

North Grenville Community Church

Strategic Plan for a Missional Church

2011



What it mean to be the people of God in North Grenville

MISSION	<i>To be a loving and health community reaching others by knowing, loving and serving God.</i>
VISION	<i>To live and love like Jesus</i>

Overarching Strategy/Philosophy

This Strategic Plan is intended to help guide the leaders and members of North Grenville Community Church towards a missional model of church – by this we mean the full expression of God’s mission (Missio Dei). We understand church to mean the people of God and we believe that we are the called-out ones, the bearers of His presence in the world. We believe that “missional” is the full expression of the church of Christ not simply an activity of the church. The church participates in the mission of God, it continues the mission of Christ, and bears the witness of the Spirit.

"Jesus told us to go into all the world and be his ambassadors, but many churches today have inadvertently changed the "go and be" command to a "come and see" appeal. We have grown attached to buildings, programs, staff and a wide variety of goods and services designed to attract and entertain people.

"Missional" is a helpful term used to describe what happens when you and I replace the "come to us" invitations with a "go to them" life; a life where "the way of Jesus" informs and radically transforms our existence to one wholly focused on sacrificially living for him and others and where we adopt a missionary stance in relation to our culture. It speaks of the very nature of the Jesus follower."

Rick Meigs - What is Missional – A Short Answer

The missional church is evangelistic and faithfully proclaims the gospel through word *and* deed. Words alone are not sufficient; how the gospel is embodied in our community and service is as important as what we say. As such we believe we should be moving:

- From internal focus to external focus
- From church focus to kingdom focus
- From program focus to people focus

John 20:21 “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

Long-term Strategic Goals

1. Through consistent hearing, study and application of the Word of God we seek to know God; to understand His purposes and answer the call to proclaim the Good News.
2. To be a community with a healthy spiritual core that loves God and each other through loving, transparent, and trusting relationships.
3. Like Jesus we seek to enact the gospel as a community on mission to the world.

GOAL ONE
Know God

(HEAD)

Through consistent hearing, study and application of the Word of God we seek to know God; to understand His purposes and answer the call to proclaim the Good News.

Scriptural Foundation

"Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law."

Deuteronomy 31:12

"Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands."

Psalms 119:73

"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

Philippians 4:9

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Psalms 119:11

"Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added until you".

Matthew 6:33

Strategic Context

The Bible is the inspired Word of God and therefore is our guide (Sola Scriptura) in faith and in life. As a missional church we desire to feed deeply on the scriptures throughout the week and not just on Sunday.

We believe that God is the missional God (Missio Dei) and wanting to participate in His mission we need the scope of His heart for mission requiring a depth of intimacy with God. Knowing God and knowing what and why we believe is a fundamental precept of Christian maturity. We therefore are concerned with the making of disciples.

To be a missional church that goes out into the world as the hands and feet of Jesus we must first understand who God is and what the call on our lives looks like. There is an individual component and a corporate component (for the church family as a whole). As a body we believe that consistent preaching of the Word is to be married with individual study and application and that it is the duty and responsibility of the church to grow disciples of Jesus Christ.

Strategic Challenges

- Not everyone is a biblical scholar and not all feel they are able or willing to study in an intentional way. We want to encourage individual's taking responsibility for their own spiritual growth.
- The challenge is to meet our brothers and sisters where they are in their walk and provide help to grow in a manner that engages them and spurs them on.
- While thematic teaching has a place we want to ensure our choices are biblically sound, culturally relevant and missionally oriented.

Evidence of success

1. 40% + of church family involved in care or accountability groups. Goal would be yearly increase.
2. 10% of church family trained as bible instructors.
3. Testimonial evidence of increased confidence in sharing our faith.
4. Effective and active mentoring program that engages the believer and produces individuals wanting to disciple others
5. Evidence of understanding and practice of biblical stewardship in the body (God owns it all and we are His caretakers) – tithing is one indicator – generosity towards others in the body and outside is another.
6. Not simply how effective we are with our mission, but how faithful we are to our God.

Key Strategies

1. Create and implement ongoing Bible teacher training program.
2. Develop training in sharing our faith.
3. Create vehicles to showcase testimonies.
4. Develop a one-on-one mentoring program for both new believers and others interested.
5. Develop a stewardship strategy to help us move from living life as the world calls us to live our lives with a Biblical world view – a lifestyle of generosity.

Continue

- Care Group Ministry
- Continue with one-to-one encouragers (should be a natural increase in this)
- Kids Worship
- Strategic Preaching

New focus/emphasis

- Align all of our activities around the mission of God (the *Missio Dei* or "the sending of God).
- 100% of new believers involved in mentoring relationship.

Additional Resources Required

GOAL TWO
Love God
and each other

(HEART)

To be a community with a healthy spiritual core that loves God and each other through loving, transparent, and trusting relationships.

Scriptural Foundation

"The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control"
Galatians 5:22-23

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
John 13:35

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength (... and love your neighbour as yourself"
Deuteronomy 6:5 (Luke 10:27)

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective".
James 5:16

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
Romans 12:11-13

Strategic Context

Mission is done in community. The missional church empowers through relationship. Friendships that are real and lasting are the cornerstones of community. We believe that it is within a community that Christians grow and are transformed. Our vision *to live and love like Jesus* will first and foremost be evidenced in our relationships with each other. Jesus modelled the importance of relationships with people. We want to see ourselves as a community with a set of beliefs, values and behaviours that are fundamentally different from the culture around us, rooted in the character of Jesus.

Our goal is less about how many people attend our ministry as it is about how many people we have equipped for ministry. It is not simply how many unbelievers we bring into the community of faith, but how many 'believers' we help experience healthy community. We understand community as a natural product of a healthy body.

Strategic Challenges

- Getting beyond superficial Sunday morning "smiley, smiley" to grow deeper relationships.
- People with difficulties tend to turn away from the church due to embarrassment.

- Providing real help to hurting people in a confidential, understanding and respectful way.

Evidence of Success

1. NCD results every 2 years indicate positive growth in spiritual health of the body.
2. Families and individuals in crisis in our community turn to the church for help and support and care – we are seen as a safe place to go in crises and share burdens.
3. Hands-on, active prayer support during corporate gatherings.
4. Our church family members want to explore spiritual gifts – it is talked about.
5. Spiritual gifts and talents being used to impact our community (testimonial sharing)
6. Within the greater community we are known less as “what” and more as “who”

Key Strategies

- Encourage active participation in worship, prayer and fellowship.
- Help our church family discover their God-given spiritual gifts, conduct an inventory and create a catalogue of giftings and encourage the use of those in Kingdom work.
- Develop an active “helping” ministry. (i.e partnering with hospice in developing and implementing grief kit – meals for shut-ins etc.)
- Create opportunities for nurturing -relationships in the body.

Continue

- With flowers/cards to the sick and bereaved as well as practical help such as food (Pastoral Care)
- Benevolent Funds
- Care Groups
- Pastoral Care activities

New focus/emphasis

- We want to be a community where all members are involved in learning "the way of Jesus." Spiritual development is an expectation.
- We will help people discover and develop their spiritual gifts and will rely on gifted people for ministry not just talented people.
- We will be a healing community where people carry each other's burdens and help restore gently.
- If we have not already done so, defining values and behaviours might be helpful.

Additional Resources Required

GOAL THREE
Serve God's Kingdom

(FEET)

*Like Jesus we seek to enact the gospel as a
community on mission to the world.*

Scriptural Foundation

"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:16

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Romans 10:14-15

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Matthew 25:31-46

Strategic Context

As the missional church we believe in “the priesthood of all believers” (1 Peter. 2: 9) and empowering people to fulfill their God given call; empowering all people wherever they are.

It is not how many people come to our church services, but how many people our church serves. We want to measure our success as a church not by our numbers but by the spiritual health of the body manifest by the number of people experiencing God in the community through the sharing of good news and the doing of good deeds.

We want to be a missional community of people being trained and equipped to live among the world as missionaries.

Strategic Challenges

- We want to help our people move from building relationships solely with those inside the church to building more relationships with those outside the church.
- Getting people involved without overwhelming them. Time is an issue for many.
- Helping people understanding where community is and what the mission of God incorporates.

Evidence of Success

1. Intentional community projects involving whole church body.
2. Community social agencies call on NGCCFM for help (police, schools, hospitals etc)
3. Increased involvement by church family in existing community projects.
4. Partnerships with social agencies for practical help for local families.
5. Core tithe to our community.
6. Intentional connection to global mission work.

Key Strategies

- Increasingly move our resources towards externally focused causes in our community, our nation and the world.
- Create accountability and reporting processes for community involvement.
- Define “core tithing” to our community – time, talent, treasure, touch (influence)
- Create a process for intentional interaction with community agencies (how do we take the pulse of our community?)

Continue

- Hospice
- Advertising for other "agencies" i.e using sign for promoting good things going on the community
- Building relationships in the Community
- Looking for joint ventures (i.e: Dandelion Festival)

New focus/emphasis

1. Not simply how many people we bring into the kingdom, but how much of the kingdom we bring to the community.

2. We will also DO different things such as share a meal or conduct community projects to demonstrate that the church can take on different forms.

Additional Resources Required