

UNITY CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST (UCJC) BLUEPRINT

Vision: Embrace God, Embrace People, Embrace Service

- ❖ *Father loves us and wants us to know it. The Unity vision begins with receiving Father God's embrace and the revelation of His unconditional love, as demonstrated through His son Jesus. We embrace Him and receive His embrace as we worship, pray, serve, and walk with Him daily.*
- ❖ *The Unity vision embraces people. Our love grows as we share life experiences, vision & mission. We embrace people within and beyond our walls as we love them, serve them, and share the message of Christ. We embrace the body of Christ beyond our walls by endeavoring to live the principles found in Psalm 133 & John 17:20-23.*
- ❖ *We embrace service and desire to be an equipping church, helping people to live balanced, healthy, and victorious lives. We want to empower people to live a life of service as they discover and understand their S.H.A.P.E., which greatly influences how and where we serve.*

S.H.A.P.E.*:

Spiritual Gifts: *Father gives every believer spiritual gifts to be used in ministry, as found in 1 Corinthians 12, and Romans 12; 2.*

Heart: *Those areas of particular interest and passion for us. They are often indicators of where and how we might serve most effectively.*

Abilities: *God given talents and abilities, i.e. singing or aptitude for mathematics.*

Personality: *Our behavioral characteristics and qualities.*

Experiences: *Our life's experiences that have helped to form us.*

- *Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 4:11 & 16; Habakkuk 2:2.*

**Used with permission from Saddleback Church*

The above encompasses what we call the "Unity Embrace": Embrace God, People, and Service

Mission: Make and Equip Disciples to Spread the Vision God has Given us.

Unity's definition of a disciple: A Christ follower who desires to grow and mature spiritually and help others do the same. (A Christ follower who is learning to feed himself/herself & others)

We desire to develop a culture of discipleship that will effectively help people:

- *Move into an embracing relationship with Father God through Jesus Christ*
- *Embrace people within and beyond our walls*
- *Embrace service*
- *Help others to do the same*

Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28: 19, 20; Galatians 5: 25; and 2Timothy 2:2

Unity's Values:

1. *Father's Embrace: We value the reciprocal relationship with Father as we walk with Him daily, and receive revelation of His love.*
2. *We value the Bible as the infallible Word of God.*
3. *The Gospel of Salvation: We value reaching all people with the saving grace of Jesus Christ.*
4. *Shared experiences: Community is built as we share life experiences, vision, and mission that deepen the "Unity Embrace".*
5. *U Groups: We value small group ministry as an integral part of our vision and mission.*
6. *Serving: We value providing ministry to individuals and groups both inside and outside our walls.*
7. *Five Fold Ministry: We value the five-fold ministry model and the manifestation of Spiritual gifts as important for equipping people and helping them embrace service. Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11; and Romans 12: 6-8*
8. *Prayer: We value the rhythm of prayer, that is:*
 - *Communing with Father God in prayer, worship and meditation*
 - *Regular prayer with family or in other small groups*
 - *Congregational prayer*
 - *Praying regularly with the churches in our city*
9. *We value embracing the Body of Christ beyond our walls.*

Unity's Process: *Our process is the “how” in moving people through levels of spiritual growth and maturity. The goal of our process is to equip and empower disciples to model the “Unity Embrace”.*

Programs: *Our programs and ministries facilitate our process. They are the tools/vehicles that help move people toward spiritual growth and maturity. Programs and ministries are in partnership to effectively accomplish vision and mission.*

Sunday Morning Worship Service:

Sunday service is a primary entry point into the “Unity Embrace” experience, and a starting place for discipleship. We desire that our Sunday service be a conduit to experiencing the embracing love of Jesus and the Father through vibrant and intimate worship. We desire to have a welcoming environment where attendees can experience the unconditional love of God and share that love with one another. We desire to have a welcoming environment for non Christians to encounter and experience the transforming love and embrace of Jesus, to the end that they receive him as Lord and Savior. We desire to see people empowered and equipped through the teaching and preaching of the Bible. We desire to promote an atmosphere in which the Holy Spirit is manifest, particularly through the gifts of the Spirit. Sunday morning service also provides the opportunity for people to embrace service in a variety of ways, for example, ushering, worship team, pulpit ministry, performance ministry, etc.

U Groups:

A U Group is UCJC's version of a small group, a regular gathering of 6-12 sharing life, experiences, vision, and mission together in the name of Christ. We desire those attending Sunday service move to active involvement in U groups as a next step in discipleship. Being in small groups affords us opportunities to see our vision, mission and values realized in ways that might be more difficult in the larger setting of a Sunday service. U Groups can also serve as an entry point for non Christians to experience the “Unity Embrace”.

New Members Class:

An opportunity to share Unity's history, vision, and mission with prospective members. The goal is to move attendees to church membership and into our discipleship process.

Foundations Class(es):

Designed to share key doctrinal truths and principles that promote the disciple's spiritual growth and maturity.

Campus Ministry:

Within the context of our vision and mission, our goals are twofold.

1. *To engage the PSU students attending our Sunday services and encourage them to take the next steps in discipleship by:*
 - a. *joining a U group*
 - b. *engaging in other activities offered by our campus director*
 - c. *participating in other aspects of church life*
2. *Engage Penn State students who are not involved in a Christian fellowship with the goal of them entering our discipleship process.*

Children's Church & Y.O.U:

We desire that our vision and mission culture be an intentional part of our youth programs, in age-appropriate ways. To this end, we will develop clear goals and desired outcomes for each level from Little K to graduating senior high members of Y.O.U. We see this as a progressive and incremental process with each level of the program connecting to the next, moving our children toward salvation, spiritual growth, and maturity.

Clarity: The leadership (Pastors, Elders, E.C., Deacons, Auxiliary Heads) as well as the rest of the congregation must be clear about our process and be committed to executing it. Understanding precedes commitment. Once we have a final blueprint we must determine the best and most effective way to bring clear understanding to leadership and the congregation.

Alignment: Philippians 2:2 "then make my joy complete by being like minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose." That's the essence of alignment. It's the arrangement of all leaders and staff, programs, and ministries around the same vision, mission, and process. Our leaders need to understand and be deeply committed to creating a culture centered around our vision, mission, and process. While the process is the same, each ministry has the freedom to execute it with creativity and age-appropriate focus.