
VISION & STRATEGIC DIRECTIVES

Our Vision

“Renewing Our Community through the Gospel”

To renew something assumes that it was once good, has subsequently been ruined, but is in the process of being restored. This is the story of the Bible. Everything God made was good. Human sin brought ruin and devastation to every part of our existence. The gospel, or good news, is that God is working to renew and restore his fallen creation through Jesus Christ.

We believe that the gospel message is not merely a body of truth to be acknowledged, but that it is the very power of God that transforms and renews everything it comes in contact with – personal lives, families, workplaces, and whole societies.

This renewal begins when a person receives the gospel and their once broken relationship with God is restored. The gospel then becomes the means and power for believers to be renewed in every area of their lives so they become more and more like Jesus Christ.

We envision a movement of the gospel that is bringing renewal to “our community,” which encompasses:

- **Ourselves:** We need the gospel to renew how we relate to God, family, culture, sexuality, money, singleness, and every other area of our lives.
- **Our City:** We envision gospel renewal throughout the CRD as we strive to introduce people to Jesus Christ, increase the number of gospel-centred congregations, engage in social justice, and discover gospel transformation in our work.
- **Our World:** Through global missions and strategic partnerships, we envision Central bringing gospel renewal to those places around the world where we have influence.

The Vision Statement is rooted in the biblical purposes of the Church. These purposes are:

Worship: We gather together to express our love for God.

Outreach: We reach out to lost people with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship: We encourage one another to grow in the faith and knowledge of God.

Fellowship: We love one another in a community of faith.

Ministry: We serve in the church, community and world for Christ.

How We Function:

Worship will be:

1. **God Centered:** We point people to God, inspiring them to worship, obey, love, and serve.
2. **Bible Saturated:** We focus our worship around the Word of God.
3. **Prayerful:** We actively pray to express dependence on God and communion with Him.
4. **Creative:** We utilize the power of music and the arts to inspire faith.
5. **Expressive:** We foster an atmosphere enabling people to freely express their hearts to God.
6. **Hopeful:** We declare the hope of God for the circumstances of life.

Outreach will be:

1. **Primary:** We make helping people enter into a proper relationship with Christ our highest priority.
2. **Outward focused:** We take the initiative to go to the world and not wait for the world to come to us.
3. **Intentional:** We create environments in which people can explore faith in Christ.
4. **Effective:** We track conversions and growth.
5. **Patient:** We understand that sowing seed is as important as reaping a harvest.
6. **Invitational:** We actively invite people to come to church events and services.
7. **Relevant:** We communicate in a way that people can understand.
8. **Active:** We demonstrate the gospel through practical works of love.
9. **Global:** We support and participate in international missions.

Discipleship will be:

1. **Intentional:** We develop processes by which discipleship is effectively taught.
2. **Biblical:** We promote maturity through learning and applying the scriptures.
3. **Baptistic:** We encourage believers to express their faith through baptism and communion.
4. **Obedient:** We promote personal holiness.
5. **Communal:** We join in community to grow in Christlikeness.
6. **Active:** We mature through service.
7. **Equipping:** We train for service.

Fellowship will be:

1. **Welcoming:** We draw new people into the life of the church.
2. **Encouraging:** We build people up in love and faith.
3. **Forgiving:** We forgive those who have failed and restore the repentant.
4. **Unified:** We celebrate our common faith.

Ministry will be:

1. **Community Minded:** We celebrate community involvement.
2. **Prayerful:** We pray in order to act.
3. **Loving:** Our love for God and our neighbour is our motivation.
4. **Faith Filled:** We attempt great things for God.
5. **Diversified:** We depend on every believer to use their spiritual gifts.
6. **Joyful:** We serve with a cheerful heart.
7. **Team Based:** We work together as parts of a body.

To implement these values, we recognize the following necessities:

Leadership will be:

1. **Equipping:** We recruit, train and place believers in ministry to serve.
2. **Team Based:** We work interdependently.
3. **Visionary:** We achieve change through mission and vision.
4. **Open:** We foster trust through communication.
5. **Spiritual:** We model Christian character in all activity.
6. **Humble:** We practice servant leadership.

Stewardship will be:

1. **Honest:** We will maintain integrity in all that we do.
2. **Ministry Minded:** We utilize our resources and governance to accomplish vision and mission.
3. **Adaptable:** We embrace necessary change.