The Roof Special Needs Ministry, and First Baptist Academy.

SOUTH TOWER ENTRANCE AT THE LOOP

A more pedestrian-friendly crossing, wider sidewalks, an enlarged covering, and other features will enhance this primary entry point from our largest parking lot to our Preschool Suite and South Tower elevators.



COMMERCIAL BUILDING AT SIENNA

We are purchasing an existing commercial building adjacent to our Sienna Campus facility, providing 5,000 square feet of additional space for ministry purposes.



REDUCE AMOUNT BORROWED

God's provision through the Houston's First family will enable us to reduce the amount we had planned to borrow for the construction of our new Sienna Campus facility.

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ABOUT THE NUMBERS

	ORIGINAL GOAL	ADJUSTED GOAL
Our COMMISSION	\$63,000,000	\$67,700,000
Our COMMUNITY	\$20,000,000	\$27,300,000
Our COMPASSION	\$10,000,000	\$11,000,000
NEW OPPORTUNITIES		\$4,000,000
TOTAL	\$93,000,000	\$110,000,000

Several factors have led to increases from the original goals:

- Inflation reached a high not seen in approximately 40 years. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items increased 8.3% for the 12 months ending August 2022 (source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics). This has resulted in increased costs across the board, impacting Our COMMISSION (ministry operating budget) and several projects related to Our COMMUNITY and Our COMPASSION.
- Construction prices have increased at a higher rate than even the CPI. Commercial construction prices are up 20%, on average, year over year. With our Sienna Campus facility, we had budgeted construction at \$270 per sq ft, but we are now targeting around \$350 per sq ft.
- The size of the Sienna Campus facility has increased since the original concept after extensive reviews with lay members, staff, and architects to ensure that it meets our ministry needs for years to come.
- Demolition at our Faith Center–Spring Branch revealed unexpected and unbudgeted repairs that needed to be made to ensure the facility is safe and up to code for ministry use.
- God presented us with new opportunities that were not part of the *Kainos* initiative when it launched in Dec 2021.

BUT GOD KNEW!

God was not surprised by any of these developments! He provided for us through your generosity before we realized the need! He moved in the hearts of the Houston's Family when *Kainos* began, and He continues to do so as we enter the second year of our journey.

ORIGINAL GOAL	\$93,000,000	needed for two years of operating budget plus special endeavors
ANNOUNCED	\$103,700,000	in commitments and expected giving revealed at start of <i>Kainos</i> in Dec 2021
NEW GOAL	\$110,000,000	to fulfill the expanded <i>Kainos</i> vision (Dec 2021–Dec 2023)

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

At this midpoint of our *Kainos* journey, each member of the Houston's First family is asked to reflect on what their role is as we fulfill this bold two-year vision together.

NEW COMMITMENT

Be Inspired

Perhaps you are among the hundreds of people who started attending Houston's First since *Kainos* launched last year. Or, maybe you were here but not ready to make a commitment at the time. No matter what your story might be, we hope that the vision of *Kainos* and the impacts we've seen already will inspire you to make a one-year generosity commitment.

FINISH STRONG

Be Encouraged

You submitted a two-year generosity commitment in late 2021, following the Lord as He led you to give. The amount may have been a stretch for you, and perhaps you're still adjusting. Or, maybe the economy has impacted your finances more than expected. As we approach the midpoint of our *Kainos* journey, be encouraged to finish strong knowing that the Lord is faithful! He will provide.

INCREASE

Be Challenged

You made a *Kainos* commitment and have since experienced a deepening of faith or an increase in finances. Maybe you've made sacrifices, but you have seen the Lord consistently meet your needs. Or, perhaps giving has become too easy! Ask yourself: Am I still giving in a way that challenges me? Is God inviting me to take another step of faith with an increased commitment?

OUR GENEROSITY JOURNEY

We must always remember there is much more to generosity than just a financial transaction.

In God's eyes, our growth in generosity is less about a financial transaction and more about a transformation. It is a matter of the heart!

The Generosity Journey can help us think about this transformation. Make no mistake—to move along this path requires a heart change. Moving along the path does not make us super Christians; it brings us to a greater understanding of God, not a greater view of ourselves. As you look and think about this journey, ask yourself, "What drives me to be generous?"

**LIFETIME
GIVER**

**TOP PRIORITY OF
LIFE & LEGACY**

**SURRENDERED
GIVER**

**GIVING DRIVES
EVERYTHING ELSE**

**INTENTIONAL
GIVER**

**PLANNED &
PRIORITIZED**

**INITIAL
GIVER**

**COURAGEOUS
& EXCITING
FIRST STEP**

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WHAT'S NEXT?

Throughout our *Kainos* journey, in addition to engaging in Sunday worship services and Life Bible Studies, keep these four actions in mind:

PRAY PERSISTENTLY

Pray that God will do a new work in the hearts of His people at Houston's First and that we will joyfully follow as He leads.

COMMIT FULLY

Help reach our goals by determining in your heart to fully engage and give—and encourage others to do the same.

CELEBRATE LOUDLY

As God does new things in your life during this season, share your story enthusiastically with those around you.

GIVE GENEROUSLY

Live and give in a way that stretches you to take your faith to a whole new level of generosity.

KEY DATES

Commitment Sunday

Sun, Nov 20 — Every Campus

In every worship service, the Houston's First family will come forward with their generosity commitments to the *Kainos* vision. Leading up to that day, seek God's will for how He wants to grow you and how He is leading you to participate—by committing to *Kainos* for the first time, by committing to finish strong with your existing pledge, or by increasing your original commitment,

Kainos Reveal Sunday & Big Give Sunday

Sun, Dec 4 — Every Campus

Kainos Reveal Sunday and Big Give Sunday is when the Houston's First family will hear the announcement of our new total pledges and anticipated gifts! Gifts to *Kainos* will be received through December 2023.

The background of the page is a light blue architectural line drawing of a modern building. The drawing shows a complex, multi-story structure with a grid-like facade, featuring various rectangular volumes and protrusions. A solid red square is positioned to the left of the text.

RE:NEW

PRAYER & REFLECTION

REST

“Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Matthew 11:28–29

Are you worn out? Are you weary? Are you exhausted? As followers of Jesus, we are not promised a smooth passage through life’s storms and valleys. However, we do have the ability to choose how we respond to them. Listen to Christ’s invitation calling you to rest in Him. He is the only one who can truly give us rest—for our souls. The world will never be able to satisfy our longings. Only Christ does.

The Hebrew word translated as “rest” means “to be at peace,” “to be still,” “to be quiet or calm.” In place of “rest in the Lord,” some Bible translations say, “Be still before the Lord,” “Be silent before the Lord,” “Surrender yourself to the Lord,” and “Be still in the presence of the Lord.” These versions convey the essential idea that to rest and be at peace, one must dwell in the presence of the Lord, surrendered to His lordship. Being yoked to Christ means that our burdens become light as we place them in His hands. That’s where we experience rest for our souls.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What would cause you to be unyoked from Christ?
- Can you identify what tries to keep you from resting in Christ?
- Are you holding onto anything that you haven’t surrendered to Jesus?

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that *Kainos* would reflect Jesus and build His Kingdom and that all peoples could enter His rest, too.
- Pray that our worship services would continue to lead all peoples into the presence of God and find rest for their souls.
- Pray for discipline to create intentional space to exist in God’s presence.

SUN, OCT 30
FREEDOM TO SERVE
ROMANS 6:12-23

PRAYER & REFLECTION

REMEMBER

“God is not a man, that He might lie, or a son of man, that He might change His mind. Does He speak and not act, or promise and not fulfill?”
Numbers 23:19

All throughout scripture we see many examples of how God has and always will be faithful to His promises. In each promise, God pledges that something will (or will not) be done or given or come to pass. Whenever God says something, He will always do what He said.

Just as a rock is solid, so too are the promises of God. Why? God is not a liar. There is no sin in God. He does everything He says—in His timing. Those who are waiting on God’s promises often forget who God is and can quickly find themselves discouraged. It is in this period of waiting that faith in the life of the believer will be tested and perfected. All of God’s promises will come to fruition. Do you believe that?

PROMISES OF GOD

- God promised to supply our needs (Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:19)
- God promised to finish the work He started in us (Philippians 1:6)
- God promised comfort in our trials (2 Corinthians 1:3–4)
- Jesus promised that He will return for us (John 14:2–3)
- Jesus promised rest (Matthew 11:28–30)
- Jesus promised eternal life to those who trust in Him (John 4:14)

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Do you believe God is a generous God?
- Have you experienced or seen God supply your needs?

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that *Kainos* would be a reminder that He is faithful and will do far more than we could imagine.
- Pray that God’s promises become our reality.
- Pray that we would have ears to hear and eyes to see what the Lord desires for each of us as we gather our hearts in worship.

SUN, NOV 6
DO WHAT YOU WANT!
ROMANS 7:14-25

PRAYER & REFLECTION

REVEAL

“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Have you ever wondered what God’s will is for your life? The beautiful thing about Scripture is that it has an answer for that. There are at least three things for sure that identify God’s will for those in Christ. Joy is produced by the work of the Spirit in the believer. The word chosen for “prayer” is a general one that implies a worshipful approach to God. “Give thanks” is always directed to God both for what God had done and in response to the faith and godly actions. “Always,” “continually,” and “in all circumstances” strengthen the message that these actions should consistently characterize the Christian life. The definition of worship-based prayer below captures the essence of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.

All True prayer

Exists for the glory of God

And is

Based in the worship of God

Focused on the face of God

Shaped by the Word of God

Inspired by the Spirit of God

Offered through the Son of God

Aimed for the Will of God

Experienced by true children of God

— Daniel Henderson

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Is your joy attached to situations and/or circumstances?
- What does your prayer life look like?
- Do your thoughts and words reflect a spirit of gratitude?

PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks to God for *Kainos* and how it has already impacted the city, nation, and world.
- Give thanks to God for what He is doing and will do in the hearts of those who will benefit from *Kainos*.
- Pray that God would be honored in all things related to *Kainos*.

SUN, NOV 13
WALK IN NEW LIFE
ROMANS 8:1-11

PRAYER & REFLECTION

REALIGN

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5–6

All that we encounter in life (good, bad, and the unexpected) can cause a shift in our thinking, perspective, and/or direction. If we allow the worries and cares of the world, it too can cause us to be out of alignment in God’s plan. Maybe you allowed fear to keep you from where God wants to take you. If so, there’s good news. God can make our paths straight. The scriptures reveal how that is possible.

Trusting in God is not like trusting in people. Why? God can never disappoint. If you know God, then you know that He can never fail because of who He is. If you and I remember who God is, then we will be able to trust in Him even if we do not understand. Trust is actively releasing control of all outcomes and believing God will do as He has promised. Whenever your mind is being renewed and you are actively trusting in God, your heart will be aligned to His. Then, it will be, “not my will, but Yours be done.”

HIS CHARACTER

- Merciful – Luke 6:36
- Loving – Psalm 86:5
- Just – Psalm 89:4
- Forgiving – Psalm 103:10–12

HIS NATURE

- Without sin – 1 Peter 2:22
- No evil in Him – 1 John 1:5
- Self-Existent – John 5:26
- Love – 1 John 4:8

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What is God calling you to release or lay down?
- What tends to keep you from trusting God?
- Do you believe God will do what He said He will?
- What or who are you tempted to place your trust in other than Christ?

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that the Lord would show you how He wants you to trust Him through *Kainos*.
- Ask God to search our hearts and minds for any places where we may have sinned.
- Pray that we would have the humility to acknowledge and confess our sins and turn back to Him.

SUN, NOV 20
ADOPTION IN CHRIST
ROMANS 8:12-17

PRAYER & REFLECTION

RENEW

“Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.”

Romans 12:2

We are either being disciplined to conform to the world, or we are being disciplined to conform to the image of Jesus. This verse is crystal clear that no one will know the will of God outside the Word of God. The more we spend time in the Scriptures the more we will know and discern what God is calling us to.

Bank tellers do not study counterfeit money to identify counterfeit money. Bank tellers study real money to identify counterfeit money. Do you know the difference between what seems right versus what is right? One way to renew our minds is to spend time in God's Word. The only way to combat and recognize the lies the enemy and the world tries to throw at us is to be in the Scriptures to learn the truth. In doing so, we will be able to discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Are you being conformed to the world or to Jesus?
- Are there any lies that you are believing that has kept you from where God wants to take you?
- Can you notice a difference in your life when you are not actively spending time with Jesus in His Word? If so, what do you need to do to create intentional space to be in His Word?

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the Bible translation work already funded through *Kainos*, providing people with the Scripture in their own language for the first time.
- Pray for the unreached/unengaged people in our city, nation, and world.
- Pray that God would open eyes to see and ears to hear His voice.
- Pray to the Lord of the Harvest to raise up workers.



[HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG/KAINOS](https://houstonsfirst.org/kainos)

PASTOR GREGG MATTE
THE LOOP • CYPRESS • DOWNTOWN • SIENNA

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