

Mountville Presbyterian Church

Vision for God's Mission

I. Overview

This document comprises the conclusive work of the 'Transitional Missional Committee,' formed in accordance with the *Transitional Pastoral Ministry: EPC Training Manual*, by the authority of the Session of Elders, operating from March 26, 2025 until October 14, 2025 under the guidance of TE Elija Bombeck (Transitional Pastor) with the express purpose of prayerfully and strategically discerning the missional call of God, with respect to this particular church, for future Gospel growth and Church health. The following outlines a general understanding of the future vision for God's mission, with the basic steps of implementation; this does not contain a comprehensive, detailed plan to be executed with no further consideration or input. The 'Transitional Missional Committee' hopes that this will provide a long-standing summary of the research, thought, prayer, and discussion put into Mountville's vision and intends for this to be carried out by future sessions, committees, and pastors with their own prudent revisions, adjustments, and executional strategies.

II. God's Mission

Mission: Serve and Evangelize all residents of Perry Township through:

- (1) The strategic care and maintenance of Perry Township as our mission community.

(2) Ingrafting¹ the Church into the natural life and rhythm of Perry Township.

As Mountville Presbyterian Church, we believe that God has sovereignly placed us as the only church in the geographical limitations of Perry Township. While this is not our eternal home, we are spiritual foreigners and exiles by the salvation of Christ. Thus, we ought to understand Perry Township as our mission community (neighborhood), to live out the Gospel among the people, to pray over its residents, and to seek for the peace and prosperity of our neighbors, so that they know Christ on the day of his return.

Summarized: Our mission is to make Perry Township the greatest neighborhood to live and the best community to be a part of, physically and spiritually.

Biblical Guidance

Old Testament: ‘Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.’ Jeremiah 29:7

New Testament: ‘Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.’ 1 Peter 2:11-12

¹ ‘ingraft’ is used here to maintain the distinctiveness of the church as the vessel of the gospel from the community it serves, which it seeks to bring into the kingdom of God. Although distinct, the goal is to intentionally bring the church to the community in a natural manner, as to not conflate church and community nor hermetically seal them off from each other. c.f. Romans 11:17-20

III. Strategy (1)

Although the broader mission is to reach all of Perry Township, it is prudent to start with a smaller more specific area and expand—from the nearest neighbors to the church, outwards. We will follow along the contours of the roads and target the residents of each area. This will be carried out in three phases:

1.) Presence through Prayer (i.e. prayer walk/drive)

- a. Establish mission presence
- b. Pray for neighbors
- c. Isolate specific needs

2.) Connect with Township (i.e. township meetings)

- a. Bring attention to neighborhood needs
- b. Work alongside local government to address/assist

3.) Invite People

- a. To tell us more about needs
- b. To join our mission to make neighborhood great (summary of mission)
- c. To join in worship of God who gave us this mission

Example: Barkley Rd

1.) Presence through Prayer

- a. Prayer Walk during each Thursday for month of May
- b. Meet people and pray for them
- c. Isolate needs: clogged ditch, overhanging trees, trash on side of road

2.) Connect with Township

- a. Township offers to repair ditch
- b. We offer to trim trees
- c. We offer to pick up trash

3.) Invite People

- a. Mrs. Barkley would love if we would help fix her fence
- b. Mr. Barkley wants to join us for the next street
- c. Mr. & Mrs. Barkley want to come join us for Sunday Worship

IV. Strategy (2)

As we actively seek to serve and add to Perry Township, we want to passively engage the natural and already established rhythms and patterns of the neighborhood's way of life. This ingrafts the church more intimately into the community and provides opportunities to share the gospel. We will contribute to and participate in the local community events, and we will seek to provide our own opportunities for the neighborhood to gather in fellowship.

Our Goal: Establish the church as a necessary component and presence in the life of the neighborhood throughout the calendar year. This is accomplished by meeting people on 'Their Turf' and 'Our Turf.'

Their Turf – Local events where those outside the church feel more comfortably 'at home.'

- Heritage Festival
- Steam Show
- Regatta

Our Turf – Church events—more comfortable for those in the church—that connect with the community and make the church a more hospitable place for the community.

- Picnic/Hayride
- Mother's Day Lunch
- Community Worship Services

V. Concluding Remarks

Provided are only examples of natural structures in place that the Church can better leverage to reach the neighborhood. The goal is to expand and grow, seeking to bring the neighborhood to the Church and the Church to the neighborhood. Through intentional prayer and strategic discussion, the ‘Transitional Missional Committee’ finds these strategies to be the best use of the specific gifts among the congregation which will best serve the neighborhood. One of the most helpful resources utilized by the committee is the ‘Know Your Community Report’ from Church Answers that details extensive demographics from multiple census data sets which compile a picture of all those within a 15-minute driving-distance to the church address. While not perfectly accurate, this allows for a decent understanding, at the granular and measurable level, of the neighborhood and its needs, however, it does not show the whole human, immeasurable, and intangible picture. The intent is to start here and get to know the individuals of our neighborhood and consequently respond and adjust appropriately. The work of the ‘Transitional Missional Committee,’ summarized in this document, is not a quick fix but ought to be seen as the beginning of a lifelong work of obedience unto the mission of God. To Him be glory, forever and ever, Amen!

VI. Resources

Biblical Considerations

- Genesis 12:1-3

- Exodus 7:1-7
- Jeremiah 29:5-7
- Matthew 16:18-20
- Matthew 28:16-20
- Luke 9:1-6
- Luke 22:35-38
- Acts 1:8
- Acts 2:42-47
- Acts 18:1-4
- Romans 10:13-15
- 1 Peter 2:11-17

Extrabiblical

- Know Your Community Report – www.churchanswers.com (full report on file)
- How Do the ‘Unchurched’ Really Feel about the Church? – Church Answers (survey on file)
- *Transitional Pastoral Ministry: A Training Manual prepared by the EPC National Church Health Team 2nd ed.*
- *The Surprising Return of the Neighborhood Church* – Sam Rainer
- *Disappearing Church: From Cultural Relevance to Gospel Resilience* – Mark Sayers