



**Trinity
Fellowship**

... an Evangelical Free Church

Ministry Plan 2018 / 2019 - "Rebuilding"

It's been exactly seven months since Harvey came ashore and re-ordered our lives. The storm created incredible damage and distraction, but also a huge opportunity for ministry. We are extremely grateful for the countless hours of help and support the people of Trinity have given to each other, to the church, and to our

rebuilding efforts in the community. We praise God for all of you and for the strength He gives.

This coming year we want to embrace the opportunity to rebuild that God has placed before us – not only homes in our community, not only our church building, but also our church's life and ministry. Here's the plan:

Rebuilding in our Community

It wasn't long after Harvey that we were asked to host EFCA ReachGlobal Crisis Response. This partnership is a powerful opportunity for our church to reach out into the community and to show the love of Jesus in practical ways. In 2018 and 2019 we will continue this partnership through:

Stable Sharing: We will have teams living in the Sunday School building throughout this coming ministry year. We will work to share the building in ways that bless both the church and the ministry.

Careful Spending: Generous people all over the country have donated thousands of dollars for our relief efforts, even as Samaritan's Purse has come alongside to help Trinity rebuild. We will work to spend these funds wisely and well, stewarding the funds through Trinity's General Board.

Gracious Hosting: Trinity's people have been wonderfully involved in caring for the teams in our building and the Crisis Response staff. We will continue to provide meals, supplies, some housing and hospitality in the year to come.

Relational Involvement: The Thursday night community dinners are a great place to begin relationships with homeowners, staff, teams and even others from Trinity. But we will also open our church, our homes and our hearts to get to know and 'love on' people from these communities.

Direct Involvement: We hope to provide support to David Jackson as he works with Crisis Response, and to send another team from Trinity to Friendswood to work directly in the community.

Rebuilding in our Church

One of the deepest impacts of the hurricane was the immediate and prolonged suppression of Trinity's ministries. Two obvious ones are home groups and Awana (can't have home groups without homes; can't fit a quart ministry in a pint-pot building). But there were others: Bible studies that had no place to meet, Sunday School classes whose teachers were flooded out, and whole ministries, such as the new foster/adopt ministry that had to take a back seat so people could put their energy into recovery.

As we enter a new ministry year we need to think seriously about our opportunity to rebuild the ministries of Trinity Fellowship. We need to pray for God's guidance and provision, and we need to act according to his leading. (The key word in those last two sentences is 'we.' No one of us can rebuild the church alone or using our own ideas.)

What 'we' can do this year is:

Ask a framing question: What kind of church, with what kind of ministries does Trinity need to be to allow people to connect, plug in and grow.

Have an open discussion: The key to the future is in seeking God together for the answer to this question. We plan to use this summer's Sunday School hour to study and craft our response.

Embrace a willingness to change: Our answers to the framing question will challenge us. Are we willing to change to build a more effective church?

Take action: "Lord, forbid that we should talk and not act! Strengthen us to do what you ask."

A few more details on the framing question and the open discussion

The Framing Question: Imagine a family reached by our partnership in Harvey response. A husband, a wife, a 12 year old son from her first marriage, an eight year old daughter from his and a 14 month old son together. They claim to be believers, but have been far away from God and from church since before they married.

They lost everything in the flood and don't have flood insurance. Crisis Response and teams have been in their home for ten weeks and they've been overwhelmed by this visible (and verbal) evidence of God's love. They've been coming to Trinity on Thursday nights and have expressed an interest in coming on Sunday

What kind of church, with what kind of facilities and programs does Trinity need to be to allow this family to connect, plug in and grow?

Perhaps even more important, what kind of church with what kind of facilities and programs does Trinity need to be to allow our own diverse families and individuals to connect, or remain connected, to plug in and to grow?

The Open Discussion: For a number of years we've used the summer Sunday School to address key issues in the church. This summer we want to encourage an open discussion of the framing question as applied to ten different areas of ministry. We'll start on June 3rd with an overview discussion and then address ministries on the dates shown here:

June 10: Home Groups – What kind of home groups do we need to allow these families to connect and do life together?

June 17: Ministry to Young Children – What kind of nursery and young children's ministries do we need on Sunday morning to help these families feel safe, welcome and comfortable? What ministries do we need at other times?

June 24: Ministry to School Age Children – What kind of ministries to school age children do we need? What kind of Sunday School will edify (and attract) these children? What programs at other times will edify and attract? Is Awana still the right answer?

July 1: Ministry to Youth – What kind of ministries to Junior High and High School children will edify and attract them, to welcome and care for families with children this age?

July 8: Identity Groups – How do men's ministry, women's ministry, Bible studies and other groupings fit into the plan?

July 15: Facility – What can we do to our (shared) facility to positively contribute to the comfort and connectedness of these families.

July 22: Mission – What parts of "Trinity on Mission" and "Harvey Response" will engage the hearts and minds of these families? How do we actually engage people in these things?

July 29: Disciple Making Pathway – How do we evangelize non-believers, disciple new believers and develop serving believers and leaders? How do we integrate these goals into the other programs of the church? What is the role of one-on-one discipleship?

August 5: Preaching – What kind of preaching would be important for these families while still being Biblical and expository?

August 12: Worship – What kind of worship structure and content would God use to draw people like this into his presence?