



# OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# Mid Week Message

*Gather... Connect... Grow... Impact!*

JANUARY 19, 2022

## “WHAT IS THE CHURCH’S PURPOSE?”

One of my responsibilities at Open Door Christian Church is to help us transition into a church God envisioned us to be in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The church will take on a new feel while resolving the problems of the past. The problems you identified are:

1. Conflict had gotten out of control,
2. Lack of young people,
3. Lack of communication,
4. Confusion over what we are to do,
5. **Not sure of the church’s purpose,**
6. Can’t keep a preacher.

The concern being addressed in this article is outlined in red: **Not sure of the church’s purpose.**

The confusion over the church’s purpose didn’t happen overnight. It takes place over a long period of time when God’s People get more comfortable with their traditions, rules, organizational structures, practices, and programs that the original purpose behind their practices gets lost. For example: The organ was introduced into the church as an effort to capture the imagination of the unchurched public who were captivated by this instrument. The mission of the Christian Church (DOC) has always been to reach the unchurched and unite all people of God while maintaining our identity and values even at the risk of losing people.

Today, however, most churches labor to separate themselves with an instrument that no longer serves the purpose to reach the unchurched, and struggle to embrace a different musical format that captures the imagination of the unchurched. Over time, we feel more loyalty to our past than the mission given to us by Christ. Over time, the church forgets who we are.

The church’s purpose is to continue the ministry Jesus left for us to fulfill. It is a disciple’s (all of us) responsibility to learn and understand Jesus’ ministry and respond by using EFFECTIVE methods (familiar or new) that help fulfill the purpose given to us by Jesus!

1. The church needs to keep our purpose before us, so we don’t forget! Therefore...
2. We need to have written statements about our purpose, mission, and identity made visible in the church, social media, and our homes.
3. We need to covenant with God and one another to uphold our role within the church’s purpose and mission.
4. We need to create an end of the year worship experience to celebrate how we fulfilled our purposes of the previous year, and how we will fulfill our ministry in the new year.
5. We need orientation classes **FOR EVERY PERSON** who chooses to be a part of ODCC so **EVERY PERSON** can understand who we are and covenant to support them.
6. We need to make our purpose, mission, and identity **THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AT OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH!**

It is critical to communicate our purpose and mission and learn to live up to it! It is critical we and the people we are reaching know who we are, what we do, why we do it, and what is expected of everyone who wishes to be a part of building God’s Kingdom at ODCC! This way our purpose is never forgotten!

*Danny*