

## **Series: The Gospel-Centered**

**Title:** The Blueprint of A Church

**Text:** Acts 2:36-47

### **Breaking the Ice:**

OPTION # 1 – What is your favorite thing about Spring?

OPTION # 2 – What do you think about “springing” your clocks forward?

### **Discussion/Study:**

1. CLARITY & COMMITMENT – In this morning’s vision presentation Michael covered way our church’s leadership has sought to clarify our calling by answering six critical questions for us as a church. The handout for the Vision Meeting Presentation is included below as attachment. What is one thing from the presentation that stood out to you most clearly? What is one thing that you still have questions about?
2. Read Acts 2:36-47 – DISCOVER, BELONG, GROW, MULTIPLY – Jesus’ design for the church includes four main components: To help people discover grace, to belong to his community called the church, to grow in grace for a lifetime, and to multiply as followers of Christ. Of these four parts of Jesus’ design for the church, which one do you practice and embody the most personally? Which one do you feel like you embody the least, and why?
3. Read Acts 2:36-47 – DISCOVER, BELONG, GROW, MULTIPLY – While each part of Jesus’ design for the church is distinct, they are all connected. How does leaving anyone part of Jesus’ design for the church out impact the others. Think especially through the lens of your own personal spiritual growth. For example, how does helping people discover grace actually fuel your own growth? Or, how does multiplication fuel greater discovery?
4. Read Acts 2:36-47 – DISCOVER, BELONG, GROW, MULTIPLY – Jesus not only gives us the design and blue prints for the church, but as the builder and power of the church, he also gives us every “piece” we need for the church to fulfill its design and mission. Why is this truth that Jesus is the ultimate builder of the church so important for you personally?
5. Read Acts 2:36-47 – DISCOVER, BELONG, GROW, MULTIPLY – As Paul articulates in our benediction this morning, God does far more “than we can ask or think.” Recognizing that you can never out dream or out imagine God, take some time to dream and brainstorm the quantitative and qualitative fruits that God could produce over the next 25 years if He blesses our church to live out its vision, mission, and values. What would be true in your own life/family personally? What would be true of our church as a whole?

**2020 Vision Sunday**  
**THE NORTH CINCINNATI PLAYBOOK**  
March 1, 2019

Since returning from sabbatical last summer, we have spent an extended amount of time as a staff and Session to do two things: **1. To clarify** our calling as a church, and; **2. to re-commit** ourselves to that calling. One of the primary ways we have gone about seeking greater clarity of our calling has been by answering six critical questions for us as a church. This list of questions is an exercise that comes from organizational leadership consultant Patrick Lencioni, whose work has had a huge impact on me. This morning I want to share with you the answers for those questions to which the Lord has led us.

My prayer is that through our presentation this morning God will ultimately do two things in each one of your lives as church members. First, my prayer is that God would give you **personal clarity** about our church's calling. Second, my prayer is that as a result of that clarity he would lead each one of you to deepen your **personal commitment** to live that calling out.

**1. WHY DO WE EXIST? – OUR PURPOSE**

As the Westminster Confession states, the ultimate purpose for which we exist is “to glorify to God and to enjoy Him forever.” (see 1 Cor. 10:31).

**2. WHAT DO WE DO? – OUR MISSION**

The particular calling of the church is to “make disciples” (see Matthew 28:16-20), or as the Westminster Confession states, to “gather and perfect” the saints (see WCF, 25.3). We combine our ultimate purpose and particular calling through our purpose statement:

“We exist to glorify God by helping people become mature and equipped followers of Christ.”

**3. HOW WILL WE SUCCEED? – OUR STRATEGY**

We plan to help people become mature and equipped followers of Christ by helping them to:

DISCOVER – the grace that changes everything

BELONG – to a community founded on grace

GROW – in the grace of Jesus Christ for a lifetime

MULTIPLY – as followers of Christ who make disciples

1. A WORSHIP SERVICE – that through its content and culture helps people grow, discover, belong, and multiply. (Illus. – Watching a baseball game with a stranger).
2. SMALL GROUPS – that serve as our primary place where people experience belonging, growth, and multiplication. (Illus. – The Power of Small)
3. EVENTS, EXPERIENCES, TRAININGS – that serve as supplemental catalysts and conduits for the discovery, belonging, growth and multiplication that people experience in a small group.

**2020 Vision Sunday**  
**THE NORTH CINCINNATI PLAYBOOK**  
March 1, 2019

**4. HOW DO WE BEHAVE? – OUR VALUES**

V1 - Word-Based– We humbly submit ourselves to the Bible as the unchanging truth of God in an ever-changing culture, and the foundation of all we do.

V2 - Gospel-Centered – The gospel – the good news of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection – is the power for transformation and THE main thing at the heart of everything we do.

V3 - Faith-Dependent – God calls us to walk by faith NOT by sight. As a church, this means that all we undertake is rooted in prayer and doomed to fail unless the Lord is in it.

V4 - Relationally-Driven – Relationships are the context for transformation. The church is a diverse group of people called to live together in a covenant community. We learn from one another, care for one another, and are blessed by one another’s gifts, ages, and stages in life.

V5 - Others-Focused – As a church, we do not exist for ourselves but are committed to following Jesus in his example of serving the needs of others with the love of Christ.

V6 - Kingdom-Minded – God’s mission is bigger than us. We celebrate the work God is doing through other churches and organizations as co-laborers, not competitors, and seek to partner with them in accomplishing God’s mission.

V7 - Historically-Rooted – We recognize that we are part of a story that is bigger, broader and older than our own moment in time. As a church, we are part of a denomination (PCA) that is connected to a theological movement that is rooted in the Protestant Reformation.

**5A. WHO DOES WHAT? – OUR ROLES**

- **March Sermon Series: “Rooted: Knowing Our Role in the Kingdom of God”** – Over the course of March we’ll talk through the Biblical foundations for our various roles in the church (elders, pastors, deacons, members) and how we collectively work together to advance God’s kingdom in the world.

- **Formation of the Local Missions Team** – A new team led by Eric Shrimpton that mirrors the work of the Global Missions Team (GMT) for our local mission partners (who do we give to and go with). As a reflection of his responsibilities with the Global Missions Team and Local Missions Team, we are changing Eric’s job title to Pastor of Student Ministry and Missions.

**2020 Vision Sunday**  
**THE NORTH CINCINNATI PLAYBOOK**  
March 1, 2019

**5B. WHO DOES WHAT? – PERSONAL COMMITMENT FOR EVERY MEMBER**

1. Commit to help other people discover grace – Pray, Pursue, Invite, Invest
2. Commit to Be Involved in a Small Group
3. Commit to Make Yourself Known – Grace makes this a risk worth taking!
4. Commit to Grow – Attend a training. Gain experience through local/global missions. Attend an event.
5. Commit to Multiply – Commit to make disciple-makers. Commit to become a disciple-maker.
6. Embrace Our Historically-Rooted Value – One of the ways we are asking you to embrace our historically-rooted value is by voting in a congregational meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> to change the name of the church from North Cincinnati Community Church to North Cincinnati Presbyterian Church. Of course, the natural question is why. Here are three main reasons.
  1. Naming Reality – We are and always have been a Presbyterian church in the PCA
  2. Clarity for Community – Our visitors, newcomers, and friends naturally ask what kind of church we are. Identifying ourselves as Presbyterian in our church name answers a question they are already asking.
  3. Embracing Our Identity – As one of our values, including Presbyterian in our church name is a way of embracing and living out our distinct identity in the larger body of Christ.

**7. FOR WHAT ARE WE TRUSTING GOD? – FUTURE FRUITS**

What are some tangible and quantitate fruits that we are trusting God to produce in and through us as we live out our purpose, mission, strategy, values and roles?

1. An Increased Number of Adult & Child Conversions & Baptisms
2. An Increased Number of Visitors Due to Personal Invitations
3. An Increased Diversity That Reflects Our Community
4. Increased Small Group Participation - Goal of 100% participation
5. Stories of Growth in Grace – Personal testimonies of God at work in and through us.
6. Greater Participation in local & global missions through our time, talents & treasures.
7. 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Disciple-Makers – Physical and Spiritual “grandchildren” committed to make disciples

**2020 Vision Sunday**  
THE NORTH CINCINNATI PLAYBOOK  
March 1, 2019

**8. Next Steps – Pursing Clarity & Commitment**

We recognize that for each member of our church to be both **clear** and **committed** to our church's calling you will need more than this morning's forty-five-minute presentation. Therefore, over the month of March we have put together a plan to give you time to process, opportunities to ask questions, and resources for you to hear things multiple times and in multiple ways.

1. **March Sermon Series, "Rooted: Knowing Our Role in the Kingdom of God"** – Each Sunday in the Month of March, Michael will be preaching on the Biblical foundations for being Presbyterian, and the very practical implications this has for each one of us as we pursue and advance God's Kingdom.
2. **Online Resources to Watch, Read, and Discuss** – Over the course of March we will be making several resources available to you for you to gain personal greater clarity. Our presentation this morning, and this handout will be made available on the church's website ([www.northcincy.org](http://www.northcincy.org)) tomorrow for those who were unable to attend today, or who would like to watch it again. In addition, we continue our current practice of posting videos of the sermons each week along with a discussion guide for each sermon to use personally or in a small group.

In addition to the resources we are producing, I would also recommend those interested in learning more about Presbyterian history, beliefs, and practices to read Dr. Sean Michael Lucas' excellent and very accessible book, *On Being Presbyterian*.

3. **Small Group Discussion Throughout the Week** – Clarity and commitment is often best achieved in the context of a group. The discussion guide for the sermon each week will also serve as a resource for small groups to process what they are hearing, ask questions, and to tease out personal implications. We would encourage each small group to consider using this resource to facilitate discussion throughout March.
4. **Sunday Morning Large Group Review and Q&A at 9:30 AM** – Each Sunday we utilize our Sunday morning community hour to provide a short review of one of the six critical questions covered in today's presentation, and to field questions and answers regarding the content being reviewed and the previous week's sermon. This is an ideal venue to express excitement or seek clarity regarding our calling as a church.
5. **One-On-One Communication** – Please feel free to reach out to any of the pastors, elders, or staff with questions you may have.
6. **Church-Wide Prayer Night** – We will host a one-hour prayer night on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00 PM.
7. **Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>** – We will have a short congregational meeting following the worship service on March 29<sup>th</sup> to vote to change the name of the church from North Cincinnati Community Church to North Cincinnati Presbyterian Church.