



TRINITY CHURCH

MISSION:

***MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE
TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD***

VISION:



DEFINING THE VISION *What is a Thriving Disciple?*

A THRIVING DISCIPLE IS SOMEONE BECOMING MORE AND MORE LIKE JESUS.

Scripture gives us vivid imagery of what it means to thrive in Christ:



- **John 15:5, 8** “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing... This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”
- **John 8:12 (The Voice Translation)** “I am the light that shines through the cosmos; if you walk with me, you will thrive in the nourishing light that gives life and will not know darkness.”
- **Ephesians 3:16-19** “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”
- **Psalm 1:3** “That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.”

Also see John 10:10; Philippians 2:12-16; 1 John 2:5-6; Ezekiel 37:9-10

What are the Characteristics of a Thriving Disciple?

What follows is not an exhaustive list or a decisive pathway; these 12 characteristics form a broad, biblical understanding of the character and lifestyle of a thriving follower of Christ. We might be drawn to certain aspects for a particular season of our journey, but we never graduate beyond any of these themes. They are ongoing elements of our lives as believers. This is all part of an unfolding journey with God.

1) SURRENDER

A disciple's journey starts and ends with this: Jesus is Lord, Jesus is First. (Matthew 16:24-25; Romans 12:1)

2) LOVING GOD & LOVING OTHERS

Jesus said the teachings of the entire Bible are summed up in this Great Commandment. This is what we were made for: to love and be loved. (Matthew 22:37-39)

3) HEALING & TRANSFORMATION

The root of the biblical word "salvation" actually means healing. God's redeeming work in Christ is to rescue us from eternal ruin and restore every dimension of our being, making us alive with Him forever. (Luke 4:18-19; 2 Corinthians 3:18)

4) FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

As we are gradually transformed to be more like Jesus, we come to reflect the character of God more and more. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in us. (Galatians 5:22-25)

5) A LIFE OF PRAYER

We are invited to a conversational relationship with God. If prayer is basically our interaction with God, then it is one of the most important things we can do. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; John 10:3-5)

6) EMPOWERMENT OF THE SPIRIT

The capacity to thrive in Christ comes from the power of God's Spirit in us. We have all the resources we need to thrive if we surrender and abide in Him. (Acts 1:8; Philippians 2:13 and Acts 4:31)

7) GODLY COURAGE

We are called to live differently in this world. Godly courage is not a matter of personality or will, but Spirit-filled boldness that arises from genuine faith.
(Joshua 1:9; 2 Timothy 1:7; Acts 4:13)

8) SERVING

Disciples pattern their lives after the God who came down from Heaven to Earth to serve a wayward human race. As He served and humbled Himself, so will we.
(Matthew 20:26-27)

9) GIVING

Because God gave (and gives), we give. Generosity reflects the heart of God.
(Acts 20:35; Matthew 6:19-21)

10) MISSIONAL LIVING

Following Christ reorients our lives around His Kingdom. We realize that every ordinary part of our lives is part of His purpose. We can be “missionaries in disguise” wherever we work; we can give worship in whatever we do.
(Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:23)

11) SHINING LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Our tendency is to flee what we fear, but real love draws near. As we grow in heart of Christ, we will spend less time lamenting the darkness and more time transforming it. God’s power to redeem knows no limits.
(Matthew 5:14; Isaiah 58:8; Philippians 2:15)

12) MULTIPLYING

Simply by being who they are in Christ, thriving disciples multiply. They bear fruit. If you are living in Christ, others will come to Him through you—in unexpected, organic ways, as well as deeply intentional ways.
(Matthew 28:19-20)



REALIZING OUR VISION

How are Thriving Disciples developed?

**BEING IMMERSSED IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD,
THE WORD OF GOD, AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD;
ENGAGING IN THE MISSION OF GOD.**

It's one thing to identify, "*These are characteristics that develop in someone's life as they begin to thrive in Christ.*" But how is this identity cultivated over the course of a lifetime? Once again, this list is not exhaustive, but gives us broad, biblical practices and experiences that have guided Christians through the ages in growing as authentic followers of Jesus. What this all comes down to is gracious *formation*: allowing God's grace to form our character and lifestyle around the Way of Christ.

- **WORD:** Growing in the Word of God, being transformed by the revealed truth of God, developing a genuinely Christian worldview
- **PRESENCE:** Encountering and abiding in the life-changing presence of God
- **WORSHIP:** Wholehearted and holistic worship with the Body of Christ
- **PRAYER:** Learning to live a lifestyle centered in prayer
- **RELATIONSHIP:** Authentic Christian community where individuals can know and be known, confess and receive encouragement, journeying through life together
- **MISSION:** Discovering and participating with God's redemptive work in the world
- **PACE:** Developing a countercultural, Spirit-led, sacred pace and rhythm of life



Are you overwhelmed by all this? Don't be discouraged. The vision unfolding here is not one of instant results. This is about the journey of a lifetime of walking with God. Remember, it's a light burden and an easy yoke we share with Jesus. (Matthew 11:28-30)

CORE VALUES

Core Values are meant to be like guard rails or road markings for a community: as we navigate the journey of this vision God has for us, Core Values remind us who we are—and who we want to become—so that the ways we pursue the vision are faithful to God and to our church’s unique story.

BIBLICAL The Bible is the inspired word of God: this book of Holy Scripture is exactly what God wanted us to have to guide us in life, in truth, and into the very presence of Christ. We are a people of “One Book” as John Wesley said, living under the Word’s authority.

TRINITARIAN We want to live in the fullness of God’s presence with a Trinitarian vision of life: to know and be known by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in our journey of life and faith.

RELATIONAL There is no discipleship without relationship. As people created in the image of a Triune God, we long to know and be known, to love and be loved. Transformative discipleship is at its best when Christians genuinely share life together.

MULTIGENERATIONAL As a relational, biblical community of faith, we believe the church is called to serve all generations. Rather than create “silos” of isolated ministries to each age group, we want these ministries to thrive by working together as one church, even as we try to meet the unique needs of different ages.

RADICAL HOSPITALITY In a society that has largely lost the art of hospitality, we are called to welcome the neighbor and the stranger. What we need is not to become friendlier, but to be a friend. “Hospital” is based on the same root word as hospitality: radical hospitality means we are to be a house of healing for all who enter.

EMBRACING PROCESS Thriving discipleship is not a single lightning-strike of transformation. It is a lifelong journey with a unique story of grace being told in each person’s life. While everyone is called to this beautiful, transformative journey with our holy God, not everyone is at the same place along the way. We balance a sense of Kingdom urgency with a humble awareness of the human journey.

HONORING LEGACY As a church with a 150-year history in the community of Danville, we poise ourselves for a thriving future by remembering and honoring the rich legacy of faith which has brought us to this point. We celebrate Godly traditions as well as Godly innovations.

PLANNING FOR THE VISION

What will we specifically do to move towards becoming a growing church of Thriving Disciples?

SHORT-TERM GOALS & STRATEGGIES

- *Communication: Vision Casting, teaching & preaching*
- *Year of Prayer: focus on a Life of Prayer in 2020*
- *Leadership Development: developing Spiritual Leaders for future small groups, missions & disciple-making initiatives*
- *Hospitality: Develop New Hospitality Ministry*

LONGTERM GOALS & STRATEGIES

- *Develop & Multiply Disciple-making leaders*
- *Cultivate a culture and lifestyle of earnest, Kingdom-driven prayer*
- *Create new, diverse discipleship groups & community opportunities*
- *Cultivate lifestyles & programs of Mission, bridges to community*

(This list is not exhaustive and in ongoing development)



