



CBC Vision Statement

Sept 11, 2016

CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY

We endeavor to be a church characterized by vibrant, meaningful, Christ-centered community.

- **Endeavor:** We don't simply *want* Christ-centered community, or *long for* Christ-centered community, or *hope* that someday we will exhibit Christ-centered community. Rather, we will *endeavor* -- that is, we will earnestly strive and exert effort and energy and persistence -- to become a church characterized by vibrant, meaningful, Christ-centered community. We determine to not be passive (hoping by merely "showing up" that meaningful relationships will form around us), but rather to be active in our pursuit of community by taking initiative: inviting, including and investing in the people around us.
- **Characterized by:** We want our sense of community to be so strong and pervasive and meaningful that it is not only experienced by those on the inside, but is also obvious to everyone who visits us on a Sunday morning or interacts with us outside the walls of our church. When people visit, we want them to be so welcomed and embraced and encouraged that they tangibly experience the very hospitality of Christ who loves people as they are, but loves them too much to leave them as they are. We want our children to grow up in a church family that loves them as if they were all our own kids. We want all our members to feel like this is a place where they belong, are known, and are needed.
- **Vibrant:** If our church body is made up of people indwelt by the Holy Spirit who gives spiritual life and vitality, then we want to see our relationships with each other marked by that same life and vitality. Our hope is that every person at CBC feeling weak or discouraged or weary would have no shortage of people to turn to for prayer and encouragement and comfort and support.
- **Meaningful:** By "meaningful", we mean honest and authentic relationships which move beyond surface-level conversations to address the issues of substance that really matter in our lives.
- **Christ-centered:** This is the most critical component of the community that we long to see at CBC. Fellowship (Greek: *koinonia*), according to the Bible, describes inner unity around a shared purpose expressed through outward partnership. For Christians, this means that fellowship is not merely "hanging out", but pursuing a goal together, namely linking arms in our effort to glorify God by knowing him, treasuring him, and offering him to the world. In this way, "Christ-centered community" points to the purpose and direction of our fellowship: We are connected together around Christ and for Christ.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We endeavor to be a church that effectively multiplies leaders by equipping and empowering people for kingdom work here and around the world.

- **Multiplies:** Our aim is not merely to produce leaders, but also to multiply leaders by so investing in people that they are qualified not only to lead but also to seek out and develop new leaders. One of the primary tasks of every leader in the church will be to seek out and raise up potential future leaders, giving them instruction, advice, experience, responsibility, oversight, support and feedback as they grow in their leadership abilities.
- **Leaders:** Leaders are simply people who influence others toward the accomplishment of a purpose. By “leaders”, we mean not only those who are qualified and competent to lead small groups, ministry teams, and committees, but also anyone with the maturity and skills necessary to positively influence people around them. You don’t need a title to be a leader, but you do need maturity, wisdom, knowledge, and certain skills.
- **Equipping:** By “equipping”, we mean the process by which people gain the knowledge, skills and spiritual maturity necessary to lead well. This process involves teaching, mentoring, modeling, and providing hands-on opportunities. Some of this is formal, through classes and seminars and other teaching times, but the majority of it is informal, doing ministry together and giving feedback, encouragement, and advice.
- **Empowering:** By “empowering”, we mean entrusting people with the authority to lead. Empowerment is the point in the leadership-development process where we hand over responsibility to the up-and-coming leader. We hope to be a church where decision-making authority is not gripped tightly by a few people in power, but rather appropriately delegated, with support and oversight, to those eager to serve.
- **Here and around the world:** We believe it is important for us to be so focused on God’s mission to bring people into a relationship with Him that we rejoice in the privilege of raising up leaders, whether or not CBC gets to benefit from their leadership. We will continue to pour our time and resources into anyone interested in growing as a leader, whether old or young, whether experienced or inexperienced, whether a permanent resident or someone here for only a season of life. We want to focus on building God’s global kingdom, not just our congregation.

INCREASED EVANGELISM

We endeavor to be a church made up of people so in love with God and on board with God's mission that we effectively live out and share the gospel in every sphere of life.

- **So in love with God:** The heart of evangelism and the heart of every God-honoring work of faith is love for God. Our mission statement has an arc to it: We aim to glorify God by knowing Him, treasuring Him, and offering Him to the world. The knowing builds up to treasuring, because you can't treasure what you don't know. But once the treasuring (which is another word for love) is present, it should spill over into efforts to lead others to know and experience God as well. The last thing we want is for our vision statement to produce a flurry of activity without emphasizing the "furnace" which produces the energy that drives all the activity. Love for God is foundational, and without it everything else in our vision statement will fall apart.
- **On board with God's mission:** God is a missionary God who created us that we might know Him and treasure Him above all else. Although our sin has separated us from Him, God has persistently taken the initiative throughout history to reach out to us, to address our sin, and to bring us back into relationship with Him. Jesus Himself is a missionary who left his comfortable home in order to live among a foreign people, show them how to reconcile with God, and die to make that reconciliation possible. It has been said that God's church doesn't have a mission, but rather that God's mission has a church. Mission is primary, and the church exists to continue and carry on God's mission to bring together people from every tribe and tongue and people group into one family, reconciled with each other and with their maker.
- **Live out:** We want to be a church that demonstrates by our actions the very gospel that we hope to explain with our words. The gospel is good news which must be shared, but is also good news with implications for how we live, and we want to be a people that live in line with the gospel – forgiving as we've been forgiven, loving as we've been loved, giving ourselves for others because Jesus gave Himself for us. We want to be a church that tangibly demonstrates the gospel in our everyday lives.
- **Share the gospel:** Actions speak louder than words and certainly we want to live out the gospel, but actions and words together speak louder than actions alone. No amount of love for others or sacrificial living or generosity will lead people into a relationship with Jesus Christ unless we use words to explain why we love and sacrifice and give generously. We want to be a church made up of people who not only live out the gospel but also know how to effectively share and communicate the gospel.
- **In every sphere of life:** We want to be a church that gathers for encouragement and edification and worship, and then goes back out into the world on mission, wanting to be used of God to reach family and friends and coworkers and neighbors. The real work of ministry doesn't take place in the gathered services of the church, but in the lives of all church members as they bring the gospel into their families and neighborhoods and workplaces. We want our Sunday services and small group gatherings to be places for encouragement and instruction and renewed motivation so that each person goes back to pursuing God's mission in every aspect of life.