

First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville
Ideas for Church Growth
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Idea List, Part 1 (proposed on June 21, 2025):

1. Physician support prayer hotline

The church can provide a “physician support hotline” (where physicians can call in crisis, if they need prayer, emotional support, etc). There is less stigma involved when we contact the church (versus seeking professional therapy), so I predict people will feel more comfortable calling. Inspired by my own journey through medical training, and the prayer support I relied upon from family and church friends, there is a real need for prayer support during the rigors of training, to help us fulfill God’s calling on our lives. We have a unique opportunity to be a haven and home base for academic physicians and faculty. Interestingly, today I just received an Medscape article link in my inbox Re: neurologist suicidal rates: https://www.medscape.com/slideshow/2025-neurology-suicide-report-6018123?ecd=WNL_physrep_250621_MSCPEDIT_suicide-t1_etid7511594&uac=222954DN&impID=7511594

2. Church branding as a haven for professionals

Contact the UF college of medicine physician wellness department with our info as well; advertise the church on campus and in the hospital as a place for moral support for professionals.

3. “Doctor Koinonia”: Professional support group

Have a support group at church for professionals (especially young, junior faculty and trainees) for support during early career phase. (I have written a separate proposal for the group structure: “Doctor Koinonia,” proposed on Feb. 7, 2025.)

4. Community prayer hotline

Consider establishing a prayer hotline for the community, which would connect us with ongoing needs in society and establish us as a place for people to find healing.

5. Collective prayer and fasting for our future

Fast and pray together as a church, for the future of our church, and for revival in our society (that we will all remember our need for the Lord and desire to seek Him with all our hearts).

6. Gathering to share our encounters with God

A church social gathering in Gordon Hall, during which the congregation can share brief anecdotes/testimonies about how they have experienced God in our church.

7. Gather for spontaneous worship/prayer/Scripture

A spontaneous worship/prayer/scripture reading session, during which we can sing favorite hymns and read favorite scriptures together.

8. Teaching re: Biblical giving

Some type of teaching series highlighting Biblical principles about giving to God’s kingdom, and what this exactly means.

Idea List, Part 2 (proposed on July 3, 2025):

9. Welcome event for new UF faculty as a branding mechanism

The church can host a summer welcome event for all new faculty (and their families) at UF, new international students, to establish us as a point of contact for support and community in GNV. (For the “freshman faculty”)

10. Online branding mechanisms: 1st Presbyterian Church: “We support the academic professional”

We can actively promote on our website (and likely on social media platforms) part of our branding as a church that proactively supports the academic professional’s needs. Consider a dedicated section on our website highlighting this.

11. Brief encouragement videos (2-3 min) for emotional needs/healing

Prior to launching a “physician or professional prayer hotline,” or support group, we can simply first create a section on our church website where people in search of support can read topical scriptures or view short devotional videos on various topics pertaining to their situations. (Topics include but not limited to: Dealing with loneliness, finding eternal significance in work/career, how to encourage yourself in the Lord, etc.)