

Our Purpose

The Philosophy of The Historic Parsells Church

The uniqueness of The Historic Parsells Church (THPC) lies not in the statement of purpose but in the philosophy and strategy for meeting its purpose.

At THPC, we are part of Christ's body where like thousands more in the region, we build believers. We believe strongly that most churches in the area are Bible believing churches that are edifying the people, evangelizing the people, exalting God, and equipping the people. We do not believe to be very different when it comes to the above sentence. We are to edify, exalt, evangelize, and equip God's people to spiritual maturity as our purpose of God's Church.

However, we are different when it comes to the strategy on how we achieve these purposes. That is why THPC is unique. The question begs, how do we take uncommitted or nominally committed individuals whose thought of church is nowhere near the totem pole?

We may understand our purpose, but it is our strategy around the purpose that momentum and spiritual health will serve our church.

The development of THPC's 4-steps strategy was guided by four philosophical principles we adopted over the church's first year journey as a new faith community in Rochester through some painful lessons we have learned throughout this time period.

Let's review the four philosophical principles:

1. Every believer is called to witness from their own personal experiences of life and faith and share their relationship and connection with God to others.
2. Every believer is called to be overcomers and must confront personal limitations through a process of faith decision and journey one must travel to maturity in their relationship and connection with God.
3. The church must be rooted to the social issue of the day and its people create action.
4. Believers are servants endowed by God for the benefit of all in the church.

The Importance of Church Membership

The Bible's View – Acts 2:46-47

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

There was a specific group of people in each city that was the “church.” The Greek term from which the word “church” is derived is *Ekklesia*. The literal meaning of this word is “a called out assembly” of God’s people joined together as a whole community. In New Testament times, the church was viewed as a group that could be numbered, added to, and identified. It was a very identifiable group of people who were called out to be different from the rest of their culture.

Fellowship – Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.

We are called into the church to experience relationships with one another. That is a word that means caring for one another in a multitude of ways – from praying, to bearing burdens, to encouraging, to loving.

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Accountability and Authority – Hebrews 13:17

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

When we become Christians, we need to be connected for the purpose of being accountable and responsible. This is a concept that has suffered greatly in our culture. The writer of Hebrews advances the idea of being in a body of believers and being under the care and authority of the leadership. Together, we will advance God’s kingdom, build Jesus’ church, bless His people, and connect with community.

Our Goals for You

Once again, thank you for joining The Historic Parsells Church (THPC). The following seven points define the experiences that we desire for you over the next 12 months. They also serve as goals which we hope you will accomplish.

1. We hope that you will develop a number of new and deeper relationships in the church that will enhance your experience in Christ and THPC.
2. We hope that you will feel excited now and in the future about your choice to join THPC as you allow us to guide you in being a better, more consistent and mature disciple of Jesus Christ.
3. We hope that you will make the commitment to actively engage with us over the next year.
4. We hope that you will stay involved with your Spiritual Growth.
5. We hope that you will get involved in a ministry work here at the church, one that relates to your passion.
6. We hope that you will grow and eventually provide leadership in some area of THPC.
7. We hope that you will work hard yearly to bring someone else into our church membership.

Pray the Following:

Lord, help me and give me the strength to complete and fulfill these goals for my sake and for the church's sake!

How to STAY CONNECTED at THPC

- **Prayer – Prayer – Prayer**
- **Participate – Participate – Participate**
- **Review our Website: www.parsellschurch.org**
- **Community Conference Prayer:**
 - Every Wednesday 6:30 am – 6:45 am AND Every Saturday 7:00 am – 7:15 am
Conference Call #: 1-515-606-5410
Access Code: 239102#
- **Community Involvement**
- **Dedication and Commitment to THPC**
- **Various Church Ministries**
 - Greeters
 - Wellness Ministry
 - Transforming Lives Ministry
 - Praise & Worship members
 - Musicians
 - Choir
 - Music
 - Hospitality
 - **Leadership (See Pastor Carol)**

What are your INTERESTS?