

Vision 2035

In 2035, life at (new name), formerly known as Myers Park Baptist Church, feels vibrant, grounded, and unmistakably alive. On any given Sunday—or weekday—the campus hums with conversation, music, learning, and service as people from all walks of life move easily through its many welcoming gatherings. Newcomers and longtime members alike find clear, inviting paths into shared life together: gathering for worship that blends liturgical depth with creative expression, lingering afterward in meaningful conversation, or returning throughout the week for learning, fellowship, caregiving, and outreach. The interdenominational community is visibly multi-racial, multigenerational, with young professionals, families, elders, and children present not in separate silos, but in a rhythm of mutual energy and care that sustains the whole. Relevant, engaging, and often challenging sermons ignite members' passion for creating the beloved community and invite them to wrestle honestly with faith, life, and the call to justice.

The church's ministries feel coordinated and collaborative, shaped by strong partnerships between staff and lay leaders who are confident, well trained, and deeply invested in the church's mission. Programs unfold smoothly because leaders know one another, share responsibility, and work from a common sense of purpose. Leaders emerge organically, as people are invited, mentored, and equipped to step into meaningful leadership, ensuring that responsibility and imagination are continually renewed. This shared leadership extends beyond the congregation itself, as the church actively partners with other churches and faith communities—across denominations and traditions—to address inequality locally and beyond.

Families flow easily between spaces for children, youth, and adults, supported by thought-provoking spiritual formation, exceptional music programs, and stimulating opportunities that speak honestly to contemporary life while remaining rooted in faith. Parents and caregivers find community alongside their children's growth, creating a shared journey rather than parallel tracks. From early childhood through adult education, congregants engage thoughtfully with complex social realities, equipping them to advocate for justice and to live out their faith in meaningful, informed ways.

Hospitality at Myers Park Baptist Church is not just a program but a practiced way of being. First time visitors are greeted warmly, remembered, and invited into relationship, not pressured but genuinely welcomed. Digital spaces extend that same spirit, allowing people to connect beyond the walls of the building through worship, conversation, and

next steps into participation. Whether someone encounters the church online or in person, the message is clear: we enjoy being here and you belong here too!

Care and connection reach into every season of life. Pastoral relationships and trained lay caregivers ensure that no household feels unseen—life's joys are celebrated, its losses held gently, and its milestones honored through a rich range of both traditional and newly imagined rituals. Members know they are part of something larger than themselves, a community that will show up with compassion, prayer, and practical support.

Getting into "good trouble" through actions of justice are woven naturally into the fabric of congregational life, not as optional extras but as expressions of shared faith.

Individually and collectively, members engage regularly in advocacy, partnership, and hands-on work throughout Charlotte, carrying the church's values beyond its walls with humility and purpose.