

“Church Unique”

Dan Haupt

In the June Good News, Pastor Jeff’s article talked about what would happen if each local church could identify their unique place in the Kingdom building work of Jesus. A fancy word for doing that is “visioning”. Christ Memorial started the process to clarify our vision and to identify our uniqueness in late April as staff and lay leaders participated in a two day retreat.

We discovered some things that make us a unique church. Imagine Christ Memorial as a framed picture. The frame is called the “vision frame” and the picture inside the frame is called the “vision”. The frame stays the same, but the picture inside often changes as we continuously evaluate how and where God is working to connect others to life in His Son, Jesus.

Christ Memorial has had a vision frame for years. It’s not a new concept. However, it is something that we need to communicate more often, so that each of us understands the big picture and how the different pieces fit into that picture. Our vision frame consists of four sides: Mission, Values, Strategy, and Life Marks. Let’s take a brief look at each side.

Mission

If we ask you what is Christ Memorial’s mission, many of you would correctly respond “connecting people to life in Jesus”. We communicate this a lot. Our mission gives us meaning and purpose, and drives us as a church.

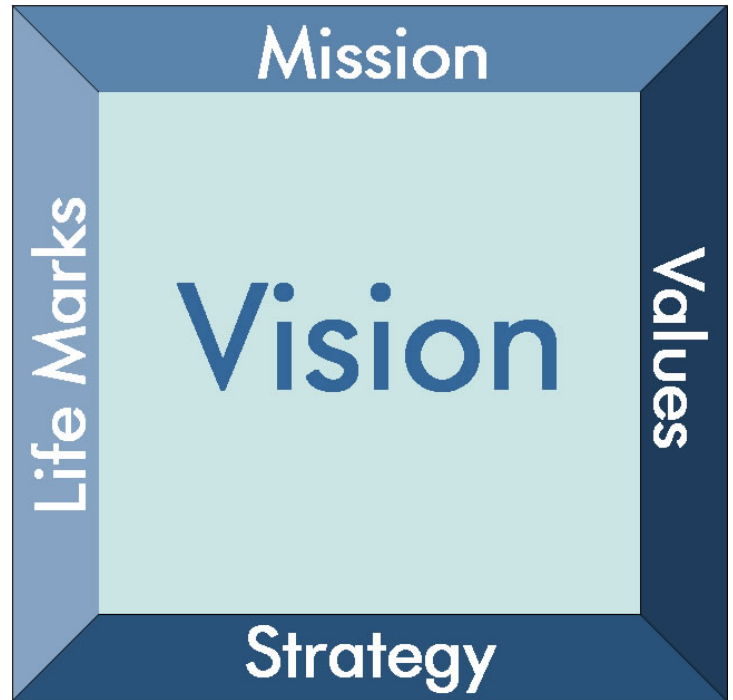
Values

The second side of the frame consists of our five values, which are not as well known. Can you name them? You probably don’t notice but they are listed on inside of your bulletin, in the weekly News and Notes and on the front of this newsletter. They are:

Growth	We value a lifelong journey with Jesus which results in individual growth and kingdom expansion.
Relational Service	We value people and the opportunities to meet their individual needs as an expression of the Gospel.
Authenticity	We value genuine relationship and a sincere Christian lifestyle/behavior.
Creativity	We value innovation in our ministry.
Every Person a Minister	We treasure the personal ministry of each person.

Strategy

We frequently talk about the third side of our vision frame – our strategy which consists of lifeWorship, lifeGroup, and lifeServe. These are things that we would like each of you to



do: worship God in all you do and participate in corporate worship on Sunday mornings, join and be actively part of a lifeGroup, and serve God within and outside the church.

Life Marks

The fourth side of the vision frame is Life Marks. Like our values, these are not as well known. They include:

- Sustained by the Word
- Dependent on Christ
- Visible Reflection of Jesus
- Reflect the Missional Heartbeat of God

Think of the sides of our vision frame in this way:

- Our Mission answers the question “what?”
- Our Values answer the question “why?”
- Our Strategy answers the question “how?”
- Our Life Marks answer the question “when?”

Of course, the frame is not worth much if it doesn’t have a picture inside it. The picture (vision) contributes significantly to our uniqueness. Please read Pastor Jeff’s article on page 4 to find out more about the vision.

As the visioning process moves forward, we intend to communicate our process and progress. We desire that you participate in the process, ask questions along the way, and join us in being the unique church that God designed us to be so that we might connect more people to life in Jesus.



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