

## **“Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations”**

### **The Five Practices:**

Radical Hospitality (Growth Council) & (Parish Council)  
Intentional Faith Development (Ed Council)  
Risk-Taking Mission and Service (Mission Council)  
Extravagant Generosity (Stewardship Council)  
Passionate Worship (Worship Council).

These Five Practices help us understand what it means to be Servants of Jesus Christ in our church, community, and world today.

### **First Presbyterian Church of Joliet Mission Statement:**

We are called to be Servants of Jesus Christ. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we seek the vision and courage to minister to one another, our community and our world. In response to God’s grace, we show our commitment to love and service through our Ministry Plan.

### **Acts 1:8 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

### **John M. Bryson, Strategic Planning: For Public and Nonprofit Organizations**

What we are doing is taking “a deliberate, disciplined approach to producing fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what [the church] is, what it does, and why it does it.” “The important activities are strategic thinking, acting, and learning, not strategic planning per se.” [Don’t let anything get] “in the way of strategic thought, action, and learning.”

### **Our Journey with the Five Practices:**

In the fall of 2018, we studied the Five Practices as a congregation. Then we asked anyone in the congregation to post ministry/mission ideas on five boards representing each of the Five Practices. The boards were up for several months, October and November. At our All Officer Retreat in February both our Deacons and Elders worked to prioritize the ministry/mission ideas from the congregation. Then the Session continued to discuss and reflect upon the ministry/mission ideas from the congregation. All five of the Practices were prioritized as you can see in this packet. The Session Councils are working with members of our church to implement the priorities, which are numbered and in bold print on each of the Five Practices pages.

Discerning and Choosing Our Ministries and Mission

**“Radical Hospitality”** (Growth Council)

Ministry/Mission Suggestion	“Come and See” (0-5 points)	“Go and Do” (0-10 points)	“Growing Younger” (0-10 points)	“Is It Doable” (0-10 points)	TOTAL (0-35 pts.)
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**#1 Welcome Greeters at Entrances (N,S)**

**#2 Name Tag Sundays Again**

**#3 Reinstate Coffee Bar in Narthex**

**#4 Encourage Folks to come on Sunday**

**Mornings with a Meet Someone New Attitude**

\*Connecting Center or Hospitality Table

\*Announcement in worship to move to  
the center of the pews

\*Walking in Local Community Parades

\*Having Ice-Breakers at our Events to

\*Transform Entry way in front to an  
intimate seating area

\*Need an updated church ID Book  
with Pictures

\*Hospitality from the Parking Lot to  
the Pew and your Coffee Table

\*Travelling Welcome Table

\*During Holidays offer to watch kids for a Couple

\*Focus on Target Groups: yg. parents, men

\*E-mail Based Prayer Chain

**EVAUATION KEY**

**Come and See Approach-** Attractional Assumptions-  
getting those outside the church to come inside

**Go and Do Approach-** Missional Assumption-

practicing discipleship that takes us into the places, communities, and networks people already inhabit.

**Growing Younger-** Does this help us lower the average age of the congregation?

**Is It Doable?-** Do we have anyone who will help (**WH**) and do we have anyone who will lead (**WL**)?

Discerning and Choosing Our Ministries and Mission

**“Intentional Faith Development”** (Ed Council)

Ministry/Mission Suggestion	“Come and See” (0-5 points)	“Go and Do” (0-10 points)	“Growing Younger” (0-10 points)	“Is It Doable” (0-10 points)	TOTAL (0-35 pts.)
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**#1 Women’s Retreat**

**#2 Men’s Retreat**

**#3 Mentor-Mentee Relationships**

**#4 In Home Small Groups**

New Members Welcoming Group

Identify the Blogger

Bible Study for Children

Bible Study for Youth

Bible Study for College Students

Bible Study for Adults

Utilize Church Resources- Children’s Library

Utilize Church Resources- Youth Library

Utilize Church Resources- Adult Library

Sunday School

Sunday Morning Classes

College Out-Reach

Organized Summer Youth Camp

Great Banquet

Men’s Activities to Develop Faithful Relationships

**EVAUATION KEY**

**Come and See** Approach- Attractional Assumptions-  
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Discerning and Choosing Our Ministries and Mission

**“Risk-Taking Mission and Service”** (Mission Council)

Ministry/Mission Suggestion	“Come and See” (0-5 points)	“Go and Do” (0-10 points)	“Growing Younger” (0-10 points)	“Is It Doable” (0-10 points)	TOTAL (0-35 pts.)
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**#1 Habitat House Build**

**#2 Fill Micro Food Pantry**

**#3 Needs For the Center- Clothing for  
interviews, food**

**#4 Volunteer at Northern IL Food Bank**

**#5 Weekend Mission Trip (Adult)**

\*Blood Drive

\*Farragut School- parenting classes,  
food, babysitting

\*Signs “You are Now Entering the  
Mission Field” at Doorways

\*Sidewalk Sunday School

\*Book Drive

**EVAUATION KEY**

**Come and See** Approach- Attractional Assumptions-  
getting those outside the church to come inside

**Go and Do** Approach- Missional Assumption-

practicing discipleship that takes us into the places, communities, and networks people already inhabit.

**Growing Younger**- Does this help us lower the average age of the congregation?

**Is It Doable?**- Do we have anyone who will help (**WH**) and do we have anyone who will lead (**WL**)?

Discerning and Choosing Our Ministries and Mission

**“Extravagant Generosity”** (Stewardship Council)

Ministry/Mission Suggestion	“Come and See” (0-5 points)	“Go and Do” (0-10 points)	“Growing Younger” (0-10 points)	“Is It Doable” (0-10 points)	TOTAL (0-35 pts.)
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**#1 Offer Financial Peace University  
at least twice a year**

**#2 Communicate Stewardship & Giving  
throughout the year**

-In Kind Giving

-Bulletin Insert

-Provide Info on Pledge Giving

**#3 Host Guardian Parents of Teen  
Support Group  
(Royal Family Kids Club?)**

\*Publicize In-Kind Giving:

-Qualified Charitable Distribution

-Stocks

\*Increase the Number of Pledges

\*Provide Information on Pledge Giving  
average/median/brackets

\*Host Mops Group

(mothers of preschoolers)

\*Encourage Bequests via Wills

**EVAUATION KEY**

**Come and See** Approach- Attractional Assumptions-  
getting those outside the church to come inside

**Go and Do** Approach- Missional Assumption-

practicing discipleship that takes us into the places, communities, and networks people already inhabit.

**Growing Younger**- Does this help us lower the average age of the congregation?

**Is It Doable?**- Do we have anyone who will help (**WH**) and do we have anyone who will lead (**WL**)?

Discerning and Choosing Our Ministries and Mission

**“Passionate Worship”** (page 1) (Worship Council)

Ministry/Mission Suggestion	“Come and See” (0-5 points)	“Go and Do” (0-10 points)	“Growing Younger” (0-10 points)	“Is It Doable” (0-10 points)	TOTAL (0-35 pts.)
<b>#1 *We have lots of talented people, ie. artists, photographers, singers, musicians. Find ways to incorporate their artistic gifts into worship and through the week</b>		<b>21.25</b>			
<b>#2 *Include Sermon Notes and mid-week social media points to keep folks interested, up to date</b>		<b>20.5</b>			
<b>#3 *Streaming Worship Services- live stream or delay streaming</b>		<b>20.18</b>			
<b>#4 *Make some Video Announcements by interviewing people</b>		<b>19.87</b>			
<b>#5 *Letting the Praise Band jam</b>		<b>18.81</b>			
<b>#6 *Music Appreciation Sunday</b>		<b>17.93</b>			
<b>#7 *Half day Session to study and reflect on our Worship at 10:30 a.m. on how to make it more meaningful.</b>		<b>17.5</b>			
<b>#8 *12 Week Sermon Series where we read through a book in the Bible as a church</b>		<b>16.81</b>			

Discerning and Choosing Our Ministries and Mission

**“Passionate Worship”** (page 2) (Worship Council)

Ministry/Mission Suggestion	“Come and See” (0-5 points)	“Go and Do” (0-10 points)	“Growing Younger” (0-10 points)	“Is It Doable” (0-10 points)	TOTAL (0-35 pts.)
#9 *Half day Session to study and reflect on our Worship at 9:00 a.m. on how to make it more meaningful	16.37				
#10 *On the 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays one service blended with us all together	16.31				
#11 *Fellowship between services	14.62				
#12 *I joined 1 <sup>st</sup> Pres. because I felt so much better in my soul after the service. Thus, I would not like any big changes or maybe no change at all.	10.68				
#13 *Fewer Random Stories in sermons and more application of biblical teaching	9				
#14 *No more kids sermons in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> service, offer Sunday school	6.3				

**EVAUATION KEY**

**Come and See** Approach- Attractional Assumptions- getting those outside the church to come inside

**Go and Do** Approach- Missional Assumption- practicing discipleship that takes us into the places, communities, and networks people already inhabit.

**Growing Younger**- Does this help us lower the average age of the congregation?

**Is It Doable?**- Do we have anyone who will contribute or help (**WH**) and do we have anyone who will lead (**WL**)?

## MINISTRY AND MISSION PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Radical Hospitality: Growth Council

- #1 **Welcome Greeters at Entrances:** Implementing and developing.
- #2 **Name Tag Sundays:** Implemented.
- #3 **Reinstate Narthex Coffee Bar:** Implemented.
- #4 **Encourage a Meet Someone New Attitude:** Implementing.

### Passionate Worship: Worship Council

- #1 **Find Ways to Incorporate Talented People's Gifts Into Worship:**  
Instrumental music has been provided in services.
- #2 **Include Sermon Notes and mid-week Social Media Points to Keep Folks Interested and Up to Date:** Implemented.
- #3 **Streaming Worship Service:** Investigating the cost of equipment to do it.
- #4 **Make some Video Announcements by Interviewing People:** Short videos of people coming back to church, back to school and the Women's Retreat are planned.
- #5 **Letting the Praise Band Jam:** In the planning process.
- #6 **Music Appreciation Sunday:** In the planning process.
- #7 **Study How to Make the 10:30 Service More Meaningful:** In planning.
- #8 **12-Week Sermon Series on a Book of the Bible:** Implemented.

### Intentional Faith Development: Ed Council

- #1 **Women's Retreat:** Scheduled for September.
- #2 **Men's Retreat:** In planning stage.
- #3 **Mentor-Mentee Relationships:** In planning stage.
- #4 **In Home Small Groups:** In planning stage.

### Risk-Taking Mission and Service: Mission Council

- #1 **Habitat House Build:** Begun August 9. Some workers signed up.
- #2 **Fill Micro Pantry:** Five days are covered, but additional coverage needed.
- #3 **Needs for The Center:** Planning a meal for The Center and Tutoring has started.
- #4 **Help for Northern Illinois Food Bank:** Helped on November 2 when 17 volunteers served. Plan to do this again.
- #5 **Adult Weekend Mission Trip:** An October mission trip with Presbytery is planned.
- #6 **Blood Drive:** A blood drive was set and held on Sunday, October 6, from 9 a.m. until noon.
- #7 **Farragut School Support:** 1050 composition books have been given to Farragut School.
- #8 **Mission Field Signs for Doorways:** Are up in the Narthex/Lobby Doorways

### Extravagant Generosity: Stewardship Council

- #1 **Financial Peace University:** In planning stage.
- #2 **Communicate Giving throughout the Year:** Discussion is on the back page for \*Expanding Giving Opportunities.
- #3 **Host Guardian Parents of Teen Support Group:** No action as of yet.



**\*Expanding Giving Opportunities:** Ken Graham is leading discussions about expanding giving opportunities in less traditional ways to complement and augment the annual stewardship drive. These opportunities are being communicated to the congregation through traditional Focus Presentations in church and, through small group meetings. The small group meetings, which are called, Personal Financial Planning Idea Exchanges, are flexible in nature. Those who attend determine the key questions which are discussed at the meeting. A number of ideas were discussed at several meetings, including:

- the tax advantages of donating required minimum IRA distributions,
- including the church in your will,
- giving in memory of someone who passed away,
- influencing your children to give regularly to the church.
- helping fund grandchildren's education
- the essential elements of an estate plan
- a look at retirement through both the accumulation phase and distribution phase

## **IDEAS- 5 PRACTICES FROM FEBRUARY 2020, ALL OFFICER MTG**

### **RADICAL HOSPITALITY**

#### **Growth Council:**

Social media:

Facebook check in

Instagram

#FirstPres

Wednesday night dinners, etc. —bring a guest

#### **Feedback:**

Pew hopping

Table hopping in Hoffman Hall

Introductions/share with a group

#### **Parish Council:**

Offer a CPR/First Aid class

Have a blessing of pets

Game nights with food in place of soup/chili & movie nights

Monthly drawings for adults and kids

Concerts

Participate in Easter and Christmas parades

Bring a friend Sunday (Guest)

Animal Rescue comes to visit, people can adopt pets

(MorningStar) on Pancake breakfast days

Increase events at our annual picnic

### **PASSIONATE WORSHIP- Worship Council**

Have a tear-off in bulletin for awareness of in-house talents (artistic, musical gifts)

Collect prayer requests to be used during Sunday worship services

Tear-off for hymn requests to make congregation feel more involved in worship

## **INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT- Ed Council**

Women's Retreat—September 18 & 19

Men's Retreat—looking at Fall 2020

Mentor-Mentee Relationships—in planning

Youth Group Sunday Nights—in planning

(These 4 items are the priorities and have been pared down from the prior list)

## **RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE- Mission Council**

Many things done last year will continue: hosting a blood drive, helping at Northern IL Food Bank, supporting the 3 girls at Angel House in Tanzania, managing the Micro Pantry, providing school supplies for Farragut students

New Ideas:

Provide and serve a dinner for The Center

Establish pen pal program with Farragut School students

Adopt a classroom at Farragut School

Have a Speakers Bureau at Farragut—different people go once a month/quarter, etc. and talk about their job, career, hobby, and how they got into it (modern version of a "Career Day")

Expand Helping Hands ministry to include household chores, minor repairs.

Possibly have a Mission Day where many people go out and work at various locations on these projects.

## **EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY- Stewardship Council**

Plans for 2020:

Financial Peace University—Begins March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. 9 sessions on Mondays, Dave & Sandi Zang leading

Communication—have a Focus prior to each of the 2 Financial Planning Idea Exchanges

2020-21 Stewardship Campaign beginning Sunday February 23. Budget and material approved by Session