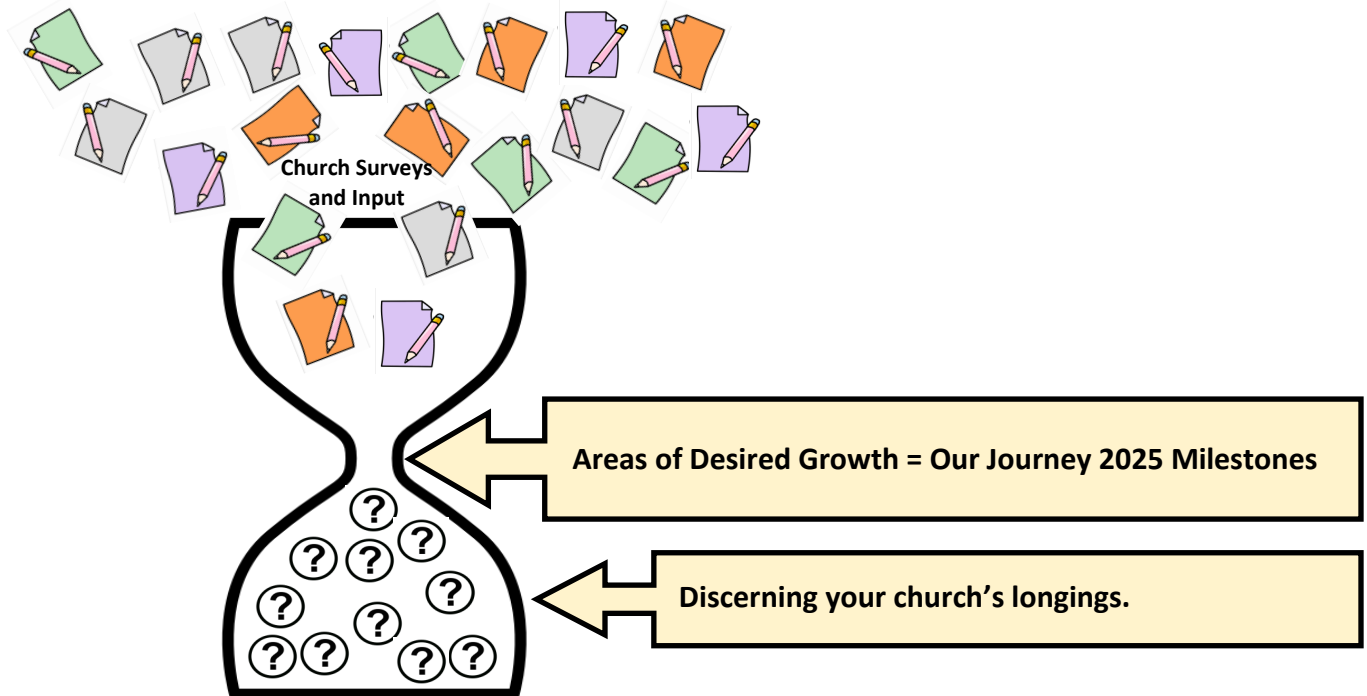


Joining the Good Work Begun in Christ

Gratitude & Longing

“...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 1:6

1.



Our Journey 2025 Milestones

In our journey with God, with each other, with our neighbors, and for mission, we desire to be congregations/communities that:

1. Cultivate practices of prayer and spiritual discipline, transforming our lives and communities by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Listen to the voices of every generation, shaping us for ministry together.
3. Grow in diversity and unity by seeking justice, reconciliation, and welcome, sharing our faith as we build relationships with and honor cultures of our neighbors and newcomers.
4. Share the gospel, live it missionally, and plant new churches in our neighborhoods, as we discover how to connect with our local and global ministry contexts.

2.

The 4 Milestones & Your Congregation

Milestone #1 Our church is cultivating practices of spiritual discipline, transforming our lives and communities by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Examples of Milestone: growing into less familiar prayer styles such as examen, lectio divina, prayer journaling, praying scripture, scripture memorization and spiritual direction

Example Statement:

We are grateful for recently becoming aware of the power of lectio divina prayer methods

And

We recognize a call to slow down and be more aware of the Lord's presence among us and how it is calling us to lead.

We are grateful...

We recognize...

AND...

Milestone #2 Our church is listening to the voices of every generation, shaping us for ministry together.

Examples of Milestone: inviting young adults into significant leadership positions in the church, equipping recently retired seniors for new avenues of discipleship and service, designing worship that intentionally engages all ages and generations, mentoring teens

Example Statement:

We are grateful the Lord has blessed us with many active seniors,

And

We recognize that we are called to continue to equip them to serve in unique ways in what we now call the third third of our lives.

We are grateful...

We recognize...

AND...

The 4 Milestones & Your Congregation continued...

Milestone #3 Our church is growing in diversity and unity by seeking justice, reconciliation, and welcome, sharing our faith as we build relationship and honor the cultures of our neighbors and newcomers.

Examples of Milestone: being aware of ethnic/racial demographics in our neighborhood and becoming equipped to welcome them, refugee ministry, welcoming recent immigrants

Example Statement:

We are grateful that the neighborhood around our church is becoming home to folks from a variety of cultures and ethnic backgrounds

And

We recognize that we are called to learn more about providing a church home to folks from a variety of backgrounds.

We are grateful...

We recognize...

AND...

Milestone #4 Our church is sharing the gospel, living it missionally, and planting new churches in our neighborhoods, as we discover how to connect with our local and global ministry contexts.

Examples of Milestone: outreach ministries (Coffee Break, Alpha, Go Local), discerning how one's congregation's gifts can bless the neighborhood, building a sister relationship with a church plant close by or a mission church in another country

Example Statement:

We are grateful our Coffee Break program has begun to attract a number of single moms who have gone through hard journeys,

And

We recognize we are called to a more holistic ministry (that includes our deacons) that blesses them.

We are grateful...

We recognize...

AND...

3

Writing Your Congregation's Milestone

Which milestone tugs at your heart when thinking of your congregation? As a group, write down a gratitude and a longing around that milestone as it relates to your congregation.

(5 minutes)

We are grateful...

AND

We recognize...

4

Listening To The Spirit For Gratitude

Take two minutes of silence and write down as many stories, events, observations in which you have seen God moving through this milestone in your church over the past 3-8 years. (This may include negative happenings that served as wake-up calls.) (2 minute)



Stories of God
Moving

Gratitude

5

Listening to Each Other

Compare your lists with your group.

Listen for similarities and write them down.

What do you hear the Spirit affirming and confirming through your shared lists? (2 minutes)



Similarities

6

Listening to The Spirit

Reflect on the congregational milestone you chose.

List the longings that you experience yourself or have seen in others.

(2 minutes)

Compare your notes with each other. (3 minutes)

What might God be calling you or your congregation into?



Personal & Congregational Longings

7

Listening to Each Other

Listen as each group shares a gratitude or longing...