

Paths of Discipleship

DISCIPLESHIP?

At Fairview, our hope is that every person will become a **disciple** of Jesus and continue to grow in their discipleship. So what is a disciple? It's originally a Greek word meaning, "a person who learns from another." Jesus taught love, justice, peace, compassion, and living a life of meaning and purpose, and at Fairview, we want everyone to learn and practice those things and to continue doing so their whole life.

SO WHAT ARE THE PATHS?

Christian faith and following Jesus can't be measured or graded, but as disciples who seek to learn from Jesus, we want to keep moving forward in what we learn and how we apply these teachings in our daily lives. It can be helpful to look practically at Christian discipleship using a series of "steps along the path" to give us goals to move towards in our faith. To help us in this journey, we use six paths that encompass six areas that Christians have found important to their faith throughout our history.

The Paths and Steps are listed below, but you will find lots more information and resources at:

www.fairviewpresbyterian.org/paths

FIRST STEPS

Gather with others for regular worship of God.



Worship

NEXT STEPS

Make weekly worship with others a priority. Be active in worship through prayerful and focused participation in the service.

FURTHER STEPS

Learn the meaning and intention of the parts of the worship service, and incorporate the experience of the worship service into the rest of the week. Be able to worship in a variety of styles and settings knowing that worship should be as varied as the gathered worship body.

FIRST STEPS

Join in the prayers that are provided and led during worship. Begin to offer personal prayers before meals.

NEXT STEPS

Regularly pray during the week. Learn about and practice the varied forms that prayer can take: verbal, listening, meditating, scripture reading, moving, etc.



Prayer

FURTHER STEPS

Commit to daily prayer and using prayer as an active tool for discernment and personal transformation.



FIRST STEPS

Begin to become familiar with the Bible by regularly reading from it.

NEXT STEPS

Study the Bible using resources and tools to help understand the message and context of scripture. Learn more about Christian traditions and how faith impacts our daily lives and the societal issues.

FURTHER STEPS

Be able to articulate your Christian beliefs with scriptural foundation. Commit to being with a small group of others over time for study, support, and encouragement.

FIRST STEPS

Occasionally make gifts of your time and money to the church.

NEXT STEPS

Understand your contribution as an act of discipleship.

Commit to regular financial giving to the church through an annual pledge amount, and regular volunteer service at the church.



FURTHER STEPS

Commit to a percentage of your income as a financial gift to the church. Consider the church in your estate planning. Look for unfilled volunteer needs in the church.

FIRST STEPS

Take part in opportunities of Christian service.



NEXT STEPS

Commit to serve on a regular basis. Become an advocate for those in need.

FURTHER STEPS

Learn more about the root causes of need, inequality, and inequity. Develop ongoing relationships with people who you are serving, listen to them and hear their stories and experiences.

FIRST STEPS

Name what your faith means to you, how it helps you. Reflect on wanting others to have the same help, comfort, and guidance your faith provides.

NEXT STEPS

Share your stories of faith and experiences of God with other people within the church. Invite someone to join you for worship or another church event.



FURTHER STEPS

Look for people in your life who have hurts or needs, and be proactive in offering them care and help.