

## **Congregational Profile:**

### Goals of a Christ-Follower at WCR:

We experience spiritual growth through the process of believing that eternal life begins with a relationship with Jesus Christ and desiring to live for Him everyday of our lives and everywhere we go. We simply state this process with the phrase Jesus + Everyday + Everywhere. Our Mission goals are simply stated in three short phrases: Worshiping God; Equipping Christ Followers; Reaching our Community and the World. Every member of Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church should be actively engaged in these three areas as demonstration of their commitment to being a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

Strengths: WCR is a multi-generational church with many family centered and age-level ministries. We have a strong commitment to expositional preaching and teaching; there is a strong foundation of solid biblical doctrine. We have excellent facilities located in a growing area which includes ample worship, teaching, fellowship and recreational space. From a financial stewardship perspective, we see strong giving per family unit indicating a generous spirit in our membership.

Areas to improve: We acknowledge that our church has been too inward focused over the last several years resulting in a low level of baptisms per active membership. There is also a recognition that we should be striving to grow at the rate of the community around us which has not been the case for several years. Like many churches, there are differing opinions about style of worship and discipleship practices. However, we are addressing the core mission of the church and evaluating all our ministries and programs through the filter of this mission. Progress has been evident over the last three months of this intentional effort.

### Church Financial, Facilities, and Attendance Assessment:

With an annual general budget of \$1.25M, WCR has strong financial support for an active membership of 600. We have been good stewards of our facilities and taken opportunities to generate additional income through leasing our old facility and hosting a preschool and elementary/middle school during the week on our campus. However, we are aware of our need to better relate to and reach our community with the gospel which should translate into healthy sustainable membership and financial growth.

We do acknowledge that with an inward focus and any decline in attendance, we could experience financial duress over time. Staff expenses (salary and benefits) border on the high side of average at 53% of our budget. The combined total of staff expenses, property expenses and debt service is approximately 75-80% of our budget which is 5-10% higher than the recommended percentage of 70%. We do have a strong pattern of continued financial giving outside of our general budget toward debt service which (if included in total income) brings the financial ratios into the desired levels. We have routinely met our goals for special mission offerings such as the Lottie Moon Christmas offering and Annie Armstrong Easter offering.

The potential for growth (based on objective data of surrounding growth in community) and legitimate expectations of seeing our active membership numbers increasing by 25-30% in a reasonable time frame will bring those ratios well within the recommended ranges. With a recent trend of steady attendance of 400 in worship, increased giving in 2017, and diligence in better defining and embracing our mission and values, our church family is poised for spiritual and numerical growth.

### History:

The earliest recorded organizational date for the Baptist Church of Christ was August 20, 1789, when the elders met in conference at the Sandy Creek meeting House to choose a clerk, and begin the tedious deliberations as to a constitution and statement of faith.

In 1793, the monthly conferences emerged into an organized church with 53 charter members. A large log structure served as the first house of worship, which was replaced in February 1819, by a 60 x 30 foot frame building, which was built by Foster Fort.

Through 1794, Wake Cross Roads Church was a member of the Kehukee Association, switching to the newly formed Neuse Association from 1794 to 1805.

From 1805 to 1865 her leadership was felt in the Raleigh Association, which became known as the Central Association following the Civil War.

With a resident pastor since 1789, Wake Cross Roads Church grew exceedingly well forming new churches in surrounding communities and winning many souls to Christ on the home front. Folks on the South side of the Neuse had to ferry across to church and pay a fee in order to worship.

From her inception, the church taught and applied a strict doctrine of stewardship and attendance. The members either came regularly and contributed generously, as the Lord had blessed them or they were dismissed.

From this "Mother Church" sprang a number of other surrounding churches through the years: Hephzibah in 1809; Raleigh in 1812; Flat Rock in Franklin County in 1824; New Hope in 1832, Rolesville in 1834; Hopkins Chapel in 1851 and several more churches.

In 1909 the old church building was destroyed by fire and the east campus building was built. Later, the building was expanded and bricked and a modern educational wing was added. In 1980 a new Educational Building and fellowship hall was added to the site. Also, during the 1980's fourteen acres of land was secured on the West side of Forestville Road for future growth. In 1996, a 24,000 square foot Educational and Worship space was built on the fourteen acres.

During the years from 1996 to 2005, WCR continued to grow and have strong doctrinal teaching, a commitment to Biblical principles, and a strong emphasis on global missions. In 2005, a church vision team was formed to explore some key areas to expand in the upcoming 5-10 years.

These areas included (1) family ministry, (2) missions opportunities (3) equipping ministries, and (4) ministry facilities.

Over the last ten years, family ministries have multiplied, especially in the area of recreational outreach opportunities. A wide variety of activities are available for learning more about Jesus and building relationships with others. Mission efforts have become more balanced with increased focus on the local community as well as North America and the entire world. Equipping (discipleship) remains a vital area of emphasis and will continue to be refined. The ‘Small Group’ has come alongside of traditional Bible study groups to develop a sense of community and gospel centered action.

In 2009, WCR constructed a 32K square foot addition. The addition includes a full size high school gym, a student wing, a preschool wing, elementary age classrooms, and a commercial kitchen. The facility, known as the ROC, is bustling with activity almost 7 days per week. A weekday preschool (The Creator’s Kids) and elementary school (Commission Leadership Academy) also reside in the facility during the traditional school calendar. The church office was moved onto the west campus in 2013 allowing us to rent our east side property to another church; WCR approved to sell the older facility if the opportunity arises and proves to be a wise financial decision.

In 2015, WCR launched a new brand: Jesus + Everyday + Everywhere. Our mission statement was reformulated to include the following Biblical priorities: Worshiping God, Equipping Christ Followers, and Reaching Our Community And The World. The next decade at WCR will focus on continuing to practice these three priorities in order to make connections in our community and world that will lead to lives transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. New vision and strategy will be necessary for the upcoming decade and must occur while maintaining our gospel integrity and biblical principles. In 2015/16, significant upgrades to our Worship Center building have taken place to create a more inviting and culturally relevant space for Worship services. As far as Equipping Christ Followers and Reaching Our Community And The World, all ministries and programs continue to be evaluated and formulated to ensure effectiveness in the coming decade.