

Key Ministries - Sixth Draft (5/10/2021)

This is meant to be a living document. To the best of our ability we have incorporated a forward look, but changes are expected as we adjust over time.

What are Key Ministries?

Listing our Key Ministries is a way to help visitors understand what our church is about. It also helps us get a more complete understanding of what SFBC does. They relate to our Mission Statement and Values as follows:

- Mission Statement – states who we aspire to be. We are...
- Affirmation of Values – calls attention to how we aspire to relate to our world and to each other. We will...
- Key Ministries – summarizes how we live into our Mission Statement and Values. We do...

Key Ministries of SFBC – Summary

- Worship
- Care of Individuals (Pastoral Care)
- Care of the Congregation
- Spiritual Formation and Growth
- Social Justice
- Baptist Life
- Community Engagement
- Administration

Key Ministries of SFBC – Details

Worship – This includes regular Sunday services as well as special services on holidays and other occasions. Music is an important part of worship. Pastors and music professionals take the lead in planning and organizing worship, and pastors normally preach. Anti-racism is core to our worship. We value lay involvement in preparing for and leading worship, and we foresee having additional worship opportunities to meet the needs of small groups and led by lay people. An important lay involvement in worship is through choirs of various ages, and providing ushers and greeters. Online worship is an important part of our ministry.

Care of Individuals – Support for the sick and the grieving, and those who stop attending for some reason, is a critical function of the church. We also help celebrate significant life events – weddings, funerals, baby dedications, graduations, birthdays, etc. The Companion Ministry assists people who come to the church during worship and need individual attention. Pastors lead in providing Care of Individuals, with significant help and support from lay people. Care for all individuals regardless of race, gender, gender identity, or national origin is core to our values.

Care of the Congregation – This begins with new member classes, and goes on to include activities for the entire congregation such as coffee hour, Wednesday dinners and special lunches, name tags, church nurse, and Place at the Table dinners in our homes. We have activities for children, youth, young adults, special interest small groups, and seniors. Some publications and social media are targeted at our congregation. We strive to provide accessibility to all events and services and serve the needs of the congregation in a way that celebrates all people regardless of race, gender, gender identity, or national origin. Online access to events is included where feasible, and we provide training and assistance in using these technologies. Much of this work is done by lay members of our community.

Spiritual Formation and Growth – We encourage all people to mature in their faith and spirituality. Means of enabling this include children’s programs, adult learning, small groups with an educational or spiritual focus, lectures and special events, youth programs, and prayer groups. We teach the fundamentals of stewardship and provide library resources. Retreats are offered for various groups within the congregation. Anti-racist content and messaging is vital in these activities. Pastors have a leading role in spiritual formation and growth, and lay people do much of the work.

Social Justice – SFBC pastors and lay people have a long history of being a public witness and living our values of inclusion of all races, LGBTQ+, and immigrants, as well as around issues such as climate justice and the environment. We provide lower-cost space rentals to nonprofits and community groups. Building on the model of Companis, SFBC seeks to partner with other organizations that are more effective at serving our neighbors in need than we can be ourselves. We seek to partner our members who wish to volunteer with community agencies to serve those in need. We also have events and programs that directly benefit our neighbors in need and give our congregants opportunities to serve. We celebrate and serve our neighbors regardless of race, gender, gender identity, or national origin. Much of this work is done by lay members of our community. Pastors, as representatives of SFBC, provide a critical part of our public witness. We provide training for volunteers to meet special needs of people, and to be anti-racist in all we do.

Baptist Life – SFBC seeks to live by traditional Baptist values such as the Priesthood of All Believers, Separation of Church and State, and Autonomy of the Congregation. We affiliate with the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches, American Baptist Women, Seattle Baptist Union, and Camps including Burton and Cascade Meadows. We also provide a prophetic witness within ABC, including our charter membership in the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists and active support of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America / Bautistas por la Paz. We strive to be an anti-racist witness within the Baptist community. We collaborate with other Baptist congregations for special events and worship services. Pastors are supported by our Baptist life, and lay people do much of the work.

Community Engagement – SFBC hosts a variety of events that are designed to appeal to the larger community. These include Jazz Vespers, choir concerts and other special musical events,

and community picnics. We communicate with the community through social media, external publications, the reader board, and the carillon. We value our partnerships with agencies such as Companis, Hilltop House, and Diverse Harmony. We provide space for community organizations such as AA, NA, PFLAG, sports leagues, and choirs, and conduct supply drives for various groups. We also partner with other faith communities, including Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue, Muslim Association of Puget Sound, SU Ignatian Spirituality Center, Church Council of Greater Seattle, Faith Action Network, and Interfaith Community Sanctuary (Jamal Rahman). We seek to be an anti-racist witness to the community at large. As we consider the future of our facilities, we seek to meet needs within the larger community as well as our own, serving as a community center as we are able.

Administration – Our administrator, administrative staff, and lay people provide critical support to SFBC in areas including facilities maintenance and management, personnel, finance, and operations.