

# WHO WE ARE

Our mission is fulfilled through our Six Pillars of Following Christ Together, which include regular corporate worship, personal devotions, small groups, service, evangelism and discipleship, all built upon the foundation of repentance.

We believe relationships grow best in small groups, while our Sunday services center on worshiping God and the teaching of His Word. As a generationally minded, family-focused church, we desire for everyone to engage in intentional discipleship. Our goal is to equip each member to faithfully build Christ's kingdom.



# GREAT PLACE TO WORK!

Providence Church is a fun, Christcentered place to work! Our staff loves engaging and collaborating with one another, and we offer competitive salaries, great benefits, and regular staff appreciation outings.



### LOCATION



Avon is located approximately 20 miles west of downtown Cleveland. It is one of the most rapidly growing suburbs in Lorain County. Avon and the surrounding suburbs are recognized for their public and private schools, youth activities and family atmosphere.

With all the benefits of this area there are thousands who live in darkness and are in need of the light of the gospel of Christ.



## MISSION

At Providence, we believe that ministry rests in the hands of every believer. In Ephesians 4:11-16, Paul describes the church as a place where men and women develop their spiritual gifts for the work of service in the church and in the world. We desire to equip men and women to lead ministries that lead others to be Following Christ Together.

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# OUR HISTORY

In the summer of 1992, twelve families joined together to ask God to lead them in the planting of a Bible teaching church committed to having an impact in the western suburbs of Cleveland. The group met for six months to worship, pray and plan together. Our first public worship service was held in a small childcare facility in February 1993.

When Providence Church outgrew the childcare facilities, we moved to a middle school building in Westlake. In 2002, we purchased land in Avon and had building plans established. We held our first worship service at our current location in December 2003.

In September of 2019, Dr. Austin Shaw began serving as senior pastor. Under Austin's shepherding our church maintains its commitment to biblical doctrine, expository preaching, and Christ-centered community.

#### OUR MINISTRIES

- Men's Ministry
- Women's Ministry
- Young Adult's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Worship & Tech Ministry
- Marriage Ministry
- Care Ministry
- Small Group's Ministry
- Connection's Ministry

CURRENT STAFF

20

FULL AND PART-TIME

# THE EFCA

Providence Church is a member of the <u>Evangelical Free Church of America</u>. Their Statement of Faith represents what we hold in common with all EFCA churches.

In addition to this, Providence identifies as a 9Marks church, striving to be biblically healthy by emphasizing the nine essential traits or "marks" outlined by the ministry 9Marks founded by Mark Dever.

Nursery - 6<sup>th</sup> grade students involved in Children's Ministry each week:

**250** 

7th-12th grade students involved in Youth Group each week:

**50** 

750

AVG ATTENDANCE

1,200

CURRENT BUDGET

**\$3.1** MILLI

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#### Forming Families

Scripture describes a church as a family. This means that men and women, single and married, young and old, will grow in the Lord together. Providence is blessed to have many children in our assembly. Between September 2022 and September 2024, 48 babies were born into our church. This combined with many large families moving into our area means we have thriving children's and youth ministries.

#### **Equiping Saints**

By now many of us have seen the data on the "dechurching of America". Dechurching refers to the number of people who have left the Church in the last 30 years. This, coupled with secularizing trends, awakens us to the need for catechizing one another. Given the number of able teachers in our family and a preponderance of thoughtful people, we will be a congregation devoted to learning Scripture and preparing one another to be Christ-followers in this complex world (Ephesians 4.11-16).

#### **Multiplying Churches**

Since its formation, Providence has wanted to plant more Bible teaching, Christ-honoring churches. We want to "go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in" to the Kingdom (Luke 14.23).

Healthy churches with a critical mass of people provide the best context for the training of future church leaders.

Providence is now in an excellent position to attract committed residents to be prepared, called, and sent.

#### PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

1.We Follow Jesus Christ - we will glorify the Father, by following the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Col. 1:15-20; Matt. 16:24)

2.The Centrality of God's Word - God's Word, the Bible, is the ruling authority in the life of our church. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pt. 1:19-21)

3.The Gospel Mission - we are committed to Jesus Christ's mandate to make disciples. (Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Cor. 5:18-19)

4.The Engaged Disciple - members are responsible to walk with God, actively love and serve the body through a ministry of the church, and intentionally share the gospel in their sphere of influence. (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 2:20; Jn. 14:21; Rom. 12:1-2)

5.Relationship Focused - we believe spiritual growth best takes place in the context of loving and transparent relationships.(Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:24-25)