

Christ Community Church and Our Community



Historically, almost every community in the Western world has had a church or churches associated with it. A cross-section of the classic American community includes institutions reflecting three different dimensions of life: commercial (businesses and markets); civic (schools and town hall); and spiritual (churches and other houses of faith).

How does Christ Community Church address the spiritual dimension of life?

We seek to nurture the spiritual life of our people by drawing on biblical, historical Christianity. Most people still want to live a life that has significance beyond only material things, and houses of faith help people address those longings and connect with others more deeply.

Has the growing diversity of culture invalidated the place of churches in the community?

As a matter of fact, it was the Presbyterian tradition of pragmatic toleration (or “principled pluralism”) that helped America become a nation where people who are very different from one another can live together peacefully. Churches in communities actually serve as a voice of conscience to guard and protect the free marketplace of ideas by affirming the inherent dignity and worth of each and every person. This in turn helps build resilient communities characterized by mutual respect, toleration, and cooperation for the common good.

What is the mission of Christ Community Church?

We aim to glorify God by connecting the riches of Christ to the realities of life. Life is not going to be easy, but we think it can be full and joyful if we can help our people walk faithfully with Christ through all the challenges they will face.

Who are the members of Christ Community Church?

We have members from many vocations (medical, academic, business, service and technical) and many stages of life (younger and older, families and singles, internationals and locals, as well as some graduate and undergraduate students). In other words, we look a lot like our community.

How big does Christ Community Church plan to be?

We plan to stay a small to medium-sized church. We feel this is a great size to maintain an intimate community while also being able to offer kind friendship and excellent programs to those who may be exploring Christianity.

How does Christ Community Church interact with its community?

We aim to help our people to love and help their neighbors in the church and in their community. We help our people to be good neighbors, good workers, and good citizens. As a church, we also have an active counseling ministry that is open to anyone who might find it beneficial. From time to time, we also present various opportunities for community service.

What about the height of the proposed building? Christ Community Church worked with architects Bo Harrison and Grant Sung to design a building that is the right scale for the neighborhood. The proposed 12:12 roof pitch on the main roof with a small light cupola above the chancel area is evocative of a New England community church. The two-story building will be set down into the landscape so that the second floor (worship space) will be (roughly) at the same level as Erwin Road, giving a pleasing visual aesthetic.

Will Christ Community Church affect traffic in our neighborhood?

Our studies show that our effect on traffic will be minimal. Indeed, the improvements will provide bike lanes, sidewalks, and improve the sight distances at the Old Oxford/Erwin Road intersection.

Will the stormwater runoff ruin our neighborhood?

Thankfully, the Town of Chapel Hill requires significant infrastructure and due diligence in this area. Our subsurface chamber solution will meet or exceed all town requirements by ensuring that the peak outflow will be the same before and after development in accordance with Town procedures. It will also remove a high percentage of pollutants from runoff. We believe that our neighbors to the West (along Old Oxford) will see immediate benefits from the curb on the west side of the church property.

Will the proposed parking be adequate?

The Town of Chapel Hill requires that churches provide one parking space for every four seats. For our proposed 290-seat auditorium, our 120 spots fits easily into that requirement. We know that there will be no parking on Old Oxford or in other neighborhoods. We will work with any other proposed development to our south for a cross-parking arrangement, if needed.

Will Christ Community Church rent out its parking lot during the week?

No. We are a faith community, not a business, so we will not rent spaces.