

# 2008 Strategic Plan

*In December of 2006 the Strategic Planning Committee of First Presbyterian began a process of developing a new strategy for ministry that would help our congregation and leadership become more “intentional” or “purpose driven” in the way we approach our mission and ministry. As we studied and prayed together, we discussed different models of ministry. One of our underlying objectives has been to fulfill the Apostle Paul’s admonition to “to equip the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ...”(Eph. 4:12 NASB).*

**\*OUR VISION** statement helps answer the question, “Where are we going?”  
*The writer of Proverbs said, “Where there is no vision the people will perish...” (29:11).*

## Our Vision

To be a community of believers ...  
Growing **Upward** ...worshipping and praising God,  
Growing **Inward** ...becoming more like Christ,  
Growing **Outward** ...sharing the good news.

**\*OUR CORE VALUES** answer the question, “What do we believe?”

## Core Values

*Guided by the **Gospel**, true to the Reformed and Evangelical **traditions** of the Church and committed to discerning and fulfilling **God’s purpose** for us, we base our ministry on these **core values**:*

- Christ Centered** – We believe that **Jesus Christ** alone is Lord of all and the **only way** to salvation (John 14:6). Therefore, all that we do will be in **joyful response** to what God the Father has done in **sending Him** to be our Lord and Savior.
- Authority of Scripture** – We believe that **all Scripture** is divinely inspired and serves as the **final authority** in all matters of belief and behavior (2Tim 3:16). Therefore, **Bible-based** preaching and teaching will be the **foundation** of all our ministries.
- Worship** – We believe that we are **created** by God to worship Him and that glorifying God is the ultimate **reason** for our existence (John 4:23,24). Therefore, we will praise and worship Him **passionately** - as individuals, as families and as a **church**.
- Evangelism** – We believe that God has called all believers to **share the Gospel** of Jesus Christ (Mat. 28:19, 20). Therefore, we will reach out in word and deed to those **near and far** so that others will know the transforming **love** of Christ.
- Discipleship** – We believe that all Christians are called to pursue a growing **personal relationship** with Christ and to become more **Christ-like** in their beliefs and conduct (Eph 4:13). Therefore, we will provide opportunities for our members to **mature in their faith** through worship, prayer, study, and fellowship.
- Service** – We believe that **God cares** about the physical, emotional, and spiritual **needs** of every person and that all Christians are called **to minister** to others (Eph 2:10). Therefore, we will **equip** our members **to serve** rather than to be served.
- Fellowship** – We believe that God instructs Christians to cultivate **loving relationships** as a covenant community of believers (Rom 12:10). Therefore, we will **reach out** to, invest in and enjoy each other so we can **grow together** as part of God’s family.

**\*OUR MISSION** Statement answers the question, “Why we are here?”  
This statement has not changed as it accurately conveys our mission as a congregation.

### **Our Mission**

First Presbyterian Church is a **Christ-centered** church committed to **proclaiming the Gospel** of salvation in Jesus Christ so that people may come to a **personal faith** in Him through the **power** of the Holy Spirit, **discipling** one another in that faith, and reaching out with God's servant love to all.

**\*STRATEGIC INITIATIVES** answer the question, “How do we get there?”  
These initiatives define the action steps necessary to help us succeed with our plan.

### **Strategic Initiatives**

#### **Overarching Initiatives**

*Call upon every ministry and every member to unite in pursuit of shared goals which will help define our witness to the world.  
The challenge to every ministry is to develop, execute, and be accountable for specific plans of action which incorporate these Overarching Strategic Initiatives.*

#### **1. Increase the Passion and level of Commitment in our Ministries:**

We are first and foremost to love the Lord our God with ALL of our heart, soul, mind and strength. We desire that all believers know the joy of pleasing Christ through the devoted and faithful use of their time, talents, and resources. We will, therefore, seek to provide ministries that challenge us personally and corporately to move into a deeper relationship with God.

#### **2. Deepen and broaden the feeling of community within our Church**

As members of the body of Christ we are to be devoted to one another with brotherly love. Connected by His love we seek to be a place of belonging, friendship and harmony. We will accomplish this through increased opportunities for Christian fellowship and programs and ministries that encourage and build us up within the Body of Christ.

#### **3. Increase our external focus through outreach and service:**

We are charged by the Great Commission to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world. Our vision and Core Values emphasize our call to reach and embrace others both within our congregation and outside the church. We will accomplish this initiative through the offering of mission opportunities, both local and abroad, which will enable our members to have “hands on” experience of sharing the love of Christ.

#### **Targeted Initiatives**

*These are new or existing ministries on which we want to focus additional resources.  
It is left to the leadership of the church to define specific targeted initiatives which will be approved by the Session.*

#### **Enabling Initiatives**

*Encompass the implementation of programs, processes and infrastructure changes intended to facilitate and support the creation, expansion and enhancement of our areas of ministry.*

#### ***Align the organizational structure with our core values.***

To enable every ministry, group, organization and church member to understand and focus upon the Core Values which guide their efforts and contributions.

#### ***Improve the effectiveness of our communications.***

To clarify our message, to extend our reach and impact, to build trust and support through effective communication.

#### ***Enable our ministries to thrive and grow with expanded facilities.***

To insure that our church campus is developed and equipped to support and enhance existing and future ministries.

#### ***Empower our leaders with the creation of a leadership development curriculum.***

To equip existing and future leaders with a scripturally based sense of purpose and responsibility for their own spiritual growth and the spiritual growth of the congregation.

#### ***Establish and track measures of success.***

To prayerfully assess and evaluate our ministries in a consistent and constructive manner in order to maintain focus and determine effectiveness.