

Mission Study Document

Approved by Session July 21, 2009

I. Who We Are

The Core Spiritual Identity (CSI) of Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

Why Do We Exist?

Our mission is to build confident followers of Jesus Christ who love God, neighbor and self.

What is God's vision for us?

We are called to be a community growing in love, compassion and justice.

What values guide our ministry?

- *We are led by our Session, Pastor and Area Leadership Team in prioritizing **spiritual practices** of worship, scripture study, and personal prayer as essential to develop a strong personal and corporate relationship with God.*
- *We **love** others where they are and we encourage them on their spiritual journey.*
- *We strive for **excellence** in teams and systems to honor God and inspire people.*
- *We **share Christ** with others in word and deed.*
- *We communicate the gospel in practical, meaningful, and **relevant** ways that touch the heart and head.*

What behaviors are we developing in people who desire to be confident followers of Jesus Christ?

We are leading people to...

Connect deeply with God through Christ-centered relationships.

Grow and mature to follow Jesus Christ in all areas of life.

Serve in ministry offering our resources, gifts, passions and strengths.

Share God's love by reaching out to others in word and deed.

Live worshipfully, practicing the presence of God as the dominant reality of our lives.

We are a local congregation of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

II. What We Are About

Key Ways - we do, and will continue to implement, our Core Spiritual Identity (CSI)

Outreach and Mission

At Community of Grace, one of the ways we build confident followers of Jesus Christ who love God, neighbor and self is through the ministry of Outreach and Mission.

Outreach and Mission exists to:

- **Invite** others to experience life as confident followers of Jesus Christ.
- **Welcome** genuinely all who are drawn to us by the Holy Spirit.
- **Serve** our local community, our nation and the world as the hands and feet of Christ. Service experiences are intergenerational, as well as geared for specific age groups.

Children's Ministry

Our nursery is open during worship with at least two staff nursery attendants and with volunteer support as needed. We believe that our nursery is a child's introduction to a God of amazing love as demonstrated through caring interactions. Safety and health are a priority. Pagers are provided to each parent during worship.

We provide opportunities for children to:

Worship: One service is designated for children to remain and worship with their family; the other service offers a separate children's worship time with music, a message, prayer and activity designed to engage a truth of God.

Grow: Sunday School is offered each Sunday during the school year (September to May) with teams of 3-4 teachers in each class committed to teaching a Bible story using FaithWeaver curriculum's use of interactive learning tools for different learning styles.

Serve / Connect: Tweens--5th-6th graders, have the opportunity to participate in ACTS (Accepting, Caring, Telling, Sharing), a program that serves and encourages interactions between Community of Grace and community Senior Citizens.

Outreach events such as Vacation Bible School, an annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Birthday Party for Jesus allow kids to invite friends to fun activities.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry is designed with a desire for REAL values: Relevant, Excellent, Active Participation, Love.

The **Message** is a program designed to help youth **grow** in understanding God's truths and **worship** Christ through a relevant message.

Sheer Fun events are planned for Sheer Fun – to allow kids to **invite** friends. Our annual Fast has become another tool for kids to **invite** others into the challenge of fasting to make a difference with a need around the world.

Connecting in Christ-Centered relationships through small group Bible Study, service and fun together is a priority to develop.

Mission trips primarily for youth, and intergenerational trips, offer opportunities to receive a life-changing blessing from **servicing and caring** for others in need.

Adult Ministry

Our desire is to welcome every adult and encourage them to enrich their relationship with God. We invite them to participate in adult ministries that highlight the key characteristics of building confident followers: **Connect, Grow, Serve, Share and Live worshipfully.**

Connect: Small groups allow interaction that connect and develop relationships within our faith community which are critical for building a strong body of Christ.

Grow: Sunday School classes offer opportunities to grow through Bible study, book discussion and relevant information sessions.

Serve: Service opportunities in our local community and beyond allow us to put our faith in action and experience the love God has for all creation.

Share: Sharing our faith through leadership and mentoring deepens our faith experience.

Live worshipfully: Practicing the presence of God as the dominant reality of our lives engages the dynamic component of the relationship and celebrates the gift of grace.

Recent examples of Ministries in place... Lunch Bunch Bible Study, Faces & Places of God Sunday activities, Taekwon Do, Salvation Army sandwich making and serving, Crossroads Food Co-op distribution location, Rebuilding Hope In New Orleans (RHINO) mission trip.

Family Ministry

Families are contacted monthly by their Deacon, and special care is offered during times of crisis. Ongoing prayer support is available through a **Prayer Chain** and **Prayer Team** on a daily / weekly basis.

We are currently encouraging our families to participate in **Summer Sunday Faces & Places of God** events to engage fellowship in partnership with service or entertainment. These events have included lunch with the homeless in Pioneer Park, visiting Tracy Aviary, group hikes, July 5th Pancake Breakfast, Royal Family Kid's Camp support, Salvation Army sandwich making / serving, and Jordan River Parkway clean up.

During the year quarterly service events and other fellowship activities are on the calendar.

Quarterly service events: Crossroads "Fall Leaf Haul" leaf raking, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Crossroads Turkey Giveaways, support for 10,000 Villages, Tree Utah / Tree Planting.

Worship

During the school year (September to May) we offer two Sunday worship celebrations with distinct styles. At 8:30 a.m. it is contemporary, with the Spirit of Joy band and communion around the table weekly. At 11:00 a.m. it is more traditional, with piano and choir, communion monthly and a Children's Message.

During the summer we offer one service (at 9:30 a.m.), followed by after-worship opportunities where people can experience the joy of God's creation through the places and faces of people in our community.

Operations and Finances

Excellent physical plant – Three building phases have been completed in the last 25 years. Outstanding location with adequate space inside and out (including parking) to handle considerable growth. No significant deferred maintenance.

Finances are down somewhat over recent past, but a new direction in stewardship planned for Fall 2009 is expected to close the gap, together with a better-communicated vision.

| Non-program staff is approximately 1 FTE and well organized / knowledgeable / efficient

III. Where We're Headed

Key Themes for 2009-10

A) Outreach and spiritual growth through hands-on practical ministry locally and short-term mission trips.

B) Deepening commitment to children and youth ministry leadership.

C) Leverage ALT (Area Leadership Team) organizational structure through:

1. Building / training ministry teams.
2. Developing Session as the center for ministry leadership and values.
3. Calling a permanent pastor supportive and skilled at collegial and mentoring / encouraging styles of leadership with staff, Session and individual elders.
4. We will retain and build on our ELT (Executive Leadership Team) by repositioning it into ALT (Area Leadership Team). Most of this is a matter of reshaping perceptions such that the Area Leaders are, and are seen as, servants / encouragers / coordinators / resource-ers / mentors, rather than "executives". We also plan on more deliberately working this way with Session as a body, and with individual elders to help them develop more fully in their spiritual leadership role(s).

D) Our congregation theologically is represented by the bell-shaped curve with fairly short tails. We have been evolving, and plan to continue evolving, an increasingly "balanced Christianity"; meaning deepening personal relationships with Christ, going deeper into knowledge and appreciation of scripture, and finding both faith expression and spiritual fellowship in a variety of service opportunities.

E) Developing small groups that enjoy meeting weekly to engage in study, support, service and outreach.

F) Extending the thematic use of water-related missions and teaching: *Clean Water for all God's Children, Come to the Waters Vacation Bible School*, etc. into all appropriate ministry areas, building on the vision of Rev 22: 1 – 2: "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."