

OUR PURPOSE

To glorify God in all things and to enjoy Him at all times.

OUR VISION

To connect people locally and around the world to the transforming grace of God.

OUR MISSION

Our vision to connect people to the transforming grace of God will be accomplished:

- ⇒ by extending grace to one another and deepening both our appreciation for our visitors and our compassion for the unchurched.
- ⇒ by discipling our members to be mature followers of Jesus Christ, equipped to share the gospel and for works of service.
- ⇒ by building bridges of love and mercy between our church and the communities in which we live, work and play.

OUR TARGET

We will seek to reach non-Christians and disillusioned or discouraged Christians in order for them to enjoy the freedom in Christ that comes from the gospel of God's grace.

8. **Prospective Member Seminar**

The Inquirer's Seminar is essential and required for every person joining the church. It is a vital part of our assimilation process.

9. **Equipping for Ministry**

"Every member is a minister." Church members should equate membership with ministry. There are a few pastors and staff members but there are many ministers. The laity must be "unleashed" to be full-fledged partners as ministers. The pastor's role is to equip believers for ministry, not do it all himself. Member-ministers can be equipped to do many of the things a pastor can do, and often better, according to their spiritual gifts. Each person is asked to attend the three Equipping Seminars: *Spiritual Growth, Uniquely You* and *Triple "E" Training*.

10. **Planting Biblical Churches**

We will extend our impact locally, nationally and globally by planting new churches with biblical philosophies of ministry to reach their communities with the gospel.

11. **Simple Structure**

The church's organizational structure will be streamlined to maximize ministry and minimize maintenance. Structure must facilitate ministry, not hinder. We will look to the staff to initiate, develop and lead the church along with the officers.

12. **Building Bridges to Our Community**

We will seek to build bridges of influence to our community through acts of love and good deeds.

Metra North
Church

**Who
We
Are**

OUR MOTTO

**Enjoying Life with God
and Others**

OUR CORE VALUES

1. **Truth**

We are committed to obeying and applying God's inerrant Word, the Bible, which equips us for all of life and ministry, and to the historic Reformed Faith expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.

2. **Unity**

We are committed to maintaining the unity of the Holy Spirit through the bond of peace by giving and receiving forgiveness and by honoring and respecting one another.

3. **Love**

We are committed to loving God with our whole heart and loving our neighbors as ourselves. We understand that we love because God first loved us and that we can't say we love God if we do not love one another. Our love must be intentional, sacrificial and practical.

4. **Grace**

We are committed to being a grace-oriented congregation. Since our salvation is by grace alone, we must show grace to both believer and unbeliever alike by accepting others as God has accepted us.

OUR MINISTRY VALUES

1. **Worship**

We are committed to individual and corporate worship that focuses on the Triune God, offering ourselves in obedient service to bring Him praise, glory and honor.

2. **Prayer**

We are committed to deepening our relationship with God through the privilege of prayer. We realize that a church that prays is a powerful church where the Holy Spirit works in supernatural ways. God uses our prayers to accomplish His sovereign plans and purposes.

3. **Evangelism**

We are committed to sharing the gospel of God's grace to those who have yet to believe in Jesus Christ. Apart from faith in Jesus

Christ there is no salvation. It is our desire to assimilate new converts into the life and ministry of the church.

4. **Ministry of All Believers**

We are committed to every member ministering in the church and community with his or her spiritual gifts.

5. **World Missions**

We are committed to reaching the world with the gospel by intercessory prayer and sacrificially offering ourselves, our finances and our children as evidence of our commitment.

6. **Spiritual Growth**

We are committed to helping members grow spiritually and equipping them to carry out the Great Commission to be disciple makers.

7. **Fellowship**

We are committed to the mutual sharing of our lives through supportive relationships where needs are identified and met.

8. **The Home**

We are committed to establish, encourage and enrich the Christian homes of couples, families and singles, including those experiencing strained or severed relationships.

9. **Mercy Ministry**

We are committed to being openhanded as we minister to the needy through deeds of mercy.

10. **The Church**

We are committed to the local church as the visible Body of Christ and the primary agent for building God's kingdom on earth; therefore, we are committed to Metro North Church and to the Presbyterian Church in America – its beliefs and polity – as part of the worldwide Church.

11. **The Sovereignty of God**

We are committed to submitting to the sovereign plan of Almighty God in our lives and in our church. God is in control of all things and His purposes and plans are never thwarted. All things happen for God's glory and for our good.

OUR PLAN

1. **Prayer**

Members will be encouraged to pray for the church and community. Opportunities for intercessory prayer will be made available through prayer teams, Concerts of Prayer, prayer walking and days of fasting and prayer.

2. **Seeker Friendly**

We are relational and friendship-oriented. Our strategy includes exposing others to God's Word and God's people through non-threatening events and ministries. People have the freedom to ask questions and explore the Christian faith.

3. **Grace-filled Environment**

Grace and acceptance permeates our thinking and actions. We offer freedom from "long-faced religion" and the consequences of wrong choices.

4. **Dynamic Worship**

Our approach is God-centered: celebrative - expressing our joyful enthusiasm, praise and amazement toward our glorious Lord and Savior in a manner that is genuine, uplifting, refreshing and culturally accurate while remaining true to our Reformed heritage of worship. This is an appropriate response to the awareness of the depth of our indebtedness to Jesus Christ and His unmerited grace as the basis of our overwhelming passion for His praise and glory.

5. **Small Groups**

FOCUS!, our small group ministry, is the key strategy for caring and building friendships. "Everyone cares for somebody and nobody cares for more than ten" exemplifies our commitment to provide care. We believe that true care is best practiced by "every member being a minister," rather than a "professional staff" taking that responsibility.

6. **Relevant Teaching and Preaching**

We teach the Bible – all of it. Consistent exposure to God's Word in practical and applicable approaches will make an impact in the lives of people.

7. **Creativity, Innovation and Excellence**

We owe both the Lord and others our absolute best. We will not be afraid to change if our ministries and programs can be more effective.