



TRINITY FELLOWSHIP™

Vision Playbook

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Introduction

Purpose. The need for it drives us, motivates us, guides us, and links us with others similarly directed. Deep within all of creation, planted personally by the very hand of Godⁱ, is the need to accomplish, to contribute, to be a part of something greater. It is in fulfilling our collective purpose that our individual callings are found, and it is there – at the intersection of passion and purpose – we discover the hidden depths of joyⁱⁱ and life abundantⁱⁱⁱ. It is there the Kingdom of Heaven touches earth.

“Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint.”^{iv} The idea of being unrestrained produces a mental image of people in chaos getting nowhere. The meaning is clear: The only way to keep a group of people focused, heading in the same direction, and accomplishing the same purpose is to have a well-defined vision.

Webster’s defines a vector as “a quantity that has both magnitude and direction.” The same is true of a “prophetic vision.” It provides a clear direction for all to follow and engages the transforming force of Almighty God! The purpose of the Church is to expand the Kingdom of God in the earth. Within this great purpose, lies Trinity Fellowship’s specific prophetic vision and mission:

Trinity Fellowship Church is an elder governed, biblically based church that thrives in God’s Presence by embracing the full move and expression of the Holy Spirit. We are an apostolic, missional body of believers committed to helping one another, and the Church at large, Experience God, Find Community, and Fulfill Their Purpose.

As a body of believers, we have the exciting opportunity to join together with the unified purpose of accomplishing the vision set before us. Each person – each member of this body – plays an important role in this process. Together we purpose to keep our eyes fixed on the goal always moving forward in the direction God leads. Our journey is one of faith. We pray that everything we do will be for his glory and for the sake of his Kingdom.

Vision Playbook

This “Vision Playbook” spells out Trinity Fellowship’s game plan. It highlights what we consider important giving both the “how” and where possible the “why” of what we do. It serves to be the standard for every ministry of every campus of Trinity Fellowship Church.

Part 1 – Our Scriptural Foundation

The Bible is our guide, inspiration, and foundation. The Elders have identified the following five texts to describe our definition of “success” as well as conveying the spirit and substance of how we proceed. These verses provide our Biblical foundation and set the spiritual context for the question, “Where are we going?”

Acts 2:40-47

⁴⁰With many other words he [Paul] warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until 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.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From 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.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Psalms 133

¹How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! ²It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe. ³It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Our Essential Beliefs

In our essential beliefs, it is critical we walk in unity. In our non-essential beliefs we have liberty and freedom readily accepting differing viewpoints, and in all of our beliefs we demonstrate charity and grace. Our Statement of Faith, which is outlined online and more fully detailed in the church bylaws, describes those beliefs we hold to be essential.

Part 2 – Our Purpose

Trinity Fellowship Church is an elder governed, biblically based church that thrives in God's Presence by embracing the full move and expression of the Holy Spirit. We are an apostolic, missional body of believers committed to helping one another, and the Church at large, Experience God, Find Community, and Fulfill Their Purpose.

Experience God

The Presence of God

In the Beginning, God walked with man in the cool of the garden. It has ever been his intent and deep desire to engage with his creation in an intimate relationship. Moses receives God's assurance that "his Presence" will ever be with the Israelites.^v

It is the Presence of God that brings about personal transformation. Jesus demonstrated this for Peter, James, and John on the Mount of Transfiguration.^{vi} His Presence shifts us, heals us, continually transforming us into the image of Christ.^{vii} It is here – in his Presence – that he writes his law on our hearts and minds^{viii} drawing us ever so gently towards himself and the eternal embrace that is the personal experience of heaven on earth.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We are a charismatic church believing in the contemporary operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit as described in 1 Corinthians 12. Operating in the gifts was one of the primary reasons for establishing Trinity Fellowship and remains a primary and essential part of our beliefs and practices.

We are unapologetic but gracious to those who disagree with our charismatic beliefs and practices. We are not ashamed of the Holy Spirit, his activities, his giftings, his power or the things he does that are counterintuitive to the natural mind or offensive to other believers or secular society. We will never compromise our beliefs or practices for the sake of church growth or social respect.

We prefer an atmosphere of honest mistakes that need correction rather than an atmosphere of spiritual frigidity, control, or fear. We respect the Holy Spirit as God and reverently listen to Him allowing him to instruct us. We recognize he is also the Spirit of Truth and will never lead us to violate the teachings of Scripture he inspired.

It is the vision to Trinity Fellowship to boldly practice our charismatic faith and to disciple others to do the same. We will major on the fruit of the Holy Spirit's work and not become obsessed with the manifestations of his outworking's of that fruit. We passionately desire his signs and wonders as they direct our hearts and our actions towards adoring the Father and increase our faith to advance his Kingdom.

Worship

Worship is our expression of appreciation, affection, and love we pour out to God. Jesus tells the Samaritan Woman that the true worshipers will worship God in spirit and truth.^{ix} The word for worship is *proskyneo*, and it means to bow down, to lay prostrate before, and to blow kisses towards. Worship is a spiritual activity and occurs in the spiritual realm for it is there – in the Presence of God – we engage with him. As we lay our hearts open before him and commune with him, we meet in the place of spirit and truth.

Physical expressions of worship such as singing, dancing, clapping, raising hands, kneeling and the like provide us with points of focus for our worship. We believe in using every instrument, device and method possible to achieve this end. We balance order^x and flow with a pure desire to “be more undignified than this.”^{xi}

Our celebration services generally follow the model of the Tabernacle of Moses. Speaking of the Levitical priesthood, Hebrews 8:5 states, “They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven.”

1. East Gate: We enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.^{xii} Here, at the beginning of the service, we are shifting focus from the busyness of life and onto the Presence of God.
2. Altar: Sacrifice is the price of admission. Christ once and for all paid that price for us. We come this spiritual altar and offer our sacrifices of praise^{xiii} for the finished work he has done in us.
3. Laver: This basin filled with water was crafted of highly polished, bronze mirrors. This is a spiritual place of personal reflection and preparation^{xiv} as we consider all Christ has done for us.

4. Holy Place: The Holy Place held three key pieces of furniture: (a) the table of Show Bread, (b) the Golden Lampstand, and (c) the Altar of Incense. It is here through the preaching and teaching that we consume the word as illuminated by the Holy Spirit. The ministering of the word and altar ministry offers up our prayers and petitions before God. Here his truth and his Spirit refresh us as they take hold in our hearts and minds.
5. Holy of Holies: The ultimate destination of the Journey of Worship is the Most Holy Place. It is here that we meet face-to-face with God. The tabernacle held the Ark of the Covenant. Comprised of two pieces, the ark was a gold box containing (a) the Ten Commands, (b) a jar of manna, and (c) Aaron's staff that budded. These represent the three benefits we receive from abiding in his Presence: God's truth that he writes on our hearts and minds, his provision, and his authority in our lives. The second piece of the Ark is the Mercy Seat, and it is from this precise spot that God meets with us.^{xv} He heals our hearts, our bodies, and our spirits speaking with compassion, love, truth and grace.

Prayer

A key aspect of spiritual life at Trinity Fellowship is prayer. We embrace the model set for us by the early church that was "devoted to prayer."^{xvi} Prayer is our place of provision^{xvii} and brings us into alignment with heaven. Every ministry – every activity – of the church shall be birthed out of prayer, covered in prayer, and guided by prayer.

Giving

A key aspect of our worship is giving. Our desire is for everyone at Trinity Fellowship to have a Heart for the Kingdom. As Paul challenged the Corinthian church^{xviii}, we too challenge every believer to believe God's promises and "give joyfully from their heart." The tithes *and* offerings, freely given, (1) provide for the advancing of the Kingdom of God as administrated by the local church, (2) is spiritual seed for the giver producing a supernatural return, (3) provide protection for their home and family^{xix}, and (4) allows God to open up heaven and make all grace abound. The result is an abundant harvest for every good work that he has established.

Find Community

Community Life

We were not created to exist alone. In fact, an essential quality of life and key experiences with God are only found when we share our lives with others. The early church called this mutual sharing *koinōnia* (fellowship). The word means more than simple relationship. Going beyond acquaintance and friendship, it implies a sharing of one another's lives.

It is part of the purpose of Trinity Fellowship to create opportunities for individuals to experience *koinōnia*. We define this type of relationship by three key characteristics:

Relationship: The connection of one or more individuals sharing common purpose, interest, or activities is the basis for relationship. Choosing to be vulnerable, to invest, and to care for another are all key aspects of healthy relationship.

Discipleship: Christ commanded his followers to go and make disciples teaching them to obey all that he had commanded them.^{xx} His commands were to love – the Father, their neighbors^{xxi}, their enemies^{xxii}, and one another^{xxiii}. Thus, discipleship is the process of teaching people how to love. As we share our lives with one another, we learn how to love.

Accountability: Accountability is giving another permission to check up on us. When we share our lives through *koinōnia*, we open up to having others monitor our physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual health. Proper accountability is not intrusive or controlling and is mutually reciprocal in nature.

Dream Team

The Dream Team is the heart of community life at Trinity Fellowship. Having completed the Growth Track, church members are invited to participate on the Dream Team serving in a wide range of ministry opportunities. It is in serving others that we experience true *koinōnia*, fulfill the call of God on our lives, witness his majesty^{xxiv}, and see his kingdom expand^{xxv}.

It is our goal to have our Dream Team volunteers serving in every possible aspect as their gifts, talents, and time allow. The staff exists primarily to *equip* individuals for the work of the ministry not to *do* the ministry^{xxvi}.

Small Groups

Small groups are a key aspect of community life at Trinity Fellowship. Our groups are based upon the “free market” model and can be based around any common interest or activity. To be considered a small group, at least one of four activities must be present at each meeting: bible study, prayer, worship, or sharing of testimonies. Each group has a leader who is connected with the leadership structure. Groups operate on a trimester system.

Fulfill Your Purpose

God created within every individual the need to find purpose. We, each, were wonderfully made for a specific time and a specific reason^{xxvii}. It is the role of the church to assist individuals in identifying their gifts, equipping them for acts of service, and motivating them to engage. True joy and fulfillment is found when we are doing what God created us to do.

We believe the biblical expression of all giftings and talents are be administered with love^{xxviii} and expressed in balance with the Great Commandment: “³⁷Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

Identity

The doorway of purpose is our identity – knowing who we are AND who we are not. The journey to walking in our identity is a iterative process involving discovery, personal experience, and training. The church provides these through weekend messages, Growth Track, community life, and hands-on experiences. While we value teaching as a mechanism in identity formation, we more highly covet experiences and seek to create opportunities for all members to engage.

Our identity is always found in actively loving others. Maturity is formed as we grow in our ability to love and express it in a healthy way.

Ministry

Every individual has a unique identity and ministry. Fulfilling our purpose is found in the union of the two. Each specific outworking of an individual’s ministry – or *diakonia* – is found in acts of service that build up the body of Christ^{xxix}, reach out to the lost and hurting^{xxx}, and connects us with the heart of the Father.^{xxxi}

Part 3 – Our Values

There are fourteen guiding values that create the cultural atmosphere, spirit, and standards of Trinity Fellowship Church. These are enduring values setting the basis for all decisions. We are committed to upholding, maintaining, and imparting them to future generations. They are as follows:

1. **Compassion I *Philippians 4:5***

We will express and attitude and spirit of compassion and mercy balanced with truth to all individuals. We will be outward focused, with a desire to reach the lost and to heal and restore the hurting.

2. **Equity I *Jeremiah 22:13-16***

We will be committed to justice and right treatment of all individuals. We will not show partiality to any individual or group, and will strive to remain above reproach in all dealings with people.

3. **Balanced Excellence I *Colossians 3:17,23***

In every area of ministry and administration we will be standard bearers for the glory of God. Every individual and ministry will carry a spirit of excellence (not perfectionism), embracing continuous effort to do better, and always striving for God's best. We strive to match the level of excellence with the ministry impact of every activity.

4. **Faith I *Hebrews 11:6***

We will be decisive and proactive based on God's revealed direction and plans. Though we will guard against presumption, we will not be driven or hindered by fear based on circumstances of the unknown.

5. **Generosity I *II Corinthians 9:6***

We will seek opportunities to generously share our resources and reproduce what God has produced in us and given to us.

6. **Humility I *James 4:6***

The spirit of leadership will be the servant spirit. The higher a person's ascendancy in the organizational structure, the more their rights decrease and their responsibilities increase.

7. **Integrity I *Philippians 2:15***

We uphold all biblical standards for conduct and reputation for personal, family, business, financial and community involvement for all individuals in the

organization. We will strive to remain above reproach in all areas, realizing that we represent Christ to the world as his ambassadors.

8. Kingdom-Centered | *1 Corinthians 12:14-27*

We will be committed to advancing the work of the kingdom in the body of Christ at large, by recognizing and supporting other churches and ministries with whom God gives us opportunity to co-labor.

9. Service | *Ezekiel 44*

Administration will be the servant of ministry, not the master. Administration exists to serve ministry so that it functions with effective and predictable results. Also, in every area and level of ministry, a servant spirit will be modeled, mentored and upheld.

10. Submission | *Romans 13:1*

We embrace God's ultimate position of authority (Jesus is the Head of the Church) and God's plan for local delegated authority. We will adhere to the principals of submission to and honoring of authority at all levels of the organization and society. Within Trinity, we will operate within the integrity of our authority structure. We will allow appeal with a right spirit within our established protocol.

11. Truths and Spirit-Centered | *John 1:14, 16*

We are committed to being fully grounded in scriptural truth and fully empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is our road map, and the Holy Spirit is our guide and empowerment to reach God's destiny for us as a church.

12. Unity | *Psalms 133*

Relationships will always supersede issues in importance, except when essential scriptural truths are at risk of being compromised. Unity will require us to focus on vision and values. The efforts of every individual will be harnessed to the vision. A team approach to ministry, problem solving, decision-making and operating within the integrity of our structure will be the norm. All disagreements and offenses will be dealt with in a timely and biblical manner.

13. Authenticity | *1 Corinthians 9:22,23*

We strive to be authentic in all of our interactions with the believers and the lost alike. We minister truth in love being accepting and loving of all while encouraging each to grow in their walk with God. "It's okay to not be okay, but it's not okay to stay not okay."

14. Joy | *Nehemiah 8:10 & Hebrews 1:9*

We strive to create an atmosphere of joy and fun in all that we do. It was said of Jesus because of his love for righteousness and hatred for wickedness he was anointed with Joy above his companions. Being right with God brings joy, fun, and celebration.

Part 4 – Our Evangelistic Calling

The ultimate objective of Trinity Fellowship Church is to reach the lost and hurting by activating believers into their life purpose preparing them to share the love of Christ with others. We want to make it impossible to go to hell from every community we touch. Each individual bears the responsibility of evangelism.

The church is a place for (1) proclaiming the good news of the gospel, (2) providing healing and guidance, (3) preparing members for the work of their ministry, and thus (4) expanding the Kingdom of God. We believe the local church is the hope of the world. We are the light on the hill crying out with truth in love reaching out to those who are hurting^{xxxii}.

Jesus' Evangelistic Example

Christ established the methods of evangelism that we employ:

Preaching

Jesus regularly preached the Good News be it on a mountainside or in the local synagogue. He stressed the love and goodness of our Heavenly Father and his desire for relationship. At Trinity Fellowship, our weekend preaching is focused on connecting the good news of the gospel with people's immediate needs reaching out with truth in love.

Personal Vulnerability

Jesus engaged with individuals he encountered in life being available and open to them. He often stopped, in the middle of his busy day, to engage with hurting men and women bring hope, encouragement, and the love of God to them. The Samaritan woman at the well, Zacchaeus, and the lame beggar at the pool of Bethesda are but a few examples.

Relational Engagement

Jesus connected directly with the lost. He dined with them in their houses and engaged relationally with them. He recognized the power of personal relationships in bringing about transformation, and regularly invested himself in others.

Model of Concentric Aggression

Jesus, just before he ascended into Heaven, stated, “⁸You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) Here he outlines the key element of evangelism and sets the pattern for expansion.

Power = Witness

It is the power of the Holy Spirit flowing through God’s people expressing his love and compassion in tangible, effective ways that creates opportunities for the lost to personally witness God’s love. It is not doctrine, rules, or religious practices that attract unbelievers; however, genuine expressions of God’s love, compassion, healing, and truth are undeniable and impactful to all who seek him.

Jerusalem

Evangelistic outreach begins at home in our intimate circles. It is here among family and close friends that opportunity to share God’s love and truth is most available. By sharing their life with others, believers have the opportunity to minister love and grace being both as living examples and as active ministers.

Judea and Samaria

Our circles of influence expand beyond our immediate circles to a wide range of engagements from coworkers, business associates, school affiliations, sports team connections, our children’s friends and their parents, and beyond. By being alert and open, members of Trinity Fellowship actively search out hurt, disappointment, and difficult circumstance where they might minister the love of Christ. Whether is an opportunity to pray for someone, an invitation to church or a small group, a kind word, or a helping hand, we seek to bring the good news of the Gospel to meet the needs of those we encounter.

The Ends of the Earth

Together as a collective family, Trinity Fellowship has a multiplied reach^{xxxiii}. By partnering with one another, our Missional Calling extends beyond our local communities to our states, countries, and literally to the ends of the earth. We accomplish this objective through (1) internet ministry resources, (2) published materials, and (3) missional outreaches.

Part 5 – Our Missional Calling

Trinity Fellowship defines missional as “church supported outreach that targets specific needs.” As a church, we strive to maintain a healthy balance of local, congregational ministry and outreach. Our goal is that 20% of each campus ministry budget should be focused on outreach that extends beyond the “four walls of the campus.” The ministries we focus on include:

Campus Expansion

Each campus is committed to the expansion of the church territory through contributions to the Campus Expansion fund. This fund is used exclusively to adopt, plant, and expand campuses.

Local Outreach

Each campus is committed to supporting the needs of the hurting and under privileged in their communities. Whether it is through food & clothing outreaches, benevolence programs, or partnership with local ministries, Trinity Fellowship Church is committed to serving the specific needs of the local communities in which we live and operate.

International Missions

We support missions around the world with specific focus on ministries that grow local churches and ministries. By supporting organizations that actively reproduce themselves through the indigenous population, the kingdom is expanded in a sustainable manner.

MarriageToday

Trinity Fellowship started Marriage Today in 1994, and it remains a key component of our Missional Calling. As a nation, our families and our relationships are hurting. We are experiencing divorce at an alarming rate, and the effects of those divorces start a cycle of devastation and destruction lasting for generations.

MarriageToday exists to help families enjoy the emotional security and fulfillment that strong marriages bring. The ministry helps spouses establish, strengthen, save and restore family and marriage relationships through a Biblical message of healing, restoration, hope and encouragement.

Part 6 – Our Apostolic Calling

Trinity Fellowship is an aggressive church family ever seeking how we might expand the Kingdom of God. Our posture is one of steadfast determination and faith. Our purpose on this earth is to grow and expand the reach of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will utilize numerous organizational structures and processes, and we are always seeking new, more effective methods and channels.

Multi-Site Campus Model

We operate under a campus model being one church with many locations. We both adopt churches into the Trinity Fellowship family and plant new campuses.

Just like a family, each campus supports and contributes to the others. Through the implementation of a successful model, standardizing the operational concepts, and securing the know-how of its various ministries, the church executes the services and ministries through which the church has been successful. For this model to be both effective and scalable, a great deal of standardization is required along with adherence to strict quality control practices.

Apostolic Connections

Trinity Fellowship supports and contributes to other churches both formally through board appointments, consulting, and preaching and informally through relational connections. The Kingdom of God is bigger than any single church, denomination, or association. We believe in freely sharing and supporting other ministries as we value their input into us.

Trinity Fellowship Association of Churches (TFAC)

Pastors all over the United States tell their congregations every week that church is about community. But often these pastors find they are isolated, hurting, and are losing hope, as they grow frustrated with the direction of their ministry. Trinity Fellowship Association of Churches exists to help pastors find connection and relationship, and to help them rekindle the fire and revive their passion for ministry.

TFAC offers more than just counsel and resources to churches. What sets TFAC apart is the sense of community created by being connected to one another in a growing, healthy family of churches.

Pastoral Leadership Development

Leadership development is a key aspect of church growth. Trinity Fellowship is called to help grow and develop leaders at all levels of the local church from eldership to senior leadership to team members. By hosting multiple events each year, employing world-class leadership experts, and facilitating leader discussions, Trinity Fellowship grows leaders and imparts reproducible “best practices” at all levels.

Part 7 – Our Structure

We are an elder-governed church that functions with a balance of singular headship and plurality of leadership. The Senior Pastor is empowered with true authority to lead and minister, but is accountable to the body of elders. Elders are appointed for life by the elder body and, when necessary, are formally disciplined or removed by the elder body.

The Senior Pastor and the Chairman of the Board of Elders are equal to all other elders – both staff and non-staff – in the elder’s meetings. The elder body is responsible for appointing, overseeing, and supporting the Senior Pastor and the Chairman of the Board of Elders.

The elder body operates in unanimity in almost all instances valuing relationship above issues. Love and unity are paramount virtues in our governmental model. We believe the elder body is a microcosm of the fuller body of believers, and our love for one another creates the standard and spirit by which God’s Spirit flows to the congregation and beyond.^{xxxiv}

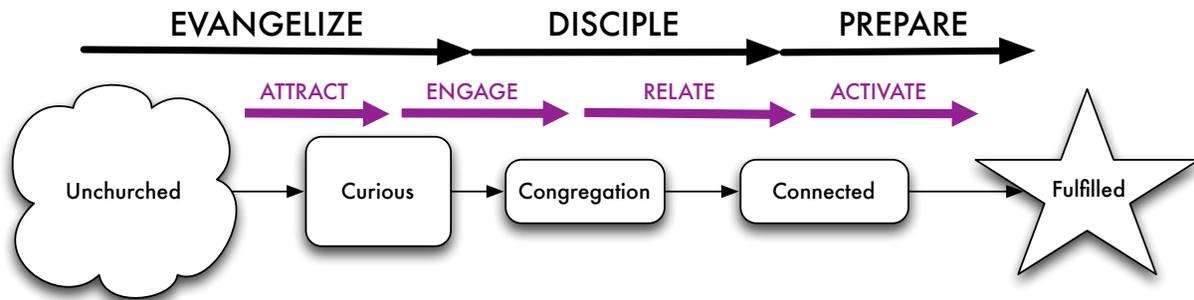
The Senior Pastor and his delegated authority directs the staff. Other than during a scheduled elder’s meeting, the Senior Pastor is the singular head of the church. The staff will be overseen in a responsible and loving manner. They will be challenged to do their best and will be given the proper tools and support to do so. They will be treated with respect and will not be allowed to ignore their relationships with God or their families for the sake of ministry or other interest.

The Chairman of the Board of Elders governs the elder body. He sets the agenda and works with the Senior Pastor to ensure the vision, values, and purpose of the church are executed in accordance with the heart and spirit of unified elder body. The Chairman may or may not also be the Senior Pastor.

We respect the fact that there are other governmental church models that are common and effective in differing degrees; however, we strongly hold to the model of singular headship and plurality of leadership. We have an abiding commitment to unity, the respect for the authority of the Senior Pastor, inclusion of staff and non-staff elder appointments, and the selection of elders by the elder body.

As we move forward, it is our vision and passion to help as many churches as possible gain an understanding of healthy church government. This is an important part of our apostolic mantle and the mission of Trinity Fellowship.

Part 8 – Our Method



Trinity Fellowship exists to accomplish three basic functions: evangelism, discipleship, & preparation of the God's people for works of service. These three activities form a path for the believer to follow into their divine purpose.

The Church Exists to Evangelize

The biblical word "evangelism" means "to bring the Good News." In modern Christian parlance the word has become singularly linked with Salvation; however, the biblical concept is WAY broader! It entails applying the Good News to every aspect of an individual's needs, healing their hurts, and providing purpose, direction, and life abundant.

Acts 1:4-5,8 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. ... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

2 Cor 5:18-20 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

By being sensitive to the felt-needs of the individuals in our community and addressing them with the active, living truth of the Gospel, the Trinity Fellowship family reaches out to the unchurched extending love and mercy to all.

The Church Exists to Disciple

The biblical term “disciple” means not only one who learns but also one who is so devoted to understanding that they become attached to their teacher adopting both his/her doctrine and conduct of life. In modern Christianity, “making disciples” has generally been linked with classroom-style teaching with the answer to the question, “How do we make more disciples?” generally being, “Start a discipleship class.” The biblical meaning of the word is much closer to “Apprentice” than “Student.” It is more about “doing” than “learning.”

Mt 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore 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 obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

In making disciples, the focus of Trinity Fellowship is to create devoted followers of Christ by sharing our lives with others in a manner worthy of imitation^{xxxv}. Our methods of discipleship emphasize service over training believing that maturity is developed through action^{xxxvi} as each individual works out their own salvation^{xxxvii}.

The Church Exists to Prepare God's People

The term “prepare” means to equip, to make fully ready. It is in preparing believers for Works of Service that the Church reaches its highest calling. Unity and maturity within the body are only accomplished when each individual is fulfilling their divine purpose. During the Middle Ages with its accompanying expansion of organized Christianity, the responsibility for “works of service” shifted from the individual believer to the organization of the church. This is inconsistent with the intent of Christ and the early church fathers^{xxxviii}.

Eph 4:11-13 It was {Christ} who 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 service, 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.

Trinity Fellowship is a place of experiential training and development where every believer is afforded the opportunity to grow and mature into the finished work God intended for them to be. The Trinity family is committed to assisting every individual in their growth.

The Believer's Journey

Every follower of Christ is on a journey from salvation to ultimate fulfillment. The role of the church is to assist each person along his or her journey. Everyone is driven by an internal force, created by God, to get their needs fulfilled. God created this force to push us towards Him. It is the ultimate lie of the FALL that by our own efforts we might become “like God” and the ultimate truth of the Gospel that in Christ every need is met.

“And out of that hopeless attempt has come nearly all that we call human history—money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery—the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.” C.S Lewis, Mere Christianity

Every human is looking for the Truth whether they know it or not. Trinity Fellowship's purpose is to connect their quest, at every juncture, to their relationship with God. This was Christ's example and his final instructions. Understanding the Believer's Journey enables the church to assist in making this divine connection.

The Unchurched

The unchurched are those who have yet to yield to the Lordship of Christ as well as those who while consider themselves Christians but are not living the full life Christ's intended.

- *The Lost* - they do not know Christ
- *The Forgotten* - they know Christ, but are not connected in relationship with fellow believers
- *The Distracted* - attend a church, but are getting their primary fulfillment & identity outside of God
- *The Disenfranchised* - they attend a church, but are not involved in the community life

The Curious

The curious attend a church service or event and thereby demonstrate at least some level of interest in finding God. They recognize, even if not specifically identified or defined, that they have needs the church might be able to help them meet. They visit but are not committed or connected in any way with the church.

The Congregation

The individual in the congregation phase of their journey considers Trinity Fellowship their church home though they may or may not be a member. They more fully recognize how the local church family is fulfilling their needs, and they feel a sense of ownership calling Trinity their home church. They demonstrate some level of responsibility to and connectedness with the local body.

The Connected

The connected regularly attend celebration services and are active in “community” of believers. Community is defined as being involved in small groups and/or the Dream Team. The connected are experiencing relationship, discipleship, and accountability regularly as they walk with fellow believers. Trinity Fellowship is fully their church family, and they feel a strong sense of ownership. They are beginning to recognize that while the body of believers is meeting their needs, their purpose is found in serving others using their gifts and abilities to minister.

The Fulfilled

The fulfilled are actively fulfilling the call of God on their lives. They consider “ministry” a way of life not a profession and seek to advance the Kingdom as a personal mandate. They take personal responsibility for the unchurched within their circles of influence. They see the Trinity Fellowship as their spiritual family that equips, supports, and encourages them while they do the same for others.

Jesus stated, “I have come that they might have life and have it to the full.” (John 10:10b) This fullness of life is only found when each individual is fulfilling the specific, divine purpose for which God created them.

- Life : blessed life, life that satisfies, being in-dwelt by God but not necessarily favored by circumstances
- Have : to have and hold, implying continued possession
- Full : Over and above, more than enough, superfluous

Our Model of Ministry

Attract

Attraction activities draw in the unchurched facilitating an encounter with God connecting their felt needs with the tangible, living Good News of Christ. Attraction activities are ALWAYS experiential and must be genuine. Trinity Fellowship believes “What you win them through is what you win them to!” Thus, while marketing and other mechanisms for communication will be employed, they are never a substitute for genuine experiences with the living God.

Engage

Engagement encourages an individual to move from “checking church out” towards relationship. Engagement is always PERSONAL and connects an individual’s felt needs with the fulfillment that is only found in the church community. Engagement escorts individuals across the threshold of the front door into the living room of the church. Every member of Trinity Fellowship is charged with the role of engaging.

Relate

Relationship is what moves an individual from the crowd to the connected. The key is that the individuals in relationship recognize they have a mutual responsibility to one another. Here they find community, grow in maturity, and find support and encouragement in challenging times.

Activate

The final step in maturity is becoming activated in the place of ones calling. Here ministry shifts from what one *does* to whom one *is*. Identity and purpose unite and fulfillment is found not in personal comfort but in personal contribution. Activation ignites a believer’s passion and provides them with their direction.

Part 9 – Our Goals

Our goals establish our heading, our direction. While they in themselves do not determine our success or failure as a ministry, they set the course and our decisions and investments are based upon our unquenchable desire to see them fulfilled.

Congregation Size: 25,000 attendees by 2026

Number of Campuses: 30

TFAC Churches: 150 active churches

Pastoral Leadership Development: 5 Regional Roundtables / Year, 2 TFAC U events / year

Technology: Impacting 50,000 viewers per week via internet

End Notes

ⁱ Psalm 139:13-16

ⁱⁱ Acts 13:52 NIV ⁵² “And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”

ⁱⁱⁱ John 10:10b NIV ¹⁰ “I [Jesus] have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

^{iv} Proverbs 29:18 English Revised Version

^v Exodus 33:14 NIV ¹⁴ “The LORD replied, ‘My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’”

^{vi} Matthew 17:1,2 NIV “After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.”

^{vii} 2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV ¹⁸ “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

^{viii} Hebrews 10: ¹⁵ “The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: ¹⁶ ‘This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.’”

^{ix} John 4:23,24 NIV ²³ “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

^x 1 Corinthians 14:39,40 NIV ³⁹ “Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”

^{xi} 2 Samuel 6:22,23 NIV “[David said,] I will celebrate before the LORD. ²² I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes.”

^{xii} Psalm 100:4 NIV ⁴ “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”

^{xiii} Hebrews 13:15 NIV ¹⁵ “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name.”

^{xiv} 1 Corinthians 11:28,29 NIV ²⁸ “A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.”

^{xv} Hebrews 10:19-23 NIV ¹⁹ “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

^{xvi} Acts 2:42 NIV ⁴² “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

^{xvii} Philippians 4:6,7 NIV ⁶ “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

^{xviii} 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 NIV ⁶ “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly

or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.⁹ As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.¹¹ You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

^{xix} Malachi 3:6-12 NIV ⁶“I the Lord do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ ⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the Lord Almighty. ¹² Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.”

^{xx} Matthew 28:18-20 NIV ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

^{xxi} Matthew 22:37,38 NIV ³⁷ Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

^{xxii} Luke 6:27,28 NIV ²⁷ “But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

^{xxiii} John 13: NIV ³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” ^{xxiii}

^{xxiv} Acts 1:7,8 NIV ⁷ He said to them: ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’”

^{xxv} Matthew 10: NIV ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.’”

^{xxvi} Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV ¹¹ It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ 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.”

^{xxvii} Psalm 139:13-14,16 NIV ¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”... ¹⁶ All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

^{xxviii} 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 NIV “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and

surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

xxxix Ephesians 4:12,13 NIV “¹² to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ 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.”

xxx Matthew 10: NIV “⁷ As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

xxxixi 1 John 4:11,12 NIV “¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

xxxixii Matthew 5:14-16 NIV “¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

xxxixiii Leviticus 26:8 NIV “⁸ Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.”

xxxixiv John 13:34-35 NIV “³⁴ A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

xxxixv Philippians 4:8-9 NIV “⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

xxxixvi James 2:17 NIV “¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

xxxixvii Philippians 2:12,13 NIV “¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”

xxxixviii Acts 6:2-4 NIV “² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, ‘It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.’”