



## Catalyst Planning

We are thankful to our Lord for all that he has done in his church. And we are thankful for the privilege of participating in worship, life, and ministry together in the days ahead of his church. We are in the midst of Catalyst 2019 as we trust him for what he will do in his church through the Vision and Mission he has set before us. We have preached, gathered for conversations, and prayed through our Vision & Mission.

As we follow our timeline for 2019 we are preparing to engage in Catalyst Planning. We will begin in July as we spend 3 Wednesday evenings brainstorming goals, refining goals, and prioritizing goals that will enable us to develop a plan for fulfilling our Mission and Vision.

- ❖ Brainstorming Our Goals - Wednesday July 10th 5:00 - 7:00 PM
- ❖ Refining Our Goals - Wednesday July 17th 5:00 - 7:00 PM
- ❖ Prioritizing Our Goals - Wednesday July 24th 5:00 - 7:00 PM

The gatherings will begin at 5:00 PM with dinner provided. At 5:45 we will provide a nursery for children 0-4 and a children's program for boys and girls ages 5 - 11. Students 12 and up are encouraged to participate in the Catalyst Planning sessions with adults.

We will begin with a brief large group orientation at 5:50. At 6:00 pm we will divide into smaller groups led by facilitators. The facilitators will lead the small groups to accomplish the groups purpose for each night. The small groups will re-gather together in a large group to share what they have accomplished. Each week during July the information that the groups share will be provided to the congregation so that we can share together in the Catalyst Planning process.

The Catalyst Planning will continue in August - November as we develop strategies to meet the goals established during the meetings in July. We are hopeful that this process will enable us to meet our overall goal of "the re-planting of a church through a movement of the gospel at 3100 Covenant Road."

We are encouraging all Christ Covenant Church members and regular attenders to participate in this process. Please make plans to participate by signing up for our gatherings in July. You can sign up on the sign up sheets in the Narthex at Barnwell Street or in the back of the Sanctuary at Covenant Road. Or, you can sign up online by **following this link** or by going to the church website and clicking the banner ([ccotc.org](http://ccotc.org)).

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## What is General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)?

Pastor Jim Wilkerson will be traveling to Dallas Texas on June 24-28 to participate in the General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). What is the GA of the PCA? Here's one explanation: It's a gathering of mostly middle class American men dressed in khaki pants and golf shirts, driving Toyota Camarys talking about church stuff while meeting in groups identified by various acronyms. While this is somewhat true it's not very accurate.

The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) General Assembly (GA) is the largest annual gathering of the denomination. Church leaders from across the country gather to discuss matters important to the life of the church, make decisions that affect the whole denomination and the progress of the gospel. This includes:

- Transacting ecclesiastical (church) business
- Deciding significant theological issues
- Reviewing work of the denomination's ministries
- Receiving training through seminars
- Connecting with resources in the exhibit hall
- Networking and fellowshiping
- Preparing for the future
- Worshiping together

The GA is the highest court of the PCA, and represents in one body all the churches of the PCA. The two PCA courts lower are: the Presbytery (all teaching elders and churches within a particular boundary), and the Session (the pastor(s) and ruling elders of a particular church). As the church is responsible to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) at every level, the GA is responsible to encourage and promote the fulfillment of this ministry by the various courts. The members or participants in the GA consists of all teaching elders in good standing with their Presbyteries, and ruling elders as elected by their Session. Each congregation is entitled to two ruling elder representatives for the first 350 communing church members, and one additional ruling elder for each additional 500 communing church members.

In 2018 the PCA consisted of 88 total Presbyteries, 1,582 PCA churches and 355 PCA churches being planted. The PCA has a total membership of 384, 793. In 2017 there were a total of 891 churches represented at GA by 1,461 elders (teaching and ruling). If you would like to know more about the PCA or GA [follow this link](#).

## Summer Reading

Here's some suggestions for a biography, a mystery, and a work of practical theology:

*Martin Luther: A Spiritual Biography*, Herman Selderhuis (Crossway)

"Not since Roland Bainton's *Here I Stand* has there appeared an accessible, comprehensive, and historically measured accounting of Luther that is seamlessly and elegantly set in the context of late-medieval Europe. Selderhuis captures Luther's spiritual and intellectual complexity but still helps his audience know Luther as more than merely the symbol of a great movement. His biography serves as a dock from which we may embark on further consideration of the Reformation, rather than as a ship that carries us to a final destination." —John Wilsey, associate professor of church history, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Read CT's [review of Martin Luther](#).)

*Do We Not Bleed?: A Jon Mote Mystery*, Daniel Taylor (Slant)

"I have one word for Daniel Taylor: genius. His gift is extraordinary, allowing him to craft one of the most intriguing books I've read in ages. There are no weak links in this story: superb storytelling, with spot-on plot, dynamic dialogue, captivating characters, and a setting that is so interesting it manages to make readers both uncomfortable and spellbound at once. In *Do We Not Bleed?*, Taylor's wit is sharp, his voice is unique, and his quirky protagonist brews a blend of Holden Caulfield (*Catcher in the Rye*), Meursault (*The Stranger*), and Nick Carraway (*The Great Gatsby*). It all adds up to one incredible story that carries tremendous literary weight." —Julie Cantrell, novelist, author of *Perennials*

*Becoming Whole, Why the Opposite of Poverty Isn't the American Dream*, Brian Fikkert and Kelly M. Kopic

What if we're spreading our own brokenness to the very people we want to help? Sure, our pursuit of the American Dream has made us wealthier than ever before, but at what cost? Families and communities are increasingly fragmented, loneliness is skyrocketing, physical and mental health are deteriorating, and overall happiness is on the decline. This book takes a look at the true sources of brokenness and poverty and uncover the surprising pathways to human flourishing for poor and non-poor alike. [Click for a review](#).