

GLIMPSE

A VISION



STEP OUT!



“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News!”

(Romans 10:15)

The evangelism, new church development and mission expansion movement of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is based on the theological principles of the Cumberland Presbyterian Confession of Faith as stated in the following:

SALVATION:

4.05 Repentance is that attitude toward God wherein sinners firmly resolve to forsake sin, trust in Christ, and live in grateful obedience to God. 4.08 Saving faith is response to God, prompted by the Holy Spirit, wherein persons rely solely upon God’s grace in Jesus Christ for salvation. Such faith includes trust in the truthfulness of God’s promises in the scriptures, sorrow for sin, and determination to serve God and neighbor. 4.10 When persons repent of sin and in faith embrace God’s salvation, they receive forgiveness for their sin and experience acceptance as God’s children.

EVANGELISM:

5.05 The church is apostolic because God calls her into being through the proclamation of the gospel first entrusted to the apostles. The church thus is built on the apostolic message which is faithfully proclaimed by messengers who follow in the footsteps of the apostles.

Evangelism is a continuation of the apostles’ message that anyone who believes and expresses faith in Jesus Christ will have the forgiveness of sins and will be saved from judgment and separation from God. The Christian is to continue the work of the apostles, the apostles being our examples as servants, teachers, evangelists, pastors and missionaries. Furthermore, evangelism requires helping the converted grow in their salvation by baptism and teaching obedience to Christ commands. Evangelism is the role of the believer, to be ambassadors for Christ so that all may be reconciled to God.

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT:

5.03 The church is holy because she is founded on the finished and continuing work of Christ in setting her apart for God’s glory and witness in the world. Her holiness thus rests on God’s sanctifying her for her redemptive mission, not upon any personal holiness of her members. 5.29 Growth is natural to the church’s life. The church is called into being and exists to reach out to those who have not experienced God’s grace in Christ, and to nourish them with all the means of grace.





MISSIONS:

5.09 The church in the world never exists for herself alone, but to glorify God and work for reconciliation through Christ. Christ claims the church and gives her the word and sacraments in order to bring God's grace and judgment to persons.

5.30 In carrying out the apostolic commission, the

covenant community has encountered and continues to encounter people who belong to religions which do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. While respecting persons who adhere to other religions, Christians are responsible to share with them the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. ■ ■ ■

GENERAL GOALS OF THE PLAN

- Place evangelism “on the front burner” – a priority at all levels of the denomination.
- Assist the church at large to develop an evangelism/missionary-movement identity. This is more than a program; it is the development of an identity and a movement.
- Develop a clear and shared understanding of such important terms as: evangelism and faith-sharing; conversion; missions (fields), cross-cultural ministries
- Produce or identify concrete and diverse evangelism programs to provide to local churches. The CP Church is diverse, and one program will not fit all the expectations or needs.

LOCAL CHURCH

- Each local church should hold training events for their members on faith-sharing.
- Local churches will do evangelism by ministries beyond themselves – for example, NCD and mission projects, in addition to local evangelism efforts.
- Develop lay preachers to help with NCD and in other challenging church contexts.

- Identify and encourage those with the gift of evangelism.
- Develop a prayer network.
- Encourage the congregation to establish an accountability group on evangelism to maintain an emphasis on evangelism.
- Set a goal of evangelism growth of 10% per year per congregation based

- on present church active membership. If evangelism is our priority as a church, leading to a new identity, ambitious goals will reinforce this priority.
- Every church is encouraged to support a missionary. Today, CP missionaries must raise their own support.





PRESBYTERIES

- Because mutual accountability is important, presbyterial Boards of Missions will hold local churches accountable for the evangelism emphasis.
- Promote among CP youth a call to ministry in the areas of New Church Development, missions, evangelism, and pastoral ministry. Each presbytery will have a youth event to challenge youth to consider evangelism, NCD and/or missions.
- Presbyteries are encouraged to consider planting churches where there are no CP churches – presbyterial boundaries should not be regarded as a limiting factor to church planting.
- Each presbytery is to conduct fund drives for their NCD projects.
- Each presbytery plants 10% of the present number of their churches over 10 years.

- NCD Staff will conduct workshops for presbyteries to invite their churches to learn about different methods and styles of NCD.
- Each presbytery will name an NCD task force to work with all NCD projects in the presbytery. TF membership will rotate.
- Regional Miniversities will focus on Evangelism and NCD.
- Every presbytery will adopt an international mission field and provide program support for that field.

DENOMINATION

- Implement the General Assembly focus on evangelism at all levels of the Church.
- Provide leadership to enable local churches and presbyteries to adopt/support missionaries and/or mission field programs.
- Create and staff appropriate denominational positions to implement goals,

- Recommend and/or develop a diversity of evangelism programs and resources for churches and presbyteries.
- Open a new non-USA mission field.
- Gather all potential missionaries in the denomination into a team for new mission field(s).

STAFF POSITIONS AND RESOURCES NEEDED

- Staff position dedicated to evangelism development for the denominational focus.
- Staff position(s) dedicated to NCD and strengthening congregational ministries.
- Staff position dedicated to cross-cultural ministries.
- Staff position(s) for Global Ministries.
- Denominational fund-raising with a ten-year goal of \$1,000,000 for missions/evangelism/NCD programs.