



2018 Visioning Synopsis

Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda. It means, *the church reformed and always to be reforming.* The Church not only can but is called to always be growing closer to God, and to who God is calling us to become. With this at heart, the Session of Towson Presbyterian Church began a visioning process in the spring of 2017,

exploring three intentional questions:

- Who have we (TPC) been?
- Who are we today?
- Who are we called to be?

To explore each question, Session employed three specific resources:

- Timeline* → Who we've been?
- Natural Church Development Surveys* (NCD) → Who we are?
- Appreciate Inquiry* (AI) Interviews → Who we're called to be?

While Session regrets being unable to incorporate everyone within the confines of this exploration, approximately 20% of TPC's total membership and 50% of our average Sunday morning worshipping congregation were surveyed, interviewed, or otherwise contributed to the information studied.

Summation of Key Findings

To review the report in its entirety, please visit towsonpres.org.

TPC's Strengths

- Worship & Music; Mission Ministry; Children's & Youth Ministries; Equipping members to use their gifts in ministries well-suited for them

TPC's Weaknesses

- Declining membership (mirrors decline of mainstream Protestantism)
- Lack of evangelistic outreach
- Lack of *strategic* intergenerational ministry
- Passionate Spirituality* → We don't do enough to foster members' experience of or passion for God in their daily life
- Need-Based Evangelism* → We don't share the Gospel in a way that meets the many questions and needs of those in our community-at-large

TPC's Greatest Hopes

- Quantitative Growth (membership and worship attendance)
- Qualitative Growth (missional outreach & increased faith formation)

Visioning Goals

The results are clear—TPC stands on a strong foundation of ministry thanks to the many hearts and hands of saints throughout our church's rich history. TPC has and continues to offer meaningful ministry. But as Session recognizes the evolving landscape in which the church finds itself along with the congregation's expressed hopes for growth, Session has created the following new initiatives. →

Moving Forward → Four New Initiatives

Adult Spiritual Formation

One year ago Session formed a new Adult Spiritual Formation team that has done yeoman's work! We have delighted in the new, year-round Small Group & Spiritual Formation program. But more formation is needed and desired.

Goal: By 2020, the Adult Spiritual Formation Committee will have:

- Created year-round offerings designed to facilitate the assimilation of newcomers to TPC's life.
- Fashioned a culture in which devotion is desired and spiritual formation is facilitated both at home and in the church.

Communication Evolution

How can the church effectively communicate with the 21st century world around us?

Goal: By 2020, the Communications Committee will have:

- Created new pathways by which TPC communicates its stories to both members of the church and the greater community
- Implemented a strategy and schedule by which to improve and increase the church's social media presence
- Studied and improved TPC's internal and external communications

Intergenerational/Family Ministry

Session discerns the congregation's particular desire to improve the manner in which our church reaches out to and tends to the faith needs of young families.

Goals: By 2020, the Children & Family Ministry Committee will have

- Studied best practices in the formation of intergenerational ministries
- Developed and begun implementing a strategic, year-round program designed to foster an entire family unit's faith formation both at church and at home.

Sharing the Good News

We do not do enough to build relationships with those beyond our walls with whom we are called to share God's unconditional love and unending grace. As such, TPC will seek to reclaim the original meaning and intention of evangelism (Good News).

Goal: By 2020, TPC will have formed a team that will have:

- Studied best practices in evangelism
- Developed a strategic approach to growing the church's relationships with the greater community
- Begun casting a vision throughout the church of what true evangelism can entail and achieve at TPC.
- Begun working with the Adult Spiritual Formation Committee to create assimilation and growth opportunities for visitors and new members.