

Attend One / Serve One

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

In October 10, 2020, the Visioning Team¹ resumed monthly meetings with Rev. Bill Kierce, Director of Congregational Development & Vitality for the Alabama West Florida Annual Conference. The visioning process resumed after a hiatus caused by the COVID pandemic. Beginning in October, the Vision Team discussed the best steps to take in five VITAL ministry areas that fruitful and faithful congregations practice. These five areas are **V**ibrant Worship, **I**ntentional Faith Development, **T**ransformational Leadership, **A**uthentic Community, and **L**asting Impact. The discussion of these five areas led the Visioning Team to develop the “Attend One, Serve One” plan to guide our servant leaders during our Sunday morning worship.

THE CURRENT MODEL

Trinity UMC has had a history of vibrant, faithful worship. Yet, over the past several years, Sunday morning worship attendance has decreased. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated this decrease. One result of decreased worship attendance is that often the same individuals serve as greeters or as security representatives, and they are unable to fully participate in the services as a worshipper.

Also, staff members have taken up the responsibility of scheduling volunteers for each respective worship service. It would be more conducive to growth to have lay involvement in worship leadership, as Trinity has done in the past. Lay involvement is God’s plan for vibrant and healthy worship.

WHY CHANGE?

Trinity UMC has a rich history of lay people volunteering in ministry. Serving one another is one of the best ways to meet people, develop relationships, and grow as followers of Jesus Christ. Lives change for those who serve and for those who are being served. We want to provide opportunities in all areas for individuals to use their God-given time and talents to make a difference for Christ in the lives of others. We want to become more effective and efficient in the ministry of service.

“Attend One, Serve One” means attending and being fully engaged in one service, and then serving and being fully engaged in another service. This will create a better experience for everyone, guests and team members. It will also foster relationships between those who attend our three worship services. We want to provide God-filled opportunities for spiritual worship and strengthen everyone’s walk with Christ. The “Attend One, Serve One” plan will create a space for a stronger Trinity family by fostering relationships that can’t always happen when individuals attend and serve at the same service.

Our current volunteers do an excellent job. Yet, when a volunteer serves every week, he or she can burnout, especially when there is no opportunity to attend and fully engage in a worship service. We want no one to burnout in service to God, and we want those who serve to experience the joy of Christ. We hope that this model will allow team members to serve once every three weeks, on a rotating basis.

¹ Members of the Visioning Team are Dr. Scott Hohn, Rev. Paula Roane, Marie Marshall, Ranae Curtis, Amy Klugh, LaTrevia Pounds, Kim Allen, Michael Simon, Melissa Johnson, Matt Hull and MaKenzie Johnson.

Of course, team members can volunteer in other ways throughout the month, but we propose rotating times of service so that team members won't burnout.

THE PROPOSAL

The "Attend One, Serve One" model is for Sunday Morning worship. The worship operations on Sunday morning will be divided into five serving categories: *Kids Team*, *Tech Team*, *Music Team*, *Service Team*, and *First Impressions Team*. These categories will have sub-categories.

Team Members are not limited to serving in only one category. Each team will have a staff liaison to oversee the operation of their respective area, and each sub-category will have a Team Leader.

KIDS TEAM

Along with the Director of Children and Discipleship, the Kid's Team shapes children's experiences from birth through 5th grade, including childcare, Kids' Time (Children's Church), and Trinity Tuesdays worship events. Children's Ministry aims to support and strengthen families by offering learning and fellowship opportunities for parents and family activities.

This team will consist of two sub-groups: Kids Time and Nursery. Each sub-group will also have a Team Leader that leads the team to accomplish its mission and to be responsible for scheduling the various work shifts for worship operations and special Trinity Kids events in collaboration with the Director. There will also be an Assistant Team Leader to help the Team Leader, especially in their absence.

TECHNOLOGY "TECH" TEAM

Along with the Communications and Operations Coordinator, the Technology Team strives to create excellent, distraction-free worship experiences that enhance encounters with God. They serve diligently behind the scenes to support our teams and pastors who serve on stage by providing visual and sound support. Through this ministry, guests will hear God's Word and experience God through worship, whether present in-person or worshipping online.

This team will consist of two subgroups: Audio/Visual (A/V) and Media. The Audio Visual team will be in charge of the lights, sounds, and computer visuals for each worship service and for any special event. The Media team will assist in photography and video recordings for worship services, special events, and online communications. Each sub-group will also have a Team Leader and assistant team leader who will lead the team to accomplish its mission and who will be responsible for scheduling the various shifts for worship operations.

MUSIC TEAM

Along with the Music Director and Worship Leader, the Music Team strives to create an atmosphere for the congregation to worship God through music and dance. We desire to lead the community into deeper worship, bringing people to God through musical excellence, creativity, and passion. This team will consist of four sub-groups: Traditional Worship, Contemporary Worship, Drama, and Dance.

SERVICE TEAM

This team will consist of three sub-groups: Host Team (which includes the liturgists and readers), Prayer Team, and Worship Décor Team (formally known as Altar Guild). Each sub-group will have a team leader to lead the team to accomplish its mission and schedule the various work shifts for worship services and

special events, including Trinity Kids, in collaboration with the respective staff liason. There will also be an Assistant Team Leader to help the Team Leader, especially in their absence.

During the Contemporary Worship Service, the Host Team and the Youth Director will strive to create an authentic, welcoming environment for guests. The host's goal is to maintain engaging and enthusiastic service energy and provide information on opportunities for connection and involvement. During the Traditional Worship Service, the host (liturgist) will share announcements and guide the church through worship.

The Prayer Team, along with the Senior Pastor, will actively promote prayer within the church's life. By being open and responsive to the working of the Holy Spirit, the Prayer Team connects people to God by being available after the worship service to pray for the needs of those who come forward during the worship services.

The Worship Décor Team and the Senior Pastor will strive to ensure the worship space and supporting materials are prepared for worship, including the bread and cup for Holy Communion. Our worship space is holy space where people experience the presence of God. Therefore, the worship space should be in a condition that it makes it easy for people to feel welcomed.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS TEAM

Along with the Assistant Youth Director, the First Impression Team strives to create an atmosphere to make guests feel welcomes and regular worshippers feel at home. This team creates a safe, friendly environment where anyone can walk in and immediately sense God's love at work.

This team will consist of three sub-groups: Hospitality, Safety, and Guest Experience. The Hospitality team will serve as Greeters (both inside, parking lot, and Square One) The Safety team will be responsible for monitoring the perimeter of the building and hallways during worship services. The Guest Experience team will assist the Communication and Operations Coordinator in following up with first-time worshippers and guests.

Each sub-group will also have a Team Leader who will lead the team to accomplish its mission. The team leader is responsible for scheduling the various work shifts for worship operations and special Trinity Kids events in collaboration with the Communication and Operations Coordinator. The Assistant Team Leader helps the Team Leader, especially in their absence.

TIMELINE TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSAL

- Present proposal to Church Council (June 29)
- Role definition and clarity (July)
- Meet with current team members (volunteers) (July)
- Host church-wide serving fair (August)
- Revise and implement Time & Talents survey pre-Stewardship Campaign (September/ Early October)
- Fully implementation (November 1)

LAYOUT OF VOLUNTEERS

Traditional Worship (Two Services)

- 9 First Impressions (6 Greeters Inside & Square One, 3 Parking Lot)
 - 1 Host (Liturgist & Reader)
 - 2 Tech Team (Sound & Computer)
 - Music (Choir / Solo / Ensemble)
 - 1-2 Safety
- Total = 15 to 25 x 2 = 30 – 50 team members each Sunday

Contemporary Worship (One Service)

- 10 First Impressions (7 Greeters Inside & Square One, 3 Parking Lot)
 - 1 Host
 - 2 Tech Team (Sound & Computer)
 - 5-6 Praise Band
 - 1-2 Safety
- Total = 22 – 25 team members each Sunday

Verbiage Dictionary

The follow are words we would like to transition

- Volunteer / Servant Leader = Team Member
- Visitor = Guest
- Liturgist / Readers = Host
- Annoucements = News / Important Information / Ways to Connect
- Altar Guild = Worship Décor Team
- Committee = Teams