



PLATT PARK CHURCH

2025 State of the Church Meeting Outline

November 2, 2025

- Where we are and where is God leading?
- The Community
- The Finances
- The Elders
- Q & A

What is the vision for Platt Park Church moving forward?

What are you hoping to see three years out?

We believe God created Platt Park Church as a unique and beautiful faith community in the heart of Denver. Within our body, God has brought together some incredibly gifted and seasoned followers of Jesus, and many people with curiosity and a longing for spiritual vitality. Our church is a unique place where this all merges together as a safe place for anyone seeking spiritual health.

Today, Platt Park Church has a wonderful foundation of great teaching, loving people, and a passion to let God lead us into the future. We are a healthy church, and we believe God is doing something special in our community. As we move forward, we want to be who we are and live it out with greater clarity, unity, and participation. We would love to see Platt Park Church grow, but not in a big church "strategic" model. We want to simply more fully be who we are and *leave the blue doors open* for anyone who would like to join us in this adventure.

Do you see anything specific changing at Platt Park Church?

Yes and no. As noted above, we have a beautiful ethos as a church. We believe God has formed that in our DNA, it is who we uniquely are in the life of the Trinity. In the future, we hope to better articulate who we are and practically invite others toward meaningful participation. Put another way, we want to move from the abstract to creating opportunities where spiritual vibrancy is even more invitational and tangible for adults, students, and kids at Platt Park Church.

We talk about having a flat leadership structure, but we just hired a Lead Pastor. How does that work?

At Platt Park Church, "flat leadership" means that we make decisions collaboratively and seek to listen to God together as a community. The Lead Pastor role doesn't override that—it exists to help us live it out well. Think of the Lead Pastor less as a commander giving orders and more as a shepherd who creates space for discernment, care, and shared vision.

Different leadership metaphors highlight this balance: a "commander" pushes from the front, getting things done but sometimes missing the wisdom of the group; a "leader from behind" offers care but can lose direction; a "leader in the middle" listens, encourages, and helps the whole body contribute meaningfully. That's the model we strive for here.

While our leadership team and elders also hold responsibility for decisions, the Lead Pastor helps us collaborate better, stay focused on God's direction, and ensure that the voices of our community are valued in the process.

With hiring our Lead Pastor, how will that affect the teaching team in the future?

Platt Park Church is deeply committed to the teaching team model. We believe that hearing from a variety of voices helps us learn about God in richer ways, better reflects the diversity of experiences within Christianity, and reminds us that God—not any single teacher—is the true head of the church.

James, our new Lead Pastor, joins as a member of the team and helps guide it, but the model itself is what we're committed to. Our desire for Platt Park Church is that we learn to listen together—to God, to Scripture, and to one another—as we seek to reveal Christ and grow in faith as a community.

In the Lead Pastor hiring process, I heard a bit about "spiritual formation" being something we value as a church. What does that mean? What might that look like in our future?

First, what do we mean by spiritual formation? Spiritual formation is the transformational process of the Christian life. It is the daily activity of becoming more like Jesus by the work of God within us and our participation in this mysterious process (Galatians 5; Philippians 2).

That's beautiful, but still rather abstract. In the season ahead, we plan to make that much more tangible within the life of Platt Park Church. Rather than just talking about this reality, we want to explain how it can be practical within the rhythm of our lives individually and collectively. Our leadership team is currently wading into this, but we plan to flesh this out as a community. This year we will host a series of gatherings for people to come together and talk about this.

Our first gathering will be on Wednesday, November 19th from 6:30–8:00. We will host 2–4 others through the spring of 2026. If you feel led, we would love for you to participate!

Regarding kids ministry, how do you decide what to teach and how does that intersect the role of parents in their children's spiritual development?

The curriculum we follow focuses on a different core spiritual value each month over the course of three years. Values like Forgiveness, Patience, Joy, Courage, and Resilience. These values are taught through Bible stories and activities teaching how to use these values in their daily lives.

We believe parents possess a great opportunity to not only guide and care for their children's faith development, but also grow in their own knowledge of God. We support this by communicating with parents about the monthly spiritual theme, and encouraging parents to engage with their kids during the week about the materials that they bring home. We also encourage parents to volunteer once a month in the preschool or elementary classes, so they can see and participate more fully in their children's faith and social development. In His goodness, we adults grow in our awareness of God's goodness as we encourage faith development in the lives of our kids and children within our church family.

I'm curious about advice or support in raising our kids or students. How would I best discuss or get support from the church in what we're navigating?

No doubt, we live in a unique cultural landscape, which is far different from the world most parents grew up in. Many people are wondering how to faithfully support their kids in their development while speaking into values and belief formation. The short answer is: *talk to someone safe that you respect*. No one is an expert on this, and each person or family is unique. Our staff all have different experiences, both with our own families and walking with families within the community. If you have a teenager, we would encourage you to reach out to our youth pastors, Allison & Taylor Motsenbocker (high school) and Zach & Olivia Conner (middle school). They live in the trenches of the joy and complexity of life with students and will likely give you a helpful perspective on the world they are growing up in.

If you have littles, Deanna Gampp or Kate Sorrel would be a great go to. They are our "resident experts" on the complexity of what happens when kids and values converge.

How is the church doing financially?

Platt Park Church is in an encouraging financial position. In past years, we often ran a deficit during the year and relied on year-end giving to balance the budget (or limit dipping into our rainy day fund) - a common challenge for smaller churches. This year, however, we're on track to break even in 2025. In other words, our regular giving - along with continued strong year-end generosity - is expected to fully cover our annual expenses. This positive shift reflects the faithfulness of our congregation and our commitment to thoughtful budgeting and intentional cost management.

We have a beautiful building, but it is 104 years old. What are some of the ramifications of caring for a facility like ours?

Adjacent to stewarding our budget is caring for the building Platt Park Church calls home. We see our building as a gift. For over a century, generations of faithful people have prayed, worshiped, and served God

here—and they cared well for this space so we could inherit it in such solid condition. It's beautiful, well-built, and full of stories.

At the same time, a 100+ year-old building always comes with ongoing maintenance. As part of our commitment to being faithful and frugal with the resources God has entrusted to us, we care for the building through a volunteer team we call Labor of Love. Once a month, this group gathers on a Saturday morning to do everything from touch-up painting to fixing leaky pipes to hanging Christmas lights. They not only save thousands of dollars in maintenance expenses, but they also have fun and cultivate friendships by serving together. If you'd like to be part of that community, we'd love to have you join us.

From time to time, there are also larger projects that go beyond what volunteers can do. Currently, our flat roofs are overdue to be replaced, and we'll be addressing the raise of funds for this as a year end giving initiative. We invite you to be praying now about how God might call you to participate in that work of stewardship, so that this building can continue to serve as a place of worship and hospitality for generations to come.

Is there a plan to grow in greater financial stability as a church?

Foundationally, we believe God will provide exactly what we need for all He wants to do through us. The Christian life is the arena where we are continually learning to trust God and practice faith. Regarding giving, it is one of many personal arenas where God can develop faith and trust in our personal lives and families. As a church, we carry a very modest budget, and we're faithful and frugal with every dollar. But more than that, we believe financial stability will grow as each of us learns to trust God more deeply in every part of our lives—including our time, energy, passions, and finances.

Our invitation in giving is simple: we encourage individuals and families to-

Ask God how He wants you and your household to practice faith and generosity, and walk that out in obedience and trust. As we grow in Christ, faith will be tangible in every aspect of our lives. We will grow in seeking God, listening to His invitations, and responding to God in faithful obedience. At Platt Park Church, giving is never about guilt or pressure—it's about responding to God's love in faith, joining in His work through our church, and discovering the freedom that comes when we trust Him and follow His lead.

As we listen to God and follow His leading together, we believe He will provide everything needed for Platt Park to flourish and faithfully live out His mission in our community.

If I see a need in our city or world that I feel God might be leading me to address, how can I bring that to the church to see if others want to participate?

We truly believe that God works in and through the people in our community. In fact, most of our outreach efforts have started with someone in our church family seeing a need and stepping into it. The church's role is often to come alongside and help amplify the good work already happening.

So, if you're volunteering with refugees, serving meals at a soup kitchen, or connected to a nonprofit where the church could play a role—we'd love to hear about it. Just reach out to Anne, or anyone on the leadership

team, to start the conversation, and together we can explore how to equip our community to continue Spreading Love throughout our city and our world.

Why does Platt Park Church not directly address controversial cultural/social issues as a church?

We are running out of places in our country where people can be together in a community, caring for one another and believing the best of each other. It is our sincere longing at Platt Park Church to be a body where our focus is on the Person of Jesus Christ. The Triune God is our priority, and we exist together under the banner of being God's people, seeking to know and love God.

Is it possible to be a place where we are not divided by politics, stances on various events/topics, etc? Is it possible to be so focused and preoccupied with Someone bigger that we can all see that we don't have to agree on lesser things? When we insert issues into our worship services (meant for worshiping, communing, and encountering God together), we lose this focus and we stray from our calling as the Church we believe God wants us to be.

In the early church, we see slaves sitting beside slave-holders; Roman soldiers in worship services with those who despise Rome's oppression; Jews who believe all the law must be upheld and Gentiles who have never even read Genesis! And yet they were able to love one another and God together despite these differences. We believe this was possible due to the fact that they were together because the love of Jesus brought them together. We want to be this place here in Denver. We want a diversity of opinions and worldviews who love God together without any "litmus tests" that are not core to who we are as Christ's body on earth. The world needs to see such places.

I have a desire for a group or ministry that does not exist at Platt Park Church. How would I flesh that out to discern if it was something I could do through the church?

We're always excited when someone has a vision for a new group or ministry at Platt Park Church—especially if you feel called to help lead it! Some of our most meaningful ministries have grown out of the passions and needs felt within our own community.

If you have an idea stirring in your heart, we'd love to hear about it and walk alongside you as you explore what it could look like. Just reach out to Anne or any member of the leadership team, and we'll see together what the possibilities might be!

Platt Park Church is a part of the RCA (Reformed Church in America) denomination. What does that mean? How does that affect us as a body?

Being part of the RCA connects us to a rich Christian tradition that has been shaped since 1628 through prayer, Scripture, and lived experience in following God. Belonging to this denomination provides a scaffolding of beliefs and practices that serve like a root system, keeping us grounded as we seek to follow Christ. The RCA's statement of faith is the Apostles' Creed, which is both historic and spacious, and its governance structures help churches remain firmly centered on Jesus.

At the same time, the RCA values the local church as the primary place of decision-making, trusting that each congregation best understands what ministry is needed in its own context. RCA churches are organized into "classis"—smaller groups of congregations with shared ministry contexts. Platt Park Church belongs to City Classis, where we are building relationships with churches who pray for us, encourage us, and walk alongside us in ministry.

In short, our RCA connection means we are both deeply local and deeply rooted—free to listen to God for what Platt Park Church needs today, while also supported by a wider body that helps us remain faithful to Christ.

What are some things you're praying for as the leadership of Platt Park Church?

God builds His Kingdom as we humbly listen to Him and respond in faith to His invitation. Oftentimes, it happens like this: *God plants the seeds of His Kingdom in our hearts as desires. Desires become prayers, prayers become actions, and actions become Kingdom.*

Below are some things the staff recently shared and that we are actively praying about:

- We would like to identify various volunteers to mentor into ministry leadership.
- We have a passion to create a variety of internship opportunities for emerging ministry leaders within our church.
- We would like to shepherd our people into greater stability, being anchored in Christ and the support of our faith community.
- We would like to grow an ever-increasing appetite for life with God and excitement in His expanding kingdom.
- We long to grow deeper as a community, grafted together in unity and love for God and one another.

- We are asking God to direct us and provide all we need for the scope of ministry He is calling us into and the care of our building and body.
- That we would grow deeper as women and men of wholeheartedness who love and serve out of an abundance of God's love—a sense of overflow.
- That we would practically guide people into the process of being transformed into the likeness of Jesus. We long for spiritual transformation to be a tangible reality of everyone who engages Platt Park Church. That we would have dozens of beautiful stories of transformation to share and inspire others.
- That we would cultivate a reputation as an authentic spiritual body; a place where God joyfully dwells with people and makes His love present in and through our lives.
- That, as we leave our blue doors open, God would simply draw sons and daughters home to the safety of our home and the love of the Trinity!

What is our invitation to the body of Platt Park Church as we move forward together?

At the core, we are praying that each of us would grow in wonder, experience, and joy in life with God. We passionately believe there is more—there is always more God is inviting us into. We believe God is seeking women and men who will curiously lean in (Jeremiah 29:13; Psalm 53:2) to greater awareness, joy, and the experience of His love flowing into our lives and out to others.

Connected to this, we would love for you to continually pray and ask God where and how He might want you to experience Him in community—and where and how He might want you to participate to strengthen our body or spread His love in the circles you live in. Of course we're all busy, but the gentle invitation of God is being whispered. We would love for you to say "yes" to Him where and how He directs you.

If you made it this far, good for you! You should grab some ice cream! Do you have questions? We are deeply committed to being transparent in everything as a church. We would love to discuss any questions and/or thoughts you might have. The link below contains contact info for our staff and elders. Feel free to reach out to whomever you feel most comfortable with.

<https://plattparkchurch.org/new-here/leadership>