

# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN FALL 2016

**Introduction** The purpose of the Grace Church Strategic Long-Range Plan is to document a vision for the parish.

The plan envisions that the parish will not only maintain its vibrant high level of involvement and activism, but deepen and broaden its dedication to spread the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The Rector and Vestry should review and update the plan on an annual basis so that Grace will always have a viable plan in place. The Strategic Long-Range Planning Committee should meet in 2021 to address needed updates to the plan.

**Our Guiding Principles** The following guiding principles help us measure our actions and decisions as a community of faith.

- Worship offers the opportunity to experience the presence of God through Word, Sacrament, Music and Community.
- Through outreach, we help others by providing for their physical, spiritual and social needs.
- Our Parish is a community where all people can experience and share God's transforming love.
- As the Church of Open Arms, we strive to grow our congregation and increase participation.
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**Our Vision** We will be a light within the community where all people are welcomed and nurtured by experiencing God's love.

**Our Mission** Grace Church welcomes all who seek to know, love and share Jesus.

## Ministries

**Worship and Music** Our worship and music are the foundations from which we grow and how we attract and welcome people to the mission and ministry of Grace Episcopal Church.

### **Objectives:**

- Our worship and music will engage all parishioners
- Our worship and music will be diverse and uplifting
- Our worship and music will be anchored in the Episcopal faith and be inspirational and fulfilling

### **Strategies:**

- Enhance our music program by adding choir members and instrumentalists
- The Rector and Worship Leaders will assess and address needs of the Worship and Music Ministries.

- The Prayer Ministry will be available at each service for intentional prayers.

**Outreach** Outreach acts as a bridge to connect the resources of our people with the needs and opportunities for ministry existing in our community and beyond.

**Objectives:**

- Continue to enhance the presence of Grace in the community through outreach activities.
- Partner with national and international organizations to share the gospel and meet the needs of people outside our local community.
- Our Outreach will provide a rewarding and enriching experience for the volunteers participating in Outreach programs.

**Strategies:**

- Promote awareness and knowledge of Outreach activities within the parish.
- Use our parish's physical facilities to enhance Outreach activities.
- Continuously evaluate Outreach priorities based on the needs of the community.

**Buildings and Grounds** This ministry maintains all buildings, grounds, equipment and furnishings.

**Objectives:**

- To be good stewards of the church property by providing a safe, clean, and attractive environment.
- Maintain our building and grounds to promote a warm and welcoming atmosphere to all people who come to Grace.
- Enhance the worship experience of our church family by caring for our buildings and grounds in a way that glorifies God.

**Strategies:**

- Maintain the building, grounds and furnishings utilizing the talents of the congregation whenever feasible.
- Maintain all building systems in good operating order to maximize energy efficiency.
- Jr. Warden, Sexton and Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) party service providers will regularly inspect buildings, equipment and furnishings to schedule cleaning, painting, repair and replacement. This schedule should project 5 years in advance and be updated annually to accommodate budget planning and special gift opportunities.

**Skills and Talents Inventory** This ministry is charged with the responsibility to inventory the skills, talents and desires of members and new members.

**Objectives:**

- To identify the skills, talents and desires of our members.
- To work with the chair of the various committees to involve each member of the congregation in some ministry.
- To utilize the talents of each member in the best manner possible.

**Strategies:**

- The Rector and Vestry will find a program to inventory the talents, skills and desires of each member of the congregation.
- Adapt/prepare a questionnaire and distribute it to each member of the parish, collate the information and distribute the information to the appropriate ministry.
- Formulate a data base to record the above findings.
- Explore small cards to put in pews for members to fill out and put in the offering plate.

**Hospitality** The function of hospitality is to develop and enrich fellowship opportunities within the parish in order to strengthen the community of Grace as the body of Christ.

**Objectives:**

- Every member of the parish should feel a sense of belonging.
- Grace church will be a welcoming and inclusive place for all.
- Nurture relationships within the parish through fellowship opportunities in a social setting.
- Support other parish ministries by creating social events that reinforce the objectives of these ministries.

**Strategies:**

- Develop events that encourage individuals and couples to participate.
- Involve parishioners in the planning and implementation of events.
- All ministries will coordinate fellowship opportunities and implement plans for additional social interactions.

**Adult Christian Education:** The role of Adult Christian Education is to provide opportunities for parishioners to grow personally in their relationship with God.

**Objectives:**

- Grace Church will provide Christian Education and Formation that is based in Scriptures and the Episcopal tradition.
- Formation will enable us to connect our personal experiences to God's story and empower us to share the Good News with others.
- Our formation efforts will inspire others to shape and transform their own lives.

**Strategies:**

- Engage the parish with year-long Bible Study programs.
- Offer special educational opportunities for the key seasons within the church year, e.g., Advent, Lent, etc.
- Support small group development and discussion with programs targeted at specific topics.

**Youth Ministry** The goal of this ministry is to bring the youth to a personal relationship with Christ.

**Objectives:**

- Make Grace more youth friendly so we have a larger youth population.
- Involve the youth in church programs and activities.

- To offer a safe and nurturing environment for our youth to explore, discuss and learn about and experience God.
- Encourage our youth to connect their stories to God's story.

**Strategies:**

- Work with the youth leader to develop appropriate programs and activities.

**Children's Ministry** This ministry provides instruction for our youngest members.

**Objectives:**

- Provides Christian formation for children that is based in Scripture and the Episcopal tradition.
- To offer a safe and nurturing environment for children to explore, discuss, learn about and experience God.
- Encourage our children to connect their stories to God's story.
- Make Grace Church more children friendly in order to attract more young families.

**Strategies:**

- Provide Children's Church participants with hands-on learning experiences and age appropriate play.
- Provide Sunday School students with a relevant and engaging curriculum.

**Communication** Communication fosters and promotes effective exchanges of information among members of the parish and keeps our community informed.

**Objectives:**

- Improve communication within the parish.
- Provide timely and comprehensive information to members of the congregation and Port Orange Community.
- To promote and document fellowship events, social interactions and other special events of the church.

**Strategies:**

- Following each Vestry meeting, the Parish Administrator will make available the minutes of the meeting in the Narthex.
- All ministry leaders will provide annual reports to the Vestry and the congregation pertaining to their respective ministry.
- Ministry leaders will contact the writers of TWAG and the office as needed to provide information about their particular ministry and posting to social media.
- The Treasurer will make available quarterly financial reports in the Narthex. The Treasurer is encouraged to add comments to the report as appropriate.

**New Member Ministry** The New Member Ministry provides a warm welcome to guests and newcomers each Sunday and make them feel at home.

**Objectives:**

- Welcome guests to Grace.

- Transition guests to members.
- Encourage the participation and involvement of new members.

**Strategies:**

- Create an open and welcoming environment for members and guests.
- Present opportunities for participation for new members.
- Help the parish to know new members.

**Stewardship** The Stewardship Ministry believes that our time, talent, and treasure come from God and that we have an obligation to use and share these gifts wisely.

**Objectives:**

- Increase people's faith so that they can become generous givers.
- Encourage each parishioner to become involved with a ministry for it is through involvement that one becomes a better giver and comes to understand stewardship.

**Strategies:**

- Provide a standard of giving, one that will guide them toward tithing.
- Encourage those who give well to express the joy of giving.
- The Stewardship Committee will emphasize that stewardship is about more than money; it is also how we approach the other resources that are available to us including those of time and talent.
- The Stewardship Committee will conduct a year-round program:
  - To keep the parish informed of opportunities to serve.
  - To educate the parish on various ways to make gifts: e.g., appreciated securities, bequests, etc., and
  - To work with the Treasurer to provide quarterly information regarding the financial state of the parish.

**Pastoral Care** The Pastoral Care Ministry ensures that members of our community and others are cared for in times of illness, family crises, death, etc.

**Objectives:**

- We will offer support and care for parishioners as they experience life's transitions.
- We will strive to be known as a caring and compassionate church.

**Strategies:**

- Visit those who are unable to attend services by having clergy and LEV deliver communion.
- The Prayer Shawl Ministry knits shawls for those struggling with a life experience.
- Involve the congregation when pastoral opportunities arise for meals, babysitting, transportation, etc.
- The Flower Guild Team visits those who are ill, or shut-in, by bringing them altar flowers, bulletins and information about the church family.
- The Pastoral Care Committee should:
  - Develop a schedule for shut-ins to be regularly visited by members of the clergy and LEV's.
  - Work with the Flower Guild and Prayer Shawl Ministry.

- Coordinate emergency needs and responses as appropriate.
- Make certain that those who are hospitalized are visited.