THINK DEEPLY AND ACT WISELY
As LCS wrapped up the Deliver the Dream campaign and looked to the future, the administration and board of directors realized it was time to take a hard look at our current realities and plan for our preferred future. The educational landscape has not escaped the rapid change that is sweeping all areas of our world. LCS leadership recognizes our responsibility to think deeply and act wisely to ensure that LCS will effectively prepare our students’ hearts and minds for what's ahead. Strategic planning is essential to realizing the goal of providing high-quality education while exercising responsible stewardship of our resources.

PLANNING FOR A PREFERRED FUTURE
With this in mind, the LCS Board of Directors appointed Dr. Alan Pue of The Barnabas Group to lead a task force through a rigorous six-month strategic planning process. This group comprised parents, board members, administration and faculty members. A planning retreat was held August 6-8, 2015, to initiate the process. Work teams were assembled to assess various aspects of the state of the school, re-affirm agreed-upon core values and forge the development of strategic initiatives for the future. The work teams met multiple times, and Dr. Pue met monthly with the teams, the administration and the Board of Directors. The task force completed their work in January 2016, and in February the Board of Directors adopted the four initiatives of the strategic plan outlined in this publication.

ALWAYS BETTER
As the task force gathered for their final meeting with Dr. Pue and contemplated what best described our desires for the future of LCS, the phrase “always better” came to the fore. We can be better. We want to be better. We want to be consistently better across all grade levels, all classrooms and all programs. ... always. These initiatives are not the only actions we will pursue to make LCS better. They do, however, reflect four areas of priority – spiritual growth, instructional quality, facilities and financial sustainability – that are essential in the effort to make LCS better and to enable us to thrive in the years ahead.

We are all deeply indebted to those who served on the task force, who invested hundreds of man-hours in this significant endeavor. The level of engagement of each one was especially encouraging to me as headmaster. As you read these initiatives you will readily understand that this is not an overnight “to do list” but a roadmap for a journey for the next few years. It will require the faithful prayers of the entire school community and the involvement of many to make these plans come to fruition.

We look forward to the challenges ahead and ask you to join us as together we pray and work to make LCS ... Always Better!

“… that you might excel still more …” 1 Thessalonians 4:10

BETTER, adj. greater in excellence or higher in quality.
The Barnabas Group specializes in strategic planning for Christian schools, colleges and churches. Dr. Pue earned an M. Ed. from Florida Atlantic University and an Ed. D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Delaware.

He has been involved in Christian schooling most of his life. Dr. Pue is a 1967 graduate of Dade Christian School; served for several years as a Christian school teacher, guidance counselor and coach; and then as headmaster at Pike Creek Christian School in Newark, Delaware where he ministered for 15 years.

In 1996, Alan accepted a call to serve as Senior Vice President and Provost of The Master’s College in Santa Clarita, California. During the five years of his leadership the college experienced four consecutive years of record enrollment and was recognized for the first time by US News and World Report as a top-tier regional liberal arts college.

In his current capacity as President of The Barnabas Group, Dr. Pue travels extensively throughout North America speaking at Christian school conferences and working with ministry leaders in the areas of strategic planning, governance and marketing. He has served as a visiting faculty member at the Meyer Institute for Steward Leadership, as adjunct professor at Columbia International University, and currently serves on the board of the Educational Foundation of ACSI. He is the author of more than two dozen published articles; writes monthly book reviews for the SEAL, a publication of ACSI; and his book, “Re-thinking Sustainability: A Strategic Financial Model for Christian Schools,” was published in 2012. His soon-to-be-completed second book is on the topic of strategic planning.

The mission of Lakeland Christian School is to educate students in the light of God’s Word to equip them for a lifetime of learning, leadership, service and worship.
CULTIVATE AN AUTHENTIC FAITH COMMUNITY AND PROVIDE A FIRM GOSPEL FOOTING FOR LIFE-LONG DISCIPLESHIP.

RATIONALE
Because there is a God in heaven who has revealed Himself, we strive to educate our students in the light of God’s Word. This requires direct instruction in the propositional Truth of scripture and the modeling of those truths in authentic relationships shaped by the grace of the gospel. This initiative is our effort to place both staff and students in the path of God’s grace looking to the Holy Spirit to transform all of us to be more like Christ for His glory and our good.

This process requires a cadre of gospel “lens crafters” who will equip students to see all of life through the eyes of biblical truth. This includes not only principles of apologetics, but also the ability to uncover one’s own brokenness and apply the hope of the gospel. In our relationships with others it will require looking beyond the obvious to view one another through the lens of God’s grace. Since true faith requires expression, these initiatives include opportunity for increased expression of faith through various forms of interpersonal relationships and service to others.

Goal 1
Provide a system of training, care and support for teachers as they teach the Bible, foster gospel transformation and enable students to view all of life through the lens of scripture. Teachers will utilize direct instruction and life-on-life modeling through gospel-centered relationships.

Goal 2
Expand opportunities for teachers and students to engage in life-on-life and small group interactions as a means of mentoring and discipleship.

Goal 3
Hire director-level staff member to oversee and facilitate this initiative.

Goal 4
Expand opportunities for students to experience face-to-face service and ministry.
CULTIVATE A CULTURE OF INSTRUCTIONAL INNOVATION

RATIONALE
We strive to educate students in the light of God's Word in a way that inspires students to find their passion and sense of purpose in fulfilling God's call on their lives. This requires that we identify and apply innovative instructional methods that will effectively equip our students with critical thinking, communication and creative problem-solving skills. Establishing real-world, collaborative experiences beyond the classroom will facilitate the application of those skills and inspire our students with a vision for Christian influence in their chosen field of endeavor.

Our desire is to promote a culture that encourages teachers to not only have mastery of their subject area but to strive for increasing creativity in their instructional efforts and authentic personal relationships with their students. We want our faculty to demonstrate the same passion for lifelong learning that we seek to instill in our students and to continually work at providing challenging and culturally relevant instruction thoroughly integrated with biblical thinking.

Goal 1
Build an exemplary faculty through valuable professional development, effective accountability systems and by empowering teacher leadership teams.

Goal 2
Listen and learn from others by identifying and examining innovative programs in other schools, benefiting from student and faculty input and implementing practices from outside education to facilitate continual school improvement.

Goal 3
Implement research-based effective strategies in every classroom every day.
IN ORDER TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, AND IN VALIDATION OF THE CAMPUS MASTER PLAN, WE PROPOSE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW, INNOVATIVE FACILITIES AND RENOVATION OF EXISTING FACILITIES TO SUPPORT ROBUST CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS.

RATIONALE

Lakeland Christian School is blessed with some of the finest educational and athletic facilities in West Central Florida. However, critical portions of campus are outdated and not in line with the quality of the more recently constructed facilities. Many of the areas serving high school students – outdated science classrooms and labs in particular – are in need of remodeling, expansion or replacement. RISE, the cafeteria, fine arts rehearsal rooms and media center spaces are inadequate for today’s needs. The lack of adequate locker room facilities for Viking Stadium presents both logistical and health standards issues.

In keeping with the school’s Master Plan, and to provide for deficiencies previously described, we will develop plans to pursue the addition of the following facilities:

- Locker room facilities adjacent to Viking Stadium
- High school classroom facility, to include provision for the Sciences and for the RISE Institute
- Fine Arts classrooms/studios, to include an auditorium
- Demolition/Renovation of existing aged facilities, including expansion of cafeteria, modernization of the library and removal of the portables.

The board will involve appropriate professionals for facilities planning and fundraising to ensure that the school will not be placed at financial risk as a result of pursuing these goals.
LONG TERM FINANCIAL STABILITY

RATIONALE
The Board of Directors holds the fiduciary responsibility to ensure that LCS will be positioned to continue to thrive and to deliver “Education in the Light of God’s Word” for future generations of students. To fulfill this task with excellence we must develop a more sustainable funding model – one that is more robust and less susceptible to external economic factors that are beyond our control. We believe this can be accomplished by initially focusing on two primary areas: 1) enrollment strategy and 2) additional revenue streams.

Goal 1
Build a strong enrollment strategy through focused marketing on maximizing our enrollment capacity in grades K4-5 and expanding our part-time and dual-enrollment programs, as well as broadening our summer camp offerings.

Goal 2
Enhance and develop additional revenue streams by broadening the current donor base, increasing participation in annual giving and capital projects, initiating an alumni association, and building an endowment through a planned giving strategy.
"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand." - Prov. 19:21

"We urge you... to excel still more." - 1 Thes. 4:10