

## INTRODUCTION

In December of 2007, Community Church began a planning and review process that would help us better understand how to serve the Lord as a body of believers. This process has been rooted in prayer, anchored in the Scriptures, and saturated with a sincere desire to seek the Lord of the Church to lead and guide us. What you hold in your hands is a summation of hundreds of hours of reflection, study, prayer, discussion, and planning. It is our heart-felt conviction that this lays out the next chapter of ministry focus and emphasis for Community Church.

# Toward a Compelling Vision & Beyond

—summary version of planning—



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*"Helping more people become wholehearted followers of Jesus Christ"*

## **SUMMARY OF THE PROCESS**

Those involved in the planning and review were the members of the Church Council, the Management Team, our Pastors and Directors, members of our church staff, and several at-large members. These individuals were organized into four teams in September, 2008:

- **THE PRAYER TEAM**

*(to become a church marked by a culture of prayer);*



- **THE NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

*(to conduct a survey measuring church health);*



- **THE REVEAL TEAM**

*(to survey our congregation's spiritual growth and address any shortcomings);*



- **THE ROUND TABLE TEAM**

*(to gather valuable feedback from our congregation and make recommendations in areas needing improvement).*

4 teams formulated recommendations central to our health and growth. Representatives from each team were assembled into the Integration Group where the findings were merged. After months of review and discussion, a single plan was developed and compiled, reviewed, and organized into a larger 50 page document. This brochure is a summary of that larger compilation of strategic foci.

## **PLAN SUMMARY**

The Integration Group embarked on a process to first define the scriptural mandates for the church. They concluded that the 4-C model which Community Church has embraced since its inception continues to be the single best summary of the biblical guidelines for this church. Those 4-C's are:



***COMMUNICATING CHRIST TO THE WORLD***



***CELEBRATING NEW LIFE IN CHRIST***



***CULTIVATING PERSONAL GROWTH IN CHRIST***



***CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST***

In addition, they sensed that the central role of prayer could not be adequately organized into one of those categories and so we designated prayer as the 5<sup>th</sup> primary focus to our planning.

Subteams were formed to work on individual parts of the plan. Thirteen initiatives emerged from our planning process and are defined in this brochure.

## INITIATIVE SUMMARIES



### **PRAYER FOCUS THAT INVOLVES ALL 4 Cs:**

- **ESTABLISH A CULTURE OF PRAYER:** *We will take steps to move beyond just adding prayer to what we already are doing to becoming a church where prayer saturates every part of our ministry both individually and corporately.*
- *The Prayer Development Team was formed in 2008 to lead the church toward reaching this goal of establishing “a culture of prayer.” This team committed to learning what the Bible teaches about prayer, then, drawing clues from the survey data as well as our current prayer practices. They formed recommendations to each of the four purposes of the church (the 4 C’s) about how we can align more with biblical definitions of prayer.*



### **COMMUNICATE CHRIST TO THE WORLD**

- **DEVELOP COMMUNITY DRIVEN OPPORTUNITIES:** *We will form two pilot small groups organized around a mission or service project impacting our community, region, or world in the name of Christ. These 2 groups will seek to build bridges of influence based upon the concepts from the book **The Church of Irresistible Influence**.*
- **SHARPEN OUR EVANGELISM TRAINING:** *We will encourage the church and its leaders to increase their evangelistic intensity and efforts in their neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools. We will equip and release people to share the gospel by using existing small groups, CLDs, and weekend service structures.*



## **CELEBRATE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST**

- **INTENSIFY OUR WORSHIP SERVICES BY ADDRESSING THE BIBLE CONTENT, MESSAGE PLANNING, AND RELEVANCE OF SERIES:** *We will expand our emphasis on the teaching and preaching of God's Word not only in our worship services but also any gathering of God's people (i.e., small groups, Bible studies, CLDs, etc). As our central authority and as an essential element to God-honoring worship, the Scriptures should be woven into services—both in the planning and in the gathered time together. It is our goal to have anointed teaching of God's Word through the power of the Spirit to all those ready and hungry to be taught.*
- **IMPROVE THE NATURE AND INTENSITY OF OUR INSPIRING WORSHIP SERVICES:** *It is our conviction that our weekend services can be transformative; events where people can come with anticipation and sense the presence of God in such a way that when they leave the gathering they will be changed, challenged, and encouraged. In short, it is our goal that every weekend service be inspiring and engaging.*



## **CULTIVATE PERSONAL GROWTH IN CHRIST**

- **PROVIDE A CLEAR PATHWAY TO GUIDE GROWTH:**  
*We will provide the development of a biblically consistent pathway for progressive spiritual growth. We will lead the congregation through this pathway by increasing the number of qualified teachers, further developing and offering sequential discipleship courses 101-401 levels, revising and composing the spiritual gifts class, applying the HEARTED acronym throughout ministries, developing more prayer leaders, and encouraging believers to develop personal Bible reading and study habits.*
- **HELP DEVELOP PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST:**  
*It is our goal to help every person move deeper and closer to Jesus as the central focal point of the Christian faith. Action steps include offering instruction in the spiritual disciplines that Scripture defines as crucial to growth.- We have great material already formulated with the HEARTED acronym and we will increase the visibility and use of the material during teaching, increasing participation in the "core" and "sequential" CLD courses defining a pathway of spiritual growth, modeling and practicing biblical patterns of prayer, and by recognizing the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in spiritual growth.*
- **CHURCH LEADERS MODEL HOW TO GROW:** *Leaders are given unique responsibilities to provide a model of devotion that is worth emulating. To help our leaders deepen their spiritual lives, we will pursue the development of a Leadership Covenant to help leaders become more dedicated and intentional about modeling a maturing walk with Christ, and leading the congregation by example. In addition, we will seek to find more opportunities for our leaders to become more visible and their testimony known.*
- **SR. PASTOR MODELS AND REINFORCES HOW TO GROW:**  
*More than any other single individual, the Senior Pastor must provide a compelling example of devotion to Christ. This will be accomplished by transparently living out an authentic, ever-growing life in Christ as an essential part of his service to Christ and the church. This initiative lays out ways for the Sr. Pastor to be more intentional and transparent in his efforts to model growth in Christ.*



## CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST

- **IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS:** *Central to caring for one another is the vital role of communication. We intend to develop more effective ways to express and share body life issues. Our goal is to help all of us stay more informed about church vision, direction, and happenings. Possible communication vehicles include the church website, e-mail, micro newsletters, and yearly Roundtable meetings.*
- **CONFLICT RESOLUTION, HARMONY, AND UNITY:** *We will seek to better equip the church in conflict resolution steps, and pursue harmony and unity in our congregation. Our goal is to pursue conflict resolution skills as we would any other ministry of the church, and thus be devoted to one another in brotherly love so that nothing can harm our unity and fellowship.*
- **EXIT INTERVIEWS:** *When people decide to leave Community Church, we will offer an exit interview with leaders from the Church Council. The goal of this initiative is to help people leave well for their health, for the health of the church, to come to understand more about ourselves as a church, and find better ways to serve people as we serve Christ.*
- **SR. PASTOR CASTS A VISION THAT CAPTURES YOUR HEART:** *Cast a compelling vision that causes energies to be organized and focused toward some specific picture is vital to the life and health of the church. When attenders understand this vision and "own it", there is greater joy and effectiveness in our ministry efforts. Compelling vision aids in helping Christ to be exalted in the lives of people. Community Church has had a clear and succinct vision statement for years now and it is imperative that this remain operational while other strategic elements are continually developed as we grow and sense God's leadership. We will seek to clarify how every ministry effort connects to the vision focus for which God has given to us.*

## WHAT AM I TO DO?

In response to these 13 initiatives, we are asking the congregation to do 2 things which we believe are absolutely essential to the successful implementation of this plan.

First, in the Business Meeting on February 21, it will be our desire to have the membership of the church formally vote to affirm these action steps and set in motion the ongoing development of our church's health and vitality. Please plan to attend that historic business meeting as we review and affirm these initiatives as a guiding strategic plan.

Second, we would like to ask the entire church body (members and regular attenders) to affirm the following 5 Affirmations as their pledge of ownership and plan for growth. These 5 statements flow from the heart beat of the 13 strategic initiatives and form a unity between the leadership and congregation. Please review these and be prepared in the February 21<sup>st</sup> weekend services to respond to this covenant challenge.

## 5 COVENANT AFFIRMATIONS I EMBRACE AS AN ATTENDER/ MEMBER OF COMMUNITY CHURCH:

- *I will seek to become a praying Christian in all facets of my life. I will learn to pray biblically, continuously, corporately, and passionately in faith.*
- *I will learn to share my faith with others both verbally and by my changed life. I will seek to initiate spiritual conversations and tell people about the hope found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*
- *I will seek to cultivate a passionate joy at the heart of my Christian life. This joy will be focused on Jesus and anchored in the Scriptures. It will guide me into private devotion and corporate worship.*
- *I will accept that my spiritual growth is my responsibility. I will strive to read the Bible regularly and learn to study in a variety of settings (at home, in small groups, through Christian Life Development classes, etc.). In short, I will strive to become a spiritual self-feeder.*
- *I will strive to live in healthy Christ-honoring relationships with others in this church. I will resolve conflict biblically and avoid gossip. Believing that relationships are vital to my faith, I will aim to live in open relationships with others and invite accountability into my life.*

## Informational Meetings:

- **January 24, 10:30 A.M. in 150/151**
- **January 27, 7 P.M. in Room 129/130**