

# From Generation to Generation

## Overview

### TPC's Near and Distant Future

#### Planning Process

*"I will confirm my covenant with you and your children after you, from generation to generation. This is the everlasting covenant: I will always be your God, the God of all generations." Gen 17:7*

## I. Background Preparation of the Session and Planning Team --Vision Statement

During the past few years, the Session has read and discussed several books and viewed several DVDs relating to church planning, including, *Transitioning* – Southerland; *The Barbarian Way* – Erwin McManus, *Purpose Driven Church* – Rick Warren; DVDs based on the book *The Present Future* – Reggie McNeal; videos by Michael Frost based on the book *The Shape of Things to Come*, and books relating to the missional church.

In addition, the Session has held retreats focused on church planning, church growth and the missional church; including a retreat in Spring 2009 with Pastor Tom Christian from Haines City Presbyterian Church serving as facilitator and a retreat in Fall 2010 with Pastor Case Thorp from First Presbyterian Church of Orlando as speaker/facilitator. Also several Session members have visited local churches which have had successful growth programs in recent years including Trinity Presbyterian Church in Satellite Beach.

At this point in the planning process, the session established the Planning Team made up of active elders and congregation members and charged this committee with a two-part task. The first part was forming a Vision Statement for TPC and the second part was developing strategies for moving TPC towards its vision. The Vision Statement provides a picture of where TPC wants and needs to be.

In developing the Vision Statement, the Planning Team viewed several of the DVDs reviewed by Session and several members of the Planning Team visited Haines City Presbyterian Church. They toured the campus and attended all three of their Sunday services. The Planning Team worked for over eight months developing the Vision Statement and it was presented and approved by Session in Fall 2010. In late 2010, it was presented to the congregation.

In Fall of 2010, the Planning Team was informed that the Marshall Marketing Company, which had recently done a survey concerning church planning for Haines City Presbyterian Church,

was willing to do a similar survey for TPC at no charge. The Planning Team presented this to Session which approved TPC conducting such a survey.

Next, the Planning Team approached Session for its help in forming the Strategies for which would assist TPC in reaching its Vision.

## **II. Gathering Input - Church Planning Retreat, Survey, etc.**

In an effort to gather data which could guide the Session in developing a plan for the near and distant future of TPC and help the Session develop strategies to move TPC towards its Vision Statement, several opportunities for input from leaders and the congregation were provided.

This included several Monday Night Leaders Meetings where leaders and Team members were invited to meet with Pastor Chris, view a DVD study and discuss TPC's future. At the first meeting, more than 35 attended.

In the Spring of 2011, a Church Planning Retreat was held in the Fellowship Hall; more than 50 TPC members attended. This retreat was facilitated by Pastor Tom Christian from Haines City Presbyterian Church. A very active discussion took place and several ideas relating to the future of TPC surfaced.

The survey of the congregation conducted by Marshall Marketing took place in June 2011. The results of the survey are presently being reviewed and correspondence with Marshall Marketing is planned to help the Session obtain a deeper understanding of some of the results. This input from the congregation will be used to help develop future plans for TPC.

## **III. Responding to Input Gathered**

An Ad Hoc committee of the Session developed a plan for review and implementation of the ideas received from the Church Planning Retreat and from other sources. The Committee recommended that three sub-teams be formed: 1. Ministry Team - responsible for drafting a Master Ministry Plan at TPC, 2. Facility and Property Team - responsible for drafting a Master Property Plan for Facility and Property Development and 3. Financial Team - responsible for drafting a Financial Plan for TPC in terms of upgrading existing property and funding new program and needs which are associated with plans for the future at TPC.

The Committee also emphasized the desire for implementation of the goals. To this end, a Church Planning Retreat (CPR) Task Force was established with the responsibility of shepherding the timely implementation of the ideas and plans which surfaced during the gathering of input.

The ideas which were received at the Church Planning Retreat and other sources have been assigned to appropriate teams where they are being reviewed for implementation. For example, “taking Children’s Ministry to the next step” has been referred to the Discipleship Team. There were 26 such items which have been assigned to various teams.

#### **IV. CPR Task Force and Sub-teams**

Presently the CPR Task Force and the three sub-teams have been formed and are in action. Monthly reports which update the status of each Team’s responsibilities with respect to planning and implementation are being submitted to the Task Force. The Ministry Team is in the process of gathering information relating to the needs and plans of various teams as they address input received at the Church Planning Retreat or other sources. The plans and needs which come forward in this process will be summarized in a report which will be submitted to the CPR Task Force in January 2012.

In this process, if the needs involve space or building concerns they will be referred to the Facility and Property Sub-team. The financial concerns associated with the plans being proposed will be referred to the Financial Sub-team.

#### **V. Prayer**

It should be mentioned that from the very beginning this process of forming plans and strategies for the Near and Distant Future of TPC has been bathed in Prayer. The Vision Statement of TPC has been kept in the forefront of our minds at each step of the way. Indeed, we are continuously praying that the plans which come forth from this process are part of God’s plans for TPC.

#### **Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (The Message)**

*“Love GOD, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that’s in you, love him with all you’ve got! Write these commandments that I’ve given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates.”*