

A Framework for Ministry

Carney Evangelical Free Church

The Mission of CEFC is to make fervent and obedient disciples of Jesus Christ.
Matthew 28:18-20

We aspire to be a spiritually vibrant church by being:

- Caring
- Generous
- Family oriented
- Accepting
- Transformed
- Accountable



These non-negotiable values guide us in how decisions are made and ministry is carried out:

- God glorifying
- Christ centered
- Holy Spirit lead and empowered
- Bible based
- Love displayed through action
- Prayer dependant

We desire to develop, empower and release disciples of Christ for ministry by:

- Celebrating in the worship of God
- Communicating the Gospel to our local community and the world
- Cultivating spiritual growth in all believers
- Caring for people in the name of Christ

CEFC Guiding Principles

These non negotiable values guide us in how decisions are made and ministry is carried out

God Glorifying

We exist to bring glory to God. (Isaiah 43:7) God alone is worthy of glory. (Revelation 4:11) Therefore, we seek to reveal who He is and what He is like in our words, attitudes and actions. The ministries that we engage in will be in harmony with God's character. Those ministries will faithfully seek to reveal God's love and righteousness to all people.

Christ Centered

A Christ centered church is a church that recognizes Christ as Head. (Colossians 1:18) We work to instill the desire to spend time with Jesus, commune with Him, walk with Him, talk with Him, bask in His presence, gaze on Him, enjoy Him, and accept His acceptance of us. We believe the incredible truth that Christ died for us. (I Corinthians 15:3-4) We are truly loved and cared for by Him. Therefore, we are committed to communicating this Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit Led and Empowered

Jesus said that "We will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on us and we will be His witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth". (Acts 1:8) The Spirit of truth will guide us into all truth. (John 16:13) We are committed to seeing authentic life transformation through the Holy Spirit who empowers us to live out the Gospel in service to Christ, not conformity to our world. (Romans 12:2)

Bible Based

The Bible is recognized as the authoritative word of God. (II Peter 1:21) It is the foundational document upon which each ministry of the church is based. It is the final authority in matters of faith and practice. It is our guide for developing and evaluating ministries at every level. It is the bedrock for worship, teaching, ministry development, as well as personal and corporate church life. "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness". (II Timothy 3:16)

Love Displayed Through Action

"Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love." (I John 4:7-8) Therefore, we are a community that recognizes that we are nothing without love. We will choose to express our love by engaging in positive actions that demonstrate patience, kindness, humility, forgiveness and truth. We will reveal our love for each other by protecting each other, trusting each other, hoping with each other, and persevering for each other. (I Corinthians 13:1-7)

Prayer Dependent

Jesus commanded that we should pray and never give up. (Luke 11:1-13) Jesus is the primary example of relying upon prayer for power to do the Father's will. We can accomplish nothing of eternal significance without God working before us. (John 15:5) We are taught, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:16) Therefore, we are committed to following Jesus in humble dependence on God through prayer for each of our ministries.

Central Ministry Focus

We desire to develop, empower, and release disciples of Christ for ministry by:

Celebrating in the worship of God

“David and all the Israelites were **celebrating** with all their might before God, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, cymbals and trumpets.” (I Chronicles 13:8)

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so **worship** God acceptably with reverence and awe...” (Hebrews 12:28)

One of the central focuses of the ministry of Carney Evangelical Free Church is to purposefully gather together to celebrate:

- who God is
- the great things He has done
- the never ending love He shows
- the sacrifice He has provided in His Son
- the forgiveness He offers
- the hope He provides
- and the promises He has made

Communicating the Gospel to our local community and the world

Jesus gave us, the church, the authority and the responsibility to take the gospel to our community, our nation and to all nations of the world (Matthew 28:18-20). We participate in fulfilling the great commission through teaching and training, local outreach, short term missions and sending fulltime missionaries. Each person in the church represents Christ (II Corinthians 5:20) and has a role in fulfilling the great commission (I Peter 3:15).

Cultivating spiritual growth in all believers through discipleship, (*Helping people take the next step in their relationship with God*)

Outreach Ministries *Presenting the Gospel to unbelievers* (Matt 16:24-25, Matt 9:12) The Great Commission compels us to reach out to unbelievers. Each ministry of the Church should be seeking ways to communicate the Gospel.

Spiritual Growth Ministries *Teaching who God is and what He has done for us.* “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience.”(Colossians 1:9-11)

Service Ministries *Putting into practice spiritual truths.* (I Cor. 12:4-6, Matt 7:24, James 1:23-25)

Christians that have experienced spiritual growth should begin reaching out to others, serving others, discipling others, and ministering to others. They should become involved in building up Christ’s church by using their spiritual gifts.

Leadership Development Ministries *Preparing the church for the future* “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” (II Timothy 2:2) Present leaders should encourage, train, mentor, disciple and pray for the leaders of the future.

Caring for people in the name of Christ

The source of our desire to care for others is a reflection of God who cares for us (I Peter 5:7). Jesus demonstrated this care as He went to the family of Lazarus and wept with those who were weeping (John 11: 33-35). He taught us what it means to be a neighbor and follow the example of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 30-37). True discipleship is evidenced by caring and loving relationships within the body of Christ. Jesus said, “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35)

CEFC Culture

We aspire to be a spiritually vibrant church by being:

Caring

We seek to reflect Christ's love for others by providing an atmosphere that is warm and inviting to visitors as well as regular attendees (Luke 15:2). We are committed to live to please the Spirit. "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers." (Galatians 6:10) Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors (Luke 10:25-37). Therefore we seek to care for the needs, physical, emotional, and spiritual, of our fellowship, our community, and the world. This is demonstrated by praying, going, giving of our time and resources, communicating, affirming, acts of compassion, and speaking the truth in love.

Generous

We are committed to being generous with the resources (time, spiritual gifts and finances) God has given us. Time is a valuable resource that we can give to God and each other. God gives spiritual gifts to his people in order that they may help the entire body grow (I Corinthians 12:7). Concerning finances our desire is to place our treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:21, Luke 12:21). We are called to be a people, who as stewards of God's resources, freely give back to Christ a portion of what he has given to us in order to help build his church body.

Family Oriented

God has created the family as the fundamental institution to reflect his image (Genesis 1:26-31, 2:18-25). He made the family the basic building block of society and calls on the Christian family to reflect the relationship of Christ to the church (Ephesians 5:21- 6:4). Therefore we support, encourage and train believers to live out their faith within the context of family.

Accepting

God's grace in our lives is undeserved and cannot be earned. It is a free gift from a loving God who has redeemed us. By accepting others we seek to share this grace with others through loving relationships, the practice of forgiveness (Matthew 6:12, 14-15), and the concern of Christ. This is not the condoning of sin but the desire to love others as God loved us (I John 4:19).

Transformed

The Christian life is one of ongoing growth into the character of Christ by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16-25). We are committed to a culture that encourages and facilitates transformed lives through the renewing of the mind so we may know God's will (Romans 12:2). This is a spiritual act of worship. Therefore, it is accomplished through the practice of prayer, time in the word, fellowship with believers and a commitment to personal obedience to Christ.

Accountable

We realize that although we are saved by God's grace, our sin nature still resides in us (Romans 7:18-20). Therefore we strive toward a culture of accountability to God, and each other as the Body of Christ (Proverbs 27:17).