

“Framework for Faithful Mission”

Built around Micah 6:8 where God calls the church to “Do Justice, Love Compassion, Walk Humbly,” and the Long Range Strategic Plan (LRSP) values of Love, Community and Servant Leadership, First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta is committed to the following principles for engagement in God’s mission in Atlanta and around the world:

Do Justice (LRSP Value of Love):

Our call is to be agents of God’s justice, actively striving to make the world a more just place where all of God’s precious children can thrive (Luke 4:18-19). To that end, our mission engagement will:

- Always strive to empower those we are working with
- Walk alongside/accompany and “work with” our partners not “do for” our partners
- Assess “crisis needs” vs. “chronic needs” and strive for our mission solutions to be appropriate.
 - If it is a “crisis need” (i.e. Emergency) we will respond generously with charity and direct aid
 - If it is a “chronic need” we will work with our partners to assess root causes and work together to address those causes long-term by utilizing tools such as training and education, micro-finance, matching gifts, and other reasonable means as agreed with our partners
- Strive for long-term sustainability for our partners and in our projects
- Engage in advocacy work in partnership that leads to a more just world
- Actively engage with appropriate alliances and networks to facilitate for collective impact and maximum effectiveness

Love Compassion (LRSP Value of Community):

Compassion is defined as concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others, or “suffering with.” Our mission efforts will embody what it means to be the “body of Christ” and allow us to both celebrate our joys and share our suffering together (1 Corinthians 12:26). To that end our mission engagement will:

- Be based on praying **with** and **for** one another
- Involve worshiping together
- Involve sharing meals (table fellowship) and time together when possible
- Create space for authentic interaction and learning about each other, going deep into relationships, returning to the same place or working with the same organization to build those relationships
- Strive for bilateral partnerships where we see each other as equal partners in the Body of Christ, both bringing resources to participation in God’s mission

Walk Humbly (LRSP Value of Servant Leadership)

Doing mission/service work must begin in a place of humility, recognizing that it is God’s mission we are invited to participate in, and our partners know their context best. (Ephesians 4:2) To that end our mission engagement will:

- Be based on sharing of spiritual gifts, recognizing that we have as much to learn and receive as we have to teach and give
- Put the needs of our partners above our own needs and desires (Philippians 2:3-4) *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.*
- Strive to keep lines of communication open, within FPC members/committee involved and between FPC and partners

Guided by the spirit, we will be open to new opportunities, deepen existing relationships, and honestly assess our successes and failures as we continue to discern where and how God is leading us in mission.

LRSP Values

We value:

Community

- Spiritual home, a place to belong for a lifetime of faith;
- Enduring commitment, ordering our lives around worship, education, and service to God;
- Authentic diversity, building relationships that honor one another as children of God;

Love

- Radical hospitality, sharing with all the welcome we receive in Jesus Christ;
- Mutual care, giving and receiving shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship;
- Restorative relationships, seeking reconciliation with God and one another;

Servant Leadership

- Bold humility, acknowledging our dependence on God by following the example of Jesus Christ
- in an increasingly secular world;
- Just generosity, using all that we have received to promote justice, righteousness, and human
- dignity; and
- Missional living, proclaiming God's Good News in everything we say and do.

Transformation

- Continual conversion, being shaped as disciples through God's grace and the power of the Holy
- Spirit;
- Joyful worship, gathering to give thanks and praise to our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer;
- Theological formation, pursuing deeper relationship with God through study, discernment, and
- spiritual discipline;