

Ministry Plan 2016-2017
Christian Education Committee
The Church of the Covenant, PCUSA
January 19, 2016

1. PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Christian Education Committee at The Church of the Covenant, PCUSA is to nurture the faith in and knowledge of God and Jesus Christ, as expressed in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. The Church of the Covenant, PCUSA will develop, provide, monitor, and evaluate a comprehensive program of classes, seminars, workshops, and disciple making ministries for children, youth, and adults. This effort will be led by the ordained and program staff of the church, its lay leadership, and volunteers. The committee provides and monitors opportunities for members to investigate, nurture, and deepen their Christian faith and adjusts these programs as needs change. The committee is also responsible to assist the church staff in leadership, recognizing the vitality and future of the church 'family' is dependent on this vision. Our purpose is in furtherance of the church vision statement– To know Christ and to make Him known to the next generation.

I. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

As the goals of our previous Ministry Plan were reviewed, several accomplishments are worth mentioning.

1. Working in conjunction with the Worship and Music Committee, a family Christmas Eve service was successfully implemented on Christmas Eve 2015.
2. A young adults group was established, meeting monthly, with available babysitting.
3. Additional family ministry events were offered.
4. Renovation of Covenant Kids room (aka Jungle room) through Light the fire campaign contributions. This included a new DVD player and T.V. so the room can be used as a dedicated children's space.

II. STATED GOALS FOR 2016 -2017

1. **Adults-** Maintain, and establish new Biblically based studies to learn who we are in Christ. Such studies should lead to an intimate relationship with Christ which affects all aspects of daily life.
 - A. **Young Adults-** Explore and implement a viable young adult ministry, with the help of Light the Fire Campaign funds.
2. **Children-** Provide opportunities for children to share how Bible stories are being applied in their lives.
3. **Youth-** Maintain and expand opportunities for large group fellowship and service.
4. **Families-** Empower parents in becoming spiritual leaders for their children by increasing opportunities for study and fellowship.

III. EXPANDED GOALS AND ONGOING PROGRAMS FOR 2016-2017

1. **GOAL #1: Adults- Maintain, and establish new Biblically based studies to learn who we are in Christ. Such studies should lead to an intimate relationship with Christ which affects all aspects of daily life.**
 - A. Have an Adult speaker event in the fall with spin off of small groups.
 - B. Explore the possibility of an online study and online or App. Devotions.
 - C. Maintain small group studies and large group speakers which support our adult discipleship goal. Groups should include offerings for college age through mature adults.
 - D. Explore and implement a viable young adult ministry, with the help of Light the Fire Campaign funds. The funding has been freed up, as it was originally set aside for the Ignite young adult ministry program which is no longer in operation.

2. **GOAL #2: Children-** Provide opportunities for children (Birth through 6th grade) and their families to become active, vibrant Christians, growing in their faith. Identify specific educational outcomes for children and families. Provide opportunities for children to share how Bible stories are being applied in their lives.

A. **Teach Children about Jesus, his life, and saving grace.** Through use of the following;

1. Quality children's curriculum which clearly presents the gospel message.
2. Sunday school teachers and volunteers with vibrant faith, who love Jesus and love children.
3. Other creative means, including those below, as established by the staff or C.E. committee.

B. **Bible basics skills-**

1. Bible navigation: Old/New Testament, book, chapter, verse. Locate scripture independently. Memorize books of the Bible.
2. Tools to achieve these may include, but are not limited to: Books of the Bible songs, Flash cards, other curriculum.

C. **Scripture Memorization-** Memory verses will be provided every month to each Sunday school class. Scriptures will be determined by the staff and the Children's Ministry team. Demonstration of memorization will be shown through the following recitation methods:

1. In class, during the children's message, during the quarterly Sunday School Extravaganza
2. Prizes, ribbons, written awards, or other means of recognizing may be considered for outstanding achievement.

E. **Club 56-** Continue special emphasis with 5th and 6th graders through the following:

Establishing this younger group as a strong base for the youth program. Provide outreach, service, and socialization opportunities including game nights, visiting shut-ins, providing leaf raking or gardening services for church members, working with WCO to provide Easter baskets for children, opportunities to discuss their faith, and occasions to be with the older youth from time to time.

3. **Goal #3: Youth-** Provide opportunities for youth in grades 7 to 12 that will most enable them to actively pursue a growing and vital relationship with Jesus Christ. Maintain and expand opportunities for large group fellowship and service.

A. Experiences include, but are not limited to:

1. Weekly Sunday School
2. Camps, Conferences, Retreats
3. Mission Trips, Home Mission Trip
4. Youth Sunday
5. Small Groups
6. Various Social Activities

B. Outcomes:

1. Completing the Confirmation process.
2. Being able to articulate their faith to a peer.
3. Regular personal devotions.
4. Being able to pray in a group setting.
5. Writing a second statement of faith before graduating from high school.
6. Regular church/Sunday School/youth group attendance at least three times per month.
7. Seeking fellowship with a church or Christ-centered fellowship group wherever they may be.
8. To help in mentoring teens, more volunteers need to be mobilized within the church.

4. Goal #4: Family Ministry– Empower parents in becoming spiritual leaders for their children by increasing opportunities for study and fellowship.

A. Establish ways to integrate young families by providing opportunities for them to socialize and learn together.

Use of means such as, but not limited to:

1. Family movie night or game night.
2. Pitch-in dinner with a “create and take” program.
3. Single topic one night class for parents, with children’s activities in the Covenant Center.
4. Programs like: Journey of Prayer, Journey to Bethlehem i.e. family interactive programs.
5. Provide outreach and service opportunities for families.
6. VBS to reach families in our church and throughout our community.

B. Empower parents in becoming spiritual leaders for their children. Use of means such as, but not limited to:

1. Provide Catechism books or other approved literature, to children and parents which explain Biblical truths.
2. Provide parents with online resources for Christian education of children.
3. Prayer resources such as; a parent prayer guide, ways to circulate prayer concerns.
- 4. Intentional activities for preschool families, such as but not limited to:**
 - a. God’s Garden and Punkin patch
 - b. Invitation to Special services and ongoing church events.
- 5. Continue to maintain and establish family friendly worship opportunities in conjunction with the Worship and Music committee.** These opportunities include but are not limited to: Rally Day, Festival Sunday, Palm Sunday, VBS Sunday, Youth Sunday, and a Christmas Eve family service.

Other ongoing goals: Annual review and updating of Child Protection Policy.

Session Wish list-

1. Update AV equipment in the youth lounge, which is used by youth and other groups. To include replacement of the projector with a large flat screen T.V., DVD player, and proper cables to support access to a laptop computer onscreen.

Respectfully submitted by the Christian Education Committee:

Jessica Hickman, Chairperson, elder representative
Katie Wichterman, Second elder representative
Sue Denmead, secretary
Shirley Desmond
Terri Grantz
Andy Kluczyn, Adult Education
Kathy Nassar
Brandi Frazee
Camille Braun, PreSchool Director
Don Nixon, Director of Spiritual Development, Youth, staff liaison
Stacy Phillips, Director of Christian Education, staff liaison