

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY CRADOCK BAPTIST CHURCH

Our Mission

The mission of Cradock Baptist Church is to glorify God by making disciples who have a vital connection with God and with other people.

Our Definition of a Disciple

A disciple is a believer who is in a process of becoming more like Jesus Christ throughout one's lifetime through practicing spiritual habits of prayer, Bible study, fellowship, evangelism, and service to others. (For further development of this, see Appendix 1.)

The Roles of Leadership

The role of our Pastor is to provide for the welfare and oversight of the church by communicating vision, giving direction, training disciples, spending priority time in prayer and the ministry of preaching and teaching the Word, and being a model in the discipleship process.

The role of our Deacons is to support and assist the Pastor in providing spiritual leadership for the ministry of our church, and to be models in the discipleship process.

All key leaders (Pastoral staff members, Sunday School teachers, ministry and group leaders) will actively participate in the ministry of our church and be growing disciples committed to the church's philosophy of ministry, doctrinal statement, and attend leadership training when offered.

All key leadership will be selected through an intentional process of prayer and discernment on the basis of their character, faithfulness, and spiritual giftedness, as demonstrated over time.

The Purpose of Church Ministries

Our church gathers in large groups primarily for the purpose of worship, inspiration, and celebration, and in Sunday School and ministry and small groups for Bible study, fellowship and personal spiritual growth.

Our worship will be Christ-centered, relevant in expression, and celebrative in spirit. We will make sure what we do will make the outsider feel comfortable and welcome, and the committed believer challenged and encouraged.

Our Sunday School will be a key outreach and assimilation point for the church, as well as a place for systematic Bible teaching and formation of a breadth of relationships through fellowship.

Our small groups exist primarily for teaching, equipping, pastoral care, and personal spiritual growth through development of depth of relationships.

We will seek to establish and maintain a healthy balance of groups to provide the proper structure for connecting with persons at each stage of spiritual growth.

Our evangelism will seek to incorporate both spontaneous and strategic ways of doing evangelism. The Gospel will never change, but our methods will flex and change according to the needs of the people we are trying to reach. Thus, many methods may be used at any one time.

The primary emphasis of all of our ministry programs is to make disciples, and we will evaluate the effectiveness of all ministry structures by whether they are producing changed lives.

Our disciple making structures include our Sunday School, age-group ministries, support groups and small groups.

All of our ministries will be biblically sound, culturally relevant, and supported by a strong base of prayer.

All that we do as a church and as individual believers is aimed at bringing glory to God.

This Philosophy of Ministry will be implemented with grace during the first twelve months, and will take full effect on October 31, 2008.

Our Philosophy of Ministry will be as binding as our By-Laws, and can be amended in the same manner as our By-Laws.

Appendix 1

Our Definition of a Disciple

A disciple is a believer who is in a process of becoming more like Jesus Christ throughout one's lifetime through practicing spiritual habits of prayer, Bible study, fellowship, evangelism, and service to others.

Stages of Spiritual Growth

Growth Stage	Lookers	Listeners	Learners	Laborers	Leaders
Examples from Jesus' ministry:	John 1:35-42	Matthew 4:18-22	Mark 3:7, 13-15	Mark 6:7-13 John 6:1-14	John 15:4 Luke 24:45-49
Task of the Disciple Maker:	Evangelize	Establish	Edify	Equip	Empower

Characteristics of People at the End of Each Stage

Lookers

- They are aware of and observe the lives of Christians. (*John 4:16-22*)
- They may attend church. (*John 4:20-24; Hebrews 10:25*)
- They may know facts about Christ, but lack a personal relationship with Him. (*John 3:1-19*)
- They recognize that Jesus is God. (*Mark 1:11*)
- They have an understanding of Christ as the way to salvation. (*John 1:39, 14:6*)
- They are being challenged to trust Christ as Savior. (*John 6:60-66*)
- They have confessed their sins, repented, and have been baptized. (*Matthew 3:6; Mark 1:15*)
- They have settled their decision to trust Christ as Savior. (*John 3:16-18*)
- They are given time to consider the call to commitment to growth in Christ. (*2 Peter 3:18*)

Listeners

- They have a hunger for spiritual growth. (*1 Peter 2:2-3*)
- They want to spend time with other Christians. (*John 2:2, 3:22*)
- They learn to trust God's Word in the face of doubts. (*Matthew 4:4*)
- They have assurance of salvation. (*1 John 5:11-13*)
- They understand the need for worship, Bible study, prayer, fellowship and witness. (*John 4:23-24*)
- They share their faith with others. (*John 1:40-42*)
- They are led by the Spirit. (*Luke 4:1, 14, 18; Romans 8:14-16*)
- Their lifestyle begins to reflect a change in values and priorities. (*Matthew 3:8*)
- They are challenged to a deeper level of discipleship. (*Matthew 4:19; Luke 5:1-11*)

Learners

- They have a deepening awareness of the need to make Christ the first priority in their lives. (*Luke 5:11, 27-28*)
- They have a growing hunger for the Word of God. (*Luke 5:1*)
- They are increasing in their awareness of and sensitivity to the movement of God in their lives. (*John 5:17*)
- They share their faith regularly. (*Luke 8:39; Mark 1:45; John 5:19-20*)
- They are growing more aware of sin in their lives. (*Luke 5:8*)
- They have a hunger for the things of God. (*Luke 6:20-27*)
- They are learning the principles of giving. (*Luke 6:38*)
- They are establishing a solid foundation for spiritual growth. (*Luke 6:46-48*)
- They demonstrate compassion for hurting people. (*Luke 7:12-13*)
- They practice lessons learned from Bible Study. (*Luke 8:14, 21; Mark 3:35*)

Laborers

- They are willing to give Christ first priority in their lives. (*Matthew 8:19-22*)
- They are personally involved in ministry. (*Matthew 10:1-42*)
- They realize the importance of continued spiritual growth. (*Matthew 10:24-25*)
- They are gaining an understanding of the Kingdom of God. (*Matthew 10:7*)
- They are aware of the spiritual authority they possess in Christ. (*Matthew 10:7*)
- Their lives glorify God. (*Matthew 5:13-16*)
- They focus on what lasts for eternity instead of temporal gain. (*Matthew 6:19-34; 10:42*)
- They become selective in terms of whom they allow to instruct them & demonstrate spiritual stability. (*Mark 4:24-25; Matthew 16:6, 12; Ephesians 4:11-16*)
- They understand the centrality and role of the Church in God's Kingdom. (*Matthew 16:16-18*)
- They usually minister as a team and not in isolation. (*Luke 10:1*)
- They consistently practice spiritual habits of worship, Bible study, prayer, fellowship, & witness. (*Luke 11:1-13; 8:1-8*)
- They practice sacrificial giving. (*Mark 12:41-44; 2 Samuel 24:18-25*)

Leaders

- They lead a life filled and guided by the Spirit. (*John 14:17, 16:13, 20:22; Acts 1:8*)
- They abide in Christ and are obedient to Christ's commands. (*John 15:5, 14, 21:16; Matthew 28:10, 16; Acts 1:4*)
- They experience contrition, repentance and restoration after failure. (*Matthew 26:19-20; Luke 24:53; John 21:15-19*)
- They pray on the basis of the Word and in the authority of Christ. (*John 15:7, 16:33*)
- They are growing in godly character. (*Colossians 1:27-28; John 15:5*)
- They recognize and respond to the activity of God in daily life. (*Luke 24:30-31; John 8:47; John 20:15-17*)
- They are sent into the world to bear witness to Christ. (*John 15:17; 17:18, 20:21; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:53; Mark 16:18-20*)
- They produce lasting spiritual fruit. (*John 15:8, 16*)
- They take care of the physical needs of others. (*John 15:12-13, 17; 19:26-27; Acts 4:32-37*)
- They don't let opposition deter them. (*Acts 8:1b, 4*)
- They function in Christ's absence as reproducing disciple makers. (*Acts 1:9-11; 2:14-47*)
- They see disciple making as a lifestyle, not an activity. (*2 Timothy 2:2*)