

# Prince of Peace Church Ministry Goals

**Congregational Purpose Statement:** We are disciples of Jesus who are empowered by God's extravagant grace to grow in faith, serve in love and live in joy.

- **Health Support Ministry:** *Develop a new ministry area that provides services, education and support to those experiencing issues around health and wellness and those caring for others with chronic health care needs.*
- **Community Building Ministry:** *Create more opportunities for members and friends to deepen relationships and connections with others in the congregation and expand our connections with the larger community outside the church.*
- **Family and Education Ministry:** *Create a network of services that support families at all stages of life and expand our Christian Education Programs to better engage children, youth and adults in the ongoing process of becoming disciples of Jesus.*
- **Addiction and Mental Health Ministry:** *Create an environment of understanding and acceptance of people with addiction and mental health issues while generating awareness of programs and support groups that already exist for people struggling with these issues and their families.*
- **Hunger and Poverty Ministry:** *Provide services and support to those who are struggling to ensure basic human needs for themselves and their family (e.g. food, clothing, shelter and employment that provides a living wage).*

# Health Support Ministries

## Potential Strategies:

- Sustain and promote **existing Support Ministry programs and activities**
- Offer **health education workshops and periodic, basic health services** (e.g. blood pressure check-ins) provided by volunteer health care professionals from the congregation
- Train members of the congregation to provide **respite care** to those responsible for caring for a family member with ongoing health issues
- Develop a cohort of trained **health care advocates** to provide support for members and friends experiencing difficulty negotiating the health care system
- Continue to offer **grief counseling** for those who are experiencing serious illness or those with a family member with ongoing health issues
- Refer those with **prayer requests** to health support ministry programs in the congregation
- Renew **support services in the congregation for those in crisis**, similar to Stephen Ministry
- Raise awareness in the congregation about the **groups that meet at the church** that offer health support (e.g. Trevoise Group (weight issues), Hope Group (grieving group))

# Community Building Ministries

## Potential Strategies for community building inside POP:

- Sustain and promote **existing programs and activities** (e.g. Young at Hearts, Circle Lydia)
- Provide additional opportunities for people to connect with others **between/after services** (e.g. offer more refreshments)
- Reintroduce church **“Buddy System”** (i.e. match families/individuals with similar experiences or interests one-on-one)
- Establish a **“House System”** of social groups with similar backgrounds that sponsor events and social gatherings
- Expand the pool of volunteers who **provide transportation to members** who need help coming to church
- **Sponsor programs** that offer opportunities for people both inside and outside the POP community (e.g. music workshops for parents and young children, game night)

## Potential Strategies for community building with the larger community outside of POP:

- Host **worship events outside of the church building** at another location/venue
- Hold activities/events at POP during annual **Marlton Harvest Festival weekends** (e.g. car washes, prayer table)
- Host events and provide services that **support first responders** in Marlton (e.g. fire station that is right behind the church)
- Host **events in front of the church** (e.g. rent big screen to show movies and sporting events; host fair or festival)
- Invite couples to **renew their wedding vows for St. Valentines Day** and host a dinner

# Family and Education Ministries

## Potential Strategies to support families:

- Bring in **speakers on different stages of family life** (e.g. parenting infants, empty-nesters)
- Offer activities geared to **divorced parents and their children**
- Provide **workshops for parents on behavioral issues with children** (e.g. bullying, eating disorders, social media)
- Establish a **more formal children's chapel program** during worship
- Expand **nursery program and provide babysitting services**
- Offer **support groups and retreats** for single adults, married couples, parents, widows/widowers
- **Visit "shut-ins" throughout the year** and sponsor **adopt-a-grandparent program** with local nursing care facility
- Introduce **intergenerational mentoring** for different life stages (e.g. youth group members mentor confirmation students)

## Potential Strategies to expand our Christian Education programs:

- Sustain and promote **existing education programs** for children, youth and adults
- **Leverage major faith milestones** (e.g. baptism, first communion, confirmation) as a focus of Christian Education
- Use **web-based formats to provide education** (e.g. webinars, webcasts)
- Create opportunities to **engage the parents** of POP children and youth in the life of the church

# Addiction and Mental Health Ministries

## Potential Strategies

- Increase understanding about the many **kinds of addiction** (i.e. substance and behavioral) through education programs
- Use temple talks, adult forums, congregational testimonies and sermons to **create awareness of mental health issues**
- Utilize the church website to **provide information about the addiction and mental health support groups** that meet at the church and explain what types of support they provide and the issues they address
- Utilize **existing community support group services** to provide expertise, assistance and education
- **Meet with representatives from the support groups** that meet at the church to develop additional strategies

# Hunger and Poverty Ministries

## Potential Strategies

- Sustain and promote **existing programs and services provided through the social and mission ministries**, including:
  - Special collections for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and Back to School
  - Donations to the Food Pantry and for individual families in need
  - Supporting the Liberian Students Tuition Sponsorship Program
  - Hosting homeless families (IHN) and volunteering with Philabundance, Habitat for Humanity and New Visions
- Offer **Thanksgiving or Christmas meals** to people in need
- **Catalog available resources** and **provide referrals to local service providers**.
- Provide or expand upon services to the **unemployed and underemployed**, such as providing work clothes and offering resume review.