

OPEN DOORS

VISION GUIDE



VOX CHURCH 2023 END OF YEAR
GENEROSITY CHALLENGE

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VOX CHURCH 2023 END-OF-YEAR GENEROSITY CHALLENGE

“Behold, I have set before you an open door,
which no one is able to shut.”

Revelation 3:8

HISTORY

New England is the least-churched region in the United States. Fewer people read the Bible, attend church, and follow Jesus than anywhere else in America. Many people have called New England the graveyard of churches, but at Vox, we believe it is the perfect place for a resurrection.

Vox Church began in 2011 with a small group of friends and 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, specifically focusing on larger population centers. Today, Vox Church has planted eleven New England churches.

Through the consistent generosity of this community of faith, Vox has continued to expand the mission of the gospel in 2023. This year, we opened our permanent home in the heart of Springfield, Massachusetts, and launched two new churches, one in Clinton, Connecticut, and one in New Britain, Connecticut.



WHAT'S NEXT

Looking into 2024 and beyond, we can see that God has uniquely positioned our church to effectively reach this region with the good news of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul wrote, "A wide door for effective work has opened to me" (1 Corinthians 16:9).

We believe that God has prepared us for such a time as this. By his grace, the door for effective ministry has swung wide open. In a region where churches are closing every week, the Holy Spirit is breathing on new church plants, and as we step out in faith, God is working miracles. Families are meeting Jesus. Communities are being transformed.

The door has swung wide open. What will we do?

As we conclude 2023 and prepare for 2024, Vox Church will focus on three areas of aggressive expansion.

1. DISCIPLESHIP FIRST

The goal of the church is not simply to gather people but to make disciples. Discipleship is the pumping heart of Vox Church, and we believe that 2024 will be the most fruitful year of discipleship in our history.

Throughout 2023, we have prepared our staff and leadership teams to better disciple more people. This includes implementing our “Relational Path” of discipleship across all our campuses, strengthening and multiplying our Community Group Leaders and Team Leaders, and expanding our youth and kids’ discipleship opportunities.

Making disciples stretches beyond our borders as we seek to serve those in need around the world. Currently, Vox works with 42 local and 16 global partners to help serve the poor, feed the hungry, and strengthen churches. We want to continue these efforts and expand their reach in 2024.

2. BUILDINGS FOR THE BODY

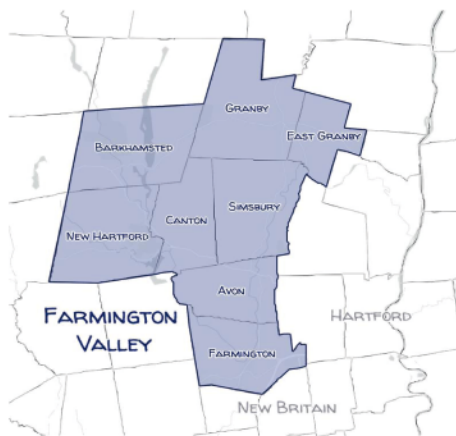
Opportunities for ongoing ministry expand with permanent facilities. In 2023, Vox opened its permanent facility in downtown Springfield, Massachusetts, and joined forces with Signal Church to open a permanent home for Vox Church Clinton.

In 2024, we hope to secure two more permanent facilities, including an anchor location in Hartford, Connecticut. After several years of searching out a permanent home for the growing Hartford campus, a unique and distinctive site has been identified. Vox is actively working to complete the purchase.

Buildings require a significant financial commitment but also stabilize ministry efforts and create greater opportunities to gather. We are excited to strengthen our ministry base and expand in the heart of our cities.

3. NEW CHURCHES IN NEW COMMUNITIES

Right now, our Hartford, New Haven, and Springfield churches are beginning to explore the surrounding areas for new church plant opportunities. Our faith goal for 2024 is to start three new churches in New England communities that desperately need the gospel.



Discipleship First: \$1 million (includes 2024 Vox initiatives, local outreach, and global missions)

Buildings for the Body: \$1.4 million (includes new facilities and expansion)

New Churches in New Communities: \$600,000 (includes startup costs for three new church launches)

Total End-of-Year Goal: \$3 million



HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

Every year at Vox, the primary goal of the end-of-year generosity challenge 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% 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% of the people at Vox participate in the Open Doors end-of-year offering December 10–31. Maybe you've never given before. Now is the perfect time to stretch your faith and experience the faithfulness of God.

3. Sacrifice. Open Doors 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 10, our church will come together and give a sacrificial offering to see the gospel advance across New England.

OPEN DOORS GIVING CHART

What will it take to see the gospel expand across New England through the ministry of Vox Church? 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 on the following page 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 \$250,000
3 gifts of \$125,000
4 gifts of \$50,000
6 gifts of \$25,000

(Total \$975,000)

PROFILE B:

20 gifts of \$15,000
40 gifts of \$10,000
60 gifts of \$5,000
65 gifts of \$2,500

(Total \$1,162,500)

PROFILE C:

300 gifts of \$1,500
300 gifts of \$750
450 gifts of \$300
350 gifts of \$150

(Total \$862,500)

GRAND TOTAL: \$3,000,000

OPEN DOORS GIVING LADDER

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.



OPEN DOORS FAQ

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE OPEN DOORS END- OF-YEAR OFFERING?

Our primary goal is for 100% 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. Paul wrote about this spiritual growth in 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 raise \$3 million to prepare our church to reach more people in 2024 and beyond.

HOW IS THIS OFFERING DIFFERENT FROM REGULAR GIVING AT VOX?

This offering focuses on expansion. Specifically, it enables us to build stronger mechanisms for discipleship, acquire and renovate permanent facilities, plant new churches, and, from these investments, radically serve those in need across New England and beyond. 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 in sharing the gospel.

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

Sacrificially giving to a campus you don't attend is fundamental to being a part of the body of Christ. We are all on this mission together. 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 matters to God in prayer. After careful planning, prayer, and discussion, we do our best to walk through the doors that God opens.

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 we know our work is not even close to complete at the churches we've already started. However, 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 responsibility, Vox has grown on various fronts simultaneously, reaching far more people.

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?

Permanent facilities allow for ministry opportunities that are impossible otherwise. Being planted in a local community creates space for programming and gatherings throughout the week while enabling our teams and staff to be far more productive. Jesus died for people, not buildings. At Vox, our goal is to reach people, not build buildings. To effectively reach people, neighborhoods, and communities, we must be students of what makes the biggest impact.

For example, at our new Branford location, 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 \$3 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 best utilize the funds that come in, and we will grow to the degree God provides. If we raise more than our goal, we are better positioned to expand our 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 trust 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 Open Doors 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 his faithfulness!