

GENEROSITY UPDATE

OCTOBER 2026



COLUMBIA

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Growing in Life. *Together.*

Dear CPC Friends,

Each year we like to offer a fall Generosity Update. This is an effort to help you see where we apply your gifts and offerings directly to ministry each year. But generosity, while fueled partially by financial resources, is a much bigger idea. This report is designed to sketch out ***the ways we have seen Christ at work*** in our midst through the people of our church. It is also designed to help the congregation understand how God might be calling us forward together into His future in 2027. We hope you find all of this to be challenging and encouraging.

Here are some of the ways that we used your gifts in 2026:

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR DISCIPLESHIP

After a wonderful interim pastorship from Pastor Scott Peterson, and incredibly speedy work from our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, we were able to hire Pastor John Yu, who began his service at Columbia in January. After a time of initial onboarding and learning about CPC, John has been working to discern the health and vitality of discipleship at CPC. As we head into the fall, John is starting to develop a plan for renewing discipleship through Life Groups. We are in conversation and prayer as a program staff and with the Elders (Session) about how we might structure these groups and what forms of Christian discipleship they will gather around. Pray for this work. It is critical for the life of the church and is an exciting moment in Pastor John's ministry at CPC.

MISSIONAL CASEWORKER

When I wrote last fall's update, we had just hired for this new and experimental two-year position. Scott Longacre is primarily the coordinator of Congregational Care, but 25-30% of his time is meant to also help connect congregants and community members with resources in Clark County. We are now a year in and Scott has built an excellent community resource with key contacts and community agencies. He has found low cost services for people, helped reduce thousands in medical debt for others, and helped a few people navigate finding employment. We are also finding that people are starting to know that CPC is a church that they can call to get accurate information and referrals to the right places in Clark County.

LIFT DAY

Our Missions Ministry Team did an incredible job of trying out our first day of intentional shared service with various community organizations. It was a wonderful day. We had assembled one of the most interesting assortments of people I have ever seen at CPC - new people, retirees, students, and Mowtown teenagers. We served at Habitat ReStore, The Giving Closet, Clark County Food Bank, Open House Ministries, and our own homebound congregants through WeCare Gifts and cardmaking.

CAMPUS PROJECTS

About three years ago we began to realize that aspects of our campus needed some tending since we were a decade removed from the church remodel. For the last three years, our CPC Foundation has used its funds to cover those projects. This last year, we used some of these generous legacy gifts for the main parking lot, resurfaced the gym floor, completed a few elements of our branding project, and started to renew small items in our various spaces that have just gotten worn out. The ability to use these resources in this way takes a great deal of pressure off our annual Operations Budget.

CONTEMPLATIVE YOGA

One of our congregants, Stephanie Bisch, began to feel a call to restart yoga at CPC. "Holy Yoga" was a program that we started some years back but had to discontinue when the director moved out of state. Stephanie is working to create a similar yoga model that incorporates ancient Christian prayer practices alongside body movement and reflection.



Pastor Matt Overton

Looking Forward

At our annual staff work day retreat on October 5, the program staff prayed for each other, spent some time in God's word, and then reflected on the past year at CPC. We began by looking at the areas that we feel are thriving and then turned to look at the areas where we feel we are facing challenges or where things just don't seem to work like they should. We tried to name where we have seen God at work. And we tried to look forward to 2027. What might the Lord have in store for us? Where is God calling us that we cannot yet fully see?

WHAT WE SENSE

- We remain a vibrant multi-generational church that has high-quality staff who are feeling a sense of deep progress despite multiple years of transitions.
- We have arrived at a place of relative stability. That feels good.
- We have the capacity and resources to do some incredible things over the next decade if we leverage our human and material assets to the glory of God. We sense a Kingdom opportunity. But, we are unsure of what it is just yet.

WHAT WE WANT TO INVEST IN

- **Women's Ministry** - Our Women's Ministry seems to be flourishing. A number of women from several generations have stepped up to invest and invite. We are seeing the fruit. We are wondering if we might need to consider adding staffing capacity for this ministry. It has energy and momentum and is demonstrating gospel fruit.
- **Leadership/Vocation/Equipping** - We are seeing two things simultaneously. First, younger generations (ages 16-30) are seeking out deeper discipleship and adult development. Many are longing for deeper Christian spirituality and connection as they struggle through the economics and realities of young adulthood. They also struggle to develop deep connections with their fellow peers, especially in

a suburban region like Clark County.

At the same time fewer and fewer people are entering ministry roles of any kind. Having seen the fruit of our grant-funded Whitworth interns, CPC interns, and grant-funded Future Forge interns, we wonder whether a larger investment in young adult and younger adult leadership and discipleship might be warranted. We are looking at several grants and methods of funding a kind of experience that brings together discipleship, leadership, vocational discernment, and service outside the church in other community ministries and non-profits. We wonder if there might be an opportunity to bless this these stages of life and raise up future leaders for our church and the broader universal church. We also see in this a potential chance to do a practical work of evangelism in this area.

- **Life Groups** - Pastor John Yu has been starting to develop a plan to renew and align our existing small groups while also starting new groups for those who would like deep fellowship and community as disciples of Jesus. You may call these "small groups" or "life groups" depending on your experience. We have a few of these groups already. Sometimes they look like traditional small groups. Other times they take the form of bible studies or even ministry teams where people serve together and fellowship.

This kind of ministry at CPC will likely continue to take several forms, but we sense they need some cohesion and guidance. What we do know is that this is an essential investment in the future of CPC and it is one that has been, to a certain extent, neglected these last years. We expect to begin implementing this plan at the start of 2027 and it will be a central focus.

- **Missional Caseworker** - We are seeing fruit from the work that this position is doing. If we can fund it for longer than one more year we might be able to increase the impact of

the role inside and outside CPC. The work this position does is the work of the church. We need to see if we can continue to fund this kind of work. It is a great witness to the goodness of Christ and the generosity of God's Kingdom.

ADDITIONAL AREAS OF DISCERNMENT/NEED

There are a variety of other issues that we have to work on as a church as well. They may not require more funding, but they will require additional attention. As we discern and implement the big things above we will also be chipping away at:

- Helping the Missions Ministry Team figure out what the next years of our Senegal calling look like.
- Making sure that we are fully utilizing the gifts that our new Director of Operations, Greg Rhodes, brings to CPC. We love having him on our team!
- Continuing to help Pastor Sarah Tunall do intergenerational experiments. She did several this summer and fall that have been wonderful! Let's be the Body of Christ.
- Hiring a full-time director for Mowtown Teen Lawncare. The Future Forge has the external funding it needs and this will enable Pastor Matt Overton to refocus where needed.
- Assessing whether our traditional Wednesday Night programming is still "working" in terms of forming disciples. We need to reassess Wednesdays from children through adulthood.
- Weighing whether we need to make one of the new life groups a men's group. We have a large number of men under 40 who are not being discipled beyond worship.

COLUMBIA'S 2026 MISSIONAL IMPACT

Note: Circle of Friends Preschool and the Columbia Future Forge are almost entirely funded outside of the church's annual budget.

