

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Port Orange, FL
LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN - 2025

Introduction The Grace Church Strategic Long-Range Plan is the guiding document for the parish.

The plan envisions that the parish will maintain its vibrant high level of involvement and will deepen and broaden its dedication to spread the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The Rector and Vestry should assess the implementation of the plan on an annual basis. The Strategic Long-Range Planning Committee should meet in 2030 to address any updates needed to the plan.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles help us measure our actions and decisions as a community of faith.

- Through worship, we experience the presence of God through Word, Sacrament, Music, and Community.
- Through outreach, we serve others by providing for their physical, spiritual, and social needs.
- Through congregational care, we express our love for one another.

OUR VISION

Grace Church is a welcoming community of hope and healing, where all can experience and share God's transforming love.

OUR MISSION

We are the Church of Open Arms.

OUR MINISTRIES:

WORSHIP: *Acolytes, Altar Guild, Bread Bakers, Choir & Music, Flower Guild, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Live Streaming, Name Tags, Sunday Prayer Teams, Ushers/Greeters, Wed. Worship Music.*

The Worship Ministries ensure that our services are inspirational and welcoming to all members and guests.

Objectives

- Our worship and music will be anchored in the Episcopal faith.
- Our worship and music will be diverse and inspirational to engage all parishioners.
- We will be welcoming to all who visit Grace.
- We seek to transition guests into membership and encourage their participation.

Strategies

- Enhance our music program by adding choir members and instrumentalists.
- The Rector and Worship Leaders will assess and address the needs of the Worship Ministries.
- The Prayer Ministry will be available at each service for intentional prayers.
- Notify new members about opportunities to participate.
- Offer Grace Informational packets to new guests.
- Flowers/Greenery add beauty, and after services are delivered in our community to share God's love.

OUTREACH- *Angel Tree, Baby Bottle Ministry, Baby Supply Drive, HUM, CarePortal, Outreach Committee, Kairos, School Supply Drive, Pet Pantry.*

Outreach acts as a bridge to connect the resources of our people with the needs and opportunities for ministry existing in our community and beyond.

Objectives

- Continue to enhance the presence of Grace in the local community through outreach activities.
- Partner with national and international organizations to share the gospel and meet the needs of people outside our local community.
- Provide a rewarding and enriching experience for the volunteers participating in Outreach programs.

Strategies

- Promote awareness and knowledge of Outreach activities within the parish.
- Use the physical facilities of the parish to enhance Outreach activities.
- Continuously evaluate Outreach priorities based on the needs of the local community and beyond.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: *Building & Grounds Committee, Memorial Garden.*

The Buildings and Grounds Ministries maintain all buildings, grounds, equipment, and furnishings for the purposes of stewardship and the welfare and comfort of attendees and future generations.

Objectives

- To be good stewards of the church property by providing a safe, clean, and attractive environment.
- Maintain our buildings and grounds to promote a warm and welcoming atmosphere to all people who come to Grace.
- Enhance the worship experience of our church family by caring for our buildings and grounds in a way that glorifies God.

Strategies

- Maintain the buildings, grounds and furnishings utilizing the talents of the congregation whenever feasible.
- Maintain all building systems in good operating order to maximize energy efficiency.
- Jr. Warden, Sexton and Third (3rd) party service providers will regularly inspect buildings, equipment and furnishings to schedule cleaning, painting, repair, and replacement. This schedule should be projected 5 years in advance and be updated annually to accommodate budget planning and specials gift opportunities.

FELLOWSHIP: *Christmas Card Ministry, ECW, Fellowship Events, Graceway Café, Greeting Card Ministry, Lunch Bunch, Newcomer's Orientation, Seasonal Events.*

The Fellowship Ministries develop and enrich opportunities within the parish to strengthen the community of Grace as the body of Christ.

Objectives

- Every member of the parish should feel a sense of belonging.
- Grace church will be a welcoming and inclusive place for all.
- Nurture relationships within the parish through fellowship opportunities in a social setting.
- Support other parish ministries by creating social events that reinforce the objectives of these ministries.

Strategies

- Develop events that encourage individuals and couples to participate.
- Involve current and new parishioners in the planning and implementation of events.
- All ministries will coordinate fellowship opportunities and implement plans for additional social interaction.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: *Adult Sunday School, Cursillo/Ultreya, Home Bible Study/Cell Groups, Men's Bible Study, Vestry, Wed.*

*Evening Study Series. **Children & Youth:** Children's Sunday School, Vacation Bible School.*

Christian Education Ministries provide opportunities for parishioners of all ages to grow personally in their relationship with God.

Objectives

- Provide Christian Education and Formation that is based in Scripture and the Episcopal tradition.
- Connect our personal experiences to God's story and empower us to share the Good News with others.
- To offer a safe and nurturing environment for our youth to explore, discuss and learn about and experience God.
- To identify and utilize the skills, talents, and interests of our members to empower them for service in the ministries of Grace.

Strategies

- Provide a variety of study groups appealing to the interests of parishioners.
- Offer and engage the parish with educational opportunities.
 1. Bible Studies
 2. Seasonal Studies
 3. Cursillo
 4. Vacation Bible School
- Encourage and support small group development.
- Engage the youth with relevant and age-appropriate church programs and activities.
- Provide a relevant and engaging curriculum.
- Develop a program to inventory talents, skills, and interests to involve each member of the congregation in some ministry and provide that information to the appropriate ministry leader.

COMMUNICATION: *Library, Ministry Catalog, Strategic Plan Committee, Office Volunteers, Photography, Publicity Committee, Social Media, TWAG, Website.*

Communication Ministries promote effective exchanges of information among members of the parish and surrounding communities.

Objectives

- Improve communication within the parish.
- Provide timely and comprehensive information to members of the congregation and surrounding communities.
- Promote fellowship events, Christian education events, and other special events of the church.

Strategies

- Following each Vestry meeting, the minutes and financial reports are posted in the Narthex.
- All ministry leaders will provide annual reports to the Vestry and congregation pertaining to their respective ministry.
- Ministry leaders will contact the writers of TWAG, and the office as needed to provide information about their particular ministry and post to social media/website.
- Explore strategies to leverage internal communication and social media to communicate who we are and why we do what we do.

STEWARDSHIP: *Audit Committee, Budget Committee, Inventory Committee, Investment Committee, Offering*

Counters, Planned Giving, Policy Committee, Stewardship Committee.

The Stewardship Ministry guides Grace Church in the wise use of time, talent, and treasure because all comes from God.

Objectives

- Increase people's faith so that they may become generous givers.
- Encourage each parishioner to become involved with a ministry because it is through involvement that one comes to understand stewardship.
- Continue to maintain financial stability.

Strategies

- Provide a standard of giving, one that will guide parishioners toward tithing.
- Encourage all givers to express the joy of giving.
- The Stewardship Committee will emphasize the other resources that are available to us, including those of time and talent by conducting a year-round program.
- The Financial Committees will:
 1. Educate the parish in various ways to provide for planned giving, e.g., cash, life insurance policies, investment assets, and tangible assets including property.
 2. Collaborate with the Treasurer to provide quarterly information regarding the financial state to the parish.
 3. Fulfill the requirements of their respective committee

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: *Bereavement Counseling, DOK, Flower Visits, Healing Services, Hospital Visits, Jr. DOK, Lay*

Eucharistic Visitors, Order of St. Luke, Prayer Circles, Prayer Shawl Ministry.

The Congregational Care Ministries ensure that members of our community and others are cared for in times of distress.

Objectives

- We offer support and care for parishioners as they experience life's transitions.
- We strive to be known through these ministries as a caring and compassionate church.

Strategies

- Clergy will provide:
 1. Bereavement counseling
 2. Healing services
 3. Hospital, homebound and emergency calls
- Flower visitors will arrange for the delivery of flowers.
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV) will maintain a list of the homebound and assign visits on a monthly basis.
- The Prayer Ministry, which includes prayer circles and prayer stations, will maintain a schedule and a list of trained personnel.
- The Prayer Shawl Ministry knits and crochets shawls, mini-squares, and crosses, blessed by clergy, for those struggling with a life experience.