**OUR DREAM**

 **“An Intergenerational Community”**

**Our Dream:** To bea church where:

* Every adult, child and youth feels a deep commitment to their church because in it they find love, safety and a sense of belonging,
* Adults, children, and youth have age-appropriate learning opportunities, and have rich relationships well beyond the boundaries of their peer group,
* Adults, children, and youth routinely interact with one another in the church’s foyers and hallways,
* Every child and youth has at least five meaningful Christian adult relationships beyond their immediate family,
* Each child and youth can point to at least one adult whom they would describe as a mentor figure,
* Children and youth are regularly involved in the “adult” worship services through praying, reading, singing, sharing, participating in the worship band, serving as technicians, and acting as ushers, and greeters,
* Children and adults are regularly connecting in their small group experiences, either in meetings or in special events designed to include all ages, and
* Bethelites take part in intergenerational events like picnics and campouts each year.
* Parents feel equipped to spiritually nurture their children and youth as they grow in their relationship with Christ.
* Where young adults away at college and university are cared for and prayed for by the Bethel community.

**“A Multiethnic Community”**

**Our Dream:** To be an ethnically diverse church that welcomes people from all races and cultures. This means more than just tolerating one another as we congregate in our isolated ethnic subgroups. Rather, as people united to one another in Christ, we want be transformed through love as we work and fellowship together. As Paul says:

Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

**“Empowered by the Spirit”**

**Our Dream:** To be a church where every believer is aware of the availability of God’s power, and where we actively depend upon the Holy Spirit to produce spiritual growth within us expressed by a vibrant prayer life. This means:

* a significant majority of our members will regularly set aside time for prayer each day,
* a majority of the families in the church will make daily devotions together a priority,
* intercessory prayer will continue to be an important part of Sunday worship services,
* every committee, team, and ministry at Bethel will have an identifiable rhythm of prayer,
* dozens of people will attend weekday prayer meetings in which they earnestly cry out to God for Bethel’s members, ministry, and mission,
* prayer will be woven into the rhythm of our church year,
* a steady stream of Bethelites each year will seek to receive healing prayer ministry, and
* we will be gaining a deepening understanding of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and of His gifts for building up the church.

**“Growing in Faith”**

**Our Dream:**  To become more and more like Christ as we pursue an identified Growth Path. Specifically, this means that all Bethel members will be encouraged to take the three courses in our Growth Path. Newer believers who join the church will be encouraged to take the Growth Path courses or to walk through the same material with a mentor. We anticipate that those who have completed the Growth Path will reflect spiritual maturity through a personal, consistent pattern of spiritual practices including meditation on the Bible, prayer, regular Sunday worship attendance, small group involvement, and as many of the classic spiritual disciplines as fit their unique relationship with Christ.

**“Bound together in Love”**

**Our Dream:** To be a community that truly and sincerely loves one another asmeasured by nearness, intimacy, and devotion. Nearness requires that we have enough personal contact to effectively exercise the “one anothers” of the Bible. Intimacy requires heartfelt love tangibly expressed. Devotion implies doing whatever it takes to keep the community strong.

**“Meeting Together in Vibrant Weekend Worship”**

**Our Dream:** To have Sunday worship gatherings where deep prayer, God glorifying music, Gospel-centred preaching, wholehearted participation, and responsiveness to the Spirit’s leading regularly result in the deepening conviction of those who are following Christ and the conversion of those who do not.

**“And in Small Groups”**

**Our Dream:** To have Christ-centered small group gatherings that are full expressions of church life, where members care for one another, study God’s Word, pray, serve others, and think missionally.

**“Serving One Another with the Gifts God has Given Us”**

**Our Dream:** To be a church operating with the full range of spiritual gifts, with people serving according to the abilities God has given them, so that God’s power in us will bring praise to Him (1 Peter 4:10-12).

**“Reaching out with the Love and Good News of Jesus Christ”**

**Our Dream:**

***Locally****:* To see over 300 people added to the body of Christ through evangelism as a result of the combined efforts of Bethel and Bridge Churches.

***Globally:*** To see the Gospel powerfully touching lives and hearts through our partnerships with the missionaries we support overseas.

 **“To Our Church’s Community”**

**Our Dream**: To have a transformational influence on the Bannerman neighbourhood so that it becomes a better place to live—with a better school, safer streets, and richer relationships among neighbours—because we are incarnating the love of Jesus Christ in partnership with other community organizations; all the while, actively and unapologetically sharing the Good News with our neighbours.

 **“To Our Own Communities”**

**Our Dream:** To be a church where members are praying for, caring for, and sharing Christ with their "personal parish” of three to five people, and where every member has at least one person in their lives with whom they are journeying toward a relationship with Jesus Christ.

 **“And to the World”**

**Our Dream:** In order to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread to every nation and people group on earth, we will be committed to world mission. We will form and maintain strategic partnerships in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bettesu (Liberia), and Hermosillo (Mexico). Our partnerships will include prayer support, financial support, visits to the field, visits from the missionaries in the field, and regular electronic communications back and forth. We will organize mission trips to our partner sites, and will encourage and support Bethel members who choose to undertake mission projects on their own.