

# signposts

the spiritual growth track at pcc



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## the spiritual growth track at peninsula community chapel

**1 Peter 4:10-11** “Each of you should use *whatever gift* you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in *its various forms*. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, *so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ*. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.”

## introduction

Plugging into and getting deeply involved in a church like PCC can be a daunting task. If you’re new to the faith or just exploring faith, you might feel like everyone in the church seems to be speaking a different language at times – sounds like English but not words that you’ve ever used. Some of you have attended many different churches before, and you know that they often have different callings and ministry priorities. Maybe you’ve attended PCC for some time and you want to know how to really dig in and participate in the vision and direction of the church. Or maybe you have dug in and poured yourselves into PCC but are now wondering what’s next?

PCC’s mission statement is “Making Disciples Who Know His Joy and Change His World,” and we believe that in order to experience joy and participate in change, we all must be growing in our faith and living out a life that proclaims the good news of Jesus to our community and to the world.

We’ve identified four stages of growth at PCC that we believe will guide your journey of faith and service as you discover what it means to know His joy and change His world in the context of this church.

We realize that we are all very unique individuals and that there are no cookie-cutter designs for spiritual growth. We are all in different places spiritually. Some are just exploring the idea that Jesus is who He claimed to be. Others have known Jesus for most of their lives. We all progress at different paces and not everyone experiences the same growth from the same activity. So each growth stage has multiple activities and experiences to suit the diversity of starting points and paces.

We also need to make it clear that this growth track is not a checklist for salvation, nor is it a spiritual obstacle course that you will someday complete and from which you will retire. Scripture calls us all to grow in our knowledge of Jesus and to be His hands and feet to a hurting world. We don’t accomplish that by just warming a seat on Sunday morning. We invite you on the exhilarating life-long journey of making disciples who know His joy and change His world.

# the growth track

## STAGE I: CONNECT TO PCC



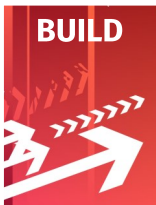
Stage one starts with exploring the truth of the message of Jesus, connecting with the local body of believers at PCC and identifying PCC's unique call on the Peninsula. This foundational stage addresses areas pertaining to PCC's history and vision and explores what the church believes regarding the message of Jesus, why we need church and how our faith relates to our everyday lives. Connecting to other people at PCC is a key to this stage because the church thrives through

relationships and unity. Since PCC believes that we must be active both locally and globally, we will address God's call on where to invest our gifts, talents and finances. If we don't get a grasp on these things, the other stages may not make sense or seem helpful. Once this stage is addressed sufficiently, we urge you to commit to PCC as your church and decide that this is where you will invest your time, talents and finances to see the call to joy and change pursued.

- » **Acts 2:42-47** *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*
- » **Hebrews 10:24-25** *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
- » **1 John 4:11-12** *Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*
- » **Psalms 133:1** *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.*
- » **Romans 12:4-5** *For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

**Stage I activity examples:** Sunday Worship Services : Summer Picnics : Membership Interest Class : Attend a Discipleship Class : SeptemberFest / Winterfest : Newcomer Meet & Greet Lunch : Summer Interest Groups

## STAGE II: BUILD THE COMMUNITY/BODY



Once you've decided that PCC is the church to call home, the next stage will involve getting to know yourself and other people at PCC on a deeper level. God calls us to grow up in our faith by studying and applying the truths of the Bible on our own and together as a community. This happens at different levels, including personal study times, one-on-one discipleship relationships, small groups and larger interactive groups with a goal of knowing others and being known. God

doesn't promise to remove the trials and hardships in our lives, and deep relationships with others are essential to weathering the storms as well as celebrating the joys of life. Another key to your spiritual growth is discovering your spiritual gifts as well as exploring how the Gospel should shape all of our relationships, whether it be with our spouses, children, friends, neighbors or co-workers. Once you've established this deep foundation of theology and relationships and discovered how God has uniquely equipped you to serve, we urge you to invest those gifts to change His world.

- » **Ephesians 4:15-16** *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*
- » **Romans 12:4-8** *For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*
- » **Colossians 2:6-7** *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*
- » **Hebrews 10:24** *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*
- » **1 Corinthians 12:4-6** *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*

**Stage II activity examples:** Home Group Participation : Volunteer Training : Men's / Women's Bible Study : Commit to a Discipleship Class : Invite People to PCC : Be Discipled by Someone : Give to the Local Ministry Fund : S.H.A.P.E Assessment : Seminars : Retreats (marriage, women, men, youth, etc.) : Regular informal activities with other PCCers (dinners, outings, etc.) : Support Groups : Training on bearing each other's burdens and supporting each other

## STAGE III: PLUG IN AND SERVE

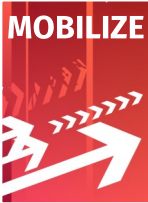


After you've begun building deeper relationships, getting a better understanding of scripture and discovering your spiritual gifts, stage three will get you using those relationships, understandings and gifts for active service. God tells us to use the gifts and talents that He has given us to make a difference in the world. We are called to invest in others and to serve the church. He tells us to reach out and care for the needy, the broken, the lost and the hurting. He calls us to seek justice and mercy. During this stage, we'll put our gifts, talents and resources to work through opportunities locally and globally by exploring ways to serve in the church, in the community and around the world. We'll discover how God provides for these endeavors through prayer, fasting and giving. Once we see how God is at work around the world and how great the need is, we urge you to the next stage, which focuses on investing in others to maximize the effort and equip them to join in.

- » **Matthew 16:24-27** *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done."*
- » **Ephesians 2:10** *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*
- » **Hebrews 10:24-25** *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another —and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
- » **Matthew 22:37-40** *Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*
- » **Micah 6:8** *He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

**Stage III activity examples:** Volunteering for a Ministry / Service / Team : Going on a Global Ministry Trip : Membership : Ushering : Volunteering for an Event : Home Group Role (Global Ministry Coordinator, etc.) : Over and Above Giving to Support Global Ministry and Capital Campaigns : Fasting : Host Global Ministry Reception

## STAGE IV: EQUIP AND MOBILIZE OTHERS

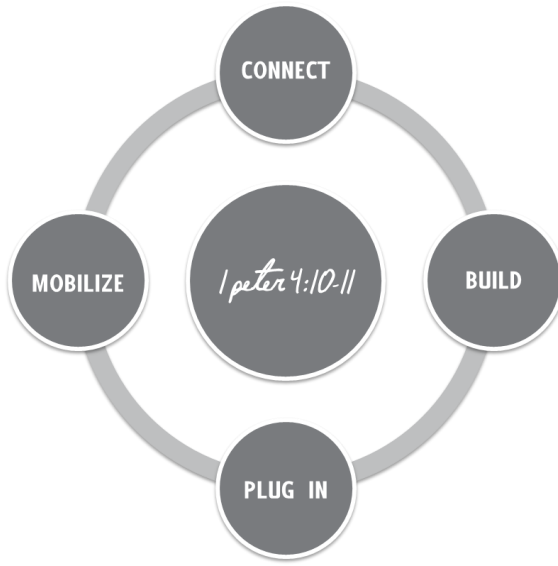


As you gain experience and discover more and more how God has uniquely equipped you for Kingdom work, stage four will open up opportunities for you to help others gain experience and discover gifts. Stage four will challenge you to define leadership as serving others by freeing them to use their God-given gifts and passions. By this stage, you will have had many who have invested in your spiritual growth and have seen how important the need is for people investing in others so

that Kingdom work is sustained and expanded. Through our experiences in the previous stages we'll have also realized where we thrive the most in ministry. For some it will be highly visible leadership. For others it will be very much behind the scenes. Some may even feel called to pursue vocational ministry, either in the church or overseas in global ministry. This stage will help you explore all of these opportunities and help equip you for the journey that they lead you on.

- » **Matthew 28:18-20** *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*
- » **1 Peter 4:10-11** *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.*
- » **Mark 10:45** *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

**Stage IV activity examples:** Global Ministry Short Term Team Leadership : Long Term Global Ministry : Elder Training : Vocational Ministry : Volunteer Team Leadership : Teach a Discipleship Class : Lead a Home Group or a Bible Study : Global Ministry / Partner Representative / Advocate : Disciple Someone : Situational Small Groups : Host a Home Group



## then what? a life commitment

Our spiritual growth is not complete until the moment we see Jesus face to face. Until then words like connect, build, plug-in, and mobilize will characterize us. God has done the hard part through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That risen Christ has sent His Spirit as the means by which He builds His community, the church. You're encouraged to engage these stages in the power that only His Spirit can provide. We offer these signposts *"so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ"* (1 Peter 4:11).

***Questions, comments, or need some help getting started?***

*Contact our pastoral staff at [office@pccyorktown.com](mailto:office@pccyorktown.com).*



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