

Family Church of Connecticut: A letter from Pastor Simone

Simone Doroski
January 11, 2026



Dear Connecticut Family Church,

It is with a full and grateful heart that I share that I will be transitioning from my role as Pastor, effective **February 15, 2026**.

I want to begin by saying how deeply I love this community. This role has been far more than a job—it has been a calling, a sacred space of growth, service, and spiritual family. Walking alongside you during this season of my life has been one of the greatest honors I could have received, and I will always carry this time with profound gratitude.

When I accepted this position, I committed to serving for two years, and I am thankful that I was able to fulfill that promise completely. Over these years, I have given my whole heart to this work. Every prayer, every late night, every conversation, every challenge, and every celebration has been meaningful to me. I hope you have felt my love and dedication, because they have been very real.

After much prayer, reflection, and counsel, I believe God is now guiding me into a new responsibility—one that supports my family and also serves the broader mission we all care deeply about. Beginning **February 15**, I will be accepting a **full-time position in the World Mission Department at the New Yorker Hotel**, working within its commercial operations. This area plays an important role in sustaining the work of our movement in the United States.

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to work closely with this team, and through that experience, I have come to see that this new path is not a departure from serving God's will, but a continuation of it—simply in a different form. At this moment, when the need is great, I feel called to step forward with faith and trust. Because of the time commitment required, I will no longer be able to continue serving as Pastor.

Although I will no longer hold this title, I am not leaving this community. I will still be here. I will still worship with you. I will still support, serve, and help wherever I am able. The only thing changing is my role—not my heart, not my commitment, and not my love for this community.

I am also genuinely excited for this next season for our community. I believe there are

emerging leaders with fresh vision, strength, and inspiration, and I am encouraged by those who are stepping forward in this time. The Council will immediately begin a search for a new pastor and will be sharing a job description soon.

Beginning February 15, **Bruce Clarke and Hector Barrantes**, supported by their spouses, will serve as **Interim Co-Pastors** of our community. Over the coming months, they will begin inheriting the responsibilities I have been carrying and will take on the overall executive functioning of the church. I am grateful for their willingness to serve and confident in their leadership during this transition.

We will also be holding a **special transitional service on February 15**, where we will celebrate our victories as a community in the past two years and hear from our Interim Pastors as they share their vision for the months ahead.

I know transitions can bring questions and uncertainty, but please know that everything will continue as normal for the time being. This community is deeply loved, well supported, and moving forward with care and intention.

I want to thank you—for your trust, your love, your prayers, and your support. Thank you for allowing me to grow here, to serve here, and to belong here. This chapter will always remain close to my heart, and I look forward to continuing this journey together, even as my role changes.

With love, faith, and appreciation,
Pastor Simone

[2025 Annual Financial Report](#)

[2026 FCCT Strategic Plan](#)

[The Year in Review Video](#)

Annual Financial Report

2025



Income

Other / CheonBo

15.5%

Security Deposit

0.6%

Rental Income

5.2%

Bank Interest

0.5%

Blessing and

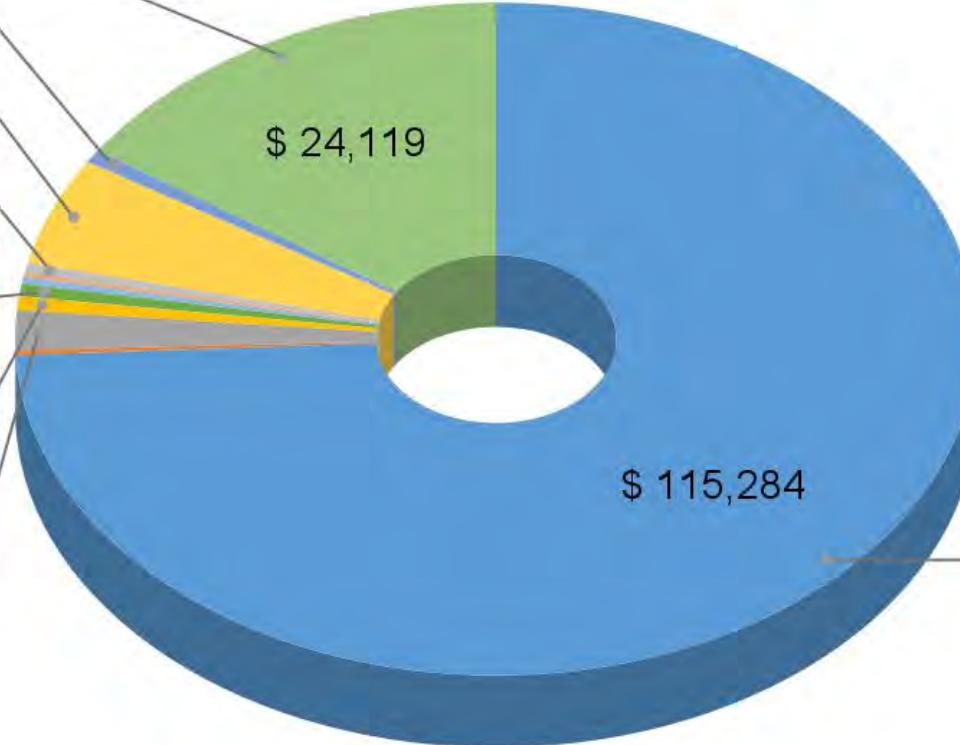
0.6%

Holy Day Donations

0.6%

YAM/SLAM Youth

1.9%

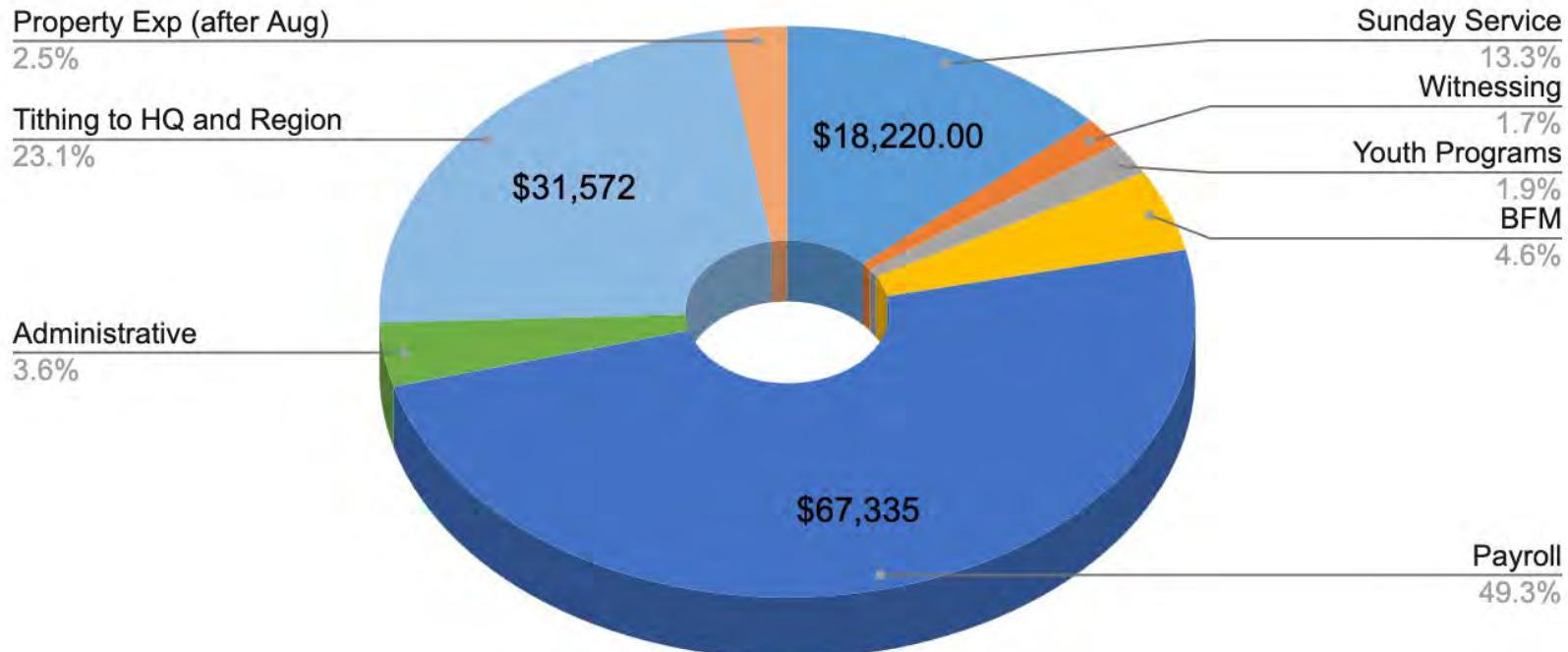


General Donations

74.2%

INCOME	2025 Projection	2025 Totals	PFYdiff	2026 Est. Budget
General Donations (Tithing)	\$120,000.00	\$ 115,284	-\$4,716	\$130,000
Collection/Fundraising	\$5,000.00	\$ 366	-\$4,634	\$1,500
YAM/SLAM Youth Collection	\$2,000.00	\$ 2,965	\$965	\$500
Holy Day Donations (for FCCT)	\$2,500.00	\$ 1,004	-\$1,496	\$1,500
Music Ministry, Books, etc.	\$700.00	\$ 10	-\$690	\$100
Blessing and Family Minstry	\$1,000.00	\$ 920	-\$80	\$1,000
Sunday Lunch Ministry (Food)	\$1,000.00	\$ 536	-\$464	\$700
Cheon Shim Won	\$500.00	\$ 304	-\$196	\$500
Bank Interest	\$0.00	\$ 737	\$737	\$1,000
Rental Income		\$ 8,055		\$19,200
Security Deposit		\$ 1,000		\$800
Other / CheonBo	\$0.00	\$ 24,119	\$24,119	
Total Income	\$132,700.00	\$155,300.00	\$13,545	\$156,800

Expenses



EXPENSES	PFY Budget	2025 totals	PFYdiff	2026 Expenses Budget
Sunday Service	\$19,200	\$18,220.00	\$1,133	\$20,200
Witnessing	\$1,450	\$2,320	\$303	\$2,350
Youth Programs	\$4,200.00	\$2,576	\$1,750	\$4,200
BFM	\$4,650.00	\$6,283	-\$196	\$6,650
Payroll	\$58,311.00	\$67,335	-\$8,720	\$75,134
Administrative	\$9,400.00	\$4,922.00	\$4,309	\$6,950.00
Tithing to HQ and Region	\$24,340	\$31,572	-\$5,076	\$26,000
Property Exp (after Aug)	\$0	\$3,443	-\$3,443	\$7,340
Total Expense w/o Funds	\$121,551.00	\$136,671.00	-\$9,940.00	\$148,824.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$11,149.00	\$18,629.00		\$7,976.00

Funds

Description	BFY Budget		Balance	2026 Allocation
ACLC Income	\$1,000.00		\$1,714.00	\$1,000.00
ACLC expenses	\$1,000.00			\$1,500
ACLC Balance	\$1,714.00		\$1,714.00	\$2,714
Youth Education Fund	\$1,000.00	\$ -	\$3,965.00	\$1,000.00
Youth Education Fund Disbursements	\$0.00	\$ -	\$0.00	
Youth Education Fund Balance	\$1,000.00			\$4,965

Apartment and CheonShim Won

Investment Return.
Annual Profit/Investment Amt.

6.97%

Property	Estimate	Actual	Diff	2026 Budget
Property Income		\$8,000.00	\$8,000	\$19,200.00
Initial Purchase Price	\$137,000.00	\$141,182	-\$4,182	
HOA Fees	\$2,100.00	\$2,625	-\$525	\$2,100
Electricity/utilities	\$0.00	\$182	-\$182	
Remodeling Condo/Maintenance	\$15,000.00	\$23,911	-\$8,911	\$2,000
Real estate purchase costs/Taxes	\$3,000.00	\$2,194	\$806	\$3,240
Subtotal: Property Expenses	\$157,100	\$170,094	-\$12,994	\$7,340.00
Surplus			-\$4,994.00	\$11,860.00
Reserved for Security Deposit		1000	\$1,000	\$800

Bank Account Balances

Balances Reduced due to property purchase but still very healthy

	12/31/2024	12/31/2025
Checking	\$59,614	\$25,558
Money Market Acct.	\$171,153	\$50,000
Total Balance	\$230,767	\$75,558

Highlights

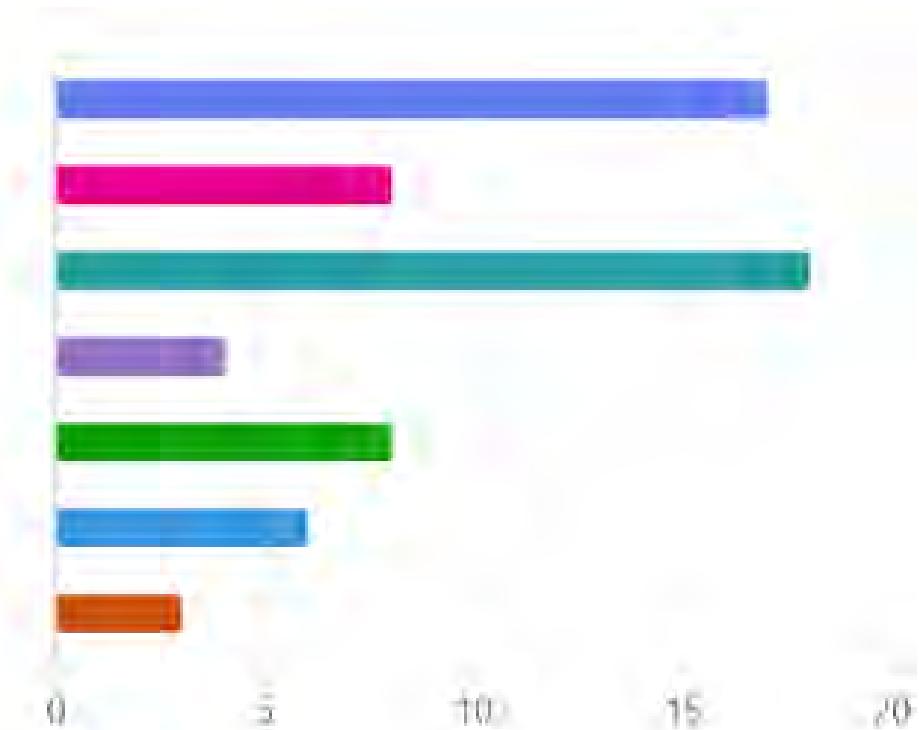
- Income Increased by \$17%
 - 2024 Income: \$131,576
 - 2025 Income: \$153,687
- CheonBo Event brought in \$24K
- Expenses were as-expected at \$128,048
- Purchase of Apartment completed and is producing income of about \$1000/month
- Overall savings of about \$6,000
 - Not including property purchase
- Tithing was \$7,000 short of goal
 - Average of \$9,607/Month
- Payroll was higher than expected
 - 10% pay increase and Health Insurance costs
- Donations from other sources was lower than expected (Collections, books, Holy Days, etc.)

A scenic landscape photograph of a lake at sunset. The sky is filled with warm, golden light, and the water reflects this glow. In the foreground, a wooden bridge with railings spans the water. The surrounding area is covered in dense autumn foliage, with trees showing vibrant shades of orange, yellow, and red. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

Family Church of CT Strategic Plan 2026 (Draft)

What aspects of our church do you value the most?

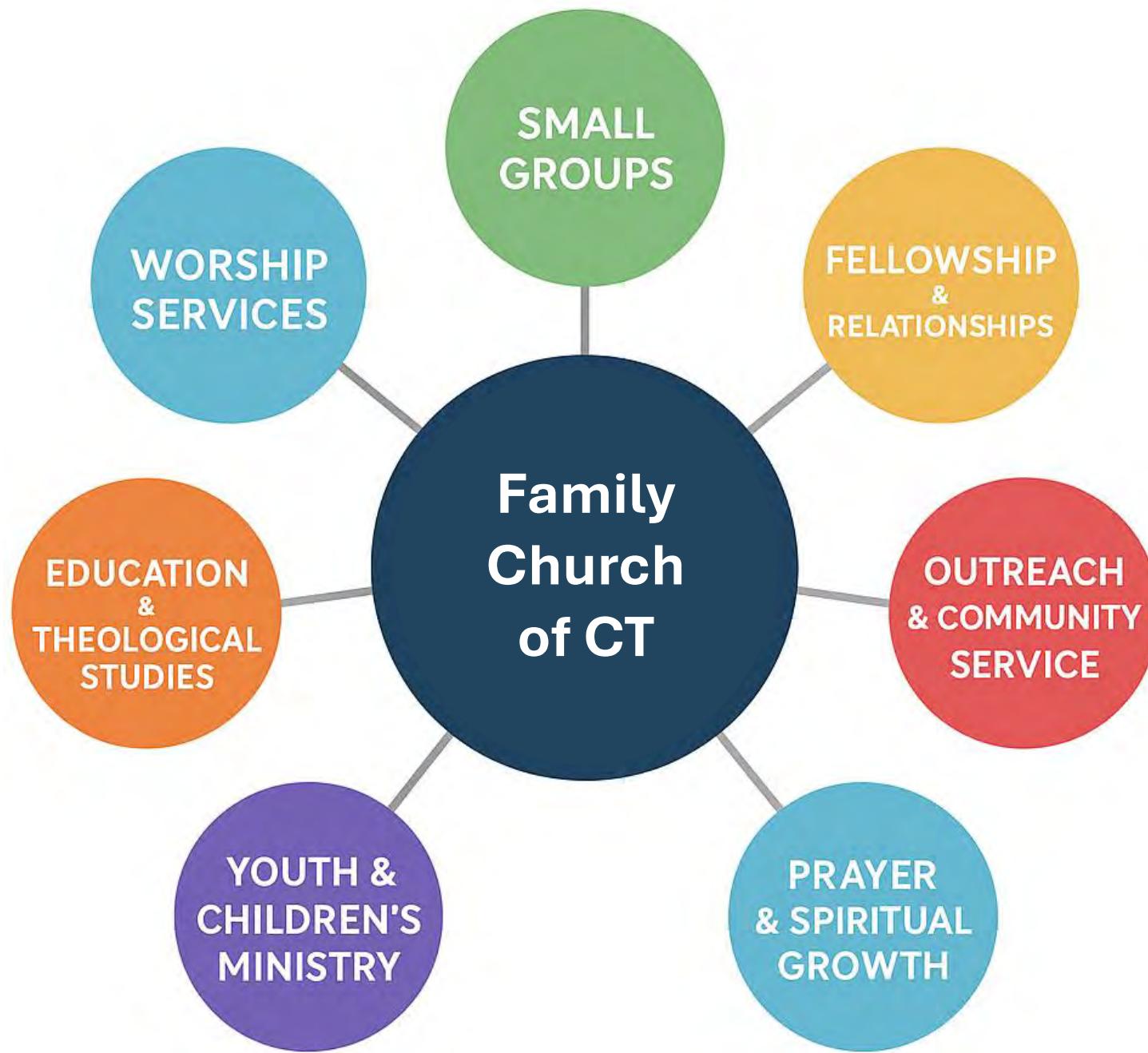
- Worship services
- Small groups
- Fellowship and relationships
- Outreach and Community Service
- Prayer and Spiritual growth
- Youth and Children's meetings
- Education and Theological studies



What area of church life would you like to see strengthened?

- Deeper spiritual growth opportunities (ex. Prayer groups)
- More outreach and service projects (ex. Supporting local organizations and causes, witnessing etc.)
- Better communication and organization (ex. Consistent information on what is happening both...
- More engagement with young people and families (ex. Youth Service, Sunday School, Family events etc.)
- Education and Theological Study (ex. Religious lectures, Study Groups etc.)





Worship Services



Worship is at the heart of our identity as a church. Through the survey, our congregation expressed a strong desire for more engaging, intergenerational worship experiences and clearer communication about what is happening in the congregation.

Moving forward, we will focus on creating worship services that are spiritually enriching, culturally inclusive, and welcoming to all ages. We will increase youth participation throughout services and provide consistent, accessible updates so that all members stay informed and connected.

Recommended Actions:

1. Integrate intergenerational elements into worship and make this a regular feature of most services.
2. Ensure the weekly bulletin and digital announcements reflect the theme of each service to help prepare the congregation.
3. Launch monthly worship themes beginning January 2026.

Congregational Needs Connected to this area

- Better communication & organization
- Greater engagement with young people & families

A photograph of a small group of people in a meeting. In the foreground, a man with a beard and glasses is gesturing while speaking. Next to him, a woman with curly hair is listening attentively. In the background, another person's face is partially visible. They are all sitting in a casual setting with books and papers on the table.

Small Groups

Small groups are essential spaces for deeper connections through authentic fellowship, and personalized spiritual growth—areas our congregation identified as high priorities.

In response, we will expand its small group offerings to include prayer circles, Bible studies, theology-focused groups, and life-stage gatherings. Improving communication around meeting times and group opportunities will ensure that every member can find a spiritual community that supports their growth.

Recommended actions:

- Launch three new small groups (These could be prayer-focused, learning-focused, or life-stage based).
- Provide training and resources for small group leaders by mid-2025.
- Send monthly communication highlighting group schedules, meeting times, and upcoming events.

Congregational Needs Connected to this area

- Deeper spiritual growth opportunities
- Education & theological study
- Better communication & organization



Fellowship & Relationships

Survey results revealed a strong desire for deeper connection and a greater sense of belonging, especially among young families. To nurture this, we will prioritize fellowship opportunities that bring people together across generations and cultures. Through family gatherings, community meals, newcomer pathways, and intentional relationship-building programs, we aim to create a warm and welcoming environment where relationships can grow, and newcomers feel truly at home.

Recommended actions:

- Host monthly fellowship events, such as family nights or cultural celebrations.
- Establish a newcomer welcome pathway to ensure visitors are supported and connected.
- Follow up with 100% of newcomers within one week of their visit.
- Conduct an annual fellowship survey to measure growth in belonging and community connection.

Congregational Needs Connected to this area

- Greater engagement with young people & families
- Better communication
- Deeper sense of community



Outreach & Community

As Unificationists, we are called to serve our community with compassion, sincerity, and active love. Survey responses highlighted a strong desire for more hands-on service opportunities, local impact, and chances to witness through meaningful action. In response, we will deepen its outreach efforts by strengthening partnerships with local organizations, establishing recurring service initiatives, and creating more opportunities for members of all ages—including youth—to participate in mission-centered community service.in mission work.

Recommended Actions:

- Establish partnerships with at least three local organizations (schools, shelters, food banks).
- Host quarterly service days beginning January 2026.
- Track engagement with a goal of 30% of members participating in at least one outreach event annually.

Congregational Needs Connected to this area

- Outreach & service projects
- Engagement with community organizations
- Youth & family participation in outreach



Prayer & Spiritual Growth

Many members are seeking deeper spiritual growth opportunities, including prayer groups, and shared spiritual practices. We should focus on expanding prayer gatherings, creating seasonal spiritual formation programs, and encouraging individual prayer. By centering our spiritual journey on prayer, we will strengthen as a congregation and individuals.

Recommended actions:

- Launch monthly prayer meeting (physical or virtual).
- Create a prayer chain for all families in our congregation.

Congregational Needs Connected to this area

- Deeper spiritual growth
- Prayer groups, spiritual formation, discipleship
- Theological study (supporting deeper understanding)

Youth & Children's Ministry



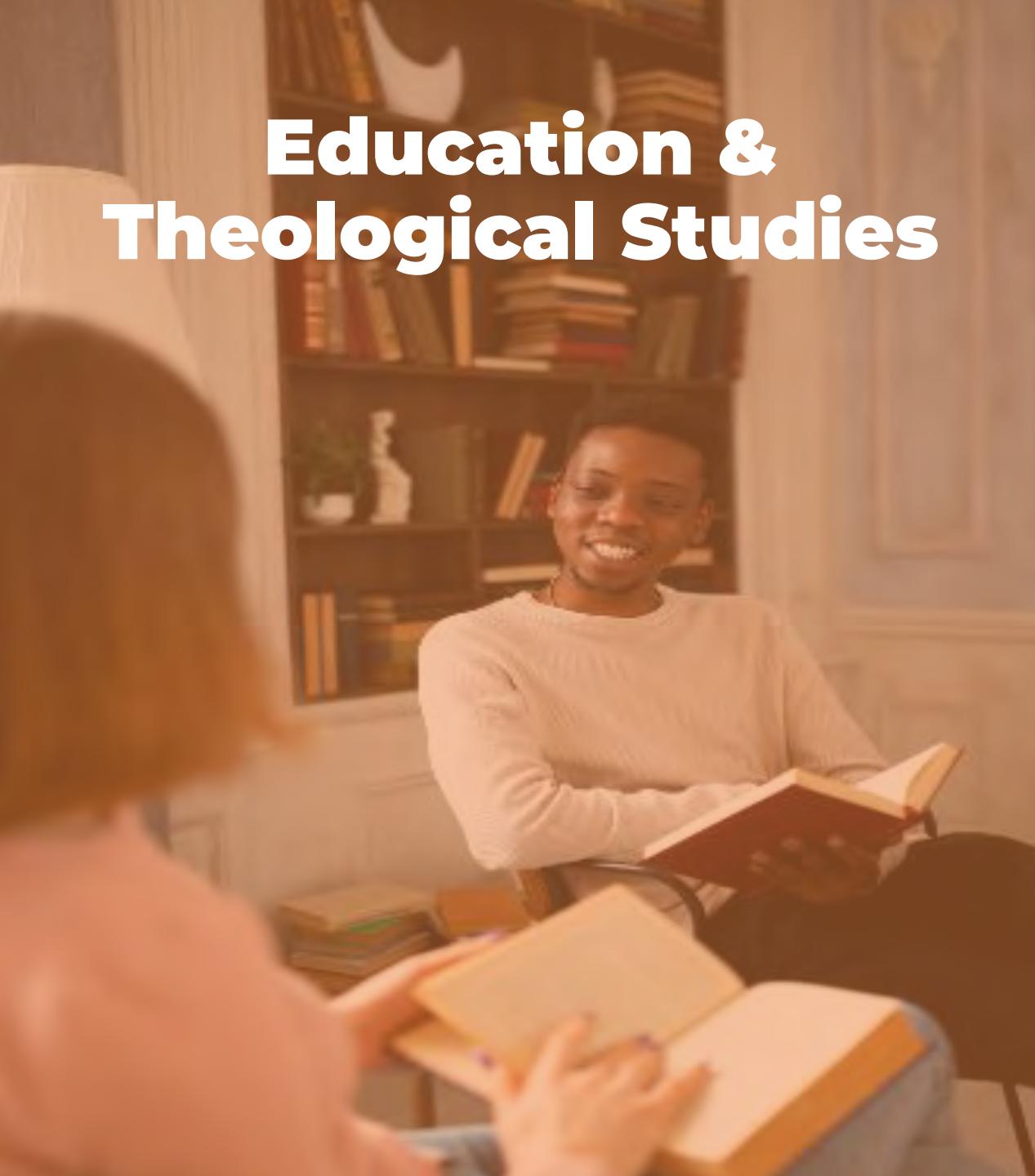
This was the highest-voted priority, reflecting a strong desire to invest in the next generation. In response, we will revitalize our youth and children's programs, strengthen Sunday School, launch youth-led worship experiences, and create family-centered events. Supporting parents with tools for faith formation at home will also be an important part of this ministry's development.

Recommended actions:

- Relaunch Sunday School with updated curriculum by June 2026
- Host monthly youth service or youth-led worship moment
- Offer quarterly family-centered events (e.g., parent-child days, youth socials)

Congregational Needs Connected to this area

- Engagement with young people & families
- Desire for youth service, Sunday School, family events
- Outreach involvement for youth



Education & Theological Studies

Our congregation expressed a desire for deeper learning and stronger theological engagement. To meet this need, we will develop structured educational opportunities that include Bible studies, theology classes, workshops, and guest lectures. Through clear and consistent communication, every member will be equipped to access and participate in these learning experiences. Strengthening our theological foundation will help us grow spiritually, think critically, and live faithfully.

Recommended Actions:

- Provide at least two theological workshops or guest lectures annually
- Launch a quarterly Divine Principle or Bible study series (e.g., book studies, thematic studies, spiritual disciplines) with rotating facilitators to encourage broad participation.
- Develop a resource library (digital or physical) with recommended books, study guides, and theological videos to support ongoing personal learning.

Congregational Needs Connected to this area

- Theological study
- Spiritual growth
- Better communication/organization