



Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church

Ministry Vision & Plan

Why Do We Exist? (Our Purpose)

To know Christ and make Him known by gathering and forming mature, equipped disciples¹

How do we do Ministry? (Our Philosophy)

Through incarnational² ministry that patterns³ the presence of Christ in the lives of people⁴

How Do We Plan To Accomplish Our Vision? (Our Mission)

By Celebrating Christ, Equipping the Church and Engaging the World

We plan to Celebrate Christ in our brokenness through repentance and faith by Worship and Prayer:

Worship

- Brokenness: Forgiveness is celebrated ⁵
- Liturgical: Historically connected and culturally relevant⁶
- Doxology: Gathering, Praise and Adoration ⁷
- Discipleship: Reaching and Equipping to Send Out and Serve⁸

Prayer

- Individual: Private devotion and prayer
- Small Groups: Learning how to pray together
- Corporate Prayer: Emphasizing prayer in services, programs, and staff

We plan to Equip the Church for works of ministry through Discipleship and Serving:

Discipleship:

Experiencing Jesus' love for me in community⁹, loving Jesus with all of me, and growing in this truth in order to share Him with others.¹⁰

Continual Programs

- Men's Groups ¹¹
 - Providing focused discipleship to all adult men who will then disciple other men
- Women's Groups¹²
 - Providing focused discipleship to all adult women who will then disciple other women
- Community Groups ¹³
 - Providing intergenerational opportunities where members can belong, grow, and serve together
- Sunday School Communities¹⁴
 - Providing both age and interest based opportunities for people to belong, grow, and serve together
- Evensong¹⁵
 - Providing an opportunity at the end of the day to enjoy moments of reflection, singing and teaching.

Sliding Chart of Life on Life Discipleship¹⁶



Specific Programs

- New Members¹⁷
 - Providing new members foundational training that equips them to be contributing members of the church
- Sunday School Seminars¹⁸

General Opportunities

- Family Ministry¹⁹: Providing children and youth with a Biblical knowledge and understanding, in both heart and mind, which equips them to see the world and themselves as Christ does²⁰
- Counseling: Providing counseling help for our people to work through life issues in a gospel-centered way that will then equip them to help others facing similar issues.²¹
- Safe Places: Providing opportunities for all men, women, youth, and children to come out of isolation in order to share, heal²², grow, and change by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit²³

Serving

Stewarding well my resources of time, talents, and money²⁴

Time

- Providing opportunities for service on Sunday mornings to encourage volunteerism²⁵
- Providing resources to assist members in discovering their spiritual gifts

Talents

- Helping members find ministry service that fits their spiritual gifts²⁶
- Providing leadership training so members are equipped to serve others in leadership positions²⁷

Money

- Providing training on biblical principles regarding money, giving, and generosity
- Learning that God loves a cheerful giver who advances the works of ministry
- Utilizing the space in our buildings and outdoor areas for discipleship, fellowship, and outreach²⁸

We plan to Engage the World with the Gospel of Love and Hope by Partnering, Permeating, Promoting, Planning, and Providing²⁹:

Partnering

Aligning strategically with organizations both internally³⁰ and externally³¹

Permeating

Engaging in life on life missional living until Christ returns³²

Promoting

Imitating Christ through highlighting the needs of our current culture³³

Planting

Reserving resources to plant churches in Greenville and around the nation, leaning heavily toward international plants within the Greenville area and beyond³⁴

Providing

Organizing and enabling international missions and missions opportunities for Mitchell Road people³⁵

¹ A mature and equipped follower of Christ is one who:

Demonstrates a Love of God by:

- Cherishing the means of grace
- Being Gospel oriented in all of life

Displays a Love of neighbor by:

- Intentional relating with people
- Identifying with others
- Invading the lives of others with gospel truth

² A key verse in Scripture is “I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (Ezekiel 37:27b). Our God is a relational God as evidenced by the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – living eternally in relational communion. God made us for him and for his glory. He gave us relationship with each other, beginning with the institution of marriage, and he patterns for us this relationship through Christ’s coming in the carnal body to lead us home. Christ has come to make his dwelling among us (John 1:14), and in His holiness to also be eminent. We pattern his ministry by being incarnational and getting involved in the lives, although messy, of our neighbors, friends and family.

³ The pattern of Christ’s life is threefold. Christ Initiates into the lives of his disciples asking them to follow Him. Christ Identifies with us by being tempted in every way as we are and yet without sin. Christ Invades our lives with the truths of his Word.

⁴ The story of redemption is the foundation of Scripture: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration. This is sown into our lives as we realize we are created by God and for His Glory, we have Fallen into sin, Christ the Messiah has come to Redeem our lives, and one day we will be fully and finally Restored where every tear will be wiped from our eyes.

⁵ To achieve this we will incorporate exceptional testimonies into the worship services through video.

⁶ We desire continued development and evaluation of music ministry, with increased emphasis on Advent and Holy Week services. Every aspect of the service should be carefully crafted, executed with excellence. Music elements to be employed are broad, flexible, and interchangeable. The style should not draw attention to itself. Novelty should never be used for the sake of novelty. In the future, less distinction in style between services is preferred. We desire to provide the maximum amount of truth to the maximum amount of people in order to engage 90 percent of people, 90 percent of time. The Gospel is shallow enough for the unconvinced to dip their toes in, and the Gospel is deep enough for the most convinced to swim in.

⁷ Elements of liturgy: The worship services should be reformed, grace-driven, culturally sensitive, theologically astute, accessible for all ages and stages.

- A service of gathering, praise and adoration
- A service of confession and renewal
- A service of the Word
- A service of response

⁸ Discipleship in worship means the intent of the service is to make people want more depth of teaching, more warmth of fellowship, more time for praise and adoration, more involvement in the life of the Body. All of these elements cannot be experienced in the length of one service, but should increase one’s appetite for pursuing discipleship through other avenues.

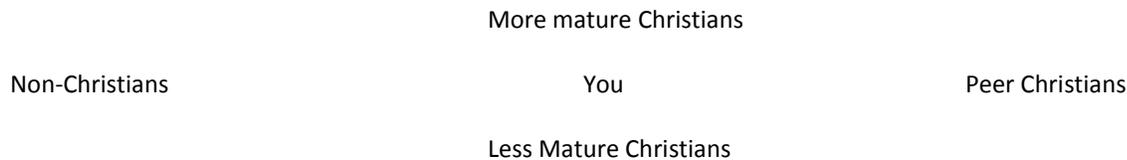
Biblical literacy: Preaching should be sufficient to satisfy the intellectual, inspire the seeker, challenge the self-sufficient, warn the wanderer, comfort the sorrowful and strengthen the weak.

Spiritual formation: The rhythm of the liturgy, the preaching of the Word and its application and the congregational response should be key in planning worship which forms people’s desires for more of Christ, His Word and His people.

⁹ Every member at Mitchell Road should belong to a community of believers for support, accountability, and encouragement.

¹⁰ A mature believer desires to share Christ with others.

- Focused discipleship equips our people to engage the community by service and winsome evangelism.
- We will prepare our congregation for works of mercy and compassion by demonstrating mercy and compassion to them in their times of need, training and encouraging them to do the same.
- Buildings and outdoor areas should be utilized for intentional ministry opportunities in our local community



¹¹ Small groups of men, usually 5-7, meet weekly with a well-qualified and trained leader for the purpose of becoming mature and equipped followers of Christ by the use of Truth, Equipping, Accountability, Mission, & Supplication. These groups provide excellent opportunities for fellowship and, in a "lite" manner, provide opportunity for service. Groups are offered weekly at a variety of times to allow men the opportunity to learn, study, pray and grow together in relationship with God and fellow believers (as they move out into the places where the unchurched live, work, and play).

¹² Women--The women's ministry seeks to establish a plan to disciple all adult women, both members and non-members, in the understanding that they are loved by God, teaching them to love Jesus and taking the good news of His redemption to others through study and service.

¹³ Community Groups are mostly intergenerational. They are men, women, and children connecting with one another over a meal, the discussion of that morning's sermon, and in active service to one another as well as their community (It is not essential to have heard the sermon to participate in Community Group.). Groups meet in homes all around Greenville from 5:30 to 7pm, and are led by a trained Facilitator who gets the conversation going. Sign up campaigns will take place in August and in January. Large Community Group-driven events will be offered, including Hands on Greenville and other service opportunities.

¹⁴ Sunday school classes consist of those members who are in the same age/stage OR who are interested in studying the same topics (in Adult Education Seminars). The fellowship that occurs as an outworking of these classes creates an opportunity for members to belong.

¹⁵ Evensong meets at 5:30pm on Sunday Evenings. It is not a stated service of worship. It is a vespers service where people enjoy coming back together on campus for a devotional time.

¹⁶ This chart show a sliding scale of life on life discipleship. Every program should be in some part equipping people for disciples. Meaning, each of these should be function within and applying the definition of discipleship. That is, *is experiencing Jesus' love for me in community, loving Jesus with all of me, and growing in this truth in order to share Him with others.* However, the best manifestation of life on life discipleship will occur through small groups where multiplication more easily occurs.

¹⁷ New Members Process

Taste of Mitchell Road:

This visitor reception will be held at least 4-5 times a year to allow guests and regular attenders to hear the testimony of the senior pastor and initiate engagement with the church beyond simple Sunday morning attendance

Membership Seminar:

Will be held 2-3 times a year

Will be purposefully structured and organized so as to

- Introduce potential members to the doctrines of the PCA
- Introduce potential members to the Mitchell Road culture/practices
- Teach the responsibility of stewardship in the areas of financial giving and serving
- Offer opportunities for new members to form connections with church leadership, staff, and other members

Member prospects will be interviewed and received by Elders in small group settings.

¹⁸ Adult Christian Education: Sunday Seminars

Gospel-centered discipleship trains believers to live the Christian life in a God-honoring way that is based on the gospel's teaching that we can only grow and change by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship training topics include but are not limited to: Basic Theological Terminology, Basics for a Healthy Marriage, Bible 101, Covenantal/Reformed Theology, Dealing with Aging Parents, Evangelism, How People Change, Vocation and Faith, Basic Bible Study, Living as a Christian in a Secular World, Idols in my Life, Intro to Philosophy, Overview of Church History, Parenting, Peacemakers, Legacy Planning, Sacraments, Missions, Spiritual Disciplines, The Christian and Finances, The Christian and Singleness, The Gospel of Grace, Discipleship, Spiritual Gifts, Heaven, World Religions.

¹⁹ Families--We desire for each family at Mitchell Road to become mature and equipped. A mature and equipped family is one in which parents are growing towards maturity in Christ and intentionally fostering an atmosphere in the home where each family member has the opportunity to know Jesus, be like Him, and experience His grace. In response to His unconditional love, the family is learning through obedience, joy, trials, suffering, serving, and repentance to live together in the fullness of God.

²⁰ Children and Youth--We will engage our children and youth in discipleship by sharing the Gospel through teaching, experiences, and relational opportunities that intentionally and purposefully communicate the transforming power of Jesus and disciple children and youth toward actively knowing Him. The children's ministry and youth ministry environments will be grace-centered, developmentally appropriate, safe, and enjoyable. Children and youth will be led to explore truth, worship together, learn the Bible and go out into a world to engage the culture with the message and power of the Gospel.

Children's Ministry

- Large Group and small group Events will include activities that support the vision of the church – celebrating Christ, equipping the church, and engaging the world, including VBS and other summer events.
- Weekly Discipleship activities are designed to lead children to Christ, deepen their relationships with Him, and give leaders an opportunity to engage children on a personal level. These include Sunday School and Children's Church.
- Relationship Opportunities include hang-out times and get-togethers designed as outreach events. Children are encouraged to bring friends and build relationships with one another.

Youth Ministry--Youth Ministry activities align directly with the vision for the church by

- Celebrating Christ in Jr. and Sr. High night programs
- Equipping the church body and discipling our students through Sunday School, Small groups, and Tuesday Morning prayer
- Engaging the world through mission trips, service projects, leadership teams, and our summer internship program

²¹ Pre-Marital Counseling--A God-honoring marriage is one where the couple is committed to working to become one together in all areas of life till death parts them. The Prepare-Enrich curriculum is designed to evaluate and help couples grow in the area of communication, conflict resolution, partner style and financial management, leisure activity and family, role responsibilities and spiritual life and the sexual relationship.

²² We plan to prepare a Stephen Ministry for those in deep need of relief from grief or tragedy. In this ministry one trained lay leader meets with and cares for another person over the course of a year.

²³ Safe Places--Safe Places is a system of carefully monitored, Biblically-based, anonymous support groups for people who struggle with life issues. These people meet together to share and discuss with others the specific, real sins and struggles that one battles every day, meeting at confidential times and in confidential places. The purpose is to create an environment where accountability, sharing, and confession can occur. Each Safe Place* is facilitated by a trained leader who seeks to provide an environment of grace and relationships of trust.

*We currently have Safe Places for Women who have conflicted relationships with food; Men who struggle with same sex attraction; Parents of children living non-heterosexual lives; Men who struggle with pornography; Wives of men struggling with pornography; Women who struggle with substance abuse; Men who struggle with substance abuse; Parents of prodigal sons and daughters; People who have chronic illnesses; Caregivers of the chronically ill.

²⁴ Life Stewardship at Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church--When it comes to serving the body, stewarding our time, our spiritual gifts, and our financial resources well should be as natural to us as worship, discipleship, and missions. Many people give their money sacrificially but fail to serve sacrificially, as well. Also, many give of their time but fail to give of their financial resource. Life Stewardship is about stewarding all of our resources toward the good and the growth of the body for the ultimate purpose of spreading the Gospel.

²⁵ Stewarding our Time: Because we believe the crux of what we do as a body centers on Sunday morning worship, and our desire is to engage our body toward serving one another during this time, all members will serve in some capacity on Sunday mornings at least one Sunday a month.

 Sunday Morning Volunteer Positions Include:

- First Impressions--Greeter, ushers, parking lot, bulletins, etc. This replaces the current elder greeter rotation
- Nursery (birth – K3)--This replaces the current system of mandatory member rotation
- Children's Church (K4 – K5)

²⁶ Serving the Body--We will encourage our every member to steward their time into serving consistently in one Sunday morning ministry.

²⁷ Leadership Training--Pastors and Ministry Leadership will begin to train all the CG Hosts and Facilitators, Journey Group Leaders, Sunday School Teachers, Youth small group leaders, Safe Place leaders, Women's Ministry Leaders, Visitation Team, Marriage Mentors, Crisis Mentors, and all men and women serving in leadership roles. We will develop an entry level training curriculum as well as a follow-up, yearly, training track. Trainers will implement their own approved strategy of further, specific training with trained leaders in their areas of oversight.

²⁸ Facilities--We seek to utilize our facilities in a way that aligns with our overall philosophy of ministry.

²⁹ The budget would be divided up as follows once we move to a one fund budget.

Provide 35%, Partner 35%, Promote 15%, Permeate 5%, Plant 10%

³⁰ Internally we partner with Campus Outreach, Hispanic Ministries, Mitchell Road Christian Academy and Greenville Fellows and our denominational agencies.

³¹ The external organizations that we partner with are Miracle Hill Ministries, Good News Club, Bethany Christian Services and Piedmont Women's Center.

³² Missional living means that we move into our culture through natural relationships. As we meet with people in the community, we encourage the work of God in their lives and seek to bring the individual to a knowledge of the grace and love of God through discipleship.

³³ We plan to accomplish this each year by highlighting a theme that God is concerned with. This theme will be worked into our life as a church through service projects for SSC, CG, Evensong, etc.

- At the end of each year, there will be a special offering to support a ministry related to that year's theme.
- We will provide two to three general events which can easily bring people into the church to show them a gospel of love and peace.
- We will look for current missionaries that we can highlight to bring attention to the theme's global relevance.

³⁴ The church planting fund would be an annual budgeted allowance to provide for a church planting opportunity in the near future.

³⁵ We prioritize missions opportunities for our people by promoting existing church generated outreach ministries, as well as the missions subsidy program and Intensified Missions Focuses. The missions subsidy program helps to provide funds for our members to take advantage of short-term mission trips. The Intensified Missions Focuses allow for us to promote international missions broadly, with a specific focus. (Currently, Kenya, Costa Rica and Peru are the proposed focuses.)