

CRESTWOOD Presbyterian Church
Purpose/Vision/Mission/Strategy
STATEMENT

Purpose

CRESTWOOD Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community, who by believing the gospel of Jesus Christ, belonging to Him, is becoming like Him and behaving like Him, so that His grace may be known and experienced through us by all of His creation.

Our Values

1) **Believing...the message of...**

- i) **the gospel...** The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news. It is the good news because through Him it is possible for man to be reconciled, restored to and accepted by God. This is what it means to be redeemed. Redemption was made possible through Jesus Christ's sacrificial death on the Cross. It is through this gospel the Holy Spirit gives us new [spiritual] life.
- ii) **in the Bible.** We learn of this gospel in the Bible, which is made up of the Old and New Testaments and is the only authority for faith and practice. (Ephesians 2:20; 2 Timothy 3:16) (Psalm 44:1; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; 2 Peter 1:16, 19-21) We are committed to practice our beliefs in the light of historic Biblical Christianity. We hold that the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, the Reformed Confessions of Faith: especially the Westminster Confession of Faith along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, to be summaries of what the Bible teaches. We express our love for God by obeying His commandments. (John 15:12, 13)

2) **Belonging...(membership) together**

- i) **by faith.** It is by faith alone in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone that we are accepted by God and receive the Spirit of adoption into His family. We are both accepted by God on the basis of faith in Christ's finished work alone and we are being made perfect by faith alone in Christ's finished work.
- ii) **in community.** We are redeemed into Christ's Body, His Church. We are united together in community by a common faith that is the result of the Holy Spirit's work in us. By faith we are experientially joined to Christ through membership in His body, the visible Church on earth, through covenant vows. It is in this faith community that we experience spiritual nourishment, spiritual growth and are equipped for ministry.

3) **Becoming... spiritually mature together**

- i) **Christ-like.** The importance of spiritual transformation. According to Ephesians 4:12-13, it is God's will for every believer to be equipped for service so that the body of Christ may be built up and reach unity in the faith and the knowledge and maturity of the fullness of Christ. Every member's goal should be to become a mature follower of Jesus Christ.
- ii) As members of the body of Christ at CRESTWOOD, we believe that the Holy Spirit has **called and gifted each member to serve the body** (1 Corinthians 12:7; Romans 12:4-8) so **that the body of Christ may be "built up** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, **attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."** (Ephesians 4:12-13)

4) **Behaving... fulfilling God's mandate together**

- i) Faith is not alone. It produces a love for God and a love for neighbour.

- ii) Loving God. We are redeemed in order to serve. Our service to God is driven by our love for Him which is expressed through personal and corporate worship. We fully commit ourselves to serve Him with every aspect of our being and in every aspect of our lives. Romans 12:1-2 We express our love for God in worship. We worship the Triune God in spirit (in our spirit prompted by His Spirit) and in truth (John 4:23-24)(in accordance with the Word of God), remaining reverent (Psalm 96:9) and relevant. *By reverent* we mean that God must be central in our worship, and by no means do we seek entertainment, nor will we dilute the gospel message in any way. Worship is for believers, though all must be welcomed into our midst. *By relevant* we mean that we will draw from what is excellent in both traditional and contemporary expressions of worship. Our worship must be a celebration of the greatness and faithfulness of God.
- iii) Loving our neighbour. *In deed.* We believe that God calls us to do good works (prompted by the Holy Spirit in obedience to His commandments) in evidence of a true and living faith. We also express our love for God by demonstrating a Christ-like love towards our neighbour. We believe that man is created in the image of God, therefore, all people should be treated with respect and dignity. Christ's love is forgiving, compassionate, caring, patient, admonishing, exhorting, reconciling, restoring and encouraging. (Galatians 6:10) *In proclamation.* The work of the Church is the fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20. We believe that the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:18-20) that Jesus gave His Church (proclaiming the gospel, making disciples by baptizing and teaching His commands) is central to the work of *CRESTWOOD*. We are committed to the multiplication of churches in the greater Edmonton region and other parts of the world. We believe that as *CRESTWOOD* grows it will seek to establish daughter congregations.

VISION HIS HOUSE, HIS SERVANTS 1 Peter 2:5, 9

We believe that Jesus has called us to be His House and His Servants and by being this our whole community and world may experience the same transforming power of the Holy Spirit and the gospel.

HIS HOUSE

1. That we would see ourselves as living stones becoming a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5
2. That we would see ourselves as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, declaring His praises. 1 Peter 2:9
3. That we would begin to experience heaven now. Matthew 5:3; 12:28
4. That we would be transformed by the gospel, having the mind of Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:5; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:1-4
5. That we would be Jesus Christ's witnesses in this world. Acts 1:8; John 17:20; 2 Timothy 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15; Revelation 11:3
6. That we would commit ourselves to wholly please God. Romans 12:1
7. That we would be prepared for works of service. Ephesians 2:10; 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:17
8. That we would be unified in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God. Ephesians 4:13; Philippians 2:1-4
9. That we would become spiritually mature, attaining to the full measure of the fullness of Christ, where every aspect of our lives would be under His Lordship. Ephesians 4:13 (Jesus is Lord of our lives.)

¹ The Prevailing Church", Moody, pg. 60.

² Ibid, pg.68.

10. That we would be strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit in the inner being, so that Christ would dwell in our hearts through faith. Ephesians 3:16
11. That we would be rooted and established in love and be able to grasp the greatness of Christ's love, to gain experiential knowledge of this love and to be filled to the full measure of the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:18-19
12. That we would excel in gifts that build up the church. 1 Corinthians 14:12
13. That we would love one another with the love of Jesus. John 13:34-35
14. That we would glorify God by bearing much fruit and by living a life of loving obedience to God the Father. John 15:8-14; Philippians 2:12-13
15. That the word of God would dwell in us richly. Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16
16. That we would be a community in prayer, in constant communication with our Lord, seeking His will in our lives. Acts 2:42

HIS SERVANTS

1. ...a network of churches will be established in greater Edmonton to further the work of church planting in Western Canada and other parts of the world.
2. ... the people of greater Edmonton will be illuminated by the "light" of God, rather than being gripped by spiritual darkness.
3. ... the people of greater Edmonton will have a reason for hope.
4. ... the people of greater Edmonton will have a greater sense of a greater purpose.
5. ... the people of greater Edmonton will spiritually prosper as the result of God's love working in and through us.
6. ... the families of greater Edmonton will be strengthened and prosper.
7. ... ethics and morality of the people and institutions of Edmonton will be favourably influenced which will be reflected in the values of the community.
8. ... the educational institutions in greater Edmonton will be favourably influenced and prosper.
9. ...the future leadership of greater Edmonton will be greatly influenced by the youth of CRESTWOOD, who are being spiritually equipped by the gospel to serve in all facets of society.
10. ... that reconciliation and restoration between differing people and groups will be realised.
11. ... the people of greater Edmonton who suffer and grieve the loss of relationship, through death, divorce or abortion, will find comfort and hope.
12. (further discussion and details of world mission involvement)

Mission

Our vision is to build His House and grow His Servants. We believe that God will help us realize this vision through the following *mission*: As we Reach Up we will Mirror our Lord, as we Reach Down we will Mature in the faith; as we Reach In we will grow and strengthen our Membership; as we Reach Out we will fulfill God's Mandate. Genesis 1:28; 2:15; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 4:12-13

Strategy

- 1) **REACHING UP**
- 2) **REACHING DOWN**
- 3) **REACHING IN**
- 4) **REACHING OUT**

REACHING UP

- 1) Corporate Worship
- 2) Small Group Worship
- 3) Family Worship
- 4) Personal Worship

REACHING DOWN

Teaching the commands of Christ

- 1) In Christian Education for all ages
- 2) In Small Groups
- 3) In Focus Groups
 - i) Parenting
 - ii) Marriage Preparation/Counselling
 - iii) Singleness
- 4) In Retreats & Conferences
- 5) In Ministry Preparation
 - i) Small Group Leadership Training/Apprenticeship
 - ii) Theological education by extension

REACHING IN

- 1) Small Groups
- 2) Church Family Life Retreat
- 3) Hospitality: Special Church Banquets
- 4) Visitation

REACHING OUT

To the next generation for Jesus Christ through

- 1) Youth Christian Education; Youth Small Groups
- 2) Youth Ministries/ Summer Missions
- 3) Reformed University Fellowship; Partnering with Young Life

To our community with the gospel through

- 1) Church planting in a variety of contexts (Anglo; aboriginal; ethnic)
- 2) Partnering with other evangelistic groups
 - i) Reformed University Fellowship
 - ii) Young Life
- 3) Short-term missions projects beyond our borders
- 4) Partnering with other mercy ministry groups
 - i) Hope Mission
 - ii) Pregnancy Care Centre
- 5) Support Groups
 - i) DivorceCare and Grief Share support groups
 - ii) Recovery Groups
- 6) Evangelistic small groups ministry
 - i) Christianity Explored
- 7) Event evangelism (Ladies' Christmas and Spring Gatherings)