

Evergreen Distinctives

Evergreen Community Church is a PCA church plant in Powhatan VA.

PCA

As a PCA church we have certain doctrinal distinctions that define our beliefs and priorities, and frame the practical outworking of these in worship, relationships, church structure, and discipline. We are reformed and confessional and care deeply about sound doctrine. We are Elder ruled and have a strong commitment to building relationships. We are committed to do our part to take the gospel to the Nations.

Church Plant

As a church plant we have some of the struggles of a start-up. We meet for worship in a rented school which means weekly set up and tear down in the cafeteria area (still done without significant complaint from the hosting school or the congregation).

Though a church plant we started with a very strong core group. Our initial core group had 3 elders and 4 deacons who are still active members. We were able to meet our budget in our first month.

We have acquired a property and are on the cusp of a building program.

Powhatan

Eastern Powhatan County is rural with a number of imported professionals. The area is a mix of farms and developments. The county has a slow growth philosophy but new people are coming all the time. Our church has farmers and engineers.

The church draws from a wide area with people from the 4 adjacent counties and is more ideologically defined than geographically.

History

A brief statement of our history: We are a plant chiefly from Sycamore Presbyterian church in Midlothian. We had our first public service at Flat Rock Elementary School January 2009. Our first stated meeting of the Session was a joint meeting with the deacons March 2011.

We purchased 10 acres for a church building October 2016 and are in the midst of a campaign to have the mortgage paid by the end of 2019. The property has a building which is sufficient for office space, small groups and events. Our 2017-2018 budget was a little over \$200K.

Worship

Our Sunday services have a number of distinctives aimed at engaging the maximum number, building and strengthening relationships, and encouraging families.

We have three elements of the worship service which are manned by a rotation of 18 guys which allows all the willing men to participate and to be better known to the rest of the congregation.

Our worship time is followed by an extended time of fellowship (45 min – 1hr) with bagels and coffee.

The worship is a blend of hymns and contemporary songs. We have a number of members who share responsibility for leading the songs and providing music. There are a variety of musical instruments depending on the musician.

We have a nursery during worship for children up to 36 months in age. All other children participate in the main worship service. There is a children message during the service except on the first Sunday of the month when we observe the Lord's Supper.

Our practice of the Lord's Supper is distinctive. Families come forward to observe the Lord's supper together.

Small Groups

We have a number of small groups that meet weekly for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. There are 4 groups that include families and individuals. We have other groups focused on youth, women & men.

Missions, Mercy Outreach

We have an MMO team which coordinates outreach activities, short term missions and allocates missions funds. We have been able to sustain a commitment to allocate 10% of our budget to these activities. We have participated in short term mission trips most years. We support three individuals/couples involved in international ministry.

Future

Our church is an outreach to Powhatan County. We want to be more than an ingathering of those with shared convictions. It is our desire to be more effective in reaching the unchurched of Powhatan. We are open to new ideas.

We have had a booth at county events and knocked on doors near the church to let people know there was a new church in town. We never had anyone visit the church as a result of these efforts. We have not discovered a means to draw people that will allow us to engage with them in more than a superficial manner.

We have seen a number of people come to Christ through long term relationships with church members. The value of that cannot be overstated but we would like to engage those beyond the circle of our friends.