

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.

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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.

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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 29th 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. 3rd Generation Disciple-Makers – Physical and Spiritual “grandchildren” committed to make disciples

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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) 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 25th from 7:00-8:00 PM.
7. **Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 29th** – We will have a short congregational meeting following the worship service on March 29th to vote to change the name of the church from North Cincinnati Community Church to North Cincinnati Presbyterian Church.