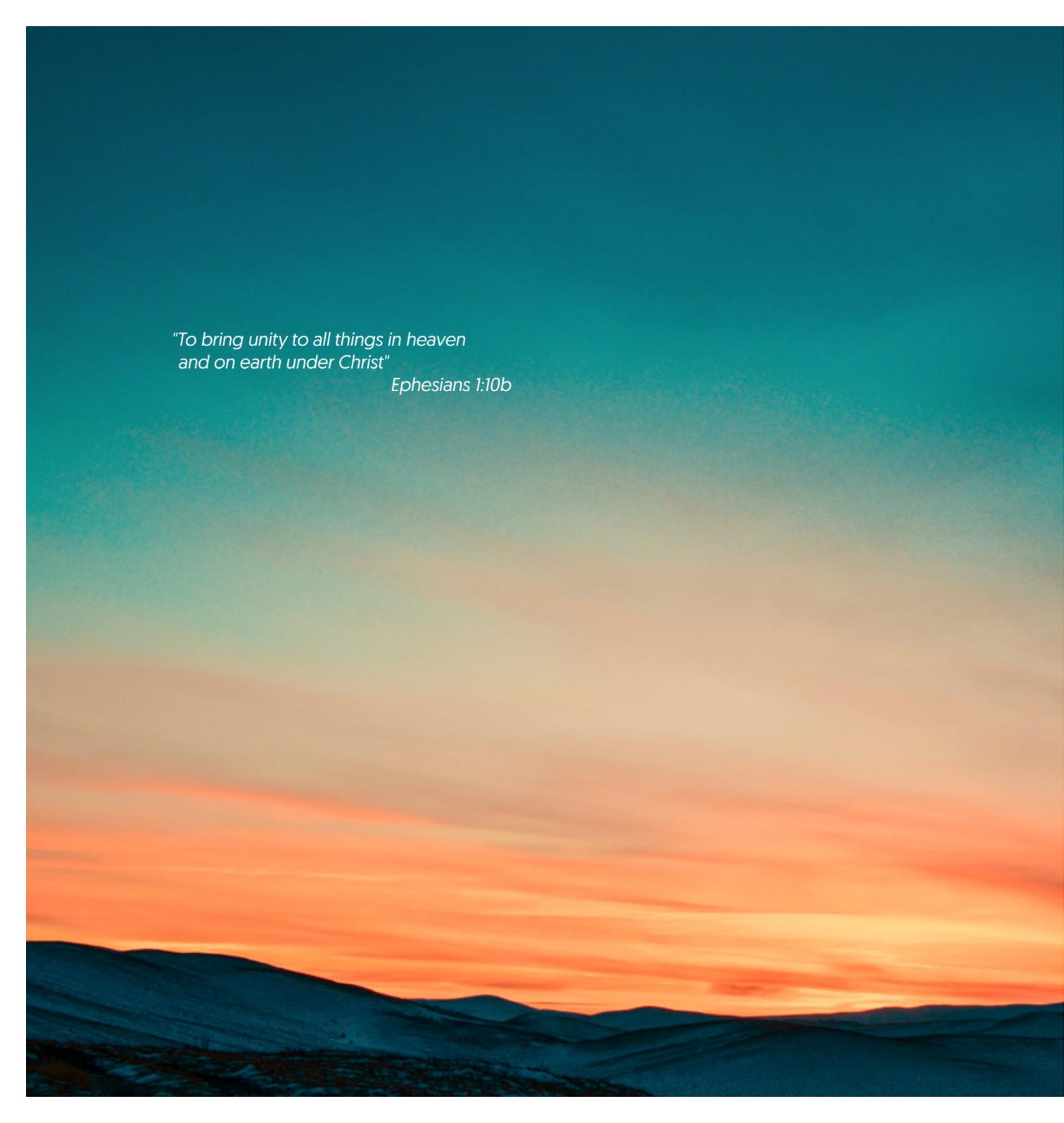


# OUR VISION & STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2019



mountpleasant  
baptist church



*"To bring unity to all things in heaven  
and on earth under Christ"*  
Ephesians 1:10b

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## Introduction

This document summarises Mount Pleasant Baptist Church's (MPBC) vision, mission and strategic direction; our understanding of what God is doing among us, in this place and through us in our city and beyond at this time.

## Our Vision

At the centre of everything that MPBC is (our being) and does (our ministry) is a person: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, **who is our vision**. We are part of His body in the world, participating in the Father's work by the Spirit.

While our vision is Jesus, we see a **large, diverse, city-wide** MPBC family that is:

- **Unified** in Jesus Christ and is an authentic expression of the body of Christ
- **Intergenerational** with people from every age and stage of life
- **International** with people from the nations of the world
- **Fruitful** and growing in faith, hope and love
- **Engaged and connected** with the community and day to day life of our city and with a heart for the world

Furthermore, we see a MPBC family that we can describe through **nine key lenses**:

1. **Prayer**; where prayer is pervasive.
2. **Corporate gatherings**; where people are responding to the gospel of Christ and are being equipped and built up in Christ.
3. **Pastoral care**; where there is love and care for one another.
4. **Community**; where there is a strong sense of family and inclusivity, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, social standing or abilities.
5. **Spiritual formation**; where people are maturing in Christ and growing in intimacy with God.
6. **Missional heart**; where people are outward looking in order to be a blessing to the city and beyond.
7. **Communication**; where there is quality communication within the church family and out into the city.
8. **Inter-church unity**; where we function as a meaningful part of the Lord's "the whole church."
9. **Operations**; where there is excellent administrative services and good stewardship of resources.



# OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement, which highlights the centrality of Jesus Christ, is:  
*“Following Jesus, permeating society, transforming lives ... together.”*

## Following Jesus

We are by God’s grace “following Jesus” so that we will ‘grow up into [union with] Him who is the Head, that is, Christ’ [Ephesians 4:15].

*We see a church in which -*

- Jesus Christ and his saving work on the cross are constantly proclaimed through word and song in all its gatherings because Christ is Head of his Church and the cross is the source of God’s grace;
- Our relationship with Jesus Christ is our supreme objective; Jesus Christ is our vision and He is the way, the truth and the life, and in Him we are in the Father;
- Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith [our leader] and we share in the life of God through Jesus.

## Permeating Society

We are “permeating society,” as Christ’s ambassadors, working with him ‘to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ’ [Ephesians 1:10], because God has given us ‘the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ’ [2 Corinthians 5:18-19].

*We see a church -*

- Taking the shared life of Christ to the whole world through believers who permeate society in their normal day to day lives in addition to those who are sent to various locations to herald God’s mission in Christ;
- Where every person is a minister of God’s grace so that we think less and less in terms of programs to achieve ministry goals, and more and more of each person fulfilling his or her calling; and
- Where people are being transformed into the image and likeness of Christ and the world sees the love we have for one another.

## Transforming Lives

We seek to engage with the person of the Spirit in his work of “transforming lives” so ‘that we may present everyone perfect [i.e., complete and mature] in [their union with] Christ’ [Col 1:28], doing this ‘with all his energy’ [Colossians 1:29].

*We see a church -*

- Working in cooperation with the Spirit who is always doing the Father’s will in reconciling creation and glorifying Jesus;
- Praying for and allowing to the fullest extent possible the Spirit to work in its midst and through its members; and
- Longing for each member to grow in their understanding and lived experience of Christ through the Spirit.

## Together

Finally, we work and worship “together” because Jesus prayed, ‘that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you’ [John 17:21], that we may ‘be brought to complete unity’ [John 17:23]; and because ‘we are members of his body’ [cf. 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:30].

*We see a church -*

- Where people know what it is to be part of the body of Christ with each person having a valuable and unique contribution to make to the proper functioning of the whole unto the glorification of God
- That fosters intergenerational, social class, gender and ethnic unity so that no gaps exist between any groups within its ranks; and
- That has unity as its watchword; a church where believers excel in faith, love and hope

## Strategic Direction and Intent

We are on a journey together following Jesus Christ in the dynamic of the Spirit, participating in what he is doing among us. Therefore our desire is to put in place a minimal level of organisational structure and plans consistent with the organic nature of church life.

There are nine key strategic areas that currently shape our direction and fulfil our strategic intent for 2019 and beyond. Our vision and mission along with these overarching **Strategic Areas** of focus have guided the development of our individual Ministry Plans for each **Ministry Area** and the supporting financial budget.

### Key Strategic Areas

The nine key overarching strategic areas of focus inform each of our Ministries. In each of these areas we have articulated our vision and the strategic actions which are set out on page 16 to 43. These nine areas are:

- Prayer
- Corporate Gatherings
- Pastoral Care
- Community: Intergenerational Culture and Diversity
- Spiritual Formation: Growth and Discipleship
- Missional Heart: Outward Looking
- Communication
- Inter Church Unity and Involvement
- Operational Support: Shared Services and Stewardship

### Key Ministry Areas

We have developed operational Ministry Plans to support the delivery of our vision, mission and strategic intent in our key Ministry Areas, being:

- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Young Adults Ministry
- Church Community Ministries
- Ministries to the Community
- Creative Ministries
- Missional Links Ministry
- Newcomers Ministry
- Coolbellup Campus Ministry
- College Ministry; Learning/Education
- Operational Support Services



### Internal and External

Our focus is on building one another up in Christ for the purpose of living out the goodness of the gospel in our everyday lives. So we are interested in the significance of both the **“gathered church”** and **“the church living in every sphere of society.”** The relationship between what happens within our walls [internally] and outside our walls [externally]:

- **Internally** - the building up and equipping of the body of Christ, each one of us and the church community as we gather for corporate worship, teaching, fellowship and personal transformation in Christian community.
- **Externally** - the outworking and the living out of who we are “in Christ” in our families, community, workplaces, city, nation and world. That we the church might impact our city for good.

## Key Overall Themes

This section sets out our key themes for the coming year. In light of our current position (where we are at) and the continuing nature of many of our existing ministries we believe the Lord is specifically speaking to us under four key themes which can be summarised as follows:

### 1 A City-wide Mindset:

#### “How can we bless the people of our City”

- Be a **welcoming, hospitable and generous church family** not only on Sundays but opening our hearts and our facilities to the community for various internally hosted events and external hire events during the week.
- Our heart is for **our facilities to be alive** with people and families connecting and experiencing the joy of life together.
- The reality that **“mission” is both local and international** and involves everyone in the church. Our intent is to engage and influence the culture of our city for benefit of all people.
- Provide **three significant equipping opportunities in 2019** with supporting preaching series, these being:
  1. Keys to Effective Prayer: Stage 2 (March)
  2. Worldviews – Christian and Secular (May) [Sexuality, Birth, Death, Identity & Social Media]
  3. Restore: Healing of Brokenness (August)
- Provide leadership to the **inaugural Movement Day** (May) in Perth designed to bring Christian leaders together in our city.
- **Invite churches and people from across the city** to events, courses and ministries we initiate that may be relevant to them.
- Continue to **promote our community café** in the facility to demonstrate hospitality for the people of our city.
- Strong **working personal relationships with the City of Melville** [Council] to understand where the “pain” is in our community.

### 2 Our Church Family

- Celebrate our **60th Anniversary**
- **Family focus** that encourages intergenerational and international oneness in Christ.
- The settling in of **two new Pastors to their roles**
  - » Dan Rodgers, Next Generations Pastor
  - » Michael Christie, Pastor [Vose Graduate]
- Connectedness and **integration of our ministries** avoiding stand-alone “silos.”
- **Provide pathways** for our children, youth and young adults to be an active part of the wider church community.
  - » **New direction for our Youth ministry** that actively reaches out into the local schools
  - » **Provide a diversity of “Connect” group formats** and opportunities to facilitate personal connection and discipleship.
  - » **Accountability groups** that move beyond mere “discussions” to being instrumental in deep transformation and spiritual growth.
  - » **New to Perth Group** that helps people to connect into the church and the city.
- **Biblical literacy** and the flexing of the twin muscles of conviction and compassion.
- Personal and church **transformation/spiritual formation** in Christ.

### 3 Campus Model

- Coolbellup Campus; Moving on into the next phase (now 3 years old) of the life of the community and further developing strategic outreach opportunities in the Coolbellup area, including the Schools Program, Indigenous Connections, Cooby Cares, Tumble Tots Playgroup and Carols in the Park.
- Continue to be open to church planting and active in looking at new campus opportunities as the Lord leads.

### 4 College

- Strategies to increase the number of people coming through our facility for various events and the number of students enrolling in our Creative Arts courses including Music and Media as well as our Christian Ministry and Theology courses.

## Church Board

Our church Board, comprising members from the church family, undertake a significant governance role. Members of the Board:

**Ross Hughes:** Chairman

**Susan Ashby**

**Simon Ford**

**Geff Gomez**

**Saskia Lopes**

**Hudson Lun:** Chair, Finance Committee

**Pierre Moore**

**Jacinda Planken**

**Nick Scott**

## Ministry Leaders

Our Ministry Leaders work together as a team in all we do and greatly value unity.

The team comprises:

**Nick Scott:** Senior Pastor

**Simon Ford:** Executive Pastor

**Graham Mabury:** Pastor to the Community

**Peter Christofides:** Coolbellup Campus Pastor

**Sue Ford:** Church Community Pastor

**Mike Miles:** Pastor

**Mick Stringer:** Head of College

**Dan Rodgers:** Next Generations Pastor

**Michael Yoo:** Youth Pastor

**Jonathan Anthony:** Young Adults & Creative Ministries Pastor

**Michael Christie:** Pastor

The team is supported by our Operations Manager, Pauline Hough.

# Ministry Team



**Peter Christofides**  
Pastor Coolbellup Campus



**Simon Ford**  
Executive Pastor



**Sue Ford**  
Church Community Pastor



**Nick Scott**  
Senior Pastor



**Graham Mabury**  
Pastor to the Community



**Michael Yoo**  
Youth Pastor



**Mick Stringer**  
Head of College



**Jonathan Anthony**  
Young Adults / Creative Ministries Pastor



**Dan Rodgers**  
Next Generations Pastor



**Michael Christie**  
Pastor



**Mike Miles**  
Pastor

Booragoon Campus



Coolbellup Campus

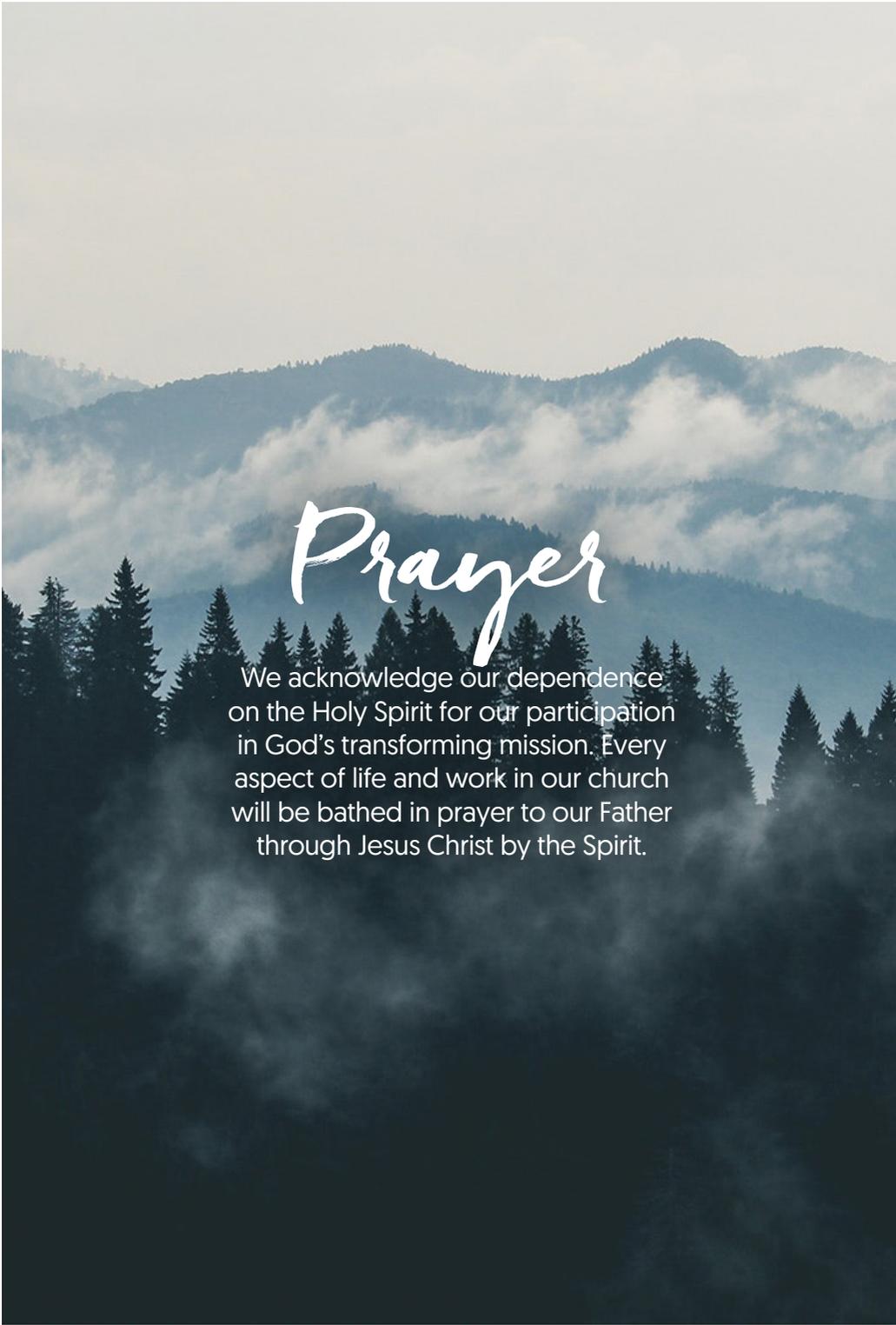


## OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS

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There are nine key overarching strategic areas of focus that have informed each Ministry Area. Set out on the following pages is a summary of our vision and strategic intent in each of our nine strategic areas.

1. Prayer
2. Corporate Gatherings
3. Pastoral Care
4. Community
5. Spiritual Formation
6. Missional Heart
7. Communication
8. Inter-Church Unity and Involvement
9. Operational Support



# Prayer

We acknowledge our dependence on the Holy Spirit for our participation in God's transforming mission. Every aspect of life and work in our church will be bathed in prayer to our Father through Jesus Christ by the Spirit.

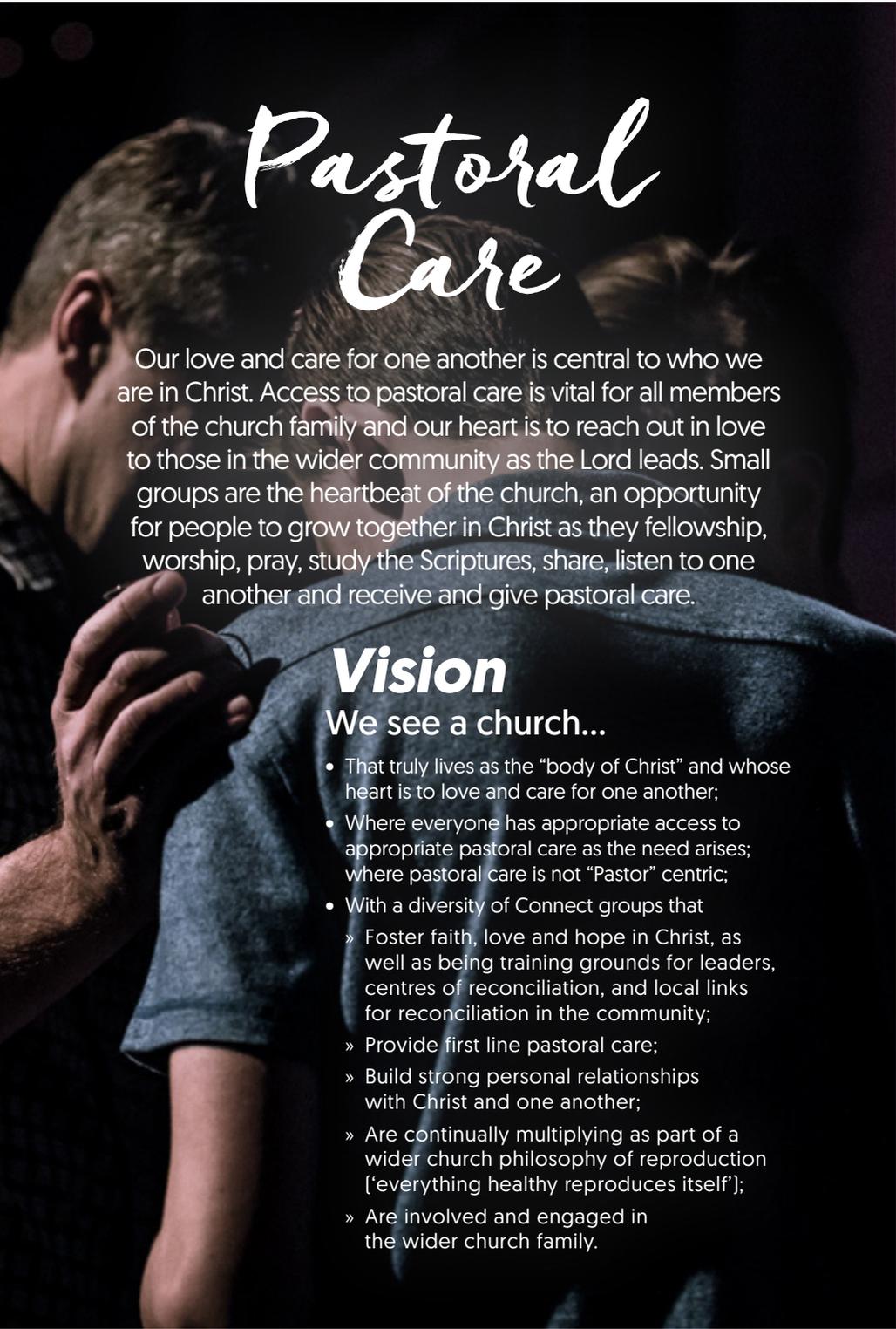
## **Vision**

### **We see a church...**

- Participating in God's transformation of the world through prayer;
- That fixes its eyes on Jesus Christ the Head of the Church and seeks through prayerful communication to walk with Him;
- Where prayer is pervasive; a church that recognises its dependence on God and therefore prays at every opportunity;
- That is naturally prayerful; one which breathes an atmosphere of prayer and encourages people in their prayer life and friendship with the Lord;
- Where people may receive prayer readily; praying for one another either with the anointing of oil or the laying on of hands, or without; and
- Filled with expectancy that prayer will be answered as people seek to pray according to the will of God, recognising we live in the "already" but "not yet" of the kingdom of God on earth.

## **Strategy**

- Maintain a prayer culture in all our various gatherings (corporate, business or otherwise).
- Continue and encourage corporate prayer gatherings through a new initiative where the Auditorium twice a month becomes "House of Prayer" between 6am and 9am.
- Coolbellup Campus hold two Corporate Prayer Meetings each week
- Conduct at least one weekend Silent Prayer Retreat each year.
- Encourage "Connect Groups" [Small Groups] across the church to make prayer a priority.
- Maintain and communicate a current list of prayer meetings and provide teaching on prayer through relevant preaching series or courses.
- Continue to provide opportunity for prayer after Sunday services and prayer requests through "Response Cards" [available at the Info Point and in the pocket at back of each Auditorium Chair] as well as through the website for pastors and others to pray.
- Regularly communicate answered prayer to the church family [Sundays and Weekly Communication] and provide opportunities for personal testimonies.
- Continue weekly "all staff" prayer meetings, Ministry Leaders prayer mornings and encourage monthly pastors' prayer retreats.
- Be connected with other city churches, specifically for prayer [City of Melville and City of Cockburn Pastors' Prayer group, Governor's Prayer Breakfast, One Heart/Geo-network Prayer groups, Movement Days].



# Pastoral Care

Our love and care for one another is central to who we are in Christ. Access to pastoral care is vital for all members of the church family and our heart is to reach out in love to those in the wider community as the Lord leads. Small groups are the heartbeat of the church, an opportunity for people to grow together in Christ as they fellowship, worship, pray, study the Scriptures, share, listen to one another and receive and give pastoral care.

## Vision

### We see a church...

- That truly lives as the “body of Christ” and whose heart is to love and care for one another;
- Where everyone has appropriate access to appropriate pastoral care as the need arises; where pastoral care is not “Pastor” centric;
- With a diversity of Connect groups that
  - » Foster faith, love and hope in Christ, as well as being training grounds for leaders, centres of reconciliation, and local links for reconciliation in the community;
  - » Provide first line pastoral care;
  - » Build strong personal relationships with Christ and one another;
  - » Are continually multiplying as part of a wider church philosophy of reproduction [‘everything healthy reproduces itself’];
  - » Are involved and engaged in the wider church family.

## Strategy

- Continue our Pastoral Care approach which focuses on relationship building in the context of community, Pastors/ Ministry leaders, Connect Group leaders as Pastoral Carers, Care Ministers supporting wider church community, Seniors’ Pastoral Carers, MP3s [Mount Pleasant Accountability Groups of 3 people of the same gender] and mentoring as required.
- Continue our “Care Ministry Model” involving both practical and spiritual support to better provide pastoral care across the church
- Involve the Prayer Team in prayer ministry in corporate gatherings.
- Provide Sunday “Connect Lunches” four times a year to help connect new comers into the life of the church.
- Continue weekly communication of key pastoral needs to our Care ministry team and Prayer team.
- Visitation and personal meeting in homes, hospitals and other locations involving pastors and others.
- Clearly communicate the nature and purpose of Connect groups and MP3s; what are they, where they can meet, their organic nature, where people ‘do life’ together.
  - » Develop Connect group options that make it easier for everyone to participate in some form of Connect Group
  - » Encourage and promote participation in Connect groups [Small groups] and MP3 accountability groups.
- » Active identification of potential Connect group leaders and the wise multiplying of existing Connect groups, promoting reproduction and multiplication
- » Conduct at least one Connect leaders’ training and development seminar each year.
- » Produce a Video Clip showcasing examples of the benefits of Connect groups and MP3s
- » Provide opportunities for all Connect groups to meet for “one-off” short Christian formation or discipleship courses during the year in our facility.
- » Provide at least one prepared series for all Connect groups across the church to participate each year – Discipleship 4 x 4.
- Provide training to help people identify their personal giftings and endeavour to give space for everyone to rightly exercise their gifts.
- Utilise the HUB’s email capability for Weekly Communication to all adults on current church news, prayer matters, family matters and upcoming events.
- Utilise the HUB to support pastoral care approach and communication of needs.



# Corporate Gatherings

Our Sunday gatherings are a critical part of our body life together. Their primary purpose is to meet with Christ; to edify and equip and to build up each other up to glorify God. These gatherings will also proclaim Christ to those not yet Christians.

## **Vision**

### **We see a church...**

- Whose corporate gatherings are occasions for the transforming work of the Spirit in the lives of those who attend;
- Where people do not neglect to meet together;
- In which the whole church family unites in praise to God through prayer, song, and the proclaimed gospel to enjoy and glorify God and to strengthen the mutual faith of other family members;
- Where the Scriptures are preached in a Christ-centred manner and the word of God finds “good ground” in the hearts of those who attend;
- Where Sunday gatherings model these purposes for other gatherings during the week; and
- Where prayer forms a crucial part of each gathering; including, corporate prayer and prayer for one another.

# Strategy

- To provide four Sunday services:
  - » Two Sunday morning services at our Booragoon facility [8:45am and 10:30am]
  - » One Sunday morning service at our Coolbellup campus [9am]
  - » One Sunday evening service at our Booragoon facility [5:30pm]
  - » Consider the introduction of a second service at our Coolbellup campus
- Continue to seek the Lord's leading for our Sunday evening gatherings at Booragoon and to provide opportunity for corporate prayer, worship, testimonies, visiting speakers, movies and teaching on key subjects relevant to young adults.
- Constantly pray for the Spirit's blessing upon and guidance in our Christ-centred gatherings.
- To be a welcoming and hospitable community; looking out for newcomers, visitors and one another before, during and after services.
  - » Welcome team to include families and range of age groups
- Continue to develop opportunities for people to connect pre and post service, including
  - » Connect Point booth to connect people into any aspect of the life of the church
  - » Foyer hospitality, including teas and coffees
  - » Information Point to provide information on all the activities of the church, including courses, events, flyers and registrations
- » Café to provide a relaxed setting to meet people
- » Sunday afternoon Connect Lunches, at least four annually for those new to the church.
- » Provide a Welcome booklet for newcomers
- To seek to best accommodate the transformational and equipping work of the Holy Spirit through word, song, prayer and offering.
- Provide opportunity on a monthly basis for the church family to participate at the Lord's table [Communion].
- Recognise the heritage of our church (recognising key events and anniversaries) and the historic "Church" calendar throughout the year, including Christmas, Easter, Pentecost Sunday and Global Day of Prayer.
- The word of God to be preached and taught from the Scriptures.
- Offer a diverse range of heartfelt and practical theology.
- Seek Spirit-led worship and praise to our God.
- Provide opportunities for people to 'accept Christ' and for regular baptisms in our Services.
- Continue to be sensitive to and encourage the singing of songs/hymns that cross generational boundaries, embrace the best over the history of the church, and declare good theology.
- Celebrate our diversity along with our unity in Christ through the development of our intergenerational and international approach to Sunday gatherings.
- Encourage 'active' participation in corporate gatherings.
- Involve a diversity of people, including children and a range of adults to participate in Sunday morning services throughout the year in a variety of ways, including bible reading, praying, singing and biblical story telling through drama, to bring different voices and enable greater involvement and representation across the church family.
- Take up opportunities for specific prayer initiatives on various occasions in our corporate gatherings, for example, the children praying for fathers and mothers on Father's/Mother's Day, responsive prayer, ANZAC day, New Year's prayer and thanksgiving.
- Nurture a culture of responsiveness and provide space and opportunity for personal prayer with pastors and others post services.
- Mobilise a team to support people coming to faith for the first time along with a pack of relevant material for new believers.
- Continue to provide opportunity for people where English is not their first language to meet during one Sunday service to provide language and cultural training to help integration into the wider church family; known as the International Group.
- Consider the implementation of language translation in our services through appropriate hearing devices.
- Provide Scripture reading in various languages from time to time.
- Take up opportunities to share what God is doing among us including answered prayer.
- Encourage families to continue to participate in Sunday morning services during school holiday time when MPK is not running.
- Continue to explore various ways of regularly praying for people and significant local, national and international matters in corporate gatherings.
- Streamline our Sunday announcements of upcoming events through use of video clips and including details in Together Sheets, weekly email communication, our website and social media.
- Provide seat pockets on the back of the auditorium chairs for easy access to HUB forms, Prayer Request Cards, Financial Giving Forms, Feedback Forms and similar.
- Organise community events on Sundays after Services, like Thanksgiving Sunday lunch, College Open Days and similar family events.





# Community

## **Intergenerational Culture and Diversity**

We seek a Christian community with a strong sense of family and inclusivity, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, social/economic standing or ability. Our heart is to know and experience the diversity of the body of Christ and recognise the immense value of families and generations doing life together.

## **Vision**

### **We see a church...**

- Dynamic in its diversity and unified in Christ by the Spirit; unity in diversity;
- Encouraging inter-generational activities; all age groups celebrating life together;
- Where mature/elder believers are imparting wisdom and experience to younger believers and younger believers are a source of joy and encouragement to older believers;
- Declaring the power of the gospel of Christ that brings together people from all nations and ethnic groups, all social/economic groups, all age groups and those with varying abilities (including those with disabilities);
- That is truly “family” comprising individual persons and families representative of all age bands where each treats the other as belonging to the same family of God, and where family principles motivate our leadership philosophy; and
- Where there is a culture of acceptance and reconciliation and that the walls between the church and society cease to exist, in the sense of the world being loved, accepted and welcomed.

# Strategy

- Develop our campus model approach of “one church” in two locations (Booragoon and Coolbellup) while allowing campuses to form their local identities.
  - Consider creative ways of integrating all aspects of church life and ministries; encouraging inclusivity, celebrating diversity and enabling intergenerational connection.
  - Continue to maintain strong age-based ministries while seeking to bring the community together at every opportunity.
  - Break down barriers across generations and encourage the development of intergenerational friendships and interdependency.
  - Continue to encourage a range of adult and mature Christian involvement in our age-based ministries.
  - Continue to develop leadership skills for those involved in aged based ministries.
  - Continue to actively promote a mentoring culture within the church and into the community which crosses the generations.
  - Provide relevant conversations in key areas of church life including:
    - » Baptismal classes
    - » New Members classes
  - Functions and activities like the College Open Days that celebrate family and community, Essence events (for Women) and Purpose, Inspiration, Encouragement (PIE) events (for Men).
  - Actively encourage intergenerational Special Interest groups and Connect groups to bring together people from all age groups where the seniors can be true elders to the younger generations and the younger generations can stimulate and encourage the older generations.
- For example, Christian formation classes, art classes, reading groups, cooking group, photography and craft.
- Continue to develop the connectedness of mothers with preschool children through our Tumble Tots Playgroups throughout the week.
  - Continue to develop ways for newcomers to find their place in the church family.
  - Identify opportunities to include and encourage community participation for those with disabilities and supporting families who have children with disabilities. For example, our Flourish group.
  - Encourage intergeneration hospitality in homes and in our facility, for example “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” and lunches after Sunday morning gatherings as well as providing an inviting and homely atmosphere for all events and occasions in our facility.
  - Support our newly established Infuse Cafe as a place of community connection providing a warm, inviting and hospitable place for both our church family and the wider community.
  - Provide a Safe Church environment supported by our Safe Church Policy and Guidelines.





# Spiritual Formation

## Growth and Discipleship

We are participants in God's transformational purposes in Christ. God's heart is to continue to transform us into His image as we grow and mature in Him; God is more interested in character and maturity than skills and performance. Our ministry is participation in God's work of transforming the community of faith until we are blameless at the coming of Christ; we are yet individually and corporately unfinished work living in the "already" but "not yet" of the kingdom of God.

## Vision

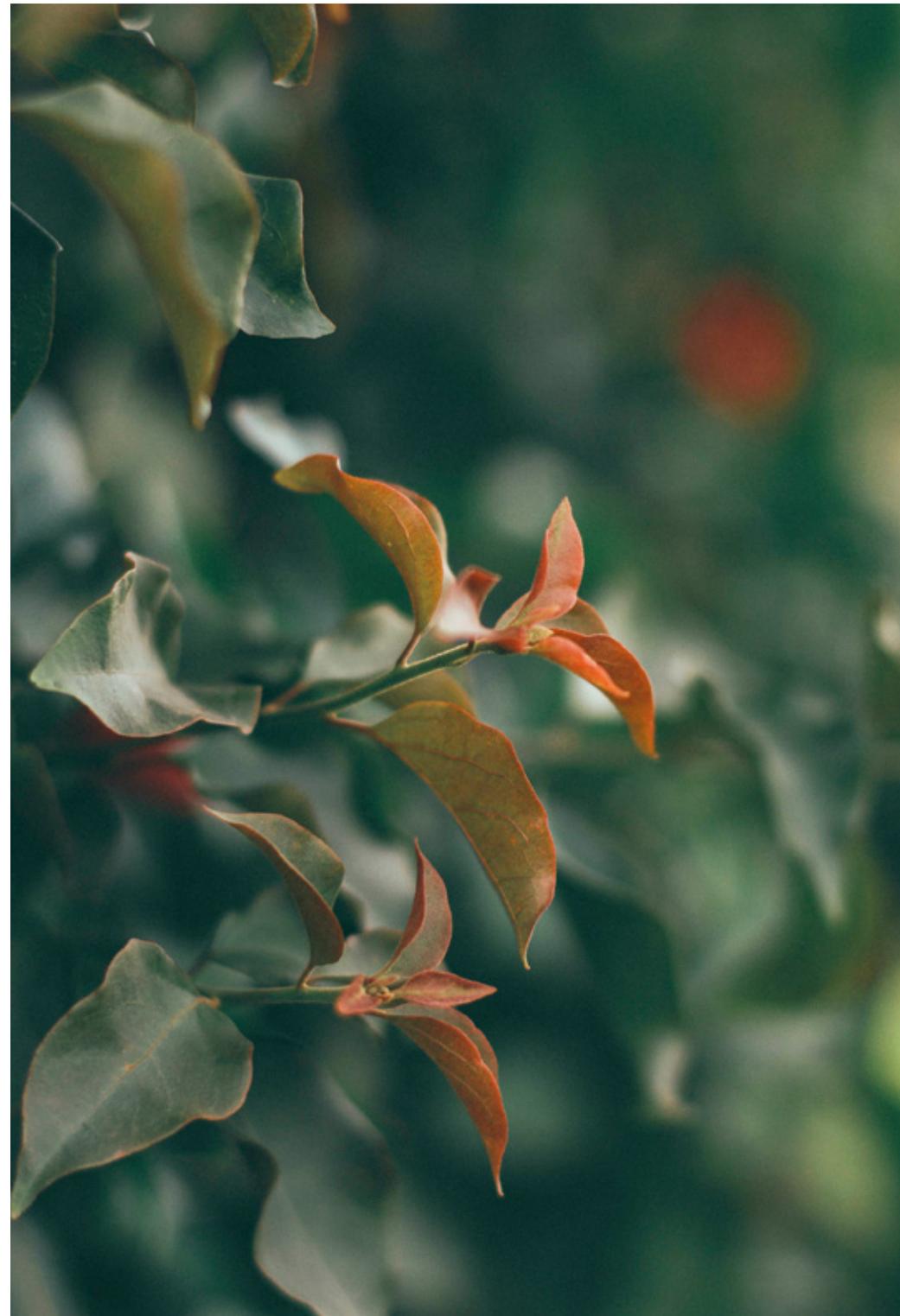
### We see a church...

- Being transformed into the image of Christ; both the church community and individual persons becoming more like Christ;
- Where spiritual formation and discipleship is more a culture than a programme; recognising that the Spirit of Christ is the motivator and enabler who is at work among us;
- With an eschatological orientation; that is, we have begun in Christ by the Spirit and are moving toward our completion by the Spirit;
- Growing in faith and maturity in Christ; working out our salvation for it is Christ who is at work in us;
- Walking and being led by the Spirit and so yielding the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; and
- That is a small local representation of the "body of Christ" where each person is involved in building up one another in the abundant life God through Christ is sharing with us; through right relatedness with God and one another each person's uniqueness is being realised along with our oneness in Christ.

## Strategy

- Continued focus on the gospel of Jesus Christ and seek to deepen our relationship with him and understanding of what he has accomplished for us.
- Strong biblical teaching on who we are in Christ and our participation in God's work of transforming the world; our identity as sons and daughters in Christ.
- Provide a range of Discipleship and Spiritual Formation courses, including Discipleship 4 X 4 [four topics over four weeks].
- Continue to encourage and support women and men gathering for Biblical teaching and prayer.
- Our College to be a hub for learning, relating and developing life skills to enable people to grow and be valuable, highly engaged participators in the wider community.
- Continue to provide biblical, theological and Christian teaching courses that provide a balanced diet of foundational Christian teaching.
- Our College to serve the church community and the wider community by providing learning and education in two main categories -
  - » Creative Arts to encourage and draw out the creative gifts God has given us, focusing on music, technical production and multimedia.
  - » Christian Formation in two sub-groups
    - › Christian Foundations; Bible studies and theological courses to enable people to grow in Christian maturity and their knowledge of the Scriptures.

- › Christian living and life skills courses in areas of family life, discovering and dealing with persistent personal issues and market-place engagement. The three key categories of externally developed courses on offer are:
  - Alpha – faith explored, preparing for marriage, marriage, raising kids, raising teens
  - Careforce Lifekeys – Search for Life, Valiant Man, Women to Women, Mastering your Money
  - Special Interest courses – like cooking, photography, barista skills, memoirs and literature.
- Explore the possibility of providing Christian Against Poverty (CAP) course in areas of Money Management and Recovery from addictions and abuse.
- Develop appropriate communication flyers along with a booklet of all courses available to the church family.
- Build strong interconnection between each ministry area of the church (including age-based ministries) in their use of the learning and education offerings of the College.
- Continue to provide valuable reading resources through our Book Shop and Library services.
- Encourage the development of one another through mature Christians modelling the life of faith to others and stimulating others in Christian ethics and behaviour, for example hospitality, friendship and deeds of kindness and generosity.
- Recognise the value of community and the reality that people depend on people to become whole persons; love reigning in the midst of community.
- Encourage involvement in accountability groups (known as MP3s) as a key avenue for personal transformation and relationship development.
- Seek to grow and reproduce Connect groups and Special Interest groups of all kinds, e.g., literature group, art group.
- Develop a culture where mature leaders are raising up other leaders.



# Missional Heart

## ***Outward Looking***

We seek to actively participate in God's mission to unify all creation in Christ, whether it be locally, nearby regions or globally, seeking always to empower and equip those whom God is calling to serve. Our heart is to go out into the world and share Christ's life with others that they may know and experience God for themselves.

## **Vision**

### **We see a church...**

- Where people live in and for Christ at home, in their neighbourhood and workplace, not just during Sunday gatherings; a church that lives and believes that its Christian witness starts at home and from there permeates society;
- Which lives its witness naturally and spontaneously and is not merely inward looking but outward looking and overflowing with love for the world;
- That is Missional and together cares for the world in words, works and provision of resources; recognising its involvement in the "Great Commission;"
- Which pursues mercy, justice and compassion in response to existing or sudden need particularly in the regions of its involvement; and
- That partners with those on the ground locally, nationally and globally in ways that go beyond finances and maximises their opportunities to serve as God leads them.

# Strategy

- Maintain a Missional Links strategy to provide a framework for the coordination of Missional activities across the church at a local, state, national and international level.
- Encourage engagement of the whole church community in the work and mission of the church; we are all called to mission.
- Continue to develop a strong local urban mission culture; our mission is to serve locally in our city and together to the nations.
- Ensuring our Sunday services are accessible to all who may be seeking the Lord.
- Reach out into the Coolbellup area through our Coolbellup campus.
- Be open to church plantings and the development of the church campus model as the Lord leads.
- Prayerfully look to the Lord's leading regarding our financial involvement across the spectrum of our Missional direction and involvement.
- Plan and coordinate short-term mission trips, particularly in areas where we have existing relationships and links including Africa, Cambodia, Malaysia, India, Indonesia and the North West of Australia.
- Continue to strengthen current relationships with our partners through our Missional Links network; working together in ways such as prayer, finance and networking resources to maximise effectiveness.
- Begin new links for Missional involvement as the Lord leads with a view to developing our involvement in working to end human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- Equip the church community to permeate and interact with the wider community in an organic way.
- Continue to establish our College as a vibrant and energetic environment where people from the wider community and the church meet and form meaningful relationships while engaging in relevant courses, seminars, events and exhibitions, including marketplace courses and conferences, art exhibitions and concerts.
- Continue to open our Facility to the community for external venue hire.
- Continue to develop a Play Group ministry that reaches out to the community and includes those from the church family.
- Support Infuse Cafe as a place to interface with the wider community.
- Review and develop effective ways to strengthen our links and ministry to the wider community.
- Continue existing ministries (including Food Parcels, Hands and Feet), and initiate creative new church projects that benefit our local community and promote these ministries within the church, encouraging involvement and reporting on activities.
- Continue to strengthen our relationships and partnerships with external organisations including, Aged Care facilities, City of Melville, City of Cockburn, High Schools, the Fremantle Street Doctor, Street Chaplains, Prison Fellowship and local women's refuges.
- Be ready to explore ways of responding to global disasters as they occur.





# Inter-Church Unity & Involvement

We highly value unity both within our local body and beyond to other churches. We will seek every opportunity to express this practically, serving together and encouraging one another.

The growth of healthy relationships in every aspect of church life will be our goal.

## **Vision**

### **We see a church...**

- Functioning as a meaningful part of “the whole church” in its fellowship, prayer and service;
- Working together with other local churches for kingdom objectives; a church that avoids self-sufficiency and isolation from the rest of Christ’s Body;
- Strengthening its association with the wider church while fully respecting our identity as a member church of the Baptist Churches of Western Australia;
- Utilising its resources and gifts to support and bless the wider church as opportunities arise.

## **Strategy**

- Open our church activities to welcome other churches, including involvement in College courses, music and other events and seminars.
- Actively support appropriate city-wide church events and various prayer initiatives (for example Movement Day, Franklin Graham event).
- Continue to nurture relationships with pastors in the city.
- Actively encourage and host weekly prayer gatherings for City of Melville pastors and promote greater connectivity between GeoNetworks around the city and state
- Actively engage in inter-church community projects such as the Christian response to human trafficking and partnership with the Centre for Public Christianity (John Dickson) and other visiting speakers and musicians.
- Continue to support the building of relationship with local churches.
- Provide teaching and mentoring support to other local churches as the Lord leads.
- Resource other smaller churches as the Lord leads.



# Communication

We recognise good healthy communication is essential to our effective functioning as a church community and we commit to continually updating and seeking to improve our communication channels and their effectiveness.

## Vision

We see a church...

- Communicating effectively, efficiently and regularly using all available communication channels appropriately; and
- Continually seeking to improve the way it communicates within the church family and to the wider community.

## Strategy

- Continue to implement our communication strategy for the church as a whole and for each significant church project.
- Maintain a quality online presence that communicates who we are and what's happening, involving of website and healthy social media communication to effectively reach our target community.
- Regular and timely communication through the most effective communication channel:
  - » Church gatherings
  - » Monthly Together Sheets
  - » Weekly church family emails
  - » Website and Social Media
  - » The HUB
  - » Community newsletters and newspapers
  - » Baptist Ministry Centre.
- Present our Sunday Announcements on coming events via Video Clips.
- Maintain our Church Information System known as the HUB to improve communication, pastoral care and the connecting of people in all the ministries and activities of the church.
  - » Establish an annual Sunday update process to maintain quality of information.
  - » Maximise our use of the functionality of HUB to support our work.
- Maintain an appropriately resourced and creative Communications Team to ensure quality and consistency in all our communication; including signage, badges, slides and other media.
- Improve and develop communication of ministry updates, intergenerational stories, testimonies and other notices within the context of Sunday Services.
- Maintain a well-resourced "Information Point" in the foyer for Sunday meetings.
- Continue the development of relevant information brochures, booklets, pamphlets and flyers to clearly communicate the activities of the Church and College.
- Continue building strong teamwork through quality communication among staff, including staff retreats, prayer times, staff meetings, ministry leaders' meetings.
- Continually incorporate the mission statement and our biblical foundation in all forms of verbal, written and visual communication as appropriate.

# Operational Support

## Shared Services and Stewardship

We recognise the importance of providing quality operational and administrative support to each ministry area for the efficient and effective operation of the church. Our back office and related systems and procedures are vital to ensuring the proper delivery of our ministries and the good stewardship of our resources.

## Vision

### We see a church...

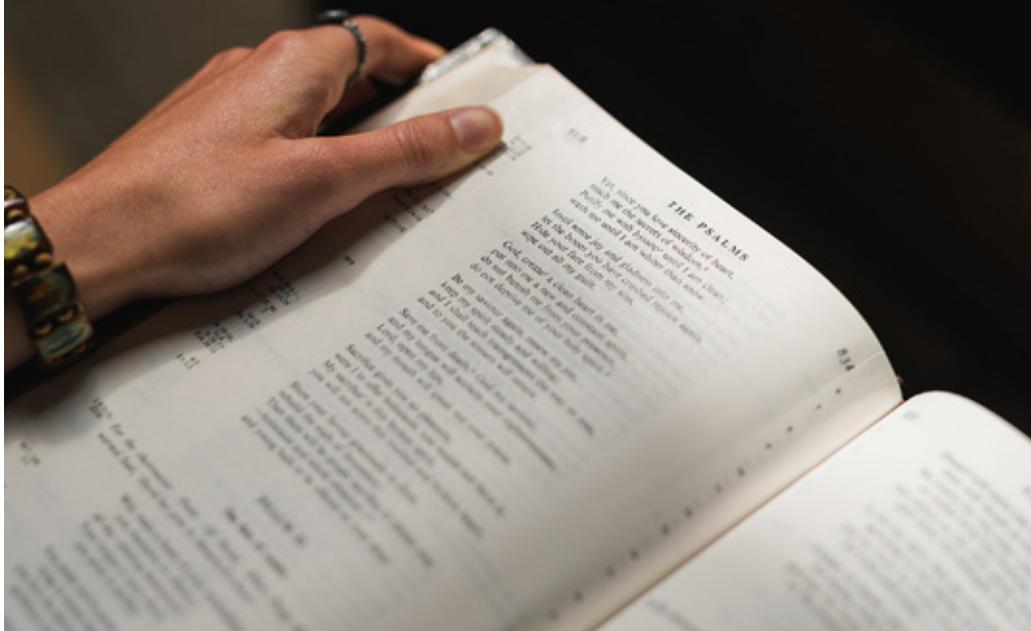
- In which the whole body of the church is rightly involved and engaged in the various activities and ministries of the church;
- Where staff are called by the lord to particular roles and are not primarily defined by role descriptions but by who they are as persons in Christ;
- In which staff value one another highly and work together as a genuine team, enjoying the highest possible team spirit; the hallmark being unity and quality relationships;
- Which is an organism with appropriate organisation; structured for optimum efficiency in a true spirit of servanthood and self-sacrifice wherein each staff member views their role as a ministry and not simply a job;
- Where staff are serving in an environment that is safe, well-remunerated and well supported spiritually, emotionally and physically; where each member is well-resourced and has readily available Godly leadership and team support;
- With a shared services team that provides support to all ministry areas, avoids duplication of effort and provides a consistent platform for financial and administrative activities;
- With quality support systems and procedures;
- Which handles all church resources with utmost wisdom and integrity recognising that we are stewards of God's gifts; and
- Operating safely and for the proper protection of the whole church family.

## Strategy

- Continue to provide quality "shared services" to support all ministry areas, including financial, administration, communication, information technology and systems, events management, facility management.
- Encourage a culture of serving and engagement in the work of Christ across the church community; an understanding of the "body of the Christ" and the blessing that flows from participation.
- Coordination of our Safe Church Policy and procedures to provide a safe and health environment for our coming together.
- Develop our "Church Community Information System" [the HUB], to facilitate connection and assist in enabling involvement in various ministries of the church.
- Maintain quality financial and operational systems, including an appropriate "Information Technology" environment.
- Maintain and on-goingly implement our "Facility Maintenance and Enhancement Plan" to keep our facility a warm, friendly and inviting space.
- Maintain sufficient, well-designed storage space across the facility that meets the requirements of all ministry areas.
- Maintain a register of all Special Capital Projects that are required to enhance our facility and support ministries.
- On-goingly review and improve all systems and procedures to better facilitate vision and strategy for future growth.

# Summary of Our Vision and Biblical Foundations

*In the light of the above, and that God's mission and the purpose of the cross is to reconcile all things in creation to God through Christ, we see a church...*



- Where Christ and his saving work on the cross are constantly proclaimed through word and song in all its gatherings because Christ is head of his church and the cross is the source of all God's grace. Further, since the cross is God's way of bringing about the union Jesus prayed for in John 17:20-23, we see a church which has as its priority each person's initial and ongoing relationship with Christ; a church that desires each member to grow in understanding and lived experience of Christ through the spirit. Therefore, we see a church where believers excel in faith, love and hope;
- That fosters intergenerational, class, gender and ethnic unity so that no apparent gaps exist between any groups within its ranks. Therefore, we see a church that has unity as its watchword. In addition, we see reconciliation extending to the whole world through believers who permeate society in their normal day to day lives as well as those who are sent to various locations to herald God's mission in Christ. Accordingly, we see a 'sending' church and a reproducing church;
- That works in cooperation with the Spirit who is always doing the Father's will in reconciling creation and glorifying Jesus. Consequently, we see a church that constantly prays for and allows to the fullest extent possible the Spirit to work in its midst and through its members. We see a church that is not afraid of the working of the Spirit or his gifts whilst always doing things 'decently and in order'. We also see the Spirit working powerfully in the growth of individual believers as each person is continually filled with the Spirit;
- In which small groups are its heart. Such groups will foster faith, love and hope, as well as being training grounds for leaders, centres of reconciliation, and local links for reconciliation in the community. We also see groups that are continually multiplying as part of a wider church philosophy of reproduction [i.e., 'Everything that is healthy reproduces']. In this regard, we see a church in which every person seeks to reproduce his or her role and each group seeks to reproduce itself. In addition, we see a church in which each member seeks to mentor or disciple another;
- Where every person is a minister of God's grace so that we think less and less in terms of programs to achieve ministry goals, and more and more of each person fulfilling his or her calling. We see, for example, each person caring for another rather than thinking that the pastoral care program will do this. Likewise, we see a church in which its members introduce people to Jesus rather than relying on various evangelistic programs. Whilst we see that programs will always be necessary, we anticipate a day when they will be minimal and almost unseen because every believer will function as a ministering person; and
- Described by the Apostle Paul as one 'without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless' [Ephesians 5:27] and that is finally presented as a spotless bride to Christ at his coming. At the same time, we recognise that many imperfections exist in the church and will exist until he comes, but we see progress, growth and change along the lines described above, 'with ever increasing glory' [2 Corinthians 3:17-18], until Jesus returns.

# BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

## *God's mission; the Church's mission; our mission*

- Jesus' 'high priestly' prayer clearly shows us God's ultimate purpose in Christ's coming, that is, the union of all people into his loving Fatherhood [John 17:21-23]
- The nature of the unity for which Jesus prayed is phenomenal. It is union with the Trinity [Father, Son and Spirit]; sharing in the life that Jesus has shared with his Father for all eternity
- John and Paul also clearly outlined the Father's purpose, speaking about the gathering of people into 'one fold' and all things in creation under Christ [John 10:16, 11:51-52; Ephesians 1:9-10; Colossians 1:19-20]
- The 'all things in creation' has a cosmic dimension indicating that all things that are in disorder are part of God's redemption goal. These also include physical, environmental and social dimensions [cf. Romans 8:18-25]
- The primary objective or 'project' of the Father is his church. His church, therefore, is not a means to an end but the actual project itself. Unity, therefore, is a crucial issue for the church [Ephesians 4:1-6] and love is the perfect bond of unity [Colossians 3:14]
- Consequently, union with Christ and engagement with others for the purpose of their union with Christ is our supreme objective, as Paul shows us [e.g., Colossians 1:28-29]
- Loving others with the mercy and compassion of Christ so that believers might maintain the unity of the Spirit and that unbelievers may be gathered into the Father's family is of crucial importance [Ephesians 4:11-16, 30-5:2]



## ***Biblical growth measures***

- Paul gauged church health and success on three enduring qualities; namely, faith, hope and love [1 Corinthians 13:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3; Colossians 1:3-5; Ephesians 1:15-18; 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4]; all gifts from God
- Faith is the devotion believers have for the Lord Jesus Christ; their relationship to him, their love for him, their confidence in him, and their focus on Jesus [Colossians 1:4, Ephesians 1:45; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:21]
- Love is expressed in the devotion believers have for God and one another; their encouragement, practical service, unity, affection, and prayers for one another [1 Thessalonians 3:11-12].
- This love includes, of course, love for all people, although the New Testament majors on the mutual love between believers [Galatians 6:10] that the world may see that the Father has sent His Son
- Hope centres upon the expectation believers have of the arrival of the kingdom in all its glory, justice, and fulfillment; that the complete work of redemption will be wholly realised [e.g., Romans 5:2-5; Galatians 5:2; Titus 2:13, 3:7]
- Such a hope is evidenced by detachment from materialism and this world's system, preferring occupation with kingdom interests, and by serenity in trial and death. Hope is manifested in stability, steadfastness, faithfulness and assurance while living in the world [1 Timothy 6:17]
- Faith, hope and love, being the core qualities of church health and life, produce different a unique approach ministry. For example, these qualities will become primary subjects of preaching, teaching and prayer [cf. Ephesians 3:16-20], as well as practical action that reaches out in love to the world
- As churches mature in faith, hope and love, leaders will recognise the fruit, gauging their presence and development [1 Thessalonians 1:1-3]
- All fruit is the outcome of abiding in Christ and is ultimately the fruit of the Spirit of Christ [John 15:1-5; Galatians 5:22-23]
- Since we are being transformed into the image and likeness of Christ, growth is predominately a matter of character formation.

Following Jesus, permeating  
society and transforming lives  
*together*



**mountpleasant**  
baptist church