

Our Vision

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your strength,
and with all your mind;
and your neighbor as yourself.”

Luke 10:27

Our Mission

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to:

WORSHIP God faithfully and joyfully, prayerfully seeking God’s direction for our lives;

NURTURE our faith in Jesus Christ through education and fellowship, growing in wisdom and deepening our relationship with God and one another;

SERVE one another, our community and the world with humility and love, relying on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to lead us in witnessing to the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Ministry Goals and Activities

1. **Provide worship that fulfills the diverse spiritual needs of our congregation and brings in new members.**
 - a. Increase multi-generational lay involvement in worship services. (Worship Committee reports plan; Spring, 2011)
 - b. Develop and implement innovative practices for welcoming newcomers that encourage repeat visitation. (Evangelism Committee reports on plan; Spring, 2011)
 - c. Continue and further develop Sunday worship services in a variety of styles. (Worship Committee reports plan; Summer, 2011)
 - d. Offer periodic unified worship services. (Worship Committee and worship staff reports annual schedule each; starting October, 2011)
 - e. Call a pastor who offers thought-provoking, intellectually challenging, Biblically based sermons which inspire us and provide guidance in our daily lives. (Pastor Nominating Committee; 2011)
 - f. Employ a highly qualified music director to lead the overall music ministry of the church. (Personnel Committee; hired 2012)

- g. Assess worship and music preferences of the congregation periodically and adjust accordingly. (Worship Committee reports plan; Fall, 2012)

2. Offer a wide variety of educational opportunities that equip us for discipleship while strengthening our Christian community.

- a. Provide a periodic educational offering on Presbyterian/Reformed theology, worship, polity and practice and their importance for our congregation. (Discipleship Ministry Committee and pastors begin offerings; Spring, 2011)
- b. Provide flexibility in scheduling commitments, program content and presentation style for lay teachers. (Discipleship Ministry Committee evaluate Workshop Rotation Model for children/youth and present plan on integrating other flexible models for adults; Spring, 2011)
- c. Develop an ongoing and varied ministry of small group Bible studies. (Discipleship Ministry Committee reports on plan; Spring, 2011)
- d. Increase the breadth of content, scheduling and style in educational offerings for students of all ages. (Discipleship Ministry Committee reports plan; Fall, 2011)
- e. Employ highly qualified staff to lead the Christian education ministry of the church. (Personnel Committee; 2012)
- f. Utilize external resources (UVA, PVCC, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Presbytery, etc.) to enrich our educational ministries and offer programs of interest to the broader community as well as our members. (Discipleship Ministry Committee begins; Fall, 2012)
- g. Complete the overall assessment of our church's educational program and develop a plan of action for approval and implementation. (Discipleship Ministry Committee reports plan; Fall, 2012)
- h. Develop an ongoing ministry to equip parents for faith development in the home. (Discipleship Ministry Committee reports on plan; Winter, 2012/13)

3. Create opportunities for fellowship that deepen relationships and foster a sense of community.

- a. Utilize technology more broadly and effectively to help promote and coordinate church activities and fellowship groups. (Member Care Team reports approach; Spring, 2011)
- b. Foster a friendly and welcoming environment through greeting and conversation, especially for newcomers and those we don't know. (Evangelism Committee reports approach; Summer, 2011)
- c. Offer fellowship activities, not less than quarterly, such as talent shows, film discussion groups, picnics with games, music events, book clubs and potluck meals, at times other than Sunday morning. (Fellowship Team reports plan; Summer, 2011)
- d. Cultivate youth participation in all aspects of church life. (Member Care Team reports plan; Fall, 2011)
- e. Plan activities to enhance attendance at Sunday morning Fellowship Time. (Fellowship Team reports plan; Summer, 2012)
- f. Increase small group and neighborhood offerings, special interest seminars and classes, social gatherings, activities for young adults, circles, retreats and mid-week fellowship. (Fellowship Team and Discipleship Ministry Committee reports plans; Summer, 2012)

- g. Create multi-generational mentoring opportunities, including opportunities for youth to mentor younger children. (Discipleship Ministry Committee reports plan; Spring, 2013)

4. Increase our commitment to Christian outreach ministry.

- a. Increase our participation in multi-church and community efforts that identify and address local needs. (Christian Outreach Committee reports plan; Spring, 2011)
- b. Continue and expand existing local, regional, national and international mission programs and trips, integrating and engaging all ages. (Christian Outreach Committee reports plan; Spring, 2011)
- c. Increase support to organizations with which we have a strong relationship, and which address critical needs, and through which we can become readily involved, such as Building Goodness Foundation, Habitat for Humanity and Presbyterian Education Board of Pakistan. (Christian Outreach Committee reports; Spring, 2011)
- d. Investigate the establishment of ongoing international mission efforts, such as sponsoring refugees, developing a sister church relationship or a similar relationship with a school, village or other entity. (Christian Outreach Committee reports; Fall, 2011)
- e. Investigate the possibility of maintaining a vegetable garden for our Soup Kitchen as a joint adult/youth/child project. (Christian Outreach Committee reports; Spring, 2012)
- f. Investigate opportunities to participate in rapid-response disaster relief services provided by organizations such as Red Cross or Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. (Christian Outreach Committee reports; Fall, 2012)

5. Support our church family.

- a. Identify means to better support the Deacons in addressing the expanding needs of the church. (Task Force formed jointly by Session and Board of Deacons; Fall, 2011)
- b. Promote a culture of participation, reliability and active engagement in the work of the church. (Task Force to develop a plan formed joint by Member Care Team and Stewardship; task force established; Spring, 2011)
- c. Establish an ongoing process of identifying and reaching out to members whose commitment to the church may be at risk. (Member Care Team reports process to the Board of Deacons and Session; Spring 2011)
- d. Establish “care groups” based on proximity, affinity or other factors, overseen by the Diaconate, to identify and provide support to members in need. (For example, errands, transportation, meals, etc.) (Health and Visitation Team reports plan to the Board of Deacons and Session; Fall, 2011)
- e. Establish a ministry to mentor new members (including confirmands) and engage them in the life and work of the church. (New Member Team and Discipleship Ministry Committee reports plan to establish ministry; Summer, 2012)

6. Unify the church around its mission and ministry through improved governance.

- a. Assign responsibility for each Ministry Activity and establish a timeline for the entire mission plan. (Session; October, 2010)
- b. Consider a youth nominee as elder and deacon annually. (Session change responsibilities of Nominating Committee; November, 2010)

- c. Develop a new web site, which can be easily maintained and updated, to improve communication and provide a positive image that will attract newcomers. (Web Site Task Force; Winter, 2010/11)
- d. Provide time and talent data to all ministry leaders. (Member Care Team reports process; Spring, 2011)
- e. Develop a plan to identify, recruit, train and support qualified persons for church leadership. (Task force formed jointly by Session and Board of Deacons; Spring 2011)
- f. Publicize further the work of Session and its committees, and the Board of Deacons and its teams in the First Pres and on the Internet, creating opportunities for member feedback. (staff reports plan; Spring, 2011)
- g. Improve communication among church leadership and the congregation through the use of traditional and innovative means (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, forum, blogs, etc.). (staff reports plan; Summer, 2011)
- h. Develop a staffing model for the church that supports its specific Ministry Goals most cost effectively. (Personnel Committee presents model; Winter, 2011/12)
- i. Recommend a Session-approved task force to provide an evaluation of the mission plan at its completion with recommendations of new Ministry Goals and Activities. (Session appoints task force; Spring, 2013)