

UNITY CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

VISION & MISSION BLUEPRINT

Updated: 10/26/21

VISION

Embrace God, Embrace People, Embrace Purpose

EMBRACE GOD

Father wants us to know and believe that He Loves us. So, the Unity vision begins with receiving His embrace and the revelation of His unconditional love, as demonstrated through His son Jesus. In turn, we embrace Him and continually receive His embrace as we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior and walk with Him daily.

GOALS

1. To cultivate intimate personal relationships with Father God through His Son, Jesus.
2. To build and maintain a culture that compels us to advance the kingdom of God, based on our relationship with the Father.
3. To foster personal and corporate experiences in Father's manifested presence.
4. To facilitate the discovery of our individual and corporate Christ-centered identity.
5. That the above goals be multigenerational in their impact.

ACTION STEPS include but are not exclusive to:

1. Foster a culture of personal and corporate praise and worship.
2. Foster a culture of personal and corporate prayer and study of the Bible.

EMBRACE PEOPLE

We value personal relationships. Our love for one another grows as we share life, experiences, vision & mission. We also embrace people beyond our walls as we love, serve, and share the message of Christ. We also embrace the body of Christ at large by developing relationships with other churches and believers beyond our walls. (Psalm 133 & John 17:20-23)

GOALS: EMBRACE PEOPLE WITHIN OUR CHURCH

1. Foster a loving and welcoming environment for all without compromising Biblical truth.
2. Create an environment of unity and harmony with one another.
3. Foster a culture that actively embraces forgiveness, reconciliation, and living unoffended. A culture that shuns gossip, slander, and coarse speech between one another.



4. Create opportunities for people who have not received Jesus as Lord and Savior to receive salvation.
5. Have at least 75% attender participation in U-Group life.

ACTION STEPS

1. Be intentional about fostering a loving and welcoming culture during gatherings.
2. Purposefully create opportunities for fellowship gatherings
3. Open our homes to one another for connecting outside of church gatherings.
4. Teach and apply Biblical principles that reinforce positive relationships.

GOALS: EMBRACE PEOPLE BEYOND OUR WALLS

1. Foster and facilitate a culture of “Neighboring” as the cornerstone of our evangelistic outreach: love, service and relationship with our neighbors, and those in our sphere of influence in a way that opens opportunities for salvation.
2. Foster and facilitate racial unity in our community.
3. Be actively involved in individual and corporate activities, programs, and service projects within the community.
4. Make our facility available to the public.
5. Raise awareness and increase involvement in missions.

ACTION STEPS

1. Promote the importance of embracing people outside our walls through teaching, testimonies, activities, and campaigns.
2. Be intentional about getting to know our neighbors; seeking opportunities to serve them, pray for them, and spend time with them.
3. Church leaders actively support and promote the concept of neighboring by committing to do it themselves.
4. Ensure that U-groups promote neighboring.
5. Actively use all forms of media and social media to make the community aware of events and activities at the church.
6. Discuss and implement ideas and strategies that will raise awareness and interest in missions.

GOALS: EMBRACE PEOPLE AS A PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST AT LARGE

1. Work together with other Christ centered congregations to promote and model unity between congregations within our city.
2. Foster and facilitate racial unity and reconciliation within the body of Christ in our community because “We are better together.”
 - a. Psalm 133; Colossians 3:8-15
 - b. “From every nation, one family, one body, one temple, in Christ, His Love, no walls. (Revelation 5:9; Ephesians 2:14-21)

3. Work together with other Christ centered congregations to love, serve, and reach our community for Christ. Recognizing that one church will never be able to completely love and reach the city on its own.

ACTION STEPS

1. Promote events and activities that foster unity within the body of Christ in our community.
2. Facilitate racial unity within the body of Christ in our community. This includes promoting the Racial Unity Network and voluntary participation by our members.
3. Active involvement in City Church

EMBRACE PURPOSE

We embrace purpose and desire to be an equipping church, helping people live balanced, healthy and victorious lives. We want to help people know and understand why they are here, and empower them to fulfill their divine purpose. A vital part of this is also helping people discover and understand their S.H.A.P.E. (Psalm 139:16; Ephesians:2:10; Ephesians 4:11-12).

S.H.A.P.E.

- **Spiritual Gifts:** Father gives every believer spiritual gifts to be used in ministry, as found in 1 Corinthians 12, and Romans 12; 2.
- **Heart:** Those areas of particular interest and passion for us. They are often indicators of where and how we might serve most effectively.
- **Abilities:** God given talents and abilities, i.e. singing or aptitude for mathematics.
- **Personality:** Our behavioral characteristics and qualities.
- **Experiences:** Life's experiences that have helped form our view of God, ourselves, others, and the world around us.

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GOALS

1. Foster and facilitate an environment that teaches and encourages people to discover, and actively serve from their S.H.A.P.E.
2. Foster and nurture a culture of serving within the church, the community, and beyond.

ACTION STEPS

1. Teaching that guides people to an understanding of their S.H.A.P.E.
2. Actively create a variety of opportunities for people to serve and walk out their areas of calling within the church and community.

MISSION

Make & Equip Disciples To Advance God's Vision For Our Church

Unity's definition of a disciple: A follower of Christ who desires to grow and mature spiritually and help others do the same. A Christian who is learning to feed themselves & others.

- Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28: 19, 20; Galatians 5: 25; and 2Timothy 2:2

GOALS

1. Foster and facilitate a culture of discipleship that provides opportunities and experiences for people to grow and mature, as a whole person, spirit, soul, and body.
2. Foster and facilitate a spiritual learning environment that helps people become intentional about learning and applying Biblical principles that will help them live healthy and victorious lives.

CORE VALUES

1. **Father's Embrace:** We value the reciprocal relationship with Father as we walk with Him daily, and receive revelation of His love.
2. **God's Word:** We value the Bible as the infallible Word of God.
3. **The Gospel of Salvation:** We value reaching all people with the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We value "Neighboring".
4. **Shared Experiences:** Community is built as we share life experiences, vision, and mission that deepen our Christ centered relationships.
5. **U Groups:** We value small group ministry as an integral part of our vision and mission.
6. **Serving:** We value providing ministry to individuals and groups both inside and outside our walls.
7. **Five Fold Ministry:** We value the five-fold ministry model and the manifestation of Spiritual gifts as important for equipping people and helping them embrace their God given purpose. Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11; and Romans 12: 6-8
8. **Prayer:** We value the rhythm of prayer:
 - a. Communing with Father God in prayer, worship and meditation
 - b. Regular prayer with family and/or other small groups
 - c. Congregational prayer
 - d. Praying regularly with the churches in our city
9. **The Body of Christ:** We value embracing the Body of Christ beyond our walls.

METHOD

How We Carry Out Our Vision & Mission

DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

Our process is the “how” in moving people through levels of spiritual growth and maturity. The goal of our process is to equip and empower disciples to model a holistic Biblical lifestyle that also positively impacts the lives of others.

PROGRAMS

Our programs and ministries facilitate our process. They are the tools to help people grow and mature spiritually. Programs and ministries are in partnership to effectively accomplish our vision and mission.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Our services are a primary entry point and starting place for discipleship. They are a conduit for experiencing the embracing love of the Father through vibrant and intimate worship. We foster a welcoming environment where attendees experience the love of God and share that love with one another. It is a place where non-Christians can encounter the transforming love of Jesus, providing them with the opportunity to receive him as Lord and Savior. In our services, people are empowered and equipped through the teaching and preaching of the Bible. We promote an atmosphere where the Holy Spirit is manifest, particularly through the gifts of the Spirit. Our services also provide the opportunity for people to embrace serving others in a variety of ways.

U-GROUPS

A U-Group is UCJC’s version of a small group. They are a regular gathering of 6-12 people sharing life, experiences, vision, and mission together in the name of Christ. We desire those attending Sunday service to also be active in a U-Group as a next step in discipleship. Being in small groups affords us opportunities to see our vision, mission and values realized in ways that might be more difficult in the larger setting of a Sunday service. U-Groups can also serve as an entry point for non-Christians to begin their journey into discipleship.

VARIOUS CLASSES

Our classes are designed to give an understanding of who we are as a church, provide spiritual growth and equip people for life, leadership and purpose at Unity and beyond.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

The primary goals for Unity Christian Campus Ministry (UCCM) are:



1. To engage the PSU students attending our services and encourage them to take the next steps in discipleship by:
 - a. Engaging in activities offered by our campus ministry.
 - b. Participating in other aspects of church life.
 - c. Practice the principles of “Neighboring”, and inviting other students to get involved with UCCM.
2. Engage Penn State students who are not involved in a Christian fellowship with the goal of them entering our discipleship process.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH & Y.O.U

We desire that our vision and mission culture be an intentional part of our youth programs, in age-appropriate ways. To this end, we develop clear goals and desired outcomes for each level. We see this as a progressive and incremental process with each level of the program connecting to the next, moving our children toward salvation, spiritual growth, and maturity into adulthood.

Clarity

It is important for our leaders (Pastors, Elders, EC, Deacons, Ministry Heads) and members to be clear about our vision and mission, and be committed to executing it.

Alignment

The essence of the Father’s heart for alignment is found in Philippians 2:2, “then make my joy complete by being like minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.” It’s the unification of all leaders, staff, programs, and ministries around the same vision, mission, and process.

Our leaders must be committed to facilitating a culture centered around our vision, mission, and process. While creating this culture within each ministry, each leader has the freedom to execute it with creativity and age-appropriate focus.