

THE COMMITMENT TO EVANGELISM
First Presbyterian Church-Copperas Cove

We, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, commit ourselves to the task of evangelism. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we accept our identity as witnesses to Jesus Christ in our immediate community, our country, our nation, and around the world (Acts 1:8). We affirm that God is and has always been active in our lives. Our individual stories are, and our corporate story is, part of God's larger story throughout all time and place. As we continue to live our story, attentive to God's will and way, we affirm that we are each of us and together called to reach out in word and deed to those beyond our walls, and we dedicate ourselves to being hospitable and inviting within our walls.

We commit ourselves to:

1. to pray regularly for the church around the world, to pray for the Presbyterian Church (USA) and for our congregation that we might all be used as instruments for God's purposes.
2. to access evangelistic opportunities and the needs of the unchurched within reach of our congregation and to pursue those opportunities and meet those needs.
3. to develop and/or initiate programs to train persons how to share their faith story, such as parents relating to their children and laity relating to unchurched neighbors and co-workers.
4. to develop action plans to increase attendance in worship and participation in congregational life.
5. to establish annual goals for each of the next 5 years for adding new members and to develop action plans to move toward the goal. This goal is to be shared with the entire congregation.
6. to develop a plan to include and involve all members in the full life of the congregation.
7. to provide over the next 5 years, within the life of the congregation, programs for those persons who are new to the Christian faith. This will mean an intentional effort to be basic and introductory in worship, and Bible study and mission. It will mean working to be inclusive of, and sensitive toward, persons just beginning their faith journey.
8. to seek out and invite persons gifted for evangelism and encourage those who are called to church vocations.
9. to evaluate annually our progress on this commitment, to recommit ourselves to evangelism, and make adjustments as needed.