

Mission and Guiding Principles

Comments about Developing a Strong Foundation

These were developed by the Leadership Team in our first meeting and the guiding principles were added to as we moved forward and learned along the way. We had a discussion about what we were not, because that is as critical as what you will do. For instance, we decided we would not plan activities because others did that and it could be a distraction. Anything we would do, like a chalk walk of encouragement was tied to Biblical encouragement or serving a need. That is our differentiator and helps us stay focused. Your mission needs to be specific enough to guide decisions and how you allocate resources (time and money).

The “success metrics” are designed to examine at the end of our effort and see if we did what we set out to accomplish. Notice the connection to faith in all of these.

In guiding principles, we felt called by God to be bold at a time and in a culture where boldness of faith is somewhat discouraged. We also wanted to be wise with our resources, not duplicating effort and encouraging others who are providing help, even that which is not faith based.

Being agile in structure, design and approach are critical as needs can change quickly. This was verified as we talked with other churches who discovered their initial plans were not what was needed and they had to shift. We did not want to waste precious time on perfecting ideas only to discover we missed the mark.

A key is to revisit these foundational principles weekly to ensure you are staying on track.

While developing these takes time (and you might use these as a starting point), they will allow you to save time later as decision-making becomes easier. It is easy to get “mission creep” and take on too much if you aren’t focused, and then you can be spread too thin and wear out your volunteers and confuse the neighborhood as to what you are about. Whatever you decide, be willing to be fully transparent.

Our Mission

Be Jesus’ Hands and Feet in Thornbrook through encouraging and serving our neighbors

Success Looks Like

- Believers faith is strengthened
- God is glorified and Christ is proclaimed
- More seek and turn to Him
- People feel God’s love and are served

Guiding Principles

- We are about faith with works, but not works without faith
- We will be faithful and fearless, treating all with love but not having fear of sharing about Who we represent
- Pointing people to what others are doing to help and not duplicating efforts
- People in leader positions will be Christ followers, and we will serve all
- Not all actions will touch everyone, but all will be touched

- We will glorify God in all we do, not taking on too much or scaling beyond our subdivision, but sharing what we do with others so they can follow
- We will fail fast, being willing to try things that may not work
- We will do things with excellence, realizing timeliness is often better than perfect (General Patton's rule)
- We will do something each week to keep momentum
- We will keep it simple
- We will use resources and people's gifts wisely and make it ok to say "no" and not overload people

Principles for Developing Processes

- The process should be easy for us to start, so we don't in a week say, "This is too much." Start slow and grow.
- We keep an eye on the future - what if this volume doubles - can it still be handled in the same way, or will I have to design another process (this may happen, but we want to reduce the number of redesigns)?
- We ask if we are agile? Do I box myself in to an approach that expends lot of energy up front and then is hard to change?