



THE PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

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THE PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION
Session 1 – Overview of Our Purposes

Every church is driven by something:

By Tradition...

By Personalities...

By Finances...

By Buildings...

By Programs...

By Events...

By the Unchurched...

By People's Personal Preferences...

The Alternative: Be driven by _____!

“Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.”
Proverbs 19:21

“I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
Matthew 16:18

Defining Our Church's Purposes

What are the benefits of having a clearly defined purpose?

1. It builds _____.

“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.”

1 Corinthians 1:10

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Proverbs 29:18a (KJV)

2. It reduces _____.

*“You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their **purpose** firm....”*

Isaiah 26:3

“The double-minded man can never keep a steady course.” James 1:8

“I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing.”

Isaiah 49:4

3. It allows _____.

“Brothers... one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on....” Philippians 3:13

Efficiency: “Doing things right.”

Effectiveness: “Doing the right things.”

4. It attracts _____.

“I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”

Philippians 1:4-5

5. It assists _____.

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.”

2 Corinthians 13:5

What Is the Biblical Foundation for the Purposes of the Church?

The Great Commandment:

“LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”
Matthew 22:37-40

The Great Commission:

“GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations, BAPTIZING THEM in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and TEACHING THEM TO [DO] everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-29

5 Purposes for the Church

- 1) *“Love the **Lord** your God with all your heart....”* = _____.
- 2) *“Love your **neighbor** as yourself.”* = _____.
- 3) *“Go...**make disciples** of all the nations....”* = _____.
- 4) *“**Baptizing** them....”* = _____.
- 5) *“**Teach** these new disciples to obey....”* = _____.

Jesus Modeled These 5 Purposes: John 17:1-26

Verse 4: *“I have brought You glory on earth.”* (WORSHIP)

Verse 6: *“I revealed You to those whom You gave Me out of the world.”* (EVANGELISM)

Verse 8: *“I gave them the words You gave Me.”* (DISCIPLESHIP)

Verse 12: *“While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe.”* (FELLOWSHIP)

Verse 18: *“As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”* (SERVICE)

The First Church Fulfilled These 5 Purposes: Acts 2:42-47

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47

Summary of how the first church fulfilled these 5 purposes:

Practice of the Church	Purpose
<i>They devoted themselves to...the breaking of bread and the prayers...praising God.”</i>	Worship
<i>“They devoted themselves...to the fellowship. All who believed were together... They ate together....”</i>	Fellowship (community)
<i>“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching....”</i>	Discipleship (maturity)
<i>“They were selling their possessions...and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”</i>	Service (ministry)
<i>“And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”</i>	Evangelism (outreach)

Paul Explained These Five Purposes: Ephesians 4:11-16

“God gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ...From Him the whole body joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

Purpose	Practice
Evangelism	<i>“...some to be evangelists....”</i>
Worship	<i>“God gave some to be....”</i>
Fellowship	<i>“grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”</i>
Discipleship (maturity)	<i>“...so that the body of Christ may be built up....”</i>
Service/Ministry	<i>“...to prepare God’s people for works of ministry.”</i>

To Summarize—The Church Exists to...

- 1. Celebrate God's _____ (WORSHIP)**
 “Exalt our Master”

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.”
 Psalm 34:3

- 2. Communicate God's _____ (EVANGELISM)**
 “Evangelize our mission field”

*“The most important thing is that I complete my mission,
 the work the Lord Jesus gave me to do—to tell people
 the Good News about God's grace.”*
 Acts 20:24

- 3. Incorporate God's _____ (FELLOWSHIP)**
 “Encourage our members”

*“You are members of God's very own family...and you belong in
 God's household with every other Christian.”*
 Ephesians 2:19

- 4. Educate God's _____ (DISCIPLESHIP)**
 “Educate for maturity”

*“Building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and
 maturity; until...all become full-grown in the Lord.”*
 Ephesians 4:12b-14

- 5. Demonstrate God's _____ (SERVICE)**
 “Equip for ministry”

“To equip [God's people] for the work of ministry.”
 Ephesians 4:12a

Communicating Our Purposes

Six Ways to Communicate Vision and Purpose

1. S.

Sample 1:

Our purpose is to bring people to Jesus and *membership* in His family, develop them to Christ-like *maturity*, and equip them for their *ministry* in the church and their *mission* in the world, in order to *magnify* God's name.

Sample 2:

Our purpose is to *celebrate* God's presence in worship, *communicate* God's word through evangelism, *incorporate* God's family into fellowship, *educate* God's people through discipleship, and *demonstrate* God's love through service.

Sample 3:

Our mission is to... *Glorify* God ... *Gather* in community ... *Grow* as disciples ... *Give* of ourselves ... and *Go* into the world with the gospel.

Sample 4:

Our purpose is to glorify God by *establishing* people in community (fellowship), *encouraging* Christ-like maturity (discipleship), *equipping* people for ministry (service), *extending* God's kingdom (outreach), and *exalting* Him in worship.

*Bring them in, build them up,
Teach them how, send them out!*

Current Purpose Statement:

“The purpose of Prairie Hill Evangelical Free Church is to make fervent disciples for Jesus Christ (Mt.28:18-20). This is done by (1) exalting God in worship and prayer, (2) evangelizing the community and the world, and (3) edifying believers through the Word of God and the ministries of the Body of Christ.”

What if...: “... (4) *equipping* them for service, (5) and *encouraging* fellowship.”

2. S.

- Moses' purpose statement: “*Let my people go.*”
- Joshua's purpose statement: “*Possess the land.*”
- Nehemiah's purpose statement: “*Rebuild the wall.*”
- David's purpose statement: “*Unite the kingdom.*”
- Solomon's purpose statement: “*Build the Temple.*”

What might our slogan be?

- “Transforming lives through Christ”
- “Ministering to our community and world.”
- “Connecting people to God and to one another”
- “Passion for God...Compassion for People...”
- “Loving God...Loving Others...”
- “Restoring our broken world through the gospel of Jesus Christ”
- “To know Christ and to make Him known”
- Currently: “Making fervent disciples for Jesus Christ”

3. S_____.

4. S_____.

5. S_____.

6. S_____.

Here are some additional ways to communicate your 5 purposes:

- Membership Class
- Print them in the bulletin: organize announcements around them
- The church’s website
- Articles and brochures
- Monthly Pastor’s coffee
- Sermons

Applying Our Purposes

It’s not enough just to define and communicate our purposes.

We must apply the purposes to every area of our church life.

The Key to Applying the Purposes is _____.

We must have a system and a structure in place to keep the five purposes in balance in our church.

Most Churches Tend to Focus on Only One Purpose:

PRIMARY FOCUS	PASTOR'S ROLE	PEOPLE'S ROLE	KEY VALUE
Evangelism	Evangelist	Witnesses	Decisions for Christ
Worship	Worship Leader	Worshippers	Personal Experience
Fellowship	Chaplain	Family Members	Love & Acceptance
Edification	Instructor	Students	Bible Knowledge
Com. Service	Reformer	Activities	Justice & Mercy

BEING PURPOSE-DRIVEN INSURES BALANCE								
PARADIGM	PRIMARY FOCUS	PASTOR'S ROLE	PEOPLE'S ROLE	TARGET	KEY TERM	CENTRAL VALUE	TOOLS USED	SOURCE OF LEGITIMACY
Driven by God-given Purposes	Balance All Five	Equipper	Ministers	All Five	Be & Do	Christ-like Character	Ministry Priorities	Changed Lives

Spiritual growth comes from _____.

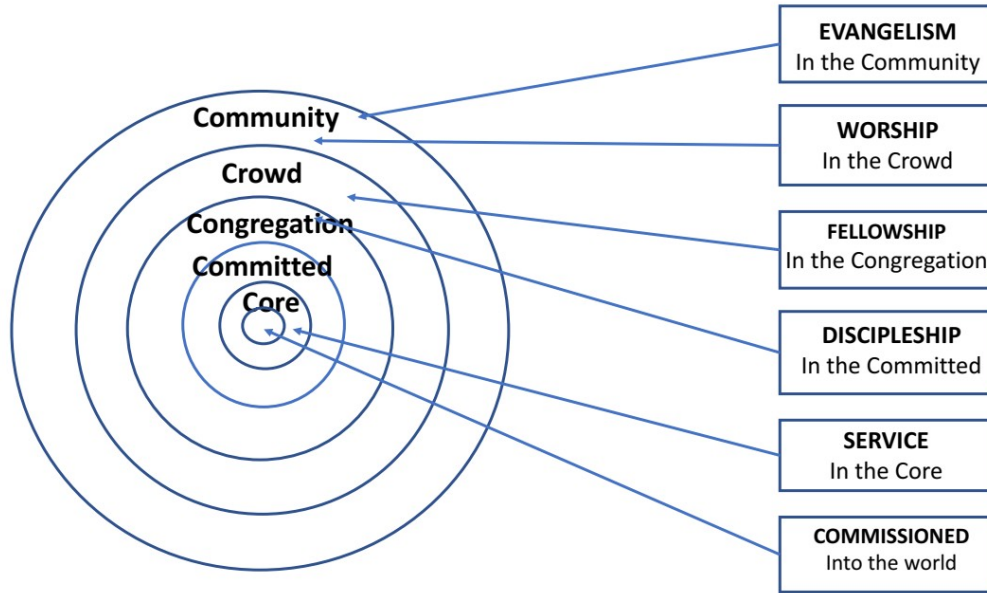
Health comes from _____.

In a healthy church...

- People are welcomed, cared for and find loving community (*fellowship*).
- People are becoming more like Jesus Christ (*discipleship*).
- People know their gifts and are using them (*service*).
- People are concerned, locally and globally, for the world (*outreach*).
- People are engaged in authentic, God-centered worship.

How Do We Balance the Five Purposes?

1. Identify the people we are trying to reach for each purpose.



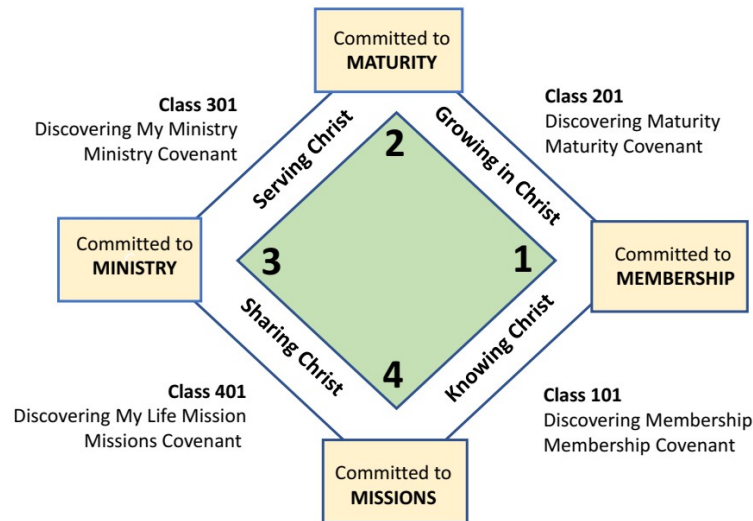
GROUPS	HOW BIG ARE OUR CIRCLES?	
Community	People in our geographic area.	_____
Crowd	People who attend worship at least occasionally.	_____
Congregation	Completed Membership Class 101 Committed to the Membership Covenant, Baptized, joined our fellowship.	_____
Committed	Completed Maturity Class 201 Committed to the Maturity Covenant to tithe, attend a small group, and have a quiet time.	_____
Core	Completed Design for Ministry Class 301 Committed to the Ministry Covenant and are serving in Ministry.	_____
Commissioned	Completed Missions Class 401 Committed to the Mission Covenant and are participating in local and global outreach	_____

What's the Goal of These Circles?

Move people from the outside to the inside. Get people in the *Community* to start coming to the *Crowd*. Get people in the *Crowd* to receive Christ and move into the *Congregation*, be baptized and join the church. Once they've become members, we want to move them into the *Committed* and to start growing to spiritual maturity. Once they're in the *Committed* and growing, we want to move them into the *Core* and get involved in ministry. Once they're in the *Core*, we want to *Commission* them back out into the *Community* and the world in outreach and mission.

2. Educate people around the five purposes.

Build our Christian education ministry around the purposes.



3. Form small groups according to your purposes.

Recognize and support different types of small groups:

- *Seeker groups*. Seeker groups are formed exclusively for evangelism.
- *Support groups*. Support groups for congregational care.
- *Service groups*. Service groups are formed around a specific ministry.

- *Growth groups.* Growth groups are dedicated to nurturing, discipleship training, and in-depth Bible study.

4. Add leaders according to your purposes.

Initially, the staff may be volunteers, then part time, then full time:

- *Director/Pastor of Worship:* Oversees services of worship for the Crowd.
- *Director/Pastor of Assimilation:* Oversees Membership Class 101 and the care of members in the Congregation.
- *Director/Pastor of Discipleship:* Oversees Maturity Class 201 and Bible study programs, including Sunday School for adults and small groups, for the Committed.
- *Director/Pastor of Ministry:* Oversees Ministry Class 301 and efforts to help people find their ministry niche in the core.
- *Director/Pastor of Outreach:* Oversees Class 401 and evangelism and missions programs in the community.
- *Director/Pastor of Children's Ministry:* Implements the purposes in children's ministry.
- *Director/Pastor of Student Ministry:* Implements the purposes in student ministry.

5. Structure ministry teams according to your purposes.

Each Director/Pastor gives leadership to a purpose-based team (*if* the leader wants a team). Each team is composed individuals recruited by the Director/Pastor. Together they lead the programs, ministries, and events that fulfill the particular purpose assigned to that team.

- *The Missions/Outreach Team:* The missions team is assigned the purpose of evangelism. Their target is the community. Their job is to plan, promote, and oversee all of the church's seeker groups, evangelism training (including Class 401), evangelistic activities and programs, and missions projects.
- *The Worship/ Music Team:* This team is assigned the purpose of worship. Their target is the crowd. Their job is to plan and oversee Sunday services, special worship emphases and events, and to provide music and worship resources to the rest of the church.
- *The Membership/Fellowship Team:* This team is assigned the purpose of fellowship. Their target is the congregation. It is their business to help care for the flock. They run our class for prospective members (Class 101). They oversee all support groups,

weddings, funerals, pastoral care, hospital visitation, and benevolence within the congregation. Finally, this team is responsible for all major fellowship events within our church family.

- *The Maturity/Discipleship Team:* The maturity team is assigned the purpose of discipleship. Their target is the committed. Their goal is to lead our members to deeper spiritual commitment and help them develop to spiritual maturity. This team operates Class 201, all Bible studies, and growth groups in homes. They also produce family devotional guides, Bible study curriculums, and other resources to help believers grow.
- *The Ministry/Service Team:* This team is assigned the purpose of ministry. Their target is the core. Their job is to help members discover their DESIGN for ministry and guiding them to find either an existing place for ministry or a new ministry. This team operates Class 301. The goal of this team is to help every member of the church find a meaningful place of service that best expresses his or her gifts and abilities.

6. Develop strategies (programs) according to your purposes.

7. Preach on the purposes.

8. Budget according to the purposes.

9. Evaluate according to the purposes.

Our Priorities

Priority #1: God's Purposes.

God's purposes take priority over everything else.

Priority #2: People.

People are here to fulfill the eternal purposes of God.

Priority #3: Programs.

Programs (or strategies) are good, but no program is meant to last forever. Programs are tools to help people fulfill the purposes.

Priority #4: Property.

Property is simply a place to conduct programs to help people fulfill the purposes.

Personal and Church Exercises

1. What are your reactions to this overview session?
2. Which purpose do you feel most passionate about?
3. How could you better balance God's purposes in your own life?
4. Which of the five New Testament purposes has your church tended to emphasize the most? Which of the purposes has your church tended to emphasize least?