
**OCHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM
ORGANIZATION, PURPOSE, VISION, AND PLAN**

SECTION A: COMMITTEE PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

A-1. General Purpose of All NCPC Ministry Teams

The general purpose of all NCPC Ministry Teams is to provide joint leadership and input from elders, deacons, and other NCPC members in a particular area of the church's ministry and life. All work and recommendations of committees are under the oversight of the church officers. Committees are not expected to do work in place of other members of the church but to provide coordination and leadership needed to enable all the church to be about the work of the ministry.

A-2. Responsibilities of the CE Ministry Team

A. General: Communicating with one another regarding all facets of the Christian Education ministry of NCPC, gathering input, and recommending programs and ministry resources to the Session for specific age groupings and ministry needs.

B. Specific: Developing, supporting, and coordinating the Christian Education ministry of NCPC, including nursery, children, youth, adults, and support ministries such as audio-visual equipment and activities related to the educational ministries of the congregation. This includes development of the CE program, evaluation of CE needs, and developing biblical objectives for the CE program and ministry.

A-3. Qualities Needed by Members

- A. A personal relationship with Christ, reflecting spiritual maturity and faithfulness
- B. Active participation in the life and ministry of NCPC
- C. A demonstrated interest in the Christian Education ministry of NCPC
- D. Spiritual gifts supportive of and needed by the Christian Education Committee

A-4. Responsibilities of Members of the CE Ministry Team

- A. Attend all meetings as able
- B. Be familiar with the CE policy
- C. Lead by participation and example
- D. Participate in and encourage prayer for our CE ministry
- E. Maintain active participation in the overall life and ministry of NCPC

A-5. Membership (Elder Committee):

- A. One or more elders appointed by the Session.
- B. One or more deacons appointed by the Diaconate.
- C. The Chairman shall ordinarily be an elder.

- D. The Children’s Ministry Director is a member of this committee.
- E. The chairperson of the WIC Christian Education Committee shall ordinarily be a member of this committee.
- F. The pastor of NCPC is an ex-officio member of this committee.
- G. The size of the committee is determined by the Session upon recommendation of the CE committee and based on the needs of the congregation.

A-6. Terms of Service

A. Committee members serve one year terms on a calendar basis and may serve consecutive years without limit as desired and needed by the CE Committee, so long as they are actively and willingly involved in the life of the church and its CE ministry, subject to approval of the Session.

B. Preserving continuity of leadership through the CE Committee is important. For this reason, members are asked to serve in a manner and for a length of time that will provide the needed continuity.

A-7. Leadership.

A. The CE Committee is a committee of the Session; as such its chairman is to be an active member of the Session.

B. Other leadership shall be determined and selected by the committee as needed.

A-8. Meetings. The Christian Education Ministry Team will meet as needed throughout the year. Meetings shall ordinarily be called by the Committee Chairman and the pastor.

A-9. Oversight. As with all committees and ministries of the congregation, the CE Committee is under the oversight and authority of the Church Session.

SECTION B: BIBLICAL AND CONFESSIONAL BASIS

B-1. DEFINITION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. By “Christian Education,” we refer to the teaching ministry of the church by which all ages are trained and equipped to serve Christ in the totality of their lives under the Lordship of Christ. Our purpose is to fulfill the calling and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples who glorify God through joyful obedience to all that He has commanded. We recognize that according the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), a disciple is marked by a right relationship with the Son of God (“make disciples”), with the church of God (“baptizing them”), and with the Word of God (“teaching them”).

B-2. PURPOSE. The purpose of the Christian Education ministry of NCPC is to assist, enable, and encourage individuals, parents and families in their calling to be disciples and to make disciples within the context and calling of the local church according to Scripture. We seek to support, enable and encourage parents in their God-given responsibilities toward their children, while also evangelizing those outside the church and leading them into the nurture and care of the church. While the focus of this policy is on nurturing children and youth, Christian Education is recognized to be life-long process of growing in likeness to our Lord Jesus and in service to Him.

B-3. BIBLICAL BASIS. “The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

“I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.”

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” (Acts 2:39; Gen. 17:7; Acts 16:31)

B-4. CONFESSIONAL BASIS. As a member of the Presbyterian Church in America, New Covenant Presbyterian Church is bound to the principles and practices stated in the Confessions of the Church and in the *Book of Church Order*. Among those principles and practices are the following statements:

THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH: Chapter 25

(“The Church”)

WCOF 25:2. The visible church, which is also catholic (that is, universal), under the gospel (that is, not confined to one nations, as it was before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world who profess the true religion, together with their children. It is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, outside of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.

THE BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER: Chapter 6

(“Church Members”)

BCO 6-1. The children of believers are, through the covenant and by right of birth, non-communing members of the church. Hence they are entitled to baptism, and to the pastoral oversight, instruction and government of the church, with a view to their embracing Christ and thus possessing personally all benefits of the covenant.

THE BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER: Chapter 28
("Disciplining of Non-communing Members")

28-1. The spiritual nurture, instruction and training of the children of the Church are committed by God primarily to their parents. They are responsible to the Church for the faithful discharge of their obligations. It is a principal duty of the Church to promote true religion in the home. True discipleship involves learning the Word of God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit both at home and in the Church. Without learning there is no growth and without growth there is no discipline and without discipline there is sin and iniquity (1 Timothy 4:7).

28-2. The home and the Church should also make special provision for instructing the children in the Bible and in the church Catechisms. To this end Sessions should establish and conduct under their authority Sunday Schools and Bible classes, and adopt such other methods as may be found helpful. The Session shall encourage the parents of the Church to guide their children in the catechizing and disciplining of them in the Christian religion.

28-3. The Church should maintain constant and sympathetic relations with the children. It also should encourage them, on coming years of discretion, to make confession of the Lord Jesus Christ and to enter upon all privileges of full church membership. If they are wayward they should be cherished by the church and every means used to reclaim them.

28-4. Adult non-communing members, who receive with meekness and appreciation the oversight and instruction of the Church, are entitled to special attention. Their rights and privileges under the covenant should be frequently and fully explained, and they should be warned of the sin and danger of neglecting their covenant obligations.

28-5. All non-communing members shall be deemed under the care of the church to which their parents belong, if they live under the parental roof and are minors; otherwise, under that of the church to which they reside, or with which they ordinarily worship.

THE BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER: Chapter 56
("The Administration of Baptism; The Baptism of Infants and Children")

56-4. Before baptism, the minister is to use some words of instructions, touching the institution, nature, use, and ends of this sacrament, showing:

56-4e. That the promise is made to believers and their children; and that the children of believers have an interest in the covenant, and right to the seal of it, and to the outward privileges of the Church, under the Gospel, no less than the children of Abraham in the time of

the Old Testament; the Covenant of Grace, for substance, being the same; and the grace of God, and the consolation of believers, more plentiful than before.

56-4f. That the Son of God admitted little children into His presence, embracing and blessing them, saying, "For of such is the kingdom of God."

56-4g. That children by Baptism, are solemnly received into the bosom of the Visible Church, distinguished from the world, and them that are without, and united with believers; and that all who are baptized in the name of Christ, do renounce, and by their Baptism are bound to fight against the devil, the world, and the flesh;

56-4h. That they are federally holy before Baptism, and therefore are they baptized;

56-4j. By virtue of being children of believing parents they are, because of God's covenant ordinance, made members of the Church, but this is not sufficient to make them continue members of the Church. When they have reached the age of discretion, they become subject to obligations of the covenant; faith, repentance, and obedience. They then make public profession of their faith in Christ, or become covenant breakers, and subject to the discipline of the Church.

...He [the minister] is to exhort the parent to consider the great mercy of God to him and his child; to bring up the child in the knowledge of the grounds of the Christian religion, and in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and to let him know the danger of God's wrath to himself and his child, if he be negligent; requiring his solemn promise for the performance of his duty.

The minister is also to exhort the parents to the careful performance of their duty, requiring:

- a. That they teach the child to read the Word of God
- b. that they instruct him in the principles of our holy religion, as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, an excellent summary of which we have in the Confession of Faith, and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms of the Westminster Assembly, which are to be recommended to them as adopted by the Church, for their direction and assistance, in the discharge of this important duty;
- c. that they pray with and for him;
- d. that they set an example of piety and godliness before him; and endeavor, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring up their child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

SECTION C: OUR VALUES

C-1. God's eternal purpose and enduring covenant relationship as the foundation and basis of our fellowship, ministry, and discipleship.

- *"I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless."* Genesis 17:1
- *I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.* Genesis 17:7
- *The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.* Acts 2:39

C-2. Scripture as the infallible Word of God, necessary for salvation, and fully sufficient for growth in grace.

- *And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.* 2 Timothy 3:15-16.

C-3. The necessity of the Holy Spirit's work of regeneration, growth, and assurance in our Christian birth and walk.

- *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins...but because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.* Ephesians 2:1, 4-5
- *He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior.* Titus 3:5

C-4. The home and family as the foundation of Christian nurture and discipline.

- *These commandments that I give to you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.* Deuteronomy 6:6-9

- *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.* Ephesians 6:4

C-5. The Church as God's covenant people, called to equip parents to be faithful in the nurture and discipline of their children and in the establishing of their homes through relationships, training, and teaching within the context of the local church.

- *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and become convinced of, because you know from whom you learned it.* 2 Timothy 3:14
- *When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples.....* Acts 9:26

C-6. Discipleship in Christ as the means to maturity in Christ.

- *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will.* Romans 12:2
- *Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.* Matthew 28:20
- *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* 2 Peter 3:18a

C-7. Equipping children and families for establishing and building God's kingdom through lives of obedient worship that are lived in the presence of God and to the glory of God.

- *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* Ephesians 2:10
- *To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen.* 2 Peter 3:18b.

C-8. A recognition that discipleship and sanctification is a lifelong process of God's work within us, accomplished by His Spirit through the ordinary means of His grace and of His providence.

- *For those whom God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.* Romans 8:29.
- *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.* Philippians 1:6
- *...Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.* Philippians 2:12-13.

- *Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.* Philippians 3:12.

C-9. A unified and comprehensive program of discipleship for our children and youth that is integrated with the overall ministry of the church with each part working together toward the same objectives.

- *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.* Ephesians 4:11-13

SECTION D: OUR OBJECTIVES

D-1. To see each child come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through prayer, godly example, biblical instruction, and the loving nurture of the church family.

D-2. To see each child grow in his / her relationship with Christ, maturing in his / her walk with Christ and becoming faithful, communicant members of the local church.

D-3. To provide teaching and grounding in the Reformed faith and the distinctives of the PCA, using the *Westminster Catechisms* and *Child's Catechism* as a tool and basis for our instruction.

D-4. To surround our children from their earliest days with the nurture of Christian love and training, continuing that nurture through their teen-age years, and maintaining a nurturing relationship with them as they grow into adulthood.

D-5. To enable children to grow to maturity in Christ, being transformed in the renewing of their minds, equipping them to live as salt and light in this world as they help build the eternal kingdom of God using the particular calling and gifts that God gives to each of them.

D-6. To support, encourage, and nurture families as they undertake the Christian nurture of their children, supporting them in their roles and responsibilities as Christian parents, and holding both parents and the congregation accountable for their responsibilities.

D-7. To support and work with the needs of single-parent homes through the nurture and ministry of the larger church family.

D-8. To evangelize and minister to children and families who do not have a church home and who do not know Christ.

SECTION E: POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE CE MINISTRIES AND PROGRAMS

E-1. Class groupings ordinarily are grade-based (determined by the child's grade in school) rather than age-based.

E-2. Teachers, study materials, and programs must be approved by the Session.

E-3. Questions and concerns regarding the CE ministry of NCPC should be communicated through the Pastor and the CE Committee Chairman.

E-4. Programs and ministries for children birth through 6th grade are to be coordinated with the Children's Ministry Director.

E-5. All programs and policies are under the oversight of the Session.