



**NORTH DECATUR
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

We welcome all.

North Decatur Presbyterian Church

Strategic Plan 2018-2021

Version NOV 2017



Introduction

This 3-year plan (2018-2021) reflects the current priorities of NDPC. Much thought and prayer lies behind this plan: from a church-wide survey conducted in the summer of 2017, to numerous group discussions about the needs of NDPC, to discernment of God's direction in and through our congregation, and by articulating our own hopes for the future of the church.

On behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee, we ask that this plan be prayed over and steadily implemented in the next months and years. The aim is for NDPC to continually discern God's will for us, and live toward that will by growing in our love for one another and for our whole community.

-Elder David Markham, chair, Penny Cannon, Clarke Hair, & Carol Morgan



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Strategic Plan // 2018-2021

**The strategic plan focuses activity in four areas
identified by the Spring 2017 Congregational Survey**

- Enriching Ministry Opportunities for the People of NDPC
- Elevating Fellowship Among the People of NDPC
- Engaging with the People Who Share Our Neighborhood
- Providing Affordable Housing for People In Our Community



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Enriching Ministry Opportunities for the People of NDPC

NDPC is a vibrant place for worship, teaching, and growing together in Christ. Together we hope build an environment of inquiry into what it means to be a Christian. We hope to renew in each of us the feeling that we are Spirit-led and reflect on how we can be disciples of Christ in this present moment. We will invite each other to find and follow our calling as members of the body of Christ and celebrate our ministry together. Let us strengthen our faith and increase our ability to handle challenging times in our world today.



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Enriching Ministry Opportunities for the People of NDPC

1. Continued focus on excellent worship services. Consider incorporation of regular meditative worship opportunities and prayer gatherings (such as prayers for peace).
2. Build creative educational programs that allow for exploration of these topics:
 - What does it mean to walk the path of Christ in today's world?
 - What are we called to be and to do?
 - How do we find (or are found by) Christ in everyday life?
 - How are we all ministers?Consider/develop a plan for discipleship for members at various stages in faith life/church engagement
3. Continually survey the needs and patterns of the congregation in terms of Adult Education to ensure that we are growing this part of the church.
4. Embark on a systematic review of church, committee, and session activities:
 - Consider whether the current session leadership structure--committee chair selection, training, succession planning, and frequency of session meetings--effectively supports the church's mission
 - Plan lay leadership training in project management (Budget Item)
 - Expand committee membership to include new members
 - Review whether current church activities and priorities are consistent with the church's mission; consider re-ordering priorities, including revitalizing volunteer opportunities.
 - Move some church activities that are currently undertaken by committees to short-term "project teams" that are tasked to accomplish a specific goal
5. Support and retain staff. Our pastors and staff are important to us. As our church grows, we have many great things to share and we need to review the responsibilities and compensation of staff. We should evaluate the needs of the church to assess appropriate staffing needs and update the church's long-term personnel plan
6. Search for ways to display church mission opportunities and other activities at each of the church entrances.
7. Compile a full list of volunteer activities in a single space that details how to get involved, contacts, when to meet, time commitments, cost, info about the work, etc. This could be available online and around the church



Elevating Fellowship Among the People of NDPC

We recognize that there is a great yearning to build deeper relationships within our church community. There has been much discussion about getting to know each other better and grow together in our walk as Christians. We hope to create opportunities to connect with others and share our stories.



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Elevating Fellowship Among the People of NDPC

1. Expand and strengthen parishes as sites of fellowship, care, and worship.
2. Organize meaningful church gatherings: meals, potlucks, social time on Sunday mornings, movie nights, coffee times, musical events, family dinners
3. Consider using Sunday morning coffee time to host short, informal discussions or talks on various church volunteer activities. Continually celebrate and highlight volunteer activities. Plan regular “Minutes for Mission” during church events and worship
4. Plan a church-wide retreat for the purposes of worship, education, and fellowship. The goal is to host this event every other year
5. Nurture relationships by incorporating caring/sharing time into church school classes, session meetings, and other meetings
6. Encourage diverse means for getting to know each other: use of name tags, In Touch member spotlights.
7. Consider online daily devotions and discussion group. Each committee could organize a month of devotionals to focus on Christian discipleship related to their concerns/service. Also needs staff editorial support.
8. Encourage care and support of senior members and support for their involvement in all church activities



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Engaging the People Who Share Our Neighborhood

Our neighborhood, our city, and our county are changing and growing rapidly. At NDPC, we have much to offer our neighbors, and we also have much to learn from the community as a whole. As a church that tries to engage, love others, and show God's love, we want to be a resource and a hospitable place for all. By serving our community, NDPC strives to live more deeply into our identity as a "welcoming congregation."



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Engaging the People Who Share Our Neighborhood

1. Identify resources at the church that can be used by the wider community.
 - Three areas would likely include the playground, green space, and Fellowship Hall.
 - Plan for renovations as needed and consider applications for community matching funds.
 - Evaluate continuation of Hess Academy or other use for education space. (Budget Item)
2. Organize quarterly community activities to be held at the church: speakers, workshops (i.e. parenting), interfaith meetings, and cultural events. These should be prominently advertised by use of signs, social media, flyers, etc. (Budget Item)
3. Improve signage for the church, including signs for special activities. Develop signs with an inviting, welcoming, and supportive message (Budget Item)
4. Broaden interfaith activities



Providing Affordable Housing for People in Our Community

NDPC has a long history of service and demonstrating God's love to others. We have a particular interest in affordable housing, with knowledgeable and experienced congregation members and many others willing to serve. We have experience working with community partners on this issue, including Decatur Cooperative Ministry and the Initiative for Affordable Housing. Affordable housing remains one of our community's greatest challenges. We will endeavor to increase the availability of safe and affordable housing in DeKalb County. By focusing efforts, we will continue to build relationships and collaborations in this vital area. We hope to expand these activities through the current strategic plan and then build on successes in the next phase of NDPC planning.



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Providing Affordable Housing for People in Our Community

1. Organize a DeKalb/Decatur conference to coordinate activities in this area (Budget Item)
2. Expand volunteer efforts with our partners working on affordable housing (DCM, IAH, DEAM, ABLE, PBG)
3. Create regular, ongoing community discussions and lobbying efforts to raise awareness and change policies
4. Forge partnerships with other organizations and congregations to share ideas
5. Build on these efforts by continuing to focus on affordable housing in the next strategic plan



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Implementation

The plan's implementation is the responsibility of the full NDPC session and will be evaluated at 3-month intervals by an implementation team.

For each of the points in the strategic plan, a specific timeline will be identified, including each of the following stages:

Stage 1 - Evaluation, Strategy, Plan, Identify Leadership

Stage 2 - Implementation

Stage 3 - Assessment and monitoring



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Summary

Through this plan, NDPC hopes to grow toward Christ, receive and embody God's Word, show love to one another, and serve those who can use our help. Our ministry is important in our world today, and NDPC will continue to provide a place for those who wish to walk in the way of Christ and to become instruments of love and peace in the world.