

# Re-visioning May 2020

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## Vision and Recommendations

**From the Re-Visioning Team  
May 26<sup>th</sup> 2020**



This is the outcome of the discernment process undertaken by: Fanny Wang, Bev McMillen, Joan Bayley-Carmichael, Benn Subong, Hilya Persaud, Sarath Peiris, Luke Ngo and Wil Kramer as led by the Holy Spirit and facilitated by Aileen Van Ginkel.

# Re-visioning Team's Discernment Report with Recommendations

## Synopsis

### **God's Presence and Timing never cease to amaze 😊**

As the world looks to a "new normal", we here at Grace Church will also be wondering what Sundays and other gatherings will look like going forward. The good news is that the discernment process continues to be led by the Holy Spirit, and we are now at a point where we have been able to discern God's vision for Grace Church as revealed through small group discussions, congregational meetings, phone calls, and prayerful discernment by the Re-Visioning team.

This report outlines the vision discerned through this process, and presents two recommendations and one request to Council.

## Recommendations

1. For Council to approve - in principle- this report that emerged from the Re-Visioning process.
2. For Council to approve the establishment of a team that will be responsible for implementing the outcomes of the Re-Visioning process, with the Implementation Team's first task being the identifying and utilizing of gifts within the church.

## Request

1. That Council recommends the congregational-approval process.

## Discernment Process Summary

This report is the result of a process that started in September 2019 when we (Grace Church) embarked on a journey to seek God's vision for us at this time in history. During this process the Re-Visioning team recognised that our goal would be to prayerfully discern what God is saying to Grace Church through the congregation's comments and suggestions.

We listened and learned much, and we ended up with 11 Action-Plans to present to Council and the congregation, with the expectation that the Implementation Team will be formed to accomplish the 11 Action-Plans that came out of this process.

## 11 Action-Plans that came out of the comments

### (To be undertaken by the Implementation Team)

1. Identify and utilize gifts within the church.
2. Develop a plan to make prayer a focus of the church.
3. Form a committee/person to develop an atmosphere of Spirit-filled worship on Sundays with trained spiritual worship leader(s).
4. Form a committee/person to develop a plan to utilise small groups as per the needs revealed.
5. Form a committee/person to develop a plan to utilize technology to serve the needs revealed.
6. Form a committee/person to develop training/education to serve the needs revealed.
7. Develop a plan to make the spiritual walk of the next generation a focus of the church.
8. Develop practices that create and maintain a strong sense of community.
9. Develop Grace Church specific guidelines for pastoral visits.
10. Develop a plan for outreach.
11. Form a committee/person to look at the area behind the building.

## Objectives that will be achieved

- To grow spiritually and numerically as a church
- To inspire a Spirit-filled deeper walk with God
- To develop a strong sense of community
- To reach out through evangelism and outreach and serving in the church
- To equip one another to deal with current societal issues people are facing
- To encourage the next generation in their walk with God

## Goals that will be reached

- Be spiritually mature
- Be loving to each other and the world
- Be relevant to all generations
- Grow God's Kingdom and the church

## The Mission Statement that materialized from this process

To call and equip people to become Spirit-filled followers of Jesus Christ, who experience and extend the love of God to the church community, our neighbours, and the world.

***Grace CRC current Mission Statement: The mission of Grace Church is to call people to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ and to equip Christ-followers for service in the church and in the world.***

## The Vision Statement that surfaced from this process

*A Holy-Spirit-led community of Christ followers who love God above all else and love others as ourselves.*

## Core Values to be established during this process

- Holy Spirit led
- Practice high ethical standards
- Respect and value each person
- Stay informed on worldviews and how to speak into them

## Strategies for accomplishing this vision

- Always invite the Holy Spirit to lead
- Focus on God's love for: you, the church, and the world
- World news in one hand and Bible in the other

## Final thoughts

The Re-Visioning team recognises that these findings may seem overwhelming to Council as you try to grapple with the on-going running of the church during this COVID-19 crisis. However, we would like to say that the timing couldn't be better for us to be intentional in implementing these actions as the foundation for the new way of gatherings, which we are now forced to consider because of COVID-19.

To Recap - The next steps would be:

- For Council to recommend the congregational-approval process.
- For Council to accept the two recommendations:
  1. To approve - in principle- this report that emerged from the Re-Visioning process.
  2. To approve the establishment of a team that will be responsible for implementing the outcomes of the Re-Visioning process, with the Implementation Team's first task being the identifying and utilizing of gifts within the church.

We (the team) thank Grace Church for entrusting us with the task of seeking God's vision through listening to the Spirit, each other, and the congregation, and we pray that the implementation of this package becomes Grace Church's next exciting endeavour.

***(Acts 1:8) "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."***

**Explanations:** <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/html/c5-09.html>

**Vision:** big picture of what you want to achieve

**Mission:** a general statement of how you will achieve your vision

**Core Values:** how you will behave during the process

**Strategies:** a series of ways of using the mission to achieve the vision

**Goals:** general statements of what needs to be accomplished to implement the strategy

**Objectives:** specific milestones/actions and timelines for achieving the goal

**Action Plans:** specific implementation plans of how you will achieve an objective