

UNITY CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

VISION & MISSION BLUEPRINT

Updated 2/2/2022

VISION: Who We Are

A Lighthouse of Unconditional Love

Following John 13:35, our vision is to be a lighthouse of unconditional love for all people. We are a beacon that both draws people to Christ and guides them through the waters of life. Out of our relationship with God, we cultivate meaningful relationships with those within our church, others in the body of Christ and non-Christians. As a result, we are a church that facilitates healing, restoration and discipleship.

MISSION: What We Do

Embrace God, Embrace People, Embrace Purpose

Please note: any reference to “community” includes Penn State University.

EMBRACE GOD

Father wants us to know Him and believe that He Loves us. So, the Unity mission begins with receiving His embrace and the revelation of His unconditional love, as demonstrated through the life and finished work of Jesus Christ. In turn, we embrace Him as we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior and walk with Him daily. This empowers us to effectively embrace others and live in God’s purpose.

GOALS

1. To help people cultivate intimate, personal relationships with Father God through His Son, Jesus, and live lives led by the Holy Spirit.
2. To foster personal and corporate experiences in God’s manifested presence.
3. To facilitate the discovery of our individual and corporate Christ-centered identity.
4. To foster a culture of prayer, worship and study of the Bible.
5. To ensure that the above goals are multigenerational in their impact.

ACTION STEPS

1. Be intentional and creative about facilitating opportunities for people to experience God’s presence and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
2. Take advantage of resources and teaching that equips people to apply personal prayer, worship and Bible study as spiritual disciplines.



EMBRACE PEOPLE

We value meaningful relationships within our church. Our love for one another grows as we share life, experiences, and our vision and mission. We embrace people beyond our walls as we love, serve, and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We 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:

EMBRACING PEOPLE WITHIN OUR CHURCH

1. Foster a loving and welcoming environment for all, without compromising biblical truth.
2. Foster a culture of unity and harmony that actively embraces forgiveness, reconciliation, and resisting offense; a culture that shuns gossip, slander and coarse speech.
3. Maintain an atmosphere where people who have not received Jesus as Lord and Savior are compelled to receive salvation.
4. Have at least 75% of those attending our services active in U-Group life.
5. Foster and facilitate a culture of discipleship.

ACTION STEPS

1. Teach and reinforce what it means to have a loving, welcoming culture.
2. Purposefully create opportunities for fellowship through church functions.
3. Open our homes to one another for connecting outside of church gatherings.
4. Teach and apply biblical principles that reinforce positive relationships.
5. Provide opportunities for people to grow and mature holistically, spirit, soul and body.

GOALS:

EMBRACING PEOPLE BEYOND OUR WALLS

1. Foster and facilitate a culture of “neighboring” as the cornerstone of our evangelistic outreach.
 - a. Neighboring is love, service and building relationships with our neighbors, and those in our spheres of influence in a way that opens opportunities for people to encounter Jesus.
2. Foster and facilitate racial unity in our community.
3. Be actively involved in individual and corporate activities, programs, and service opportunities within the community.
4. Develop a reputation in the community that we are a church that is open, active and welcoming.
5. Increase awareness and involvement in missions.

ACTION STEPS

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

GOALS:

EMBRACING PEOPLE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST AT LARGE

1. 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.
2. Foster and facilitate racial unity and reconciliation within the body of Christ in our community. “From every nation, one family, one body, one temple, in Christ, His Love, no walls. (Revelation 5:9; Ephesians 2:14-21, Psalm 133; Colossians 3:8-15)

ACTION STEPS

1. Promote events and activities that foster unity within the body of Christ in our community.
2. Promote congregational participation in Christ-centered organizations and events that work toward racial unity (e.g. Racial Unity Network).
3. Remain actively involved 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 divine purpose personally and corporately. 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)

Defining S.H.A.P.E.

- **Spiritual Gifts:** Father gives every believer spiritual gifts to be used in daily life and ministry. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:6-8).
- **Heart:** Those areas of particular interest and passion. 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.

**Used with permission from Saddleback Church*

GOALS

1. Make and equip disciples
 - a. Our Definition of a Disciple: A follower of Christ who desires to grow and mature into the image of Christ and help others do the same. A Christian who is growing in their ability to effectively feed themselves and others. (Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28:19-20; Galatians 5:25; 2 Timothy 2:2)
2. To build and maintain a culture that compels us to advance the kingdom of God, out of our relationship with Him.
3. Foster and facilitate an environment that teaches and encourages people to discover and actively serve from their S.H.A.P.E.
4. Foster and nurture a culture of serving within the church, the community and beyond.

ACTION STEPS

1. Teach principles that guide people into 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.
3. Offer opportunities that help people become intentional about learning and applying biblical principles that 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" as the foundation of our outreach strategy at Unity.
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. **Service:** We value serving and 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; Romans 12:6-8)
8. **Prayer:** We value the rhythm of prayer:
 - a. Daily communing with 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

The Various Ways 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 connect with others, and grow spiritually. Programs and ministries are in partnership to effectively accomplish our vision and mission.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Our services are one 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

U-Groups, or “Unity Groups” are UCJC’s version of small group ministry. They are a regular gathering of 6-12 people sharing life, experiences, vision, and mission together in the name of



Jesus Christ. We desire those attending Sunday services to also be active in a U-Group as a next step in discipleship. Being in small groups affords us opportunities to connect and see our vision, mission and values realized in ways that might be more difficult in a larger setting. 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. Engage Penn State undergraduate students who are not involved in a Christian fellowship with the goal of guiding them into an experience of God's love and salvation.
2. Equip Penn State undergraduate students for holistic growth and discipleship by:
 - a. Engaging in activities offered by our campus ministry.
 - b. Participating in other aspects of Unity church life.
 - c. Practicing the principles of "neighboring," and inviting other students to get involved with UCCM.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH & Y.O.U.

We desire that our vision and mission be an intentional part of our youth programs in age-appropriate ways, with clear goals and outcomes for each level. This process is designed to be progressive and cohesive. Each stage connects to the next and moves our children toward salvation, spiritual growth and maturity in adulthood.

Clarity

It is important for our leaders and members to understand our vision and mission, and be committed to executing it.

Alignment

Philippians 2:2 reads, "then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose." This is the essence of the Father's heart for alignment. It's the unification of every aspect of the church around the same vision, mission and process.

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

