

Dear friends and partners in Christ,

Since the congregational meeting dinner held in February 2016, Session has been prayerfully considering the responses to the plans put forward. We are very encouraged by the engagement of people and unanimously positive feedback at the meeting. We rejoice in our unity as a church and the blessings God continues to give us as we grow in faith and number. It encourages us to step out in faith boldly for the glory of Jesus.

Using the image of the trellis and the vine (where the trellis represents the programs of the church and the vine represents the people), **our first plan in 2012** was focussed more on the structures, programs and presentation (new name, welcoming, hospitality, youth and children's ministry, RBT, services etc). **The plan in 2014** focused much more intentionally on the spiritual growth of people. The emphasis was on prayer and discipleship by the Word, so that we increasingly become a disciple-making church in which every believer, young and old alike, is growing in Christ. **In this year's plan (2016)** we will continue our focus on helping each other to become mature in Christ, through engaging in the Word and prayer. We will also make some structural changes to support this focus as we grow as a church.

We need to remember that we do not *depend* on plans and strategies, but on God alone. Yet, to plan and organise ourselves as a church is a right and proper thing to do, because our God is a God of order. As we make our plans we commit ourselves to God in prayer, relying on Him alone for the outcomes. As it says in Proverbs 16:3 "*Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.*" We remain thoroughly committed to the evangelical reformed faith. To be reformed is to be biblical, and to be always reforming towards greater obedience to the Word. Please read the plan carefully, bringing it before the Lord in prayer, and discussing it together at home, and in your small groups.

Session will provide regular updates to the congregation as the plan is implemented and through Session minutes and other communications. We look forward with great hope, for we serve a great Saviour and King who is head of the church!

With love in Christ,

Brian Vaatstra  
On behalf of Session

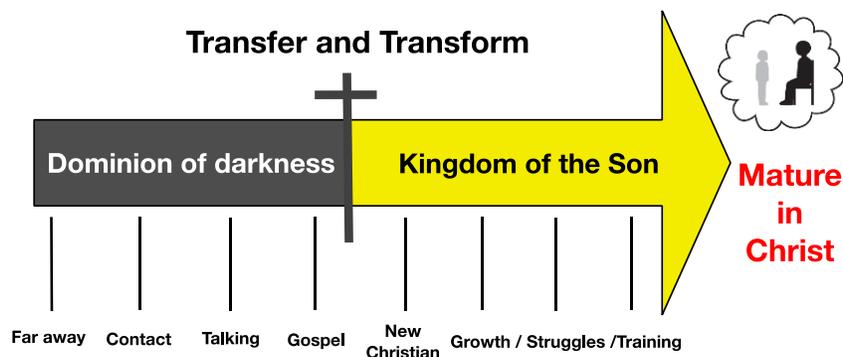
## Our Vision at NLCC:

A loving community growing followers of Christ

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**Our vision statement is our focus for the next few years and reflects:**

- Our desire to love as Christ loved us (John 15:12)
- Our goal to worship Christ alone (rather than the idols of tradition or God's good gifts: family, career, money, home, sex etc).
- Our aim to see people both come to Christ and grow in Christ (Matthew 28:19) In other words, we seek to be a church community that lovingly grows disciples of Christ who make new disciples of Christ We do that through the Word and prayer. As the Apostle Paul said, *We proclaim him (Christ), admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ ... So then just as you received Jesus Christ as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.* (Colossians 1:28; 2:6). The diagram below shows how we seek to move people to the right transferring them from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of the Son, and then discipling them to maturity in Christ.
- We acknowledge the indispensable work of the Holy Spirit, operating in the believer's heart convicting us of sin and revealing to us the truth about Jesus (John 14:26; 16:5-16, see esp. vs 14-15).



## **Core Values**

### **1. A gospel-hearted community**

The good news of Jesus Christ is at the very heart of our community (Ephesians 3:6-10; 1 Peter 2:4-25). It not only saves us (Romans 1:16), and brings us into relationship with God and other Christians (John 1:12-13), but also informs every aspect of our community and individual lives (Phil 2:4-11; Titus 2:11-14). It calls us to love God and love others by living sacrificial, servant-hearted, generous and risk-taking lives for Christ (John 15:12; 1 John 3:16-18; 1 John 4:9-11)

### **2. A praying community**

We recognize that God is the agent of mission and the ‘builder’ of his church (Matt 16:18; Acts 1:8). We acknowledge our dependence on him for the forward movement of the gospel through the church and in people’s lives (Acts 4:23-31; Ephesians 2:1-10). We therefore commit ourselves to constantly calling upon God (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:14; Colossians 4:2) to pour out his Spirit on his church so that his people will be assured of his love through his Word (Romans 5:5), and seek to please him in all things (1 Corinthian 10:31-33).

### **3. A Bible-shaped community**

We want our lives and life together as community to be formed and shaped by the Bible’s story of redemption (2 Peter 1: 12-21; Hebrews 1:1-2). We believe the Bible to be the reliable, authoritative and sufficient Word of God (Matthew 4:4; John 10:35; Hebrews 4:12), and therefore submit ourselves to it (James 1:22-25). We believe the preaching of the Word is God’s primary means of grace to grow us spiritually (1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 1 Timothy 4:13). We are committed to learning, studying and putting into practice what we read in the Scriptures, believing it contains all we need for life and godly living (Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16).

#### **4. A worshipping community**

We love to meet together in corporate worship, realizing that it most closely reflects the future that God calls us into (Revelation 5; 19:1-7). Our Worship Services are designed for believers to worship God (Psalm 95:1-7; 1 Corinthians 14:26-40; Hebrews 10:25). We are not a “seeker service” in that we do not place our highest priority for gathering together on winning seekers, but rather on equipping believers and enabling them to worship as a corporate community (Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Hebrews 10:24; 1 Peter 4:9-10; 1 John 1:7). However, the seeker is very important to us and thus every attempt is made to use our worship as an opportunity for the seeker to meet God. We believe biblical worship is an excellent way to expose the seeker to God’s Word and God’s people (1 Corinthians 14:23-25).

#### **5. A family of families**

We are committed to strengthening the family life of every family in the church, recognizing that when the family unit is strong, so the church (family of families) will be strong (Ephesians 5:22-6:9; Titus 2:1-15; 1 Timothy 3:14-16). We are also committed to sharing our lives in Christian community, caring for one another (Galatians 6:2; 1 Corinthians 12:25), discipling one another (Matthew 28:19; Romans 15:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24), and serving one another (Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10). We want people who call themselves followers of Christ to live out their identity of *being* the church (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:9-12), instead of merely *attending* the church.

#### **6. A missionary community**

We are committed to telling others the good news about Jesus in the context of a loving, caring community (Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 5:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:12; Titus 2:7-8). As we build relationships with people and share the gospel message with them (Colossians 4:5-6; 1 Peter 3:15-16) we also introduce them to Christian community (John 17:20-23). We are committed to welcoming broken people and making the church accessible to unbelievers because all people are precious in God’s sight (Genesis 9:6; Acts 17:26-28; 2 Peter 3:9). We are committed to planting new churches as God opens up opportunities for us to do so, believing that this is an important way that God grows his church (Acts 14:21-28; cf. 1 Corinthians 3:6-9)

## **7. A community working for renewal of society**

We recognize no sacred-secular divide, and that Christ is Lord over all (Genesis 1:1; John 3:16). We are therefore committed to serving our society in areas of need (Galatians 6:10a; 1 Peter 2:11-12; Titus 2:7-10). While we understand that our society's greatest need is gospel renewal, we will encourage one another to glorify God and serve others in all areas of life: the workplace, business, community projects, etc., believing that all activities no matter how mundane ought to be done to the glory of God (1 Thessalonians 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17).

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### **Our values as a church listed above:**

- Define what we want to be as a renewed church community.
- Ought to pervade all our plans and actions and become part of the ethos of our church

## **Mission**

WIN<sup>1</sup> people to a living faith in our Lord Jesus Christ by:

- Positively engaging the un-churched where we live, work and play.
- Attractively exposing the un-churched to God's people and God's Word.

BUILD<sup>2</sup> a committed loving community of believers for Christ by:

- Discipling (by teaching and example) all people, young and old, to understand and live out the gospel.
- Strengthening community life by integrating newcomers well.
- Growing a sense of God's presence in our meetings.

SEND<sup>3</sup> well-equipped followers of Christ to serve him with the gospel by:

- Equipping followers of Christ to use their gifts in his service.
- Establishing every person in some ministry
- Sending out and supporting overseas missionaries
- Planting new churches as God gives us opportunity.

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### **Our mission directs our work and reflects:**

- A Biblical approach to achieving our vision.
- The five traditional purposes of the church: evangelism, worship, discipleship, fellowship and service and mission (note: evangelism is about personal & community witness and outreach, whereas mission and service includes all the ways we serve Christ in ministry both locally and overseas).
- Our desire to be holistic in our work as a church.

<sup>1</sup> Proverbs 11:30; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

<sup>2</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:11

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 28:19-20; Joshua 24:15; 1 Peter 4:10-12; 1 Corinthians

## PLANS for 2016-2017

The plan for 2016-2017 is not describing all that we do as a church, but those particular things that will be our intentional focus for the next two years. We look to Jesus, the head of New Life Christian Church for help and strength to put these plans into practice in a way that honours him.

### (1) To be a people who **pray often for one another**

- Further preaching and teaching on prayer, especially Kingdom-centred prayers
- Elders, Pastoral Carers, Life Groups leaders and staff to intentionally and regularly pray for the people they care for.
- Run our congregational prayer meeting once per month replacing the monthly evening worship service
- Life Groups to focus on praying for each other and our non-Christian friends

### (2) To **strengthen our ministry of building each other:**

- Equip & train more people to disciple others
- Elders, pastoral carers, Life Groups leaders and staff to affirm (joyfully praise, thank, encourage and build up) people in their service of the Lord
- Life Group leaders to encourage discipling relationships and hospitality
- Run regular 'Guess Who's Coming For Coffee' and lunch events after church

### (3) To **integrate newcomers well** into the life of the church

- Implement the Pathways into New Life (produce Christianity Explored, Firm Foundations and Connect Courses and run regularly)
- Proactively invite newcomers to participate in the ministries of the church

### (4) To joyfully **celebrate God's goodness in our services**

- Through regular testimonies in Ministry Focus Spots from Life Groups, Discipling, Youth, Children's, and Evangelism ministries
- Hold annual services with a special focus on thanksgiving
- Continue to train those involved in leading in our corporate worship including song leaders, Bible readers, prayers, service leaders etc.

### (5) To **strengthen and grow Life Groups as disciple-making teams:**

- Train Life Group leaders in intentional disciple-making
- Gather more people into new Life Groups
- Strengthen pastoral care & evangelism in Life Groups
- Continue to build a disciple-making culture in New Life Youth and JAM

(6) To continue to **build and expand the ministry of kids@newlife**

- Expand our kids@newlife program to run a cut-down version of kids@newlife during school holidays
- Focus on strengthening relationships between teachers and children at kids@newlife
- Run a New Life Holiday Club in the September holidays.

(7) To **pray and plan boldly for new gospel initiatives**

- Provide ongoing support for the global missions at New Life including RoL, ZEST, CBI, Solomon Islands
- As God gives the opportunities plan for future growth of New Life through
  - Multiple services on Sunday
  - Church planting

(8) To **implement structural changes needed to support growth** in the church:

- Implement a new church structure focussing on teams serving together in the five purposes of the church (Magnification, Mission, Membership, Maturity and Ministry)
- Upgrade and keep up-to-date the website and Facebook pages of the church
- Place a vision board in the foyer summarising our key plans