

# SHAPING OUR FUTURE

May 2023 Final Progress Report

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Our current strategic focus is on five categories of initiatives.

1. Institutional Growth
2. Constituent Engagement
3. Sustainable Infrastructure
4. Organizational Strength
5. Academic Life

This report summarizes progress on specific initiatives during Spring 2023. This is the final report for Shaping Our Future. Spring 2023 strategic work focused on four initiatives coming from three of the five goal categories.

### Institutional Growth

*We recognize that we live in "interesting times," a chaotic environment. To prepare for effective future ministry, we will continue to cultivate relationships broadly with likeminded organizations. We will also structure diverse fiscal sources to enable us to respond quickly to future conditions.*

#### Develop a Separate Organization to Administer External Revenue Streams

Significant exploration of this option was completed. This work led to the conclusion that, at this point, the processes required to establish a separate organization are not justified by potential institutional benefits. Consequently, we will not pursue this any further at this time.

### Constituent Engagement

*We are not an isolated organization, but a ministry with a rich history, a broad constituency and a global vision. We recognize that lifelong learning matters now more than ever. We will serve our constituents in meaningful ways not only while they are students, but also as they live out our mission to glorify God and to serve the church, around the corner or around the world.*

#### Increase “Brand Loyalty” with Our Under-35 Alumni

Significant thinking and planning has been completed in this area, most notably in seeking to understand alumni “felt needs” in terms of what GBSC could supply. This work is ongoing with goals to produce resources and opportunities of value for alumni. Some of this work is reflected in the next strategic plan.

## Cultivate Long-term Mentoring Relationships with Alumni

Tangible work was not completed on this initiative. It is included in the next plan.

## Organizational Strength

*In addition to our facility resources, we also steward our organizational resources. We will learn new ways to serve our employees meaningfully. We will build on our strengths to prepare for continued holistic organizational health.*

## Prepare for Future Changes in the Regulatory Environment

Our work in this area begins with scanning for possible changes. Nearly weekly, the Administrative Committee reviews an internal report of noteworthy news in higher education, with a key focus on regulatory issues. Additionally, personnel work to maintain good relationships and communication with accrediting and other oversight entities, which promotes awareness. When appropriate, we communicate with partners or vendors (recently we did so regarding the Department of Education's new draft guidance related to Third Party Servicers). GBSC joined a Christian Title IX consortium to help us understand and respond to regulations in that area.

In response to possible regulatory changes, the Registrar's Office has increased detailed student records. This will enable continued effective reporting to numerous organizations, including the Department of Education (IPEDS), ABHE, HLC, CAEP and NC-SARA.