

North Lake Presbyterian Church

Mission Study Report

Introduction

The preparation of this report was undertaken by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) comprised of the following members: Becky Bros, Bill Johnston, Judy Kiley, Sue Kirkpatrick, John Lazo, Tom Miller, Nancy Re, Bob Taylor, and Linda Williams. Our Senior Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jeff Hosmer attends the APNC meetings and provides input as does the Rev. Bill Kramp, the Committee on Ministry (COM) Liaison.

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this Mission Study Report is to summarize North Lake Presbyterian Church (NLPC) as clearly and concisely for the following reasons:

- Support the New Associate Pastor Search
- Provide the Central Florida Presbytery's Committee on Ministry with information to indicate the type of Associate Pastor North Lake is seeking to call
- Provide detail on NLPC to final candidates

Who We Are

At North Lake we believe we are defined by our Vision Statement, Mission Statement and the tenets delineated in our five functions.

- Vision Statement – **To grow the community of Christ followers**
- Mission Statement – **To be Christ followers who share Christ's love with the community through our words and actions**
- Five functions of North Lake – **Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, Mission**

Methodology

In preparing this report, the APNC used the following information sources to prepare the report.

- BBT Report (Body Builders Team strategic planning report submitted to Session in May 2018)
- 2018 Annual Report
- Church Statistics Report
- Church Website

Church History

Our history though rooted deeply in the Presbyterian tradition, dates back only 30 years when we came together in 1989 in Lady Lake to meet for the first time as a new church. North Lake was planted with the assistance of three neighboring churches: First Presbyterian Church in Leesburg, New Life Church in Fruitland Park, and GraceWay Church (formerly Lake Square Presbyterian) east of Leesburg. After rapidly outgrowing several meeting places, it was obvious that we needed a larger worship center.

In 1992, with the aid of the Central Florida Presbytery, we purchased land on Rolling Acres Road and built our first facility which included meeting rooms and a Fellowship Hall which also served as our worship center. Before the first service was held, it again became obvious that we needed much larger facilities. This led to further planning and the construction of the Sanctuary Building. This worship center was opened in 1998 and accommodates 1200 people.

On July 28, 2013, we dedicated our newest addition which includes an expanded kitchen, additional meeting rooms and a new Fellowship Hall that can seat 500 for dinner. The Fellowship Hall is also where our contemporary worship service meets on Sunday mornings.

The growth of North Lake occurred under the following Pastoral leadership:

- Rev Bob Merrell – Led the Mission
- Rev Gary Lester – Organizing Pastor 3/1991 – 6/1999
- Rev Stan O’Laughlin – Interim 6/1999 -10/2000
- Rev Ralph (Denny) E. Dennison– Senior Pastor 10/2000 – 6/2015
- Rev Jeffrey Hosmer – Senior Pastor 8/2015

While our family increased in numbers, we also grew in service to each other and the community, meeting the spiritual and living needs of neighbors and friends. Jesus has commanded us to, “Feed my sheep,” and we developed a theme that responds to that directive – “Loving God...Loving One Another.” Living this motto enables us to realize our purpose and mission in God’s creation: *“To be Christ followers who share Christ’s love with the community through our words and actions.”*

The family of North Lake Presbyterian Church has become a true beacon in a community in need of the message of God’s love.

Membership

- **Numbers**
 - *2018 Beginning Membership: 1552*
 - *2018 Gains: 81*
 - *2018 Losses: 73*
 - *2018 Ending Membership: 1560*
 - *2018 Female Membership: 984*
 - *2018 Male Membership: 576*
 - *Friends of the Congregation: 350*
- **Ethnic Composition**
 - *White: 99%*
 - *Other: 1%*
- **Age Distribution of Members**
 - *25 and Under: 60*
 - *26-40: 100*
 - *41-55: 150*
 - *56-70: 500*
 - *71 and Older: 750*

Worship and Welcome

As a congregation in the Presbyterian Church (USA), our beliefs flow from the dynamic Christian creeds adopted in our Book of Confessions, including such classic statements as the Apostles Creed and the Westminster Confession of Faith. Although our church has been shaped by the historic faith of the Presbyterian Church, North Lake has not always aligned with the decisions of the denomination. Regardless of differing convictions and interpretations of scripture, we welcome everyone to worship, to experience the fellowship of a Christian community, and to **“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”** (2 Peter 3:18 NRSV).

The same Spirit that inspired the Bible and blew life into the early church is still at work in the world. The Spirit of the Lord empowers, encourages, and counsels the followers of Jesus. At North Lake we seek to be a people who abide in God’s love, sharing a relationship with Jesus Christ, and sharing his love with others.

Worship Attendance

North Lake holds three services each Sunday. Traditional services are held at 8:15 and 11:15 in our Sanctuary. A contemporary service is held at 9:30 in our Fellowship Hall. In 2018 our average weekly worship attendance was 1256. Our worship time offers numerous opportunities for people to volunteer. These ministry opportunities include ushers, communion, parking, prayer partner, greeters, music, technology, chancel choir, concert choir, and celebration ringers.

Sunday School Attendance. Sunday School Classes are held for children, youth and adults.

Fellowship & Congregational Care

Fellowship

Fellowship is an important part of life at North Lake. Each person is part of our church family and the activities help to strengthen our relationship with each other and to God.

The goal is to bring us all closer to God and to encourage us to help others become disciples. The following demonstrates our commitment to Fellowship:

- **FAB Tuesday**—FAB stands for Fellowship, Activities and Bible study and is scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month. This gives us an opportunity to gather monthly in fellowship and enjoy a meal prepared by volunteers in our kitchen.
- **Holy Grounds Cafe**—which is North Lake's social scene! Volunteers serve fresh hot coffee, tea, and delicious cookies which are supplied by the membership on Sunday mornings.
- **Small Groups**—are comprised of 8-10 people. This provides members a time to get to know each other better while studying the Bible and how it relates to their present life experiences.
- **Bus Trips**—are organized to allow North Lakers to have fun together as they travel to a local attraction, as well as an opportunity to build relationships among members with common interests.
- **Thursday Morning Exercise**—it is a low impact gathering to encourage healthy living.

- **Men's Fellowship**—three opportunities each month for men to get together for a meal, bible study, missions and/or fellowship. The church supports a Men's Breakfast, a Men's Gathering, and a Fathers Group.
- **Presbyterian Women**—comprised of eight circles with a total membership of 153 women. They produce an annual fundraiser for missions and organize a retreat each year as well as supporting fellowship and bible study.
- **Women's Bible Study**—four different ways for the women to gather while studying the word of God, including a YaYa group and a Sister Chicks group!
- **Welcome Center**—North Lake has a Welcome Center in our narthex/lobby. Volunteers staff this area in the lobby each weekday and Sundays to greet first-time visitors and to make them feel welcome.

Congregational Care

Caring for our church family is a very important commitment at North Lake. We accomplish this care through the following:

- **Deacons**—North Lake has eighteen (18) deacons to who are assigned church members that they contact on a periodic basis to ensure any care issues are quickly addressed. They visit members in their homes and hospitals, offer birthday greetings, etc.
- **Alzheimer's Support Group**—providing information and support to those diagnosed with early Alzheimer's, as well as assistance for caregivers and their families
- **Bereavement and Grief Support**—providing opportunities for people to meet who have recently lost a loved one
- **Buddies**—volunteers who visit people in need of personal interaction
- **Communication Cards**—providing a team to call upon first-time visitors that have completed a communication card
- **Crisis Care**—providing qualified help to those who feel they have no place to turn
- **Extended Table**—volunteers who share communion with those unable to attend communion Sunday

- **Healing Team**—providing personal prayers and anointing after Sunday services. On Wednesday mornings volunteers offer individual prayers and anointing, as well as intercessory prayers for the church, government, EMTs, police, firefighters, etc.
- **Hope for Hurting Parents and Grandparents**—mentoring to parents and grandparents hurting over the destructive choices of their teens to adult children and grandchildren.
- **Memorial Service Greeters**—greeting and providing bulletins at Memorial Services and funerals, as well as providing meals, as required
- **Memorial Garden**—a beautiful reflective area for those in need of serenity and spiritual reflection, includes a columbarium
- **Parish Nurses**—volunteer nurses who hold clinics for health care issues, including blood pressure screening once each month
- **Prayer Chain**—volunteers who respond to requests for prayers
- **Pastoral Hospital Visits**—team members provide regular visits to local hospitals and extended health care facilities
- **Stephen Ministry**—trained volunteers that provide confidential, Christ-centered care and support to people experiencing life difficulties
- **Wellness Ministry**—volunteers providing for wellness articles and classes
- **Transportation Ministry**—volunteers provide transportation to members of North Lake for medical appointments and rehab visits, as required

Discipleship

At North Lake our primary focus is on making disciples for Jesus Christ and strengthening those who are Christ followers. This dedication is readily apparent in our Vision Statement and in our staffing plan where discipleship is the primary emphasis for our Associate Pastor. The commitment extends to our Children and Youth Ministries where we have Staff Directors dedicated to those ministries. Furthermore, two of our nine Elders are dedicated to supporting our discipleship program.

Our congregation-wide education program which is named ***Connect-Grow-Serve*** offers 38 classes and discussion groups that begin with North Lake 101 which provides an opportunity for potential new members to learn what membership would mean to them and what it would mean to our church family. In our ***Connect-Grow-Serve Brochure*** you will find the following:

- Six (6) Introductory One-Hour Classes that are taught by our Senior Pastor
- One-hour class on North Lake's Mission Portfolio taught by two of our Elders
- Four (4) Adult Classes
- Six (6) Children & Family Classes
- Four (4) Men's Discussion Groups
- Four (4) Couples & Single's Discussion Groups
- Four (4) Women's Discussion Groups

Our Discipleship Program is further strengthened through our Senior Pastor's sermon series such as the recent Summer series on the Book of Acts and by the following Bible studies:

- **Bethel**, where the latest class had 75 attendees
- **ALPHA**, for new Christians and non-members

All of these classes and discussion groups help us live out our Mission Statement - *"to be Christ followers who share Christ's love with community through our words and actions."*

Small Groups at North Lake are also an important part of our Discipleship Program. We have more than 25 Small Groups that meet regularly, and we are growing. The Groups meet in homes, at church or other locations to study the Word through different formats (the Bible, videos, books, sermon discussions, etc.) Topics are selected by the facilitator or in consultation with Group members. Our Small Groups provide a place where spiritual transformation can happen. Our special Lenten Series of small groups had more than 400 participants

We also subscribe to **Right Now Media** which is a **customizable video library** available for every person to grow more in Christ. The Right Now Media Library contains more than 30 categories which offers more than 2,000 videos. Most importantly, it can be accessed by our members at home, as well, in our small group and classroom settings.

Children, Youth and Families

Everyone involved with the Little Blessings Christian Preschool, Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry takes seriously their involvement with children, youth and families. With the overwhelming portion of our congregation over 60 years of age, the special relationship of "adopted" godmothers and godfathers to children in our church and community is readily apparent. We support that connection with the paid leadership of the Director of Little Blessings, the Director of Children's Ministry and the Director of Student Ministry.

- Little Blessings: Our focus on discipleship begins with our children. North Lake shares God's love with these children and supports the parent's work-life by having childcare for children up to 12 years of age and a Volunteer Pre-School (recognized by the state of Florida) open to the entire community.
 - Angel Tree provides for gifts and supplies for the children

- Sundays – Faith Weaver programs
 - Infant and Toddler – nursery care during 2 worships
 - Children's Message during the Contemporary Worship
 - Children's Own Church: PreK – 2nd grade during Contemporary Worship
 - Sunday School: PreK-K, 1-2, 3-5 grades, parent class after Contemporary Worship
 - Youth Group: Middle School and High School – Refuge 511
 - Children's Choir

- Wednesdays
 - NOW – Afterschool program for neighborhood and church children K-5th Grade includes, snack, homework help, play, physical activity, a scripture-based lesson, crafts, music based on that lesson – 26 children
 - Dinner with Children, Volunteers, Youth and Parents
 - Scripture-based class for parents / grandparents
 - Youth Group: Middle School and High School – Refuge 511
 - Volunteers – 41 godparents serve the children

- Vacation Bible School – a weeklong summer program that included crafts, drama, music, and fun in teaching about our Lord and Savior.
 - Little Blessings Christian Preschool
 - Elementary School
 - Youth Group Volunteers
 - 25 Adult Volunteers

- Youth Group – Middle School and High School – Refuge 511
 - Praise Band
 - Youth 4 Hire – youth assist our members with tasks around their homes like yard work
 - Service Projects around the church
 - VBS – Service to our Children
 - Mission Trips
 - Confirmation Program
 - Father’s Bible Study – meets twice monthly

Ministry and Ministry Coaches

At North Lake individual commitment to ministry is the thread that ties the other four functions together. Whether an individual is involved in worship, congregational care, discipleship or missions, we strive to get every member involved in our church life.

Ministry Coaches

Ministry Coaches pairs a long-time member with each new member. The goal is to integrate the new member into ministries and classes to help them feel a part of the church family. We recognized that if a new member is not assimilated into the life of the church, interest can lag and ultimately, the member might feel a disconnect and even leave the church. The coach helps the new member sign up for the best activity/ministry for him or her. The coach is there to assist and be a special friend to the new member.

Missions

Serving the community through our missions and ministries is part of our church calling. We answer that call through what we refer to as the **BIG THREE**

- Little Blessings Christian Preschool – Christian-based teaching for up to 132 children
- Operation Homebound - cook and deliver meals to approximately 200 people 5 days a week.
- Christian Food Pantry- supplies additional food to over 1000 people a month.

Current Local Missions

- "Feed the Kids" snack packs for elementary children to provide food for the weekends. We pack 120 snacks a week through the school year.
- "Back to School" backpacks for over 1000 children each fall.
- Operation Christmas Child an outreach of Samaritans Purse
- Love INC (Love in the name of Christ) helping people to help themselves
- Handyman Ministry offers minor home repairs in the Ocala forest, throughout the neighborhood and help around the church with repairs, etc.
- Yearly yard sale to help Little blessings
- SOZO Kids, helping the children in the Ocala Forest

National and International Missions

- Mountain TOP, TN assisting the people in work projects
- Undie Sunday, once a year we collect children's underwear to be sent to Haiti
- Support of an orphanage in Ethiopia
- Help with a school in Vietnam
- We have a sister church in Cuba that we visit once a year and help with supplies etc.
- Our largest international outreach is through the Outreach Foundation and the work we do in the Tete Province in Mozambique. We have built two wells, a school, and housing and have just finished building a medical center and housing which will help 200 to 300 people a day.

This is just an overview and doesn't include the mission work that our PW women are involved with or the pastoral care for the congregation. Our church building is an outreach to the community as we hold 1200 people making it the largest seating capacity in the Villages, so we open our doors to outside venues. We also have organizations such as AA and other support groups using our facility. This is just the tip of the iceberg as North Lake becomes the hands and feet of Christ in our community and world.

Administration

In order to fulfill the five functions of North Lake, we maintain a strong administrative posture that ensures each function receives the attention that it needs to achieve success. This administrative posture includes the following:

Staffing

In addition to our 2 installed Pastors. The following information lists the staff working at NLPC at the present time:

Positions	Full-Time	Part-Time
Administration	3	4
Worship	3	3
Facilities	2	3
Congregational Care / Pastors	1	1
Children Ministry	1	3
Youth Ministry	1	0
Little Blessings	8	12
Operation Homebound	1	6
Christian Food Pantry	0	2

Campus & Facilities

North Lake Presbyterian Church is located in Lady Lake, Lake County, Florida, and covers 8.4 acres. The main facility houses the sanctuary (16,880 sq. ft.) and has a capacity of 1200 people maximum. Across the lobby from the sanctuary is the Fellowship Hall (16,566 sq. ft) where capacity is 500 for meals or 800 for seating. The other building on the property is used for Little Blessings Daycare and has 16,556 sq. ft. with a playground of 3,000 sq. ft. The current enrollment is 132. An off-campus building, housing the Christian Food Pantry (2,128 sq. Ft.), is located in the town of Lady Lake on east Lady Lake Blvd.

Other facility statistics are:

- Parking spaces: 393 total, 331 open, 62 handicap + 200 off-site
- Industrial Kitchen: 3,600 sq. ft.
- Offices and Lobby: 9,450
- Classrooms: 10,000 sq. Ft.

Budget

Income	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
Tithes & Offerings	\$2,049,850	\$2,018,190	\$2,018,190
Other Revenue	\$30,000	\$27,500	\$0
Cost Reimbursements	\$3,000	\$3,877	\$3,000
Total Revenue	\$2,082,850	\$2,049,567	\$2,021,190
Expenses			
Administration	\$228,830	\$222,112	\$220,188
Facilities	\$168,272	\$164,059	\$167,422
Ministries	\$78,886	\$77,654	\$75,990
Missions & Outreach	\$96,980	\$78,095	\$77,515
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,252,482	\$1,189,765	\$1,222,675
Principal & Interest	\$257,400	\$261,450	\$257,400
New Property Principal & Interest	\$0	\$8,596	\$51,576
New Property Capital Campaign			\$51,576
Total Expenses	\$2,082,850	\$2,001,731	\$2,021,190
Excess Revenue over Expenses	\$0	\$47,836	\$0

Closing

We hope you find this report helpful in discovering North Lake Presbyterian Church.