

# ROOTED AND READY

**VISION GUIDE**



*REACHING NEW LEVELS IN 2023*



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## REACHING NEW LEVELS IN 2023

### HISTORY

Vox Church began in 2011 with a small group of friends who shared a dream *to see New England change from the least-churched region in the United States to the most spiritually vibrant place on earth.* We do this by planting life-giving churches across New England, specifically focusing on larger population centers. Today Vox Church holds weekly Sunday services in six of the ten largest New England cities and has nine thriving churches across the region.

At the end of 2019, the Vox family began a generosity campaign called *Wake My Heart.* Together, we sacrificially gave *to strengthen our current ministries, build our first anchor location, and begin a site acquisition fund.* At the end of this two-year process, God had done the miraculous!

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vox team added **46 new staff members** to strengthen our ministries, including kids' ministries, youth ministries, community groups, worship, production, creative team, finance team, and data. This massive overhaul has prepared Vox for the future. With our central teams stronger than ever, we have the infrastructure to launch more churches and reach more people.

We also constructed and opened our Branford anchor location in record time and under budget. This location began holding services at the end of 2021 and has seen two weekly services overflowing with new people. We **baptized 65 people in Branford on August 7** of this year and have already started **66 Branford area community groups**.

Our site acquisition fund has allowed us to secure a permanent space in downtown Springfield, Massachusetts. As we conclude 2022 and look to the future, our great prayer is that we will head into the new year *Rooted and Ready* for a great move of God in 2023.



## WHAT'S NEXT

At Vox, we believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to transform the heart. The apostle Paul wrote, “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has *committed to us the message* of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God *were making his appeal through us*” (2 Corinthians 5:19–20).

As followers of Jesus, we have a divine calling from God to share his message of grace through Christ. Both history and Scripture affirm that this message spreads most effectively through a community of believers in a local church. As we conclude 2022, our focus is to ROOT ourselves within our communities and be READY to start new churches in the months ahead.

## **ROOTED: THE “BUILD THE CITY FUND”**

One of the most powerful ways to impact a region is to establish permanent facilities for daily and weekly ministry in the community. Right now, Vox is renovating our permanent home in downtown Springfield. This will become a daily ministry hub right in the city's heart on the corner of Main Street, with amazing space for worship, kids' ministry, and offices. The total estimated cost of this renovation will be \$2.6 million.

Along with Springfield, we are in final negotiations for purchasing a property in downtown Hartford that would serve as an anchor location in the capital city.

These two property acquisitions will transform our ministry opportunities in two of the largest cities in New England! While the end-of-year offering will not fully fund these two projects, our goal is to end 2022 with the funds needed to continue moving forward.



**Vox Church Springfield**  
(renovation in process)



## **READY: THE “SERVE THE CITY FUND”**

Along with digging deeper roots across New England, we want to be ready in 2023 to serve our communities with practical acts of service and start new churches in new areas. Right now, Vox works with 42 local partners and 16 global partners to help the poor, feed the hungry, serve the homeless, and meet the needs of our region and beyond. We are prayerfully preparing to launch new Vox locations in 2023, with a goal of starting nine new churches by the end of 2025, and outreach initiatives help pave the way for establishing ministry in a community.



**ROOTED: Build the City Goal:** \$1.7 million (to complete Springfield and begin Hartford buildings)

**READY: Serve the City Goal:** \$800,000 (for outreach through service initiatives and church plants)

**Total End-of-Year Goal:** \$2.5 million

In the last three weeks of 2022 (December 11 – January 1), our goal is to raise a total of \$2.5 million through the *Rooted and Ready* end-of-year generosity offering.





## HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

The primary goal of this end-of-year generosity opportunity is to stretch our faith and deepen our love for Jesus and the church. Jesus taught us that where our treasure is, our hearts will be also (Matthew 6:21). Stretching your generosity *changes you*. It redirects the passions of your heart away from this world and toward God. The generosity of God's church also *impacts eternity*. God uses our generous giving to reach people, share the gospel, and transform hearts.

### WE ASK YOU TO DO THREE THINGS:

- 1. Pray.** We believe 100 percent participation in prayer is the greatest secret to advancing the gospel. Pray that God would stretch you and align your priorities with his eternal mission in a deeper way. Pray specifically, "Lord, what do you want to do through me?" Ask God to guide you into a new level of trust and faith.
- 2. Participate.** Our goal is that 100 percent of the people at Vox participate in the *Rooted and Ready* end-of-year offering. Maybe you've never given before. This is the perfect time to stretch your faith and experience the faithfulness of God.
- 3. Sacrifice.** *Rooted and Ready* is an opportunity to ask yourself, "What does sacrificial generosity look like *for me*? What would it look like for me to adjust my current lifestyle for the sake of Jesus and his mission?" On **December 11**, our church will come together and give a sacrificial offering to see the gospel advance across New England.

# ROOTED AND READY GIVING LADDER

## How much should I commit to give?

Growing in generosity is a vital part of following Jesus. Identify your next step:

**1. FIRST-TIME GIVER:** *I've never significantly given to Vox Church, but I feel called to take that step.* This is a step of faith both in God and in the leaders of the church.

**2. CONSISTENT GIVER:** *I've given to Vox occasionally, but today I am going to begin regularly giving a set amount.* This step requires planning and may include signing up for recurring giving on the church website or through your bank.

**3. INTENTIONAL GIVER:** *I've wrestled with the bigger questions of what I value most and have decided to give a substantial percentage of my income.* This step requires that you ask questions like, "Why am I giving more to my cell phone bill than to God?" You must wrestle with your choices in light of eternity and reprioritize your budget and your giving by percentage.

**4. SACRIFICIAL GIVER:** *I'm going to stretch my percentage of giving outside my comfort zone.* This step asks questions like, "Am I giving in a way that changes me?" Rather than your lifestyle governing your giving, now your giving governs your lifestyle. You commit to give in a way that's larger than your current capacity.

**5. LEGACY GIVER:** *I'm giving audaciously to shape future generations and make an impact that outlives me.* This step



requires that you no longer ask, “God, how much are you asking me to give?” but rather, “God, how much are you asking me to keep?” You don’t just consider the monthly or annual implications of your giving, but rearrange retirement, property, and long-term assets in order to change the course of the future for the gospel.



# ROOTED AND READY GIVING CHART

## How much should I commit to give?

What will it take to see the gospel expand across New England through the ministry of Vox? We must follow the biblical principle of **proportionality**—not equal gifts but equal sacrifice. Our giving decisions must be made through prayer.

Look at the chart below and pray boldly: “God, what do you want to do through me? What does sacrificial generosity look like for me?”

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have *decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion*, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:6–8).

### **PROFILE A:**

1 gift of \$200,000

3 gifts of \$100,000

4 gifts of \$50,000

6 gifts of \$25,000

**(TOTAL \$850,000)**

### **PROFILE B:**

15 gifts of \$15,000

35 gifts of \$10,000

50 gifts of \$5,000

60 gifts of \$2,500

**(TOTAL \$975,000)**

### **PROFILE C:**

230 gifts of \$1,500

250 gifts of \$750

300 gifts of \$300

350 gifts of \$150

**(TOTAL \$675,000)**

**GRAND TOTAL: \$2,500,000**

# ROOTED & READY FAQ

**WHAT ARE  
THE GOALS  
OF THE  
ROOTED AND  
READY END-  
OF-YEAR  
OFFERING?**

Our primary goal is for 100 percent of our church to pray and participate in sacrificial generosity. When we sacrifice for the mission of the gospel through the local church, *we are changed*. This is the spiritual growth Paul had in mind when he wrote 1 Timothy 6:18–19: “Be rich in good deeds, and be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” Our secondary goal is to receive \$2.5 million to prepare our church to reach more people in 2023 and beyond.

**HOW IS THIS  
OFFERING  
DIFFERENT  
FROM  
REGULAR  
GIVING AT  
VOX?**

This offering focuses on acquiring and renovating permanent facilities and radically serving communities throughout New England. Throughout the year, we give to the ongoing operations of the church, but at the end of the year, we invite everyone to make a sacrificial gift to expand the church's work.

**WHY SHOULD  
WE GIVE TO  
CAMPUSES  
WE DON'T  
ATTEND?**

Vox is one church in multiple locations. We deeply care about every city across our region, and our leadership teams regularly look for growth opportunities. As an opportunity for a new church plant or a permanent facility arises, we take these things to God in prayer. After careful planning, prayer, and discussion, we do our best to walk through the doors that God opens. Sacrificially giving to a campus that you don't attend is fundamental to being a part of the body of Christ. We are all on this mission together.

**ARE WE  
MOVING  
TOO FAST?  
SHOULD WE  
LAUNCH  
FEWER  
CHURCHES?**

Pace is something the leadership at Vox is constantly praying about. We don't want to get ahead of God, and our work is not even close to complete at the churches we've already started. At Vox, we believe in *simultaneous gospel expansion*. This means we don't have to pick between growing in one place or growing in multiple places. By God's grace, we can grow in both simultaneously. By empowering leaders and spreading out responsibility, Vox has been able to grow on multiple fronts at the same time, reaching far more people.

The truth is there are 14.8 million people in New England, and the vast majority are far from God. If God opens an effective door for ministry, we must humbly, cautiously walk through it. If we need to slow down or change directions, we frequently ask God to show us and guide us, just as he did Paul and the other leaders in the early church (Acts 16:6–10).

**WHY DO  
WE NEED  
TO SPEND  
SO MUCH  
MONEY ON  
BUILDINGS?  
SHOULDN'T  
WE JUST  
FOCUS ON  
PEOPLE?**

Jesus died for people, not buildings. At Vox, our goal is to reach people, not build buildings. If we want to effectively reach people, neighborhoods, and communities, we must be students of what makes the biggest impact. Permanent facilities allow for ministry opportunities that are impossible otherwise. They allow the teams and staff to be far more productive. They create space for programming and gatherings throughout the week.

At our new Branford location, for example, rarely does a day go by when someone in the church is not gathering at the building. Vox has multiple locations that do not have a permanent space, and God is working powerfully there. And as we launch more churches, permanent facilities allow us to support new church plants that don't yet have stability.



**WHAT  
HAPPENS IF  
WE DON'T  
RAISE \$2.5  
MILLION BY  
THE END  
OF THE  
YEAR? WHAT  
HAPPENS IF  
WE RAISE  
MORE?**

First, we believe in the power of God's provision, and we trust him! Whatever resources are raised, we will use these to move forward. Our pastors and leaders are working diligently to utilize best the funds that come in, and we will grow to the degree that God provides. If we raise more than our goal, we are better positioned to expand ministry in the months and years ahead.

**WHAT  
SPECIFICALLY  
DO YOU NEED  
ME TO DO?**

*First*, we ask you to pray, “God, what part do you want me to play? What do you want to do through me?” We are trusting God to do a work in us and through us that no one else could do. *Second*, we ask you to position yourself to be available and willing to follow God’s leading. *Third*, we ask that you step out in faith and participate in the *Rooted and Ready* end-of-year offering as God leads you. While you might wrestle with the challenge God puts on your heart, and it may make you very uncomfortable (just as God challenged the Macedonians to give “beyond their ability” in 2 Corinthians), you should not feel pressure, manipulation, or coercion. God grows and matures us as we step out and trust in his faithfulness!





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