

SCC Strategic Plan

Our Mission & Vision

Every church shares the same vision: Under the authority (headship) of Christ, make **disciples** of all nations as we go; baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded.

To fulfill the vision given by our Lord, Seven Cities Church:

- I. Defines a **disciple** as a follower of Jesus who actively learns what Jesus taught so they can live as Jesus lived and ultimately love as Jesus loves.
- II. Follows a clear **discipleship pathway**, succinctly outlined in our three core stages: Believe, Belong, Become.

We will challenge everyone we encounter to answer three questions that correspond to our three core stages:

1. **What do I believe?** Acknowledging my sin and separation from God, and my need for a Savior and Lord.
2. **Where do I belong?** Receiving my adoption into the family of God and discovering my place within His family.
3. **Who am I becoming?** Surrendering to God's will and responding to His call in my life.

Believe – Believing is anchored in having a relationship with God and His word.

We will partner with the Holy Spirit by serving as laborers in His harvest (Matthew 9:36-37), making disciples who know and love Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20), and preaching the good news of Jesus (Romans 10:14-17). This will introduce people to Jesus, sound doctrine, and biblical habits and living.

- This is accomplished through preaching and teaching that align with Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16 – 4:8). This includes:
 - Corporate worship gatherings
 - Preaching and teaching
 - Foundations Groups
 - Partaking in the church's ordinances (Baptism and Communion)

Belong – Belonging is rooted in being connected to the family of God in community.

We will invite people into life-giving relationships where we serve as conduits for the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us, giving life to one another.

- This is accomplished by building community through engagement (moving from new attendee to member) and relational discipleship (groups and serving one another) (Romans 12, Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Peter 4:8-11). This includes:
 - Discover Seven Cities
 - Groups
 - Mentoring focused on spiritual formation
 - Discovering spiritual gifts
 - Serve Teams
 - Church Membership

Become – Becoming is realized through our Marks of a Disciple:

- Growing in Grace
- Living in Obedience to Christ
- In Life-giving Relationships
- Living a Surrendered Life
- Living an Unhurried Life
- Being Moved with Compassion
- Reaching One More

We are disciples who make disciples by learning what Jesus taught, so we can live as Jesus lived and ultimately love as Jesus loves.

- This is accomplished by equipping members for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16): sharing our faith, inviting others into discipleship-focused relationships, generously giving our time, talent, and treasure, and impacting the Seven Cities for God's Kingdom and His glory (Matthew 9:36-37, 28:19-20). This includes:
 - Relational evangelism
 - SC Outreach
 - Ministry leadership development
 - Surrendering to the call to ministry
 - Local & Global missions and church planting
 - Generosity (time, talent, and treasure)

III. **Aligns all ministries to the discipleship pathway**

Every ministry within SCC reinforces the same discipleship vision by focusing on believing, belonging, and becoming, tailored to age or life stage, through teaching alignment that allows our elders to be the primary teachers in the church and be responsible for feeding and tending the sheep.

- **SC Kids:** Infant – 5th Grade. Seven Cities Kids focuses on laying the foundation for faith in Jesus by asking and answering the question, “How does this lay a foundation of faith for our children?” (See Tactical Plan)
- **SC Youth:** 6th Grade – 12th Grade. Seven Cities Youth focuses on helping students own their faith in Jesus by asking and answering the question, “How does this guide our students to take ownership of their faith?” (See Tactical Plan)
- **SC Adults:** SC Adults focuses on helping adults live and love like Jesus by connecting them to Christ, His word, and His people and by helping them cultivate the marks of a disciple in their lives.
- **SC Groups:** Seven Cities Groups are discipleship-focused, life-giving, relational small groups that recap Sunday sermons to help the people of SCC find belonging in the family of God.
- **SC Men & SC Women:** These discipleship-focused, life-giving, relational, gender-based ministry events connect, empower, and commission the men and women of SCC through Christ-centered living in gender-specific areas of life. (See Tactical Plan)
- **SC Teams:** Serve Teams are discipleship-focused, life-giving, surrendered-living teams of family members who perform “*family chores*” at worship gatherings and SC events.
- **SC Outreach:** SC Outreach is a discipleship-focused, life-giving, surrendered-living, unhurried team of family members, moved by compassion and focused on reaching one more with the good news about Jesus through acts of kindness in the name of Jesus throughout Hampton Roads.
- **SC Missions:** SC Missions is focused on making disciples of all nations. SC Missions will partner with organizations in communities around the world by providing prayer, financial and human resources, and training, ensuring the Good News about Jesus spreads beyond Hampton Roads.

IV. **Trains leaders and mentors**

We believe God has called us to equip the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12-13). This includes identifying and equipping those God has called to serve as missionaries, evangelists, and shepherd/teachers in the Hampton Roads area and beyond. Some of

those trained will serve at Seven Cities Church, while others will serve in other ministry contexts, including Project 7 Cities, Impact Centers, church plants, and the mission field. This is accomplished through:

- Biblical literacy and doctrine
- Spiritual disciplines
- Ministry skills (teaching, counseling, evangelism)
- Character formation (see ministry competency/trait assessment)
- Practical ministry experience with coaching
- Ministry leadership development and training (see Church Leader Development Manual and Training Curriculum)

V. Has a culture of **multiplication**

Multiplication is **sending out** disciples of Jesus throughout the Hampton Roads area and around the world to be ambassadors for Jesus in the places and spaces He calls them to. Seven Cities Church is not the destination; it is the launching pad! We are beacons of light in the midst of darkness, with Jesus' light shining through us and piercing the darkness, helping people believe in Jesus, belong to His family, and become like Him. **This is the fulfillment of BELIEVING, BELONGING, and BECOMING.**