

VISION STATEMENT FOR NORTH PARK CHURCH with strategies FOR OFFICERS, STAFF AND LEADERS

approved 11-12-12, amended 6-17-13

As our God gives us grace, together we will grow to be a church that:

WORSHIPS

(Relates to God)

** Delights in God, as we extol His greatness and celebrate His grace.*

In support of this vision we intend to:

1. Employ a full-time worship pastor (Brooke) who is responsible to lead the implementation of this vision and specifically to:
 - a. Work with the pastors and gifted volunteers to make our Sunday worship experiences (adult & students) more glorifying to God, edifying to His children and convicting for those who visit.
 - b. Develop the musical and worship-leading capacities of our members.
 - c. Develop and oversee a team of volunteers to provide technical support for worship arts.
2. Live as examples of passionate worshippers
3. Humbly, earnestly and frequently ask God for His presence and power in our worship.
4. Teach from God's word about the primacy of worship for believers, families and the church.
5. Maintain an approach to worship that is joyfully God-centered, focused on His glory and grace.
6. Challenge and equip our members to come to Sunday worship prepared and motivated to worship with full heart and focus.
7. Improve the audio-visual capacities of our worship center and surrounding rooms
8. Utilize a blended offering of musical styles and lyrical selections for our musical praise.
9. Make prayer a primary value of our small groups.
10. Offer, in addition to Sunday worship and small groups, special opportunities for prayer, such as prayer weeks, prayer fellowship, Sunday School classes devoted to prayer, prayer walking.
11. Provide Children & Worship for young children in order to support the parents in training their children to appreciate and participate in corporate worship.
12. Creatively lead and engage those of all ages in our corporate worship services.
13. Challenge and equip parents to lead family worship in the home.
14. Provide students with high-energy and participatory worship environment in youth group meetings

** Pursues God through Biblical education for children, students, and adults.*

In support of this vision we intend to:

1. Employ highly-trained and gifted pastors, as well as a director of children's ministries, who are responsible to lead in the implementation of this vision.

2. Walk as examples of disciples who love the truth and are continuing to grow in knowledge and wisdom.
3. Maintain a pulpit ministry that is marked by Scriptural fidelity, theological depth and practical insight.
4. Provide Sunday School classes for all ages that will grow attendees in biblical knowledge, theological understanding and practical application
5. Provide opportunities for growth and training outside the Sunday morning context, such as women's studies, student ministry events, and special classes.
6. Maintain a website and resource center with written and audio resources to support our members in their personal spiritual development.
7. Cultivate small-groups that grow together using Biblically-sound curriculum.
8. Challenge and equip parents to teach God's word to their children.
9. Implement a Bible memory program that regularly encourages the congregation (including children, students, and adults) to memorize specific scripture texts together.
10. Utilize various gifted teachers to open God's word at Youth Group meetings.
11. Provide apologetics training for students through short and creative weekend retreats through multiple and diverse DVD curricula (i.e. True U Weekends).
12. Provide teaching and resources for parents and their children in written form through weekly and special emails (i.e. SM Scrolldown, TheParent, etc.) and through social media (i.e. Facebook posts).
13. Recruit and equip an adult team to effectively and passionately mentor and instruct students from the Bible in both long-term and short-term small groups.
14. Equip selected students through a powerful Student Leadership Program designed to promote Christian maturity and leadership skills.

CONNECTS

(Relates to one another)

** Loves one another, providing care, growth and accountability in quality small groups and other contexts.*

In support of this vision we intend to:

1. Employ a pastor for inreach (Bobby) who will be responsible to implement this vision, and specifically to:
 - a. Recruit, motivate, train and supervise small-group leaders.
 - b. Promote small-group involvement and assist members and friends in connecting with new or existing groups.
 - c. Lead two small groups that will serve as models.
2. Require that active elders participate in or lead a small group
3. Promote the participation of our members in small groups through announcements, testimonies and pastoral exhortation.
4. Convey to our new members through the membership class, the value of small group participation and expect new members to participate in body-life outside of corporate worship.

5. Maintain a small-group philosophy that places the primary emphasis on relationships and prayer rather than study and ministry.
6. Devise and execute other means of promoting real connection for individuals and families within our fellowship – such as church dinners, saltshakers, holiday events, etc
7. Support mens/womens ministries led by laymen, the primary purpose of which is to provide points of connection for men and women
8. Devise, establish and maintain a means of regular connection with church members who are not in small groups.
9. Utilize our diaconate as key leaders in the ministry of hospitality and mercy.
10. Promote contexts before, during and after worship for relational connection. This would include Sunday School, greeters, and greeting time before sermon.
11. Maintain and encourage specific connectional opportunities for children, students, young adults and seniors within our body.
12. Routinely teach from the pulpit and in other contexts, such as new member classes, the importance of edifying relationships in the body of Christ.
13. Improve our buildings & grounds (kitchens, play areas, pavilions) with an eye toward enhancing connection for those on our campus.
14. Develop a supportive community in which the gifts and resources of our members are used to meet the spiritual and physical needs of our members.
15. Encourage attenders and students to become active members and provide training for such.

IMPACTS

(Relates to the world around us)

** Advances the gospel of Christ through proclamation, compassion and service, locally and globally.*

In support of this vision we intend to:

1. Employ a director of outreach (Bruce) who is responsible to lead the implementation of this vision, and specifically to:
 - a. lead a local outreach team that will develop and execute a plan for local outreach
 - b. lead a missions committee that will guide our church's engagement with the world missions enterprise
 - c. link our church with others in cooperative mission
2. Humbly, earnestly and frequently petition Heaven for salvific blessings on our witness and ministry.
3. Frequently challenge and encourage impacting mission via testimonies and stories in our worship services and newsletter.
4. Teach from God's word about our responsibility, opportunity and empowerment to impact the world.
5. Live as examples of missional discipleship, serving the Lord outside the church when and where He appoints.

6. Prayerfully be alert for new opportunities to invest in another regional church-plant.

PROCLAMATION

7. Regularly (at least annually) provide evangelism training to equip our members for personal witness.

8. Maintain a pulpit ministry that is always sensitive to the presence of the unconverted and will regularly include gospel challenge appropriate for those who are lost.

INVITATION

9. Create contexts that will appeal to the unchurched in order to attract them to join with us. This begins with worship services (especially Christmas and Easter), but also includes events like the chili cook-off, daddy-daughter dance, ladies Christmas tea, trap-shooting, gingerbread house etc.

10. Regularly remind our members that lives are changed when people get around the word of God and the people of God. An invitation can mean a life transformed.

COMPASSION

11. Encourage and equip our members and small groups to engage in service to the local community as a practical expression of love and as a “door opener” to share gospel hope.

12. Regularly offer information on how our members can engage in compassionate endeavors sponsored by other agencies within our community.

13. Offer special opportunities for NPC members to participate together in compassionate ministry, such as GO Compassion Day.

14. Prayerfully discern what needs exist locally which our Lord may call NPC to fill or partner with other churches or agencies in filling, especially needs affecting groups that often are more open to the gospel, such as first-time parents, divorcees, couples in crisis etc.

GLOBAL

15. Maintain and support a Missions Committee that will spearhead our support of and engagement in the world missions enterprise.

- a. Increase our missions giving incrementally
- b. Endeavor to invest more deeply in a limited number of ministries
- c. Plan and execute missions trips for NPC members and students
- d. Keep the congregation acquainted with and praying for the missions we support