

Visioning & Ministry Plan  
Acton Bethel CRC  
March 2021



**Follow  
His Light**

The path of the righteous is like the morning sun,  
shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

Proverbs 4:18

## Introduction

In the Fall of 2019 the leaders at Acton Bethel asked if it was time to re-evaluate what we as a church are called to do.

Is it time for a new “season” of direction and purpose? Are we growing spiritually? Are we being fed? Are we loving God as much as we can? Are we loving each other? Are we loving our community to the fullest?

God prompted us into a process where we felt the need to step back and look at ourselves through the Natural Church Development survey. This exercise brought to light that there were areas we needed to revisit. As a result, we had a successful Visioning Day, with tremendous input. We had an overwhelming turnout and discovered where the Holy Spirit is leading us and we received 122 courageous proposals from the congregation to work with!

Several common themes emerged from these proposals. We realized that we yearn to grow closer to God and to share the Good News. Throughout the Visioning process, we were led to focus on three areas - our love for God, our love for each other and our love for our community.

Although these three areas are distinct, they are inter-related, as are the initiatives described in this document.

From the proposals and the common themes, through discernment and prayer support we were led to 7 initiatives that comprise the ***Follow His Light*** program.

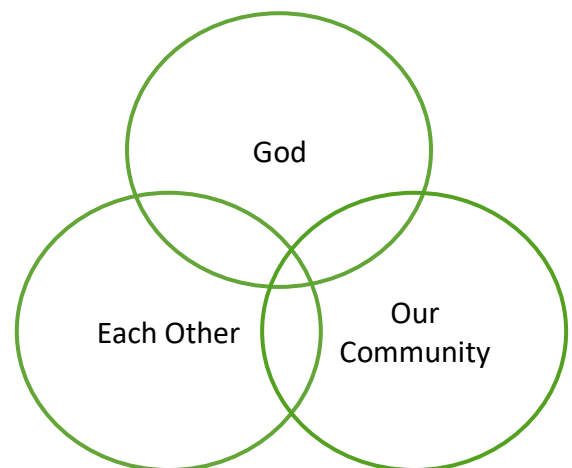
Now it is time to follow His path and implement these initiatives. A team will be formed to follow-up and carry out these initiatives.

God has indeed guided us and led us to these steps. As you review and reflect on this vision and plan, our prayer is that it brings you hope and thankfulness to our heavenly Father, and level of excitement to furthering His kingdom.

Please pray and ask God to continue to reveal to us how He is calling you and your gifts, and to be a part of this journey, and to **Follow His Light!**

On behalf of the Visioning team and Council, Thank You!

Ken Kamminga, Chair



## Ministry Plan: Loving God

	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Why &amp; How</b>	<b>Who &amp; When</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Seek a gifted, relevant preacher</b>	<p>The congregation of Bethel desires to further develop and grow in our relationship with Christ through His Word.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <p>a) Identify and hire a Senior (Lead) Pastor who is gifted in preaching to focus on providing our church and community with authentic, current, meaningful and Biblically based messages.</p> <p>b) When established, the Senior Pastor will assist in hiring a second pastorally gifted leader to focus on spiritual growth, shepherding work, pastoral care and prayer ministry.</p>	<p><b>Who:</b></p> <p>Search Committee</p> <hr/> <p><b>Start:</b></p> <p>Now</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>We learn how to be more vulnerable with each other</b>	<p>As Christians we want to be more authentic, real, and able to inspire and support one another. We want to provide a culture where we can share our weaknesses, struggles and joys.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <p>a) Offer training and teaching on how we can be more vulnerable with each other.</p> <p>b) Invite people to share prayer requests, celebrations, thanksgivings, concerns etc. during church services.</p> <p>c) Learn how to articulate our own faith stories.</p> <p>d) Understand the reality of spiritual warfare.</p> <p>e) Provide opportunities for people to give public personal testimony.</p>	<p><b>Who:</b></p> <p>Implementation Team</p> <hr/> <p><b>Start:</b></p> <p>a-b) ASAP</p> <p>c-e) Once we have a Senior Pastor</p>

3.	<p><b>We engage in vibrant, passionate, authentic worship</b></p>	<p>We want to draw closer to God and enjoy His presence.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Revisit all aspects of worship that will allow us to become closer to God.</li> <li>b) Work toward a more meaningful, authentic connection through worship.</li> <li>c) Intentionally allow space for spontaneous prayer during all worship.</li> <li>d) Create a more relaxed atmosphere where people overcome concerns regarding status quo.</li> <li>e) Adjust our approach where necessary, including the order of worship.</li> <li>f) Include worship that appeals to those who do not attend church regularly.</li> <li>g) Utilize social media and technology to facilitate a broader approach to worship (Sunday &amp; weeklong).</li> <li>h) Regularly evaluate our worship resources and update as needed.</li> <li>i) Continually seek new talent.</li> <li>j) Provide regular and useful training opportunities for all worship teams.</li> <li>k) Organize a series of regular mid-week worship events geared towards specific demographics.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Who:</b></p> <p>Specific Worship Implementation Team</p> <hr/> <p><b>Start:</b></p> <p>Summer/Fall 2021</p>
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## Ministry Plan: Loving Each other

	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Why &amp; How</b>	<b>Who &amp; When</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Create geographically based Community Care Groups that support each other</b>	<p>We need to create an environment for people to become part of a meaningful group. The intent is to connect more deeply with each other, to provide pastoral care and share in our joys and struggles.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Assign everyone to a geographically based Community Care Group.</li> <li>b) When a second pastor leader is assigned, one of their priorities would be to focus on this initiative.</li> <li>c) Work toward shining light and showing love within our neighbourhoods.</li> <li>d) Review the existing governance and pastoral care team structure to reconfigure toward supporting this initiative.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Who:</b></p> <p>Council Sub-Team, Second Pastor</p> <hr/> <p><b>Start:</b></p> <p>Fall 2022</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Create an environment for intergenerational social connections and mentoring</b>	<p>People of all ages and cultures have a lot to learn from each other. There is an inherent need for Christians to support and learn from one another and grow in faith.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Continually encourage people of all ages to be involved.</li> <li>b) Establish a team to coordinate regular social events to inspire more intergenerational connections.</li> <li>c) Offer a mentorship training program followed by an opportunity for everyone to become a mentor or be mentored.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Who:</b></p> <p>Implementation Team, Community Life Coordinator, Youth Pastor &amp; Second Pastor</p> <hr/> <p><b>Start:</b></p> <p>Fall 2021</p>

## Ministry Plan: Loving Our Community

	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Why &amp; How</b>	<b>Who &amp; When</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Partner with existing agencies to work together to serve our community</b>	<p>As the hands and feet of Jesus, we are called to serve those in our community.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Reach out to appropriate community organizations and build on existing relationships.</li> <li>b) Determine the needs of community organizations and offer support.</li> <li>c) Identify any unmet needs in the community and address them.</li> <li>d) Communicate all needs and service opportunities to our congregation and promote involvement regularly.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Who:</b></p> <p>Implementation Team, Community Life Coordinator, Deacons</p> <hr/> <p><b>Start:</b></p> <p>2021</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Equip and encourage the congregation to share the gospel</b>	<p>As ambassadors of Christ, we are called to share the Gospel with the community.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Establish a culture of passion to spread the Word.</li> <li>b) Learn and know how to defend scripture and delight in the Bible as our treasure.</li> <li>c) Provide training in how to unashamedly share our faith.</li> <li>d) Create awareness about spiritual warfare.</li> <li>e) Educate and equip individuals regarding physical and spiritual healing/deliverance ministries.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Who:</b></p> <p>Implementation Team, Senior Pastor</p> <hr/> <p><b>Start:</b></p> <p>When we have a Senior Pastor</p>