

Vision Team Recommendations

June 2017

First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville is a family church, growing and reaching out to families with Christ's spiritual truth.

Process

A team consisting of six church members and Pastor Larry Jung began meeting monthly in April, 2016. The team followed the guidelines and recommendations of the training manual, “**Building Your Church’s Great Commission Matrix**”, written by Dr. Ken Priddy. In addition to the recommended steps in the manual, a National Church Development America survey of 30 church members was conducted which assisted the team in developing the following recommendations. The team concluded its work in June, 2017.

Programs to draw in new families:

- Date nights with free child care offered.
- Parenting and Marriage classes offered on a regular basis.
- Family Fun Nights to draw in new families, serve current families, and build relationships within the church and our community (Joy and Janet)

Small Groups:

- Care groups could be promoted in worship by doing a topical series on community building or a study in the Book of Acts, a study about the New Testament church, etc.
- Give care groups the opportunity to share on a regular basis during the morning services to inspire and encourage more to join.
- Have a Leadership team whose ministry is specifically to start new care groups. Once a group was up and running, the Leader would step out and continue to start new groups.
- Add “Interested in joining a care group” to tear off sheets
- Create groups based on similar interests, “seasons of life,” or even more hobby based meetings (hiking, skiing, spelunking, etc.).
- Create intercare group meetings (Younger meets older once in a while).
- Have all groups go through something at the same time, then meet at the end to discuss.
- Have a time during the year that is a small group event- possibly after church. This would reinforce the importance of small groups and reflect on their benefits. (This could include a speaker, small study, and reflections from contributors)

Prayer:

- Public prayers should include follow up (possibly in “Praise of the people”..?)

- Incorporate a series on teaching the congregation how to pray (Sunday School? Care group study? Sermon series?)
- Increase awareness of our prayer teams and chains (bulletin?)
- More frequent, corporate prayers asking for direction in our serving/being a Great Commission church.

General

- Be more aware of the Gospel message being presented at all Outreach events.
- Provide scheduled, regular opportunities at the services for people to share specifically how they are serving our community in order to inspire and encourage the importance of having a ministry.
- Have Mexico yard sale include a video and sharing about the mission.
- At Harvest Carnival include skits highlighting gospel and/or an “un-haunted house”.
- Text/Email devotional on Saturdays getting people prepared for worship on Sunday.
- Electronic reminders/teasers with texts on Saturdays, encouraging people to come to the service.
- Add large TV screens to the back of the Multi-purpose and Ed Buildings. Use these to inform and inspire congregation.

New Service

- Saturday or Sunday service at the Historic church
- Reach “the missing demographic” in our church and provide alternative for sports families.
- Have pastor use a more informal, Q & A style, guest speakers, debate style. Go deeper into passages, answer hard questions.
- Hire someone to lead music and worship.

New EPC Church

We seek to be either a partner, parent or patron for a new EPC church in our area.