



OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

Our mission is to become a place where seeking souls can “live,” “learn,” and “love” in Jesus Christ as we restore New Testament Christianity in today’s world. Marsalis Ave. Church of Christ is a body of baptized believers who are motivated to empower people to pursue their purpose, by helping them overcome hurts, habits and hang ups for the good of the world and the glory of God.

WE SEE OURSELVES AS A SPIRITUAL...

Lighthouse

Just as lighthouses reveal the shoreline to ships the difference between sailing on or becoming ship-wrecked, we are that lighthouse to a world lost in a sea of sin. We focus on giving people direction on how to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to not become shipwrecked.

Hospital

We are a hospital for the hurt and wounded souls both in the world and the body of Christ. People have substituted many things for Jesus Christ, which can have temporary or permanent damages and deformities. Our aim is to help the souls and heal the wounds.

Fitness Center

Fitness centers are not only for getting the physical anatomy in shape; but, our fitness center is designed to get souls to work out their salvation, and stay fit in this Christian race. We employ each member’s spiritual gifts to accomplish this. History has revealed that Christians do not develop spiritually if there is no fitness center to stay in shape. We focus on training and developing the saints.

Launching Pad

We launch qualified and trained ministers into the world. We aim to launch people into full-time, bi-vocational, and volunteer ministry opportunities.

We have a dream purpose of **helping** people who are hurt, depressed, frustrated, confused, and lonely to find love, acceptance, care, hope, and encouragement. (*The Purpose of Fellowship*)

We have a dream mission whereby **people** by the thousands in our community would come to know and experience Jesus in a real life-changing way. (*The Purpose of Evangelism*)

EXAMINING THE MARSALIS EXPERIENCE β 2

We have a dream to **say** by our words and actions that worship does not have to be cold, boring and irrelevant but warm, exciting, relevant and scriptural. (*The Purpose of Worship*)

We have a dream of answering “**yes**” to Christ's imperative to make disciples independently, yet, dependent on him. (*The Purpose of Discipleship*)

We have a dream to equip, train, and mobilize every believer in our congregation for a significant ministry and mission that will impact our community and our world. (*The Purpose of Ministry*)

We have a dream of **Jesus** developing this church that will be a lighthouse of hope and love to this city and, ultimately, the world. (*The Purpose of Missions*)

OUR VISION STATEMENT

We shall remain a warm, caring and dynamic fellowship that empowers people to pursue their purpose and overcome their hurts, habits and hang-ups. We shall become a congregation that remains scripturally faithful, New Testament modeled, ministry driven, multicultural and multi-racially sensitive as we engage, get to know and develop ministries that will convert, educate, and empower people in the Dallas Metroplex, with strong concentration on South OakCliff, Duncanville, Cedar Hill and Desoto. We shall strive to train and equip disciples who will make a difference and impact the Metroplex and the national brotherhood by modeling ministry as the perfect place for people who are not so perfect.

HOW WE DO MINISTRY...

We do Large Group Celebrations

We enjoy coming together and celebrating the goodness of the Lord on the first day of the week. These are our weekend times of reflection upon God and His faithfulness to us. It is a time for the congregation to hear an exhorting word of instruction for the upcoming week. This is the most familiar part of a congregation, and even though it is necessary to worship together as a large group, members do not always connect with other members in that setting.

We do Small Groups

We are a small groups church, not a church with small groups. We believe that every member is to be connected to a small group. Many Christians have placed membership in fellowships only to leave and say, “I never really made any friends there.” What they are saying is that they really did not connect with anyone. Small groups are our way of connecting you to this part of the body of Christ — like a family group. Our small groups include Bible school classes, shepherding and care groups. These venues are where the meat of the Word is taught and applied. We use the word “S.T.E.A.K.” to help us remember what our small groups should always be composed of as a reminder that as Christians we are to desire the meat of God's sincere Word.

S—Supplication (ongoing prayer ministry)

T—Truth (imparting truth through the Bible, books, tapes, etc...)

E—Equipping (“...entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” 2Ti 2:2)

A—Accountability (asking tough questions and correcting un-Christ-like behavior)

K—Kingdom (seeing God's kingdom through service and evangelism)

Other groups such as support groups for people facing similar life challenges, ministry groups working together in areas such as ministry activity, family initiatives, drama, special events, and

EXAMINING THE MARSALIS EXPERIENCE β 3

more; all provide more opportunities for members to really get to know each other and serve the Lord together, including youth groups.

We do Ministry Clusters

From the B. E. E. F.S. acronym, the Marsalis Ave. church operates ministry. All the work of the congregation is divided into five ministry clusters: Benevolence, Evangelism, Edification, Fellowship and Support. Each member is expected to participate in one of these five ministries.

WHO IS LEADING US

We are led by the Head of the Body, Jesus. Jesus is the Great Shepherd. He is the Head and we are His Body. He leads and guides all parts of His Body, of which we are a part, along with other Christians worldwide.

We are led by our Minister

The minister is the spiritual equiper, administrative, and teaching leader of our congregation. Ephesians 4:11-13 teach that God “*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.*” Our minister works with our elders in spiritually leading and feeding our congregation.

We are led by our Elders

Our eldership is the governing body which works closely with the minister in spiritually directing our congregation. Each elder has earned his position by his desire, spiritual maturity, example and years of experience in life and the Body of Christ. This group balances out the leadership of the ministering evangelist, giving a clearer picture of the direction the church needs to be going. The elders who serve our congregation are: ***Harold Canon, Willie J. Hooper, Jewel Manzay and Richard Thomas.***

We are served by our Deacons and Focus Leaders

The primary role of our deacons is to serve the physical needs in the Body and provide day-to-day leadership. They are the ones who free up the minister and elders to focus on the teaching, equipping and nurturing ministries of the church by meeting the physical needs of the members. Our focus leaders are the central components of our ongoing leadership mentorship ministry, as they are our deacons in training.

Our Strategy...

During Jesus' day, fishermen used nets. Casting the net was a process of throwing the nets out with the nets being fully extended. Drawing the net was the act of pulling the net into the boat and closing it up to contain the captured fish. This is how we draw the net.

1. Newcomers will usually first attend a large group celebration or come with a friend to a small group meeting or activity
2. Be baptized for the remission of sins
3. Attend new member discipleship class
4. Continue in Spiritual Growth 201-401 over a three-year period

EXAMINING THE MARSALIS EXPERIENCE β 4

5. Find or develop a ministry
6. Exercise their spiritual gift(s)

If a person decides not to become a part of this fellowship, you are welcomed to be a part of any of our seminars or basic Christianity courses or activities. However, we encourage all Christians to be under the watchful care of the pastoral ministry of a local congregation.

Your Decision...

Each Christian should select a congregation because of being convinced that within that particular congregational structure, great opportunities for spiritual growth, satisfaction for human needs, and the chance to be helpful in service to those around exist. We look forward to working with you to become part of our family.

The M.A.C.C. family believes “*There is no place, like this place, anywhere near this place; and as far as we are concerned, this is the place.*” We welcome you and hope you will find a place with us as a part of the Body of Christ here at Marsalis Ave.

COME AND SEE WHY WE ARE GROWING!

**Ministering Evangelist and Servant,
David L. Lane, Ph.D.**