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North Way Community Church



Purpose-Driven  
Church Health Award  
- North Way

**North Way Receives National Purpose-Driven Church Health Award!**

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Press Release - May 12, 2004:

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**North Way Christian Community Church Receives National Church Health Award**

North Way Christian Community Church in Wexford, Pennsylvania, is a recipient of a Church Health Award from Purpose Driven Ministries.

For over a decade, Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, and its church leadership ministry affiliate, Purpose Driven Ministries, have honored select churches worldwide that are role models to other churches by showing unique fruitfulness from their effort to convey and implement the core Purposes that Jesus Christ taught.



North Way has received the Church Health award from Saddleback Church and Purpose Driven Ministries, founded in 1980 by Rick Warren, author of the 20 million copy best-selling book *The Purpose Driven Life*. Warren built Saddleback Church on the biblical foundation of the five purposes for the church: Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, and Evangelism. The Purpose Driven paradigm states that churches that achieve a measure of focus and balance among these five purposes become healthy, God-honoring churches. Rick Warren's *Purpose Driven Life* book has now sold over 18 million copies, in 21 languages.

Since 2002, when *The Purpose Driven Life* was published, an estimated 13,000 churches throughout the world, including North Way Christian Community, were utilizing these foundational biblical principles. Churches of all denominations, sizes, and worship styles are going back to biblical basics, and becoming Purpose Driven.



Church Conference at Saddleback Church in Southern California.

North Way states that it is honored to be counted among the churches being recognized, and gives all the glory to Jesus. Pastor Jay Passavant shared, "This is a testament to our wonderful church members who serve selflessly in our church and in the community at large. We all just genuinely want to be faithful to what Jesus taught, grow in grace, and live the incredible life He promised."

Press Release includes excerpts from 2004 Purpose Driven Health Awards article by Mike Umlandt, Purpose Driven Ministries

[Video of Rick Warren presenting Health Award to North Way](#) → [Broadband](#)

[Video of Rick Warren presenting Health Award to North Way](#) → [Dial-up](#)

 post-gazette.com

[Pittsburgh Post Gazette Article: "Healthy Haven" July 4, 2004](#)

**Excerpt from "2004 Church Health Award" Book:**

**North Way Christian Community  
Wexford, Pennsylvania  
Jay Passavant, senior pastor**

*Denomination: Non-denominational, Weekend attendance: over 3,500*

North Way Christian Community, it seems, was born to grow. It started with just eight couples in a prayer group in 1981, the year after Rick Warren launched Saddleback Valley Community Church. In just 12 years, North Way had grown to a church of about 1,500.

"For our part of the world, that was fairly sizable," says founding pastor Jay Passavant. "As we grew, we needed ways to more effectively equip and focus our people, and clearly communicate what we were about."

So in 1993, Jay and his staff paid a visit to Rick Warren, who was speaking at a church in Atlanta. They returned to suburban Pittsburgh enthusiastic about Purpose Driven.

"First and foremost, I'm a huge advocate of God's 'Plan A' for redemption of the world, the local church," Jay says, "and that's what Rick's vision was about, not about building ministries. Second, I liked the clear transferability of the purposes—like biblical ABC's. Purpose Driven seemed to have a lot of handles you could grab on to and replicate and pass on to your people."

For the next two years, Jay and his leadership team pursued Purpose Driven. Jay would say, however, that they stalled at first base, with few people advancing past Class 101. "We had difficulty keeping our eye on the ball," he says. In hindsight, he thinks they didn't clearly understand what it meant to have the Purpose Driven DNA in the hearts of the people.

"So for a season, four or five years, we had a Purpose Driven shadow, shall we say, but we weren't moving wholeheartedly in that direction."

By this time, more staff had been added to the team, “people who were more organizationally gifted,” Jay says. “My leadership gifts tend to be stronger in terms of vision and showing the way, and I need people to implement and organize.”

Former IBM manager Dan Chaverin, a North Way member since 1995, became the key addition. Hired as executive pastor in January 2000, Dan “provided the octane to rekindle the Purpose Driven model,” Jay says.

Already passionate about the five purposes (in North Way’s mission statement they are connecting, growing, serving, reaching, and worshipping), Dan led the way back to the basics. In May of 2000, the entire pastoral staff and several elders attended a Purpose Driven conference at Saddleback, and Dan made *The Purpose Driven Church* book his template for implementation.

Dan thinks the problem before Purpose Driven was implemented as just a curriculum. It hadn’t yet become North Way’s identity. “We had to come to a consensus as a pastoral team that we really believed this was, A, the scriptural foundation for church and, B, something aligned with our values and principles and even our history.

“It requires focus and we have to stick to it, because not everybody gets it at the same time. Becoming aligned with Jesus’ purposes involves a culture change and a renewing of minds, so it’s never done. But after three and half years we feel as though our congregation’s really catching on and beginning to own this in their own lives.”

Dan and Jay give a lot of credit to the 40 Days of Purpose campaign in the fall of 2002 and follow-up 40 Days of Freedom in 2003. These all-church seasons brought greater unity and focus, and small-group participation jumped 50 percent to more than 2,000 people.



“We’re definitely Purpose Driven today,” Jay says. “In western Pennsylvania and the Northeast, a lot of folks know church just in terms of their traditional mainline affiliation. To many, a non-denominational church in the Northeast is an anomaly.

“Purpose Driven has helped us become understandable to the person coming in and asking, ‘What kind of church are you? What do you believe?’ It gives us a chance to explain our values and that’s when we talk about the purposes and how they reflect what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and a church that follows the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. In a culture that’s particularly ‘religious’ and denominationally oriented, we bring Jesus to the forefront, and invite people to come along and find authentic purpose in lives.”

With its record of trials and success, North Way is well positioned to mentor churches that want to become Purpose Driven. The church has hosted several worship conferences and sponsored Purpose Driven conferences with Dan Southerland. The team is also formally mentoring other churches in the region.

“We’re really into sharing this,” Dan Chaverin says. “We get calls all the time for help.”

His advice? Stay focused.

“You have the budgets and buildings and personalities and pressure on where the priorities and resources of the church are going to go,” Dan says. “You’ll always be

“You need people who are in love with Christ, who have confidence in what he taught, and who truly believe that this is what his bride is to look like.”

*Article by Mike Umlandt, Purpose Driven Ministries - “2004 Church Health Award”*

[www.northway.org](http://www.northway.org)

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### North Way Christian Community

12121 Perry Highway - Wexford, PA 15090

Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Saturday 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

724-935-6800

[www.northway.org](http://www.northway.org)

North Way's Purpose: To become a vibrant community **Connecting** with Jesus and His family, **Growing** in relationship with Him, **Serving** others, **Reaching** people with His good news, and **Worshiping** together in the joy of His grace