

September 22, 2022

Dear Council, Ministry Leaders, and Staff:

The following information describes a *Dream for Bethel* in the next five years. We want to invite you to review this with us during the leadership retreat.

At the retreat, we will discuss 4 focuses for this upcoming ministry year in the context of our 5 year vision for the church going forward.

Much of the vision remains the same as past years. However, what must be adapted are our strategies for this dream. Our ministry and community life is in a different place than where it was a few years ago.

This where you come in. Pray and prepare to discuss how we can lead better together. The strategies for the different aspects of our vision are due for some review and discernment.

In Christ,

Pastor Cris
on behalf of Council

A Dream for Bethel 2022-2027

Our Mission

Tells us how we will fulfill the Great Commission

Our Vision

Explains who we want to be for the sake of our mission

Our Core Commitments

Tell us the role each of us plays to fulfill our vision

Our Focuses for 2022-2023

Explains our keys areas of focus for the upcoming ministry year

Our Dream

Explains our vision in detail

OUR MISSION:

Becoming like Christ; sharing Him with others

OUR VISION:

To be an intergenerational, multiethnic community
empowered by the Spirit,
growing in faith,
bound together in love,
meeting together in vibrant weekend worship
and in small groups,
serving one another with the gifts God has given us,
and reaching out with the love and Good News of Jesus Christ
to our church's community,
to our own communities,
and to the world

OUR CORE COMMITMENTS

- *Communion:* Walking with Christ
- *Community:* Loving one another
- *Calling:* Impacting the world

OUR FOCUS for 2022-2023

We want to embrace an active role in affirming our core commitments in our fellowship and witness this year. A daily and weekly emphasis on these postures will allow us to address the areas of growth and need we reflected upon through the *Church Pulse* assessment.

- *Be with Jesus (Communion)*: We will pursue greater depth in our spiritual lives with God through prayer and engaged discipleship among all generations in our community.
- *Be with one another (Community)*: We will embrace life together within the community God has called us to at Bethel with regularity, authenticity and intentionality.
- *Play your role in God's Family (Calling)*: We will regularly serve others with our gifts to enrich, expand and support the Body of Christ and community around us in Jesus' name.
- *Develop New Leaders (Grow Young)*: We will empower and encourage emerging leaders in our congregation in their spiritual growth and discipleship.

We understand these focuses as a call to ***togetherness*** for 2022-2023.

We must re-connect and rebuild within our community at Bethel, in order to expand and invite the world around us to Gospel-centered fellowship, answering these key question:

What does it mean to belong to Bethel?

What does it mean to be a member of Bethel?

We are adapting our ministry efforts and strategies around these focuses as part of Bethel's larger vision of Gospel witness in the world.

OUR DREAM

“An Intergenerational Community”

Our Dream: To be a 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, but 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 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.

Our dream, in short, is to be a 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 as one family united in Jesus Christ.

“A Multiethnic Community”

Our Dream: To be an ethnically diverse church that welcomes people from all races and cultures. This means more than merely tolerating one another as we congregate in our isolated ethnic subgroups. Rather, as people united to one another in Christ, we want be transformed 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)

Responsibility of the Multiethnic Team

“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 grow us within 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’s life;
- 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

Responsibility of Pastors and Director of Prayer Ministries

“Growing in Faith”

Our Dream: To promote and pursue a growth track. Newer believers who join the church will take the three courses in our growth track, or will walk through the same material with a mentor, within three years of joining Bethel Church. More established believers will have 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” fitting their unique relationship with Christ.

Responsibility of Lead Pastor and Pastor of Congregational Care and Discipleship

“Bound together in Love”

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

The Responsibility of the Lead Pastor, the Pastor of Congregational Care and Discipleship, and the Council

“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 follow Christ and the conversion of those who do not.

The Responsibility of the Lead Pastor, Worship Director, Media Director, and Elders

“And in Small Groups”

Our Dream: To have 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—all in a Christ-Centered environment.

The Responsibility of Pastor of Congregational Care and Discipleship

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

Our Dream: To be a church where the full range of spiritual gifts are operating and people serve where they are gifted so that all our work will be done in God’s power and God will receive praise through us (1 Peter 4:10-12).

The Responsibility of Pastors and Council

“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.

The Responsibility of the Church, Council and World Missions Committee

“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 others. We also want to be actively and unapologetically sharing the Good News with our neighbours.

The Responsibility of Pastors, Council and Bannerman Initiative Teams

“To Our Own Communities”

Our Dream: To be a church where members have identified their "personal parish," and where every member has at least one person in their lives with whom they are journeying with toward a relationship with Jesus Christ. (A personal parish is a group of 3-5 people for whom we pray, and care and with whom we share the Good News.)

The Responsibility of the Church, Pastors and Council

“And to the World”

Our Dream: To be maintaining strategic partnerships in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bettesu, Liberia, and other fields the Spirit may lead us to venture into that include prayer, financial support, reciprocal visits, and regular communication. We will be organizing mission trips to our partner sites, and will encourage and support Bethel members who choose to undertake mission projects on their own.

The responsibility of the World Missions Team