

CFC “Looking Around” GPC High-Level Overview

Purpose. This overview summarizes the major themes emerging from the CFC “Looking Around” work: what Greenwich Presbyterian Church is already doing well, what needs attention, what resources are available, and where the strongest opportunities for faithful growth appear over the next three years.

GPC enters its next season from a position of meaningful strength. Congregational input describes a Christ-centered, biblically grounded church marked by welcoming relationships, strong worship and music, spiritual formation, multigenerational ministry, mission-minded service, and steady leadership. These assets are supported by gifted people, flexible facilities, useful technology, and established community relationships.

Executive Summary

The report points to a central opportunity: build on GPC’s theological clarity, relational warmth, and ministry breadth while becoming more intentional about connection, leadership development, communication, facilities use, volunteer mobilization, and community outreach. The strongest path forward is not a complete reinvention, but a focused alignment of people, programs, space, and communication around a clear discipleship and mission strategy.

Core Strengths

1. **Biblical and Christ-centered teaching.** GPC is widely understood as faithful to Scripture, gospel-centered, and committed to sound doctrine.
2. **Welcoming fellowship and care.** Members value the church as warm, loving, supportive, and personal.
3. **Music and worship.** Worship, choir, hymns, special music, and a thoughtful blend of tradition and variety are defining strengths.
4. **Spiritual formation and prayer.** Bible studies, small groups, circles, education, mentoring, and prayer connections provide meaningful pathways for growth.
5. **Children, youth, young adults, and families.** The congregation has important multigenerational energy through youth ministry, VBS, mission trips, young families, and longstanding members.
6. **Mission and service.** GPC is seen as generous, service-oriented, and attentive to needs beyond itself.
7. **Stable leadership and stewardship.** Pastors, staff, and lay leaders are respected for faithfulness, care, patience, and prayerful direction.

Primary Needs to Address

The needs identified in the congregational and community input fall into three broad categories. Spiritually, GPC should strengthen biblical literacy, discipleship pathways, prayer, mentoring, faith formation for younger generations, and mission as a natural expression of mature faith. Emotionally, the church is called to deepen belonging, pastoral care, crisis support, support through life transitions, and healthy communication. Practically, the church needs clearer direction, stronger communication, accessible facilities, flexible programming, simple pathways to connect and serve, sustainable administration, and intentional technology use.

Community needs mirror many internal needs. Neighbors need accessible introductions to the gospel, authentic Christian relationships, welcoming worship and learning opportunities, reconnection for the spiritually disconnected, relief from loneliness, confidential care, practical help, support for families, transportation and accessibility solutions, and clear connections to available resources.

Key Limitations and Risks

- **Finance:** The donor base is aging, giving patterns are changing, operating costs are rising, personnel costs are increasing, and future denominational decisions may affect the budget.
- **Facilities:** Pressure points include classroom capacity, crowded gathering space, limited church-wide event space, storage, maintenance, sanctuary adaptability, office first impressions, accessibility, and campus navigation.
- **Volunteers:** Many people prefer short-term service, leadership development is limited, volunteer recruitment and training are not sufficiently coordinated, and staff carry a heavy share of ministry execution.
- **Information and management:** Communication methods feel outdated or overloaded; systems need to match the church's size; spiritual-gifts identification, management development, generational transition, and congregational diversity require greater attention.

Available Resources

GPC has significant resources to steward. Material resources include upgradeable technology, musical instruments, and worship assets. People resources include gifted members, young adults, young families, musicians, ministry leaders, and professional expertise that may be underused. Property resources include diverse buildings, flexible space, two worship spaces, children's areas, outdoor spaces, a prayer garden, and a quiet campus presence. Relationship resources include local mission partners, community groups, neighboring churches, facility users, visiting artists, and longstanding ties with the surrounding area.

Top Opportunities for Focused Growth

1. **Coordinate local mission and hands-on service.** Build a visible, recurring outreach strategy around practical community needs, partnerships, and one-day and ongoing service projects.
2. **Expand children, youth, young adult, and family ministry.** Strengthen retention and belonging through childcare, preschool support, VBS, youth ministry, mentoring, family service, and young-adult connection.
3. **Develop small groups and care networks.** Use neighborhood, life-stage, shared-interest, and intergenerational groups to deepen discipleship, pastoral care, and belonging.
4. **Create a clear newcomer pathway.** Improve signage, greeting, follow-up, newcomer gatherings, invitations to groups and service, and communication across digital and print channels.
5. **Use facilities as a community-facing campus.** Expand hospitality through meetings, classes, support groups, concerts, outdoor gatherings, weddings, community rentals, and phased accessibility improvements.
6. **Build a leadership and volunteer pipeline.** Recruit, train, mentor, and support leaders for ministry, mission, care, youth work, worship, governance, and small groups.
7. **Broaden worship and formation access.** Consider flexible worship formats, additional service times, prayer gatherings, online teaching, dinner-based groups, and community-facing music while preserving theological identity.

Desired Three-Year Outcomes

Looking back three years from now, the congregation and community hope Greenwich will be known as a growing, biblically faithful, Christ-centered church where people are welcomed into a caring family, equipped to mature as disciples, and empowered to serve their community and the wider world.

1. **Welcome and belonging:** People experience Greenwich as a genuine church home where they are known, included, and received with dignity.
2. **Christ-centered growth:** Worship, teaching, prayer, and relationships help people encounter Jesus, deepen faith, and live as disciples.
3. **Care in hardship:** The church provides practical help, pastoral care, prayer, and compassionate support in seasons of crisis, grief, loneliness, and need.
4. **Family and intergenerational flourishing:** Children, youth, adults, and older adults find meaningful ways to learn, serve, build friendships, and center life on Christ.
5. **Visible community impact:** Greenwich listens to local needs, partners wisely, and becomes known for putting faith into action.
6. **Open and peaceful campus:** The church uses its buildings and grounds for worship, rest, play, learning, service, and community connection.
7. **Equipped people and leaders:** Members discover their gifts, grow as leaders, and serve with purpose across the church and community.

Strategic Implications

The “Looking Around” work suggests four strategic implications for leadership discussion:

1. Clarify a simple discipleship pathway from newcomer connection to mature participation.
2. Align communication, volunteer systems, and leadership development so ministry does not depend too heavily on staff or a small group of recurring volunteers.
3. Prioritize facility decisions around hospitality, accessibility, families, flexible ministry, and community-facing use.
4. Focus outreach around visible, relational, practical service that connects the congregation’s gifts to real community needs.