VILLAGE CHURCH

Re-Visioning Our Mission

PUBLIC VERSION

Mission, Identity, and Core Values
Vision, Strategic Priorities, and Ministry Philosophy
Village Church, Beaverton, Oregon

JANUARY 1, 2023

PUBLIC VERSION

DEFINITIONS

Mission:

Why do we exist?

Identity:

How do we see ourselves?

Core Values:

What are the principles we live by?

Vision:

What is our passion for today's world?

Strategic Priorities:

What is our primary ministry focus?

Ministry Philosophy:

How do we achieve them?

MISSION

The Great Commandment

Compelled by the love of Jesus,
we exist to love the Triune God
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We trust that we are invited to the life of the Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), abiding in and representing the One Who is love.

The great commandment calls us to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. We love because God first loved us. The love of God compels us to respond by loving our neighbors, local and global, across all cultures. We want to re-learn how to love ourselves as Jesus does - both individually and collectively, as Jesus' image bearers.

As we love and follow after Jesus, we represent the Kingdom of Jesus by being a sign and instrument of shalom, through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

God will one day bring about complete restoration of the world and the reconciliation of all things. We will continue to actively wait for the day in participation, obedience, patience, and expectation.

Gen. 1:26-28; 9:1-2; 12:1-3; 18:18-19; 2 Sam. 7:8-16; Mark 1:15; 12:30-31; John 13:34-35; Acts 1:8; Rom. 8:1-39; 2 Cor. 5:14-21; Rev. 21:1-7

IDENTITY

Missional, Multicultural Community in Christ

We are a missional, multicultural community in Christ, the result of faithful people, who across the ages, were compelled by the life of Jesus to see the Kingdom of God realized on earth. In discernment of the Missio Dei (mission of God), we pursue our covenantal commitment to God and to one another.

우리는 그리스도 안에서 선교적, 다문화 공동체입니다.
우리는 전 세대에 걸쳐 예수님의 삶으로 인해 하나님의 나라가 이 땅에 실현되어져가는 것을 보았던 믿음의 선진들의 열매입니다.
우리는 하나님의 선교(Missio Dei)에 동참하면서, 하나님과 서로에 대한 언약적 헌신을 추구합니다.

Somos una comunidad misional y multicultural en Cristo, el resultado de personas fieles, que a través de los siglos, se vieron conmovidas por la vida de Jesús a ver el Reino de Dios realizado en la tierra. En el discernimiento de la Missio Dei, perseguimos nuestro compromiso de pacto con Dios y con los demás.

CORE VALUES

Pursuing Missional Life in Community
Deepening Global Gospel Movement
Celebrating Christian Intercultural Spirituality
Cultivating Authentic Friendship
Walking Together in Discernment

공동체와 더불어 선교적 삶을 추구한다
글로벌 복음 운동을 전승한다
기독교 상호문화적 영성을 환대한다
진정한 우정을 형성한다
분별의 여정을 함께 걷는다

Persiguiendo la Vida Misional en Comunidad
Profundización del Movimiento Evangélico Global
Celebrando la Espiritualidad Intercultural Cristiana
Cultivando la Amistad Auténtica
Juntos Caminando en Discernimiento

CORE VALUES

#1 Pursuing Missional Life in Community

To be missional is the essential nature and vocation of the church as God's called and sent people. The church is both the experience of the Kingdom of God, as well as partners in realizing His Kingdom. We are a participant of the global Church in this moment of history, and are the alternative community to the ways and values of the dominant culture and narratives. Our shared vocation informs how we impact our neighborhoods, how we care for one another, and how we care for God's creation.

Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5-6; Isa. 61:1-4; Mark 1:15; Luke 4:16-20; 10:25-37; John 20:21; Acts 1:8, 2:43-47, 10:34-36, 15:1-35, 28:30-31; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 5:14-21; 1 Pet. 2:9-12; Rev. 11:1-14, 19:1-10

#MissioDei, #Witnessing, #Neighborhood, #IncarnationalCommunity, #MissionalLiving, #CreationCare, #Compassion, #RestorativeJustice, #Reconciliation, #Glocal, #CommunityDevelopment, #CultureMaking

CORE VALUES

#2 Deepening Global Gospel Movement

We believe in the gospel of the Kingdom of God proclaimed by Jesus Christ. We believe that it is the gospel of the Kingdom that brings about a beautiful world, a glorious church, and a life worth living. We dedicate ourselves to witnessing the gospel of the Kingdom—in the tension of "already," but "not yet." As outlined by the Lausanne Movement*, which is a recognized global movement that mobilizes Bible-centered churches around the world to collaborate in gospel-mission, we believe in the authority and power of Scripture, and believe in the uniqueness and supremacy of Christ. We believe in the empowering presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit through the global Church.

Matt. 16:13-20; Mark 1:15; Luke 17:20-21; Acts 1:3;
Eph. 4:1-16, 6:1-20; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:1-14, 11:1-12:3

#KingdomGospel, #TrinitarianTheology, #ScripturalAuthority, #ApostolicVocation, #LausanneMovement, #GlobalChurch, #Partnering

*The Lausanne Covenant: http://lausanne.org/content/covenant/lausanne-covenant

CORE VALUES

#3 Celebrating Christian Intercultural Spirituality

Spirituality is the transformation into the likeness of Christ. We participate in His ministry of healing and reconciliation through His loving sacrifice. The Holy Spirit is made visible in the world through the gathered body of diverse believers. The body of Christ is abundant in its diversity, thus abundant in diverse spiritual and tangible expressions. Together, we shape and transform each other as we learn to celebrate, practice, grow and live into these expressions in our community. As we mature in this multicultural spirituality, we welcome resulting discoveries and the inconvenience of the unfamiliar.

Acts 15:1-35; 1 Cor. 13:12; 2 Cor. 5:18; Gal. 3:16-29;
Eph. 3:14-21, 4:1-16; 1 Pet. 2:21-25; Rev. 7:1-17

#Inconvenience, #Integration, #Innovation, #PortraitsOfJesus,
#DiverseExpressions, #EschatologicalAwaiting

CORE VALUES

#4 Cultivating Authentic Friendship

We believe the gospel is intended for community, with one another. We are called to love one another – being hospitable and reconciling one another to God and ourselves. This ministry call to be of one heart and mind is cultivated through an authentic relationship of integrity with each other in Christ. We are humbly refined and formed as we celebrate and support one another in our daily life.

Prov. 17:17; 27:17; Eccles. 4:9-12; Matt. 25:40; John 15:12-17; Rom. 12:13; Phil. 4:10-23; 1 Pet. 4:9; 1 John 3:16; 3 John 1:15

#Integrity, #Humility, #Celebration, #MinistryOfPresence, #Community, #Mentoring, #Confidentiality, #Hospitality, #Forgiving, #ActiveListening, #DNAGroups

CORE VALUES

#5 Walking Together in Discernment

We believe that God speaks to His people today, and such spiritual discernment should be interdependently practiced and supported in and through a community of God-honoring believers. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, guided by the Word, we experience spiritual unity through the intimate and dependent practice of communal discernment for our missional, multicultural community in Christ.

Ps. 119:97-105; Prov. 3:5-6; John 20:21; Acts 15:1-21; 16:6-10; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 2:6-16, 12:1-14:40; Heb. 4:12-13; James 1:5; Phil. 1:9-10; 1 John 4:1-6

#VoiceOfJesus, #SpiritualIntimacy, #EmpoweringPresence, #BibleStudy, #Prayer, #SpiritualDirection, #HermeneuticalCommunity

FAQs for Re-Visioning our Mission

<For Village's Covenantal Members>

Why are Mission/Identity/Core Values important for our church?

- As a church that is following and seeking God's direction, unity in why we exist (our church mission), how we see ourselves (our identity), and principles our church live by (our core values), root us in our mission and calling of God.

Why are we making these important updates now?

- Mission, Identity and Core Values change as God has led our church over time. We are a church after God's work, and we commit ourselves to be sensitive to His lead. Also who we are as a community has changed over time as God has brought in new people and introduced new ministry opportunities. Our last update was over 10 years ago, and our church community (our own as well as local/global communities) has indeed shifted and changed in that time. We want our Mission, Identity and Core Values documents to reflect who we are and pray we will become.

What was the process like for this update?

- After careful crafting and revisions on the document for many months, the Village Council presented the first draft to the DNA leaders in October 2022, and prayerfully reviewed the leaders' feedback, resulting in formulating the second draft. The second draft was presented to our covenantal members, and the third draft has been formulated, which has become our final version. This final version is being presented to the whole church for prayerful consideration and approval.

What is the prayer for a document like this for our church?

- Our prayer is that this document affirms and encourages our church in how God has shaped us, but also challenges us towards the goal of how we continue to be transformed to be more like Christ, living out our mission call both as a church and personally.

How will this document be used at Village?

- This document is the long form, foundational content for our church's discipleship, ministry strategies, different media/publication materials, and basis for information shared with newcomers.
- Thus the document you have been presented with today includes main points, key phrases/words (currently in hashtag format), relevant and important Biblical references, and longer, narrative descriptions of each point.
- Our mission is what is also found and included in our Bylaws document.

Are our Core Values the same as our Doctrinal Statements?

- No, our Doctrinal Statements are founded on submission to the authority of Scripture, the final authority of Christian faith and practice.
- Our Core Values are the principles our church lives by.

Why don't we present these points in shorter bullet point format?

- This longer description document is meant to show the full narrative of our mission, our identity and our core values. While we will showcase the main ideas in different ways and specific ministry contexts going forward, this document is our source material that captures the complete meaning behind these important and complex statements.

I am not familiar with some of the words or phrases in this document. Couldn't we have used simpler language?

- We want to further contextualize the document and make this a digestible document, across cultures, ages. Using the precise meaning of some of the more technical terms helps us be more concise. However, we have included some parenthetical denotations to provide helpful context for words.

"Triune God" is a phrase that is repeated often in this document. Why is this?

- We are intentionally describing the nature of the divine and feel using the full phrase best accomplishes that.

What does "Missio Dei" mean?

- Missio Dei is a theological term in Latin that can be translated as "Mission of God." It emphatically refers to the work of the church as being part of God's work.

In Core Value 1, what is meant by "the alternative community?"

- We used the language of a "dominant culture" to mean all the world systems that teach that the broken human condition can be healed by human will. Our missional call is to be the alternative community to our world.
- While the word "dominant" can suggest a power or controlling force, we can recognize from Ephesians 6:12 that there forces against us to resist, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."
- We also see in Romans 12:1-2 the early calls to be the alternative community of God, "Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

In Core Value 2, what is the Lausanne Movement?

- The Lausanne Movement (also known as the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization) is a global movement that mobilizes Bible-centered churches around the world to collaborate for world evangelization. Back in 1974, global church leaders were convened at Lausanne, Switzerland, to establish network for world evangelization. This movement was pioneered by John Stott and Billy Graham, and the stated vision was, 'the whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world.' The Lausanne Covenant, which was the result of the convention, is widely regarded as one of the most significant documents in modern church history. The movement has continued through the Manila Manifesto (1989) and the Cape Town Commitment (2010), and the next convention is to be held in Seoul in 2024.
- ·The Lausanne Covenant: https://lausanne.org/content/covenant/lausanne-covenant

In Core Value 5, what does it mean to be a "hermeneutical community?"

- Hermeneutics is a study of how to understand and interpret the Bible. Considering that the Bible was written to and for Christian communities (c.f. individualistic reading), we acknowledge that our understanding and interpretation of the Bible should be interdependently practiced in and through a communal setting and discernment, resulting in how to live as God's children in this time and space.

What does innovation have to do with reaching out to the world?

- The outward movement of the gospel movement is in and through and across culture and time. Our innovations are uniquely designed to continue the narrative of the gospel and to promote worship. Some innovations may cause mature believers to experience discomfort with personal unfamiliarity, but the goal of innovation is to reach the gospel into the “remotest parts of the earth,” and beyond our brick and mortar experience.

I have questions or comments to share. How do I do that?

- Please email the Village Council at council@villagebeaverton.com