

THE WAY FORWARD

**The Campus Church
Strategic Plan**



INTRODUCTION

GOVERNING BOARD OF ELDERS

IF IT IS OUR DESIRE AS INDIVIDUAL FOLLOWERS OF THE LORD JESUS TO GROW DEEPER IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND TO SEE OTHERS COME TO FAITH, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL ULTIMATELY BRING GLORY TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

It stands to reason then, if this is true for us as individuals it should be true as a body of believers at The Campus Church. In other words, we want to fulfill the Great Commission to “go and make disciples of all nations.” The challenge is, how do we accomplish this and how do we know if we’re being successful and therefore pleasing our Lord?

‘The Way Forward – The Campus Church Strategic Plan’, is a written blueprint to help us stay on track as a church and give us a tangible means to see results and actually measure their effectiveness. We want to make sure that while we’re busy ‘doing church’, we are also making an impact and a positive contribution to the advancement of The Kingdom of Heaven. We don’t want to lose sight of where we are going and why are we doing the various ministry activities at The Campus.

A strategic plan should help define what is unique about an organization creating a distinctive path to follow. It should clearly state what the vision is moving forward and what makes the organization different from others who may be trying to achieve many of the same goals and objectives. ‘The Way Forward’ is our response to having a strategic plan that helps define who we are at The Campus Church.

It’s our prayer and desire as a church leadership that everyone associated with The Campus catches our vision and dreams big dreams about spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout our communities and beyond. We hope that you will engage with us as we strive to make ‘The Name above all Names’ known to as many as possible – “Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ!”



THE IMPORTANCE OF A CLEAR VISION



CLEAR THINKING – CLEAR FUTURE! HAVING A CLEAR VISION FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY IS A STRONG BIBLICAL CONCEPT. WHEN WE EXAMINE KEY BIBLICAL CHARACTERS, WE OFTEN SEE THAT GOD HAD PLACED A BURNING PASSION (VISION) IN THE HEARTS OF HIS PEOPLE.

The vision of Moses was to lead Israel out of the bondage of Egypt into the promised land. The vision of Nehemiah was to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Esther's vision was to protect and preserve the nation of Israel in a complex political environment. Solomon's vision was to build the temple. The apostle Peter's vision was to the church within a Jewish context. The apostle Paul's vision was to plant churches among the Gentile world. God has an agenda for both individuals and for churches. It is critical that every individual and church prayerfully discerns God's unique calling.

Proverbs 29:18 tells us "Where there is no vision the people perish". Literally this verse reads that, where there is no revelation, the people run wild as if out of control (without restraint). Having a clear sense of God's leading is crucial for God's people. Eugene Peterson paraphrases Proverbs 29:18 this way; "If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what He reveals, they are most blessed." As a church, it is important for us to attend to what God reveals to us and discern His call. "Having a clear sense of God's leading is crucial for God's people."

Through staff and board meetings, as well as retreats, the leadership of The Campus has prayerfully discerned what next steps they feel God desires for the church. We have attempted to put our sense of God's vision in writing so that all of us can engage in God's purpose for The Campus Church. This is a humble human effort, but, Lord willing, will move us closer to being the kind of church God wants us to be. We feel The Way Forward document is bold, clear and compelling, but it will require all of us to keep in step with the Spirit of God as He moves us closer to His agenda. It is our hope that you understand and resonate with where we feel God is taking us and how He wants us to organize ourselves to accomplish His mission for us. Our prayer is that every person will have the eyes of faith, to see what God is doing and to join in as they are gifted and able. For the greatest cause ever!

BIBLICAL CORE VALUES

Key Biblical Truths That Drive Our Ministry

Truth: The Bible is inerrant and our first and final authority for life. Truth matters. We are a learning community that values the creative and consistent teaching of God's word.

Inclusion: Every person in every phase and stage of life is useful, valued by God, and valued by us. All are invited to experience the grace extended to us through Jesus Christ. All are valued and created in His image. Life is hard. It's better together.

Prayer: We move forward in ministry on our knees. We pray first and plan second, and continue to pray as we engage in God's mission for us.

Mission: The church exists for mission. It's about going out, not just reaching out. Those distant from Christ really matter to Him and ought to really matter to us.

Worship: We see all of life as an expression of worship. We highly value both attitudes and actions of servanthood. We worship the Lord in the church through financial giving as well as through practicing our spiritual gifts. We worship the Lord through service in the community as an expression of God's reign and His Kingdom.



CULTURAL CORE VALUES

**Key Principles That Guide How
We Do Ministry**



Radical Love: Regardless of race, gender, age, orientation, background or economic standing, we value all people and strive to meet their needs as Jesus did.

Disciple Making: We love people so much that we are dissatisfied to see them stay the same. We want to see people go forward in their relationship with Jesus and we believe this is done best in community. We believe being a disciple assumes involvement in God's mission

Resisting Mediocrity: We believe that excellence honours God and inspires people. We are never satisfied with the status quo, but always wanting to present our very best to the Lord and to others.

Grace Driven: We put relationships before results and conversations before criticism. Unity is important. We forgive and restore. We believe everyone is broken and in need of healing. We will always err on the side of grace.

Shameless Audacity: Taking risks honours God and stretches our faith. Our calling outweighs our comfort.



PURPOSE

W H Y W E E X I S T

LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND PEOPLE

The purpose of The Campus Church is to love and serve God and people. We do this through making fully devoted disciples of Jesus, who reflect Him in both His character and His mission



DISCIPLE-MAKING:

Matthew 28:18-20 gives God's people their Kingdom assignment – to make disciples of all nations. This is called 'The Great Commission'. A disciple is a follower of Jesus who becomes more and more like Jesus, both in terms of their character development and their response to Jesus' missional priorities.

VISION

C R E A T I N G
C O N N E C T E D
C O M M U N I T I E S O F
C H R I S T - F O L L O W E R S

The Campus Church is a community of Christ-followers that matures and multiplies its influence through developing, resourcing and launching interdependent communities to reach the York/Simcoe Region with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



COMMUNITY

We are to be in authentic community with each other as we practice expressing grace to one another and seek to express the Gospel in our wider communities. We are stronger together.

CHRIST FOLLOWERS

Our goal is to be fully devoted followers of Jesus reflecting Him in both His character traits and missional priorities.

MATURES

Individually and collectively, we desire to become all that God wants us to be.

MULTIPLES

If we want to see The Great Commission fulfilled in York/Simcoe it will require us to think in terms of multiplication, not addition.

INFLUENCE

As we are effective in our spheres of responsibility, God may expand our sphere of influence. We are open to being used by Him as He leads

DEVELOPING

God is at work and others may want to partner in mission with us

LAUNCHING

We have the opportunity to organize, congregate and propel people into building new communities of faith that, Lord willing, will live on long after we have left this world.

INTERDEPENDENT

The desire of Jesus is that His followers are known by their unity in life and purpose.

GOSPEL

The Good News of the Kingdom of God needs to be lovingly communicated, in word and deed, to all within our sphere of influence. Jesus saves, redeems and restores. We are ambassadors of His Gospel.

EVANGELISTIC IMPACT

Studies show that one of the most effective means of reaching people for Jesus is through the planting of new congregations.

SPIRITUAL DARKNESS OF ONTARIO

By and large the church has been relegated in Ontario as a small special interest group, rather than those who bring Good News.

SUSTAINABLE

One of the most effective means of reaching people in a sustainable way is through the establishment of new congregations. A healthy church can continue to be an effective lighthouse for Jesus for generations.

Our Discipleship Path

We desire to build a "discipling ministry" - the kind of ministry that can minister to people at whatever level of spiritual interest they are at.

Jesus had four distinct challenges he gave people which helped those distant from God to become fully devoted followers. We can do the same! Where do you see yourself?

Our desire is to help people move through the process of discipleship. We want to have people, programs, and systems in place to help people. We desire to hold these disciple-making priorities in balance so that we can have an effective ministry to people at whatever level of spiritual interest they are.



Challenges Given by Jesus

- Explore- Chair 1
Explore who Jesus is and accept Him as a Saviour. Explore through relationships, programs, and activities.
John 1:39, John 1:46, John 4:29
- Encounter- Chair 2
Encounter Him as Lord. Encounter through relationships, programs, and activities.
John 10:27, Matthew 9:16-24, Luke 9:59
- Engage- Chair 3
Engage with Him in mission. Engage through relationships, programs, and activities.
Matthew 9:37-38, Luke 10:2, Mark 1:17
- Expand- Chair 4
Expand our influence for the Gospel. Expand through relationships, programs and activities.
John 15:8-16, John 17:18

Family Ministry Key Result Areas

(How we organize our ministry to fulfill our calling)

Adult Discipleship-Explore, Encounter, Engage, Expand

Children's Discipleship-Explore, Encounter, Engage, Expand

Youth Discipleship-Explore, Encounter, Engage, Expand

Worship

We see balanced systems and procedures in place to help all adults:

We see balanced systems and procedures in place to help children, and those ministering to them to:

We see balanced systems and procedures in place to help youth, and those ministering to them to:

We see balanced systems and procedures in place to help everyone:

- Explore who Jesus is
- Encounter Him in Worship and the Word.
- Engage in God's Mission by using their gifts in the church as well as developing personal strategies to reach people outside of the church
- Expand their leadership influence resulting in greater kingdom impact.

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- Worship God in Spirit and in Truth
- Experience distraction free worship
- Connect with God in meaningful ways
- Celebrate key events within the Christian Calendar



Facilitating Key Result Areas

Administration/ Communication and Finance

We see balanced systems and procedures in place to:

- Administrate the church with excellence
- Ensure our faith and ministry community is well informed with dynamic communication strategies.
- Help our Church in responsible financial stewardship
- Develop Administrative systems that help people identify their spiritual gifts and find a place to serve
- Develop administrative systems that promote and engage people into partnership.

New Site Development and Integration

We see balanced systems and procedures in place to:

- Identify new communities in need of ministry
- Train and mobilize people to minister in new communities
- Raise funding to support the creation of new campus sites and ministries
- Launch ministries in an effective and sustained way
- Work with all campus churches in the accomplishment of this vision

Local and Global Missions

We see balanced systems and procedures in place to:

- Identify missions and missionaries we desire to support
- Elevate the profile of local and global missions and missionaries
- Raise financial support for missions and missionaries
- Educate the congregation on the priority of local and global missions

Connection and Care

We see balanced systems and procedures in place to:

- Encourage connection and hospitality within the church community
- Meet the needs of those who are going through challenging times.
- Provide support for those in the community who are in need.
- Help people work through challenging life issues

Having a clear strategic plan is a responsible thing for any faith community. We do our best to listen to the voice of God and organize ourselves to accomplish what we feel God is calling us to. Yet, at the same time, it is so important for documents like this to be flexible. Only God knows the beginning from the end. We want to be open to any mid-course corrections God would have for us. Our desire is to give the Spirit of God lots of room to modify our plans and direction and move us as a congregation on to His agenda. Our intent is to implement this strategic approach and then evaluate its effectiveness for us as a church. No doubt, year by year, we will be making adjustments that will improve our effectiveness in carrying out God's vision for The Campus.



Conclusion

THERE'S A LOT TO BE SAID FOR CLARITY! A CLEAR AND CONCISE VISION FOR MINISTRY GIVES A CONGREGATION DISCIPLINE, BUT ALSO AN EXCITING DYNAMIC.

Can you picture in your mind's eye The Campus Church a few years from now? Can you envision new Campus congregations popping up in places like King, Stouffville, Queensville, Sharon, Mount Albert, Schomberg and other places of need? Can you see thousands of families being transformed by the Good News of Jesus Christ? Can you imagine baptismal services where hundreds of people would testify to their thankfulness to God for using The Campus in reaching them in their neighbourhoods with the gospel? Can you see these new believers meeting with others for meaningful prayer, worship and Bible study and becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus? Can you imagine the social impact when these new believers in these communities begin to bring Kingdom values into their neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces, soccer fields and hockey arenas?

The church exists for God's mission of redeeming, renewing and restoring all people, places and things. As we discover where God is working and join with Him in His ministry our lives will be enriched beyond our wildest dreams. Will you join us in the greatest cause ever? Will you allow God to use you personally, and us collectively, to make an eternal difference in the lives of people across the York/Simcoe area? In John 17:4, Jesus prays to our Father in Heaven and says; "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you called me to do." What was that work? It was the work of reaching lost people and helping them to become dedicated followers of Christ. Likewise, our desire is to give God glory, by making fully devoted disciples of Jesus, who reflect Him in both His character and His mission. This is how we too can bring God the glory He deserves.