

RESET

CHURCH FORWARD • NIGHT FIVE

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

FAITH • FAMILY • COMMUNITY • FUTURE

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR INDIVIDUALS,
FAMILIES & HOUSEHOLDS

1

Faith, Conviction & Community

What connects us as neighbors?



2

Your Voice, Your Vote & Your Values

Make decisions with understanding.



3

Leadership, Partnerships & Collective Power

Know who can help and how.



4

Government, Resources & Accountability

Know who decides and what was promised.



5

From Conversation to Community Action

Take one step, track what changes.



ONE CAR • MANY PERSPECTIVES • A SHARED FUTURE

Mount Ollie Baptist Church | October 2, 2026
Hosted by Rev. Reginald Lee Bachus and RESET

One Car. One Community. A Shared Future.

The conversation begins with how we travel together.

Imagine five people riding in one car. They may come from different families, generations, neighborhoods, and political traditions. Each sees the road through a different experience. Yet they share the same vehicle, the same traffic, and the consequences of decisions made along the way.

Host Rev. Reginald Lee Bachus used this picture to open the final night of CHURCH FORWARD. We can look in the rearview mirror to understand what happened, but we cannot drive forward by staring backward. We must learn from our experiences, look through the windshield, and decide where to go next.

Jeremiah 29: Seek the welfare of the place where you live

Jeremiah spoke to people living in exile. They were instructed to build homes, plant gardens, raise families, and seek the welfare of the city. They could not control every circumstance, but they still had responsibilities to their neighbors and to the future. The same principle can guide households today: what happens in our neighborhood affects our own well-being.

THE QUESTION FOR EVERY HOUSEHOLD

Your voice, your decisions, and your relationships matter. You do not have to agree with everyone in the car to help everyone reach a safer, stronger destination.

How to use this guide

- Read the five pillars in order. Each one helps answer the next question on our shared journey.
- Discuss the real experiences shared by the four panelists and consider how their lessons apply to your circumstances.
- Complete the fillable worksheets on pages 12–16. Save a completed copy in a compatible PDF reader or print blank pages.
- Choose one manageable action for the next 30 days. You do not have to solve everything at once.

The conversation featured Anthony “Tony” Suber, Rev. Patrick Young, Amanda Edwards, and Marc Little. They brought different backgrounds and political perspectives. This report preserves those differences without directing readers toward any party or candidate.

RESET Is the Way We Navigate

Grounded → Aligned → Aware → Intentional

Before deciding which turn to make, we need a way to think clearly about the road ahead. RESET begins with four practical postures. Each one leads naturally to the next.

Posture	In the car	At home
Grounded	Remember why we travel.	What faith, values, and responsibilities anchor us?
Aligned	Agree on the destination.	What kind of neighborhood and future do we want?
Aware	Read the signs and listen.	What facts, experiences, and perspectives are we missing?
Intentional	Choose the next turn.	What will we do, by when, and how will we know it helped?

RESET Is a Way to Think and Act

Principles shape how we think, and our thinking shapes how we act. The five RESET principles help us make responsible decisions when opinions differ or the way forward is uncertain.

Principle	A question for your household
Respect	Are we listening to the people affected, including those who disagree?
Educate	What information can we verify before sharing or acting on it?
Serve	Does our choice help people beyond ourselves?
Efficiency	Are we using time, money, and relationships wisely?
Transparency	Can we explain what we asked for, what was promised, and what happened?

REMEMBER
RESET helps people become the author of their next decision instead of the product of their last experience.

PILLAR ONE

Faith, Conviction & Community

Pillar 1 | Who is in the car with us?

Your neighbors do not all share your religion, politics, income, or life experience. Yet you may rely on the same hospitals, schools, streets, emergency services, and local economy. Jeremiah 29 challenges us to care about the welfare of the place we share.

Strong beliefs and shared responsibility can coexist

Marc Little described praying for leaders from different political parties because of his understanding of Scripture. He also recounted helping neighbors obtain Affordable Care Act enrollment assistance despite disagreeing with that law. His example distinguishes serving a person from endorsing a political position.

Rev. Patrick Young challenged listeners to apply moral concerns consistently, including concern for the lives and health of children and families after birth. The perspectives differed, but both raised a question families can use: Are our convictions guiding how we treat people, or only how we label them?

When family members disagree

A family conversation can become difficult when someone feels judged, dismissed, or pressured to adopt another person's political position. Start with a shared concern—an aging relative's healthcare, a child's education, or neighborhood safety—before debating who deserves credit or blame.

A CONVERSATION STARTER

"What are we both hoping will improve? What do we know? What should we check? What is one step we can take together?"

A practical family agreement

- Allow each person to describe their view without interruption.
- Ask for evidence when someone makes a factual claim; avoid repeating rumors as facts.
- Critique ideas and decisions without making assumptions about entire communities or faith groups.
- Agree that helping a neighbor does not require agreeing with every belief that neighbor holds.

PILLAR TWO

Your Voice, Your Vote & Your Values

Pillar 2 | Where are we trying to go?

The most useful civic conversation begins with a problem people recognize—not a party label. Bachus asked how communities can reach people who feel disengaged, particularly younger adults, while technology, jobs, and the world around us change rapidly.

Amanda Edwards described residents who felt their votes would not matter or who were tired of unfulfilled promises. Her approach began by listening to what affected their lives. Marc Little described examining public issues with his family and identifying convictions before deciding where they stood. Together, the experiences point toward participation informed by both personal values and verifiable facts.

Five questions before making a decision

Question	What to look for
1. What matters?	Name a concrete issue: rent, healthcare, transportation, schools, safety, utilities.
2. Who decides?	Identify the actual office, board, agency, provider, or regulator.
3. What are the options?	Compare proposed solutions, likely costs, and who may be helped or harmed.
4. What is the evidence?	Look for public records, trustworthy reporting, and the person’s record.
5. What happens next?	Decide whether to vote, contact an office, attend a meeting, or help a neighbor.

A practical election-season habit

Before voting, obtain your sample ballot from the official election office. Learn what each office does, read candidate information from more than one source, and check factual claims. A family may discuss its priorities together while respecting each adult’s right to make a private, independent voting decision.

KEEP THE QUESTIONS CONSISTENT

A candidate’s visit, photograph, or speech at a church is not evidence that the candidate can deliver on a promise. Ask the same questions of everyone.

Know What You Are Choosing

Pillar 2 continued | From slogans to substance

“Healthcare,” “education,” “jobs,” and “safety” are broad promises. A useful question asks which specific policy or decision is being proposed, who has the authority to carry it out, what it costs, and how its effects will be measured.

Three examples of issue-first research

Household concern	Useful next question	Possible starting point
My street is dangerous.	Who controls the crossing or speed changes?	Local transportation or public works office.
The electricity is unreliable.	Who regulates reliability and rates?	Utility provider and state utility regulator.
A family member cannot get care.	Which service, eligibility rule, or provider is the barrier?	Provider, insurer, health department or regulator.

What should a family record?

- The issue in one sentence, including who is affected.
- The office or organization responsible, verified from an official source.
- The options proposed by different candidates or public officials.
- Any unanswered questions and where to check them.
- A date to review what changed after the election or public meeting.

There is no requirement that everyone in a household reach the same political conclusion. The goal is to replace automatic reactions with informed, intentional choices.

RESET REFLECTION

Look through the windshield: Which decision in the next three months is likely to affect your household? What information do you need before that decision is made?

PILLAR THREE

Leadership, Partnerships & Collective Power

Pillar 3 | Who can help us along the way?

Families rarely solve large problems alone. A church, school, healthcare provider, neighborhood association, library, or local agency may have information or resources that a single household does not. Knowing whom to call before a crisis can make the difference between a dead end and a useful connection.

Rev. Patrick Young: Relationships that became assistance

Rev. Young described how his congregation and partners responded during COVID, reporting that they served more than 2,700 families each Saturday. He also described healthcare and civil-rights relationships, including connections with Northwell Health. The figure reflects his testimony, not an independently audited count. The larger lesson is that trusted relationships can help connect people with food, healthcare, and practical support.

Tony Suber: Representation should lead to results

Tony Suber reflected on work associated with Rev. Floyd Flake’s congressional campaign and development in Southeast Queens. He emphasized the distinction between winning an election and governing effectively. A community needs more than access to someone important; it needs visible improvements and opportunities that benefit residents.

Build a small circle of reliable connections

Need	Who might help	What to confirm
Health and care	Clinic, hospital, benefits navigator	Services, eligibility, appointment and referral process.
Youth opportunities	School, library, nonprofit, faith group	Age range, cost, safety and participation requirements.
Community concerns	Block association, elected office, agency	Jurisdiction, contact person, next public meeting.
Urgent household support	Local services and trusted neighbors	Hours, access, transportation and backup options.

FROM CONTACT TO CAPACITY

Ask: “What can this partner actually provide? When? Who will follow up?” A promise of help is not yet confirmed help.

PILLAR FOUR

Government, Resources & Accountability

Pillar 4 | Who controls the road and the rules?

One of the most frustrating experiences is asking for help from someone who has no power to solve the problem. Local, state, and federal responsibilities overlap, and some services are provided by private or nonprofit organizations. Start by finding out who makes the decision.

Amanda Edwards: Public service between elections

Edwards described visiting Houston residents during Hurricane Harvey while serving on City Council. Some residents were surprised to see an elected official outside campaign season. She also explained how her family’s experience with her father’s serious illness shaped her concern for healthcare access. Her stories remind us that policy has human consequences, and public service must extend beyond elections.

A household version of the accountability register

You do not need a large organization to document what a public official promises. If an official speaks at your church, attends a community meeting, responds to a letter, or announces a program, record what was actually said and what follow-up is expected. Save a source or recording when available.

Before	During	After
Write one specific request.	Note the date, office, and exact commitment.	Check the response, result, and next date.
Confirm who has authority.	Ask who on the staff will handle follow-up.	Share accurate findings with neighbors.

Public trust should not be a private bargaining chip

When someone represents a congregation or community, the needs of the people should be the priority. Undisclosed personal benefits, special favors, or private arrangements can create conflicts of interest. Residents can ask whether decisions and commitments are transparent, whether the proper organization approved them, and who benefits.

A FAIR STANDARD FOR EVERY OFFICIAL

Follow the decision. Follow the dollars. Follow the results. Record progress as carefully as unmet promises.

PILLAR FIVE

From Conversation to Community Action

Pillar 5 | What does moving forward look like?

The journey does not end when an election is over, a public meeting closes, or a church service concludes. The most useful question is: What will actually change for the people living here?

A simple 30-60-90 day family route

When	What to do	What to keep
First 30 days	Name one issue; talk with household members; find the responsible office.	Issue statement and verified contact.
Days 31-60	Research the options; ask a specific question; attend a meeting or contact a partner.	Response, date, source and next step.
Days 61-90	Follow up; help with one achievable action; discuss what improved.	Results, remaining gap and review date.

What counts as progress?

Progress may be receiving a reliable answer, completing a benefits application, connecting a neighbor to a service, getting an agency to inspect a problem, or organizing residents to present a documented request. Not every issue will be resolved in 90 days. A credible next step is still progress when it is recorded and followed through.

When disagreement returns

The Night 5 panel did not agree on every political or religious question. That is part of the lesson. You can acknowledge real differences, test factual claims, protect each person’s dignity, and still cooperate around a specific community need. Agreement on every belief is not the price of a shared future.

YOUR FIRST DESTINATION

One issue. One clear request. One person responsible. One date to check what happened.

Review, Learn, RESET

The rearview mirror is a tool, not a destination.

Marc Little described surviving a violent robbery that resulted in the loss of his right leg. He connected that experience to resilience, purpose, and service. His story reminds us that the past can shape our perspective without having to determine every future decision.

The same applies to families and communities. We should remember broken promises and overlooked needs. We should also remember the people who showed up, the partnerships that worked, and the decisions that made a difference. The purpose of remembering is to move forward more wisely.

Five questions to discuss before you close this guide

- Grounded: What responsibility do we have to our family and neighbors?
- Aligned: Which one or two community concerns matter most to us?
- Aware: What facts, voices, and experiences should we consider?
- Intentional: What will we do next, and who will do it?
- Accountable: When will we look again and ask what changed?

Your five fillable worksheets

Worksheet	Purpose
A Household Civic Readiness	See what you know and where you need information.
B My Community Priority	Turn a concern into a specific question or request.
C Candidate & Policy Comparison	Compare positions and evidence without a party endorsement.
D Public Commitments Tracker	Document promises, replies, and follow-up.
E My 30-60-90 Day Plan	Choose a realistic action and a review date.

Complete the worksheets alone or with someone you trust. Keep a personal copy of sensitive notes, and avoid recording private voting choices or unnecessary personal information on forms shared with others.

Worksheet A | Household Civic Readiness

Fillable assessment • Select the response that best fits today.

Household or individual name (optional)

Date completed

1. I know where to find accurate information about upcoming elections.

Choose answer

2. I can identify which office handles a priority concern in my area.

Choose answer

3. I have discussed a community issue with someone who sees it differently.

Choose answer

4. I know at least one organization that can help with a local need.

Choose answer

5. I know how to contact my elected representatives.

Choose answer

6. I have a way to record and follow up on a public commitment.

Choose answer

7. I have chosen one civic action I can realistically complete.

Choose answer

This is a conversation and planning tool, not a measure of political knowledge or civic worth. Begin with one “Not yet” or “Not sure” answer.

Worksheet B | My Community Priority

Fillable planning page • Focus on one issue at a time.

The concern I want to understand or address

Who is affected and how?

What have I observed or learned?

Which office or organization may be responsible?

My specific question or request

Person or organization I will contact

When I will follow up

PRIVACY REMINDER

Describe the concern accurately. Avoid sharing someone else's private medical, financial, or identifying information.

Worksheet C | Candidate & Policy Comparison

Fillable worksheet • Use the same questions for each candidate or proposal.

Office, issue, or policy being considered

Candidate or proposal A — position and source

Candidate or proposal B — position and source

Evidence or public record to verify

Potential benefits, costs, and tradeoffs

Questions I still need answered

Official source or sample-ballot website

This tool is for independent research. It does not rank candidates, recommend a vote, or require you to disclose your choice.

Worksheet D | Public Commitments Tracker

Fillable record • A promise is useful when you can check what happened.

Official / agency / office and staff contact

Date and place of statement or meeting

The issue or community request

What was promised? (Use exact words when possible)

Where can I verify it? (Notes, recording, letter, public document)

Response or progress to date

Follow-up person and date

Current status

Record accurately and fairly. A delayed or unfulfilled commitment is not automatically proof of dishonesty; document explanations and updates too.

Worksheet E | My 30-60-90 Day Plan

Fillable action page • Start with one achievable step.

My community priority

Within 30 days: learn, ask, or prepare

Within 60 days: connect, participate, or follow up

Within 90 days: act, review, or improve

Who can help or provide information?

What result will I look for?

My next review date

REMEMBER

A useful plan is one you can actually carry out. If circumstances change, RESET: review what you learned, revise your route, and keep moving.

Same Mission. Greater Impact.

One car. Different experiences. A shared future.

We began with five people traveling together. We looked in the rearview mirror without allowing it to become our destination. Jeremiah 29 reminded us that the welfare of the place where we live matters. RESET offered a way to navigate, think, and act when the road ahead is uncertain.

You do not have to agree with every person in your household, congregation, or neighborhood. You do not have to solve every problem or know every answer. But you can understand the issues, ask better questions, respect your neighbors, make informed choices, and follow through on the commitments that affect your community.

THE INVITATION

Know the issues. Ask better questions. Record the commitments. Serve the people. Measure the results.

Continue the Conversation

This guide is a starting point for families, individuals, and neighbors. For additional RESET resources, a guided readiness conversation, or assistance connecting the next steps, contact reggie@reggiebachus.com.

Important information

This report is educational and nonpartisan. It does not endorse candidates or parties or provide legal, financial, or individualized professional advice. Panelists' personal accounts and organizational figures are attributed to their testimony; they have not all been independently audited. Responsibilities and election rules differ by jurisdiction. Verify current information through official election offices, relevant public agencies, and qualified advisers.

About this conversation

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