

## Mission and Vision Statements – Danger and Necessity

RCC Vision Dinner – January 2019

### Our Mission (*WHY?*):

To love people and places to life, from Polk County, with gospel words and gospel works.

### Our Vision (*WHAT?*):

**GOSPEL** – spiritual power, *not legalism or relativism*, for continual personal and corporate renewal

**CITY** – faithful presence, *not withdrawal or assimilation*, for the flourishing of our city

**MOVEMENT** – revival, *not institutionalism or anti-institutionalism*, for the glory of God

We desire and pray for a work of the Holy Spirit among us that results in an increasing number of people who are 1) *vitaly connected to Jesus and His people* through personal and corporate spiritual practices including: Community Bible reading , prayer, corporate worship, Community Group, peace-making, etc.; 2) *boldly sharing their faith* by living missionally towards unbelievers in the places where they work, live and play ; and 3) *faithfully present in the city* through the practices of blessing, hospitality and volunteerism that intersects with real spiritual and physical need.

### Our Values (*HOW?*):

**Vital and Earnest** – Spirit & truth

**Humility** – small, slow, simple

**Friendship** – relational not institutional

**Stability** – long-term, local ministry

**Outward-faced** – expecting non-Christians

**Bottom-up not top-down** – the saints doing ministry

**Sending not gathering** – measuring success by leaders sent

**Kingdom** – bigger than just one church

### Our Strategies:

1. The Gospel is our curriculum.
2. We will adopt city-loving models of ministry – in word and deed.
3. We will minimize programs for the sake of multiplication.

### Our 5-Year Plan:

**Revival**

**(New) Leaders**

**2/500**

**Hola!**

**Steeple?**

**4/1000**

**H4WH**

**20/20**

### What we ask of everyone...

1. Make weekly public worship a priority.
2. Pursue friendship with others in a Community Group or some other small group.
3. Whole-heartedly commit to developing habits of private worship including: CBR journal and prayer cards.
4. Use your time, treasure, and talents to support the worship and work of the church.
5. Discover a mission field (outside of the church) and seek training to be the best you can be in that work.

First, mission and vision statements can be a danger if we forget that **“salvation belongs to the Lord’ (Jonah 2:9)**. We are a saved people. That is our hope. Not our plans. Plans easily become a boast (cf. **James 4:13-16**). So, in all we talk about, we start with **“If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that” (James 4:15)**. ... **“Many are the plans in a man’s heart but it is the Lord’s will that prevails” (Prov 19:21)**.

Second, we need mission and vision statements to ensure unity and fun. **“Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Prov 29:18)**. Lack of vision is the reason for division and waning spiritual energy in the church. **Illustration: rowing the boat to the same destination**

A few thoughts:

1) The first thing I have to win you to is that the church is not the goal. It’s the instrument. It’s not the destination. It is the vehicle. ... A faithful church is working in ways that threaten its own success. Jesus said the grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die if it is to bear fruit. If it will not die it remains alone - ineffective, limited, etc. But if it dies it bears much fruit” (**John 12:24ff.**). So, the goal we’re aimed at is the kingdom of God (cf. **Matt 6:33**). New hearts. A new people. A new city.

2) Every church has strengths and weaknesses. There is no such thing as the perfect church. Two things contribute to this. The first is **finitude**. There is just not enough time and energy and resources to do everything. The second is **personality**. Each church has a unique collective personality. Or, style. This means that a particular church will naturally excel in certain areas and struggle in others. A healthy church is one that strives to have both a **1) healthy emphasis** on 1-2 ministry priorities and **2) a healthy balance** on the rest of the ministry priorities. An unhealthy church neglects ministry priorities that are harder for the church culture to embrace and thus become imbalanced. The trick is to grow and make corrections without over-correcting – creating a new imbalance by trying to fix an old one.

Churches tend to attract people whose priorities align with the church’s strengths. Churches also tend to, intentionally and unintentionally, alienate people who are not in alignment with the predominate personality. This keeps the church from experiencing revival. So, you should join a church that rubs on you and that you rub on, and row with them towards where they are headed. But don’t think you’re going to change the direction the boat is going. You’ll just end up upset all the time and you’ll become the cause of dissention and unhappiness for others.

3) Redeemer was planted with specific goals and strategies and structures in mind. We’re not going to change. We are going to be strong in: 1) gospel proclamation in worship and word; 2) relational connections;\* 3) city vision. We are going to struggle in: 1) assimilation (relational connections for new people); 2) training that is highly programmed and “deep”; 3) specialized ministries to felt needs; 4) aesthetics in programming and facilities. If our strengths are a priority and passion for you, you’ll do fine. If our weaknesses are a passion and priority for you, it may be hard. But you should stay and make us better.

4) Reconciliation service