

Loving God and Serving Others



CARNALEA METHODIST CHURCH

Produced by:
Carnalea Methodist Vision Team in response to
Clearing Our Vision, Spring 2009

Loving God and Serving Others

Introduction

From February to April 2009, the community of Carnalea Methodist met together to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in identifying the future direction of our church. We were aided in this process by Evangelical Ministries who used their 'Clearing our Vision' programme as a tool to help focus our thoughts.

Mission Statement

In the Clearing our Vision process, a church mission statement will answer two questions:

1. "Why are we here?"
2. "What are we going to do?"

The proposed mission statement for the next phase in the life of Carnalea Methodist is:

*We live to glorify God and,
through the power of His Holy Spirit,
develop followers of Jesus
for service in our community
and beyond*

Values

Four values emerged during the six weekly Clearing our Vision evenings and follow-up reflection by the Vision Team. The proposed values for the next phase in the life of Carnalea Methodist are:

1. God Centred
2. Developing followers of Jesus
3. Everyone involved and serving
4. Serving God and others

This document focuses on aims and actions for each value.

We have included the vision statements written during the process by the discussion groups. These give a rich picture of "the church we see" and are included in the following sections along with scriptural references for each value.

New Vision – New Structure

Before considering each of the four values, the Vision Team proposes two broad actions –

- to review committees and working groups** (from here on, called *teams*) and
- to understand our organisations’ views on vision and values.**

A review of our teams is necessary given the scope of the proposed changes. Throughout this report, we have made suggestions as to what some of these teams may be, including

- Worship team
- Property and Finance team
- Discipleship team
- Pastoral team
- Mission team, including Service and Evangelism
- Prayer team including Prayer Ministry
- Fellowship and Fun team
- Communications team

Aim: To Review structure and organizations

| Ref. | Objective | Action |
|------|--|---|
| 1 | Ensure that Carnalea Methodist Church is organised to implement the vision | <p>Sub-group of Church Council and Vision Team to review our structures and teams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose and remit of each • Optimal number of teams, i.e. not too many • Encourage representation of young people • Look at implications of ageing congregation • Finance and Property committee to be consulted • Clarify roles within each team • Links with local Circuit • Clarify communication between teams • People with necessary gifts and experience in each team • Accountability of teams |
| 2 | | Implementation team to meet with each organisation and discuss their views on implementing the mission statement and values. |

God Centred

Bible references:

- Mark 12:30-31
- Phil 3:8-17
- Eph 3:14-21

Our vision of a God Centred Church:

The Church we see depends totally on God.

In the Church we see, worship is a vibrant, all-age celebration overflowing with joy and thankfulness. In the presence of God we receive grace, forgiveness, inspiration, conviction, healing, strength in suffering and restoration from brokenness. We see lives rebuilt. Personal stories about God's grace in action are shared and celebrated. Prayer ministry is offered.

The Church we see does not limit its worship life to Sunday morning. Encounters with God make a real difference to real life.

The Church we see is connected to God through prayer. We see a Church continually seeking God's will and direction through prayer, scripture and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Aims:

Two aims are identified under our value "God Centred":

1. Enable everyone to engage in worship
2. Put prayer at the core of our life (corporately and individually)

Aim: To enable everyone to engage in inspiring worship

| Ref. | Objective | Action |
|------|----------------------------------|--|
| 3 | Full review of corporate worship | Appoint an all-age worship team. |
| 4 | | <p>Worship team to review the worship life of our church. Report back with proposals.</p> <p>Consider specific points from Clearing our Vision evenings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical training on leading praise • Broader participation from different groups and individuals. More readers and leaders of prayer • More variety in services – all-age, drama • Encourage more young people to take part in services • Ongoing respect for and acceptance of all worship styles • How to make best use of Sunday evenings • Visits to see other denominations and worship styles. • Include TTT (this time tomorrow) spot on Sundays for people to share their story and prayer needs |

Aim: To put prayer at the core of individual and corporate life

| Ref. | Objective | Action |
|------|--|---|
| 5 | Review opportunities for prayer | Prayer team to review opportunities for prayer in our church life, e.g. additional organized prayer time, prayer triplets |
| 6 | Set up Prayer team | Appoint prayer co-ordinator and all-age team. |
| 7 | | <p>Prayer ministry team plan for prayer ministry in church life, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open church • Prayer room development, including signage • Confidentiality |
| 8 | | Prayer available after all services and worship events |
| 9 | Prayer request system for the wider community | Prayer ministry team prepare ideas and plans for prayer ministry within wider community |
| 10 | | <p>Prayer cards around local homes. To consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start by prayer walking the area, before door-to-door • Ask people if they would like us to pray for them – in church life, or on the doorstep there and then |
| 11 | Connect church organisations with church prayer life | Prayer ministry team to strive to serve our organisations by enabling people to request / connect with prayer activities |

Developing followers of Jesus

Bible references:

- Matt 28:18-20
- Phil 1:21
- Col 2: 6-7
- 2 Tim 3: 10-17

Our vision for developing followers of Jesus:

The Church we see 'makes disciples'.

The Church we see draws people to Jesus through worship and service

The Church we see is a loving, inclusive community characterised by encouragement, fun and fellowship – a family of God.

In the Church we see Bible teaching, training, worship and prayer call people to live as Jesus lived.

The Church we see meets together in homes for bible study, support and encouragement. Authentic, God-centred relationships are cultivated.

In the Church we see, everyone is growing.

The Church we see looks like Jesus.

Aim:

Two aims are identified:

1. Establish a clear discipleship programme
2. Establish small groups

Aim: To establish a clear discipleship programme

| Ref. | Objective | Action |
|------|---|---|
| 12 | Establish mentoring programme for new and mature Christians | Establish discipleship team |
| 13 | | Discipleship team to investigate options around: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular events / courses for seekers• Alpha, Youth Alpha• Christianity Explored, Christianity Explored for Youth• Adult membership classes• Freedom in Christ, Freedom in Christ for Youth• Spiritual MOT |

Aim: To establish small groups

| Ref. | Objective | Action |
|------|------------------------|--|
| 14 | Establish Small Groups | Discipleship Team to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing small groups / home groups• Role of these groups in pastoral care• Rotation of members every few years• Interaction between small groups and mid-week |
| 15 | | Minister and Church Council to identify and train small-group leaders. Consider No9 Resource Centre to advise leaders on a range of small group Bible studies. |
| 16 | | Mid-week fellowship to continue in conjunction with small groups |

Everyone Involved and Serving

Bible references:

- 1 Cor 12:1-11
- 1 Cor 14:1-12
- 1 Peter 4:10
- Eph 4:11-16

Our vision for a Church with everyone involved and serving:

In the Church we see, leadership is characterised by serving and self-sacrifice, equipping and enabling the whole Church to function.

In the Church we see, everyone actively seeks to discover their gifts and talents through teaching and prayer.

The Church we see is inclusive of everyone.

In the Church we see, all are encouraged to be actively involved in a thriving ministry.

We see a Church where everyone serves in ways suited to their gifts and calling.

We see a Church where all are of equal worth and no one is overloaded.

The Church we see is the Body of Christ.

Aims:

Four aims are identified under our value “Everyone involved and serving”:

1. Top priority is: **Develop Enabling Leadership**
2. Enable everyone to discover gifts and talents
3. Match people to appropriate tasks
4. See everyone living life in the fullness of Christ

**Aim: To develop Enabling Leadership
– for Minister / Church Council**

| Ref. | Objective | Action |
|------|---|--|
| 17 | Training programme for spiritual leaders | Identify and implement training programme. Consider courses like Life in the Spirit, Arrow, Growing Leaders. |
| 18 | Review communication and visibility of leadership | Communication team to organize regular updates from teams and organisations in church, including their points for prayer. |
| 19 | | Communication team to set up and regularly update noticeboard in foyer to introduce leaders and contacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify leaders of organisations • Contact details for questions / volunteering • Identify who is welcoming you to church today |
| 20 | Teaching and training on leadership | Mentor small group leaders on art of leading small groups. Courses available from No9 Resource Centre and EM Delivery by suitably experienced person. Ongoing training plan. |
| 21 | | Prayer leaders – courses available. Ongoing training plan. |
| 22 | | Pastoral leaders – courses available from No9 or possible advice and training from Louise Wilson, Training and Development Officer. Ongoing training plan. |
| 23 | | Praise / Choir leaders – practical training on leading praise. Ongoing training plan. |
| 24 | | Youth and children’s leadership – courses and books available from No9. Courses run by SU, Youthlink, Exodus. Ongoing training plan. |

Aim: To enable everyone to discover gifts and talents

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| 25 | Identify gifts | Minister to run exploration evenings. |
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Aim: To match people to appropriate tasks

| Ref. | Objective | Action |
|------|---|--|
| 26 | Establish a process for appointing new volunteers | <p>Each organisation required to present criteria for leadership or involvement in that organisation for approval by the Church Council.</p> <p>It is essential that a person has the necessary talent and passion to be involved in leadership especially when teaching children or young people.</p> <p>Comply with Methodist Church in Ireland Taking Care guidelines. http://www.irishmethodist.org/dycw/resources.html</p> |
| 27 | Create list of situations vacant (or a map of all ministries of the church) | <p>Ensure that available roles, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering to take part in worship • Within church organisations • Property maintenance, catering, admin • Pastoral care <p>are appropriately visible, e.g. via church notices, website, and in line with Church Council approval where necessary</p> <p>Teams need to carefully match situations vacant with the right person for the job!</p> |

Aim: To see everyone living life in the fullness of Christ

| Ref. | Objective | Action |
|------|-------------------------|---|
| 28 | Enable personal healing | Prayer ministry and pastoral teams to co-ordinate re. offering support to individuals at the end of every service |
| 29 | | Spiritual MOT - Freedom in Christ course |

Serving God and Others

Bible references:

- Matt 22:37-40
- Col 3:12-15
- Matt 25:31-40
- Micah 6:8

Our vision for a Church that is serving God and others:

The Church we see is not a building. It has a strong foundation, but no walls. The people of this Church are looking outwards.

The Church we see is a visible, vibrant presence in the community, listening to the needs of others, serving practically and communicating God's grace and compassion to all.

The Church we see collaborates with other local churches to bring in the Kingdom of God.

The Church we see cares about Justice.

Like Jesus, the Church we see exists for others.

The Church we see is for everyone.

Aims:

Five aims are identified under our value "Serving God and others":

1. Our church to be a place where people are accepted and loved
2. Equip and encourage all our people to engage in personal witness
3. Increase visibility
4. Be a caring, serving presence in the local community
5. Increase awareness and support for Mission and the World Church

Aim: To be a place where people are accepted and loved

| Ref. | Objective | Action |
|------|---|---|
| 30 | Review pastoral care within the Church | <p>Pastoral team: Review our pastoral care and report back with proposals</p> <p>A few specifics to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand people currently skilled and available • Courses on pastoral care • People identified to note any folk who have been absent from Church life • Feedback cards, e.g. available in services, welcome table requesting contact from minister. • Students away from home – university pack, IFES • Students away from home – regular cards etc. • Pastoral visits to sick / elderly • Pastoral team to communicate plans & issues to broader church family • Role of small groups / home groups in pastoral care. Consider rotation of people to help more people get to know each other |
| 31 | | Pastoral Team to develop church visitor teams |
| 32 | Healthy social activities and fun in church, releasing gifts and graces | Pastoral team: Recommend we establish a Fellowship and Fun team to organise regular social events for the whole church |

Aim: To equip and encourage all our people to engage in personal witness

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| 33 | Look for and run appropriate courses on personal witness | <p>Arrange training course in small groups and mid week Bible study on sharing our faith, consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Hybels 'Just walk across the Room' • John Ortberg's 'If you want to walk on water you have to get out of the boat' |
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Aim: To increase visibility

| Ref. | Objective | Action |
|------|--|---|
| 34 | Develop an action plan for advertising and publicity | Establish a communications team |
| 35 | | Communications team to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review existing worship services, organisations and programmes• Review community audit feedback re. limited visibility of who we are, what we do• Review other churches – Seymour St, Mountpottinger, West Church for online services• Define marketing mix – press, leaflets, web, DVD, posters, noticeboard• Include opportunity for people’s feedback – post box• Consider community magazine to read, including stories of our work and people’s testimonies• Cost exercise – confirm budget• Proposals to Church Council |
| 36 | | Worship services available on DVD. Consider buying DVD players for people who need one. |
| 37 | Co-operate with other churches and Circuit in outreach | Communications team to co-ordinate leaflet advertising local church services at Christmas etc. |

Aim: To be a caring, serving presence in the community

| Ref. | Objective | Action |
|------|--|---|
| 38 | Prayer walk | Prayer team to organise prayer walk |
| 39 | Co-operate with other churches and organisations in outreach | Explore setting up a working group with other churches Consider joint community audit with other churches and organizations Arrange joint fellowship meetings with other churches |
| 40 | | Mission team to consider worship services and events shared with other churches and organisations e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family relationships, parenting • Health • Drugs • Education • Money / debt • Sport |
| 41 | Care and serve practically | Decide how practical service is co-ordinated, e.g. Appoint Service team. |
| 42 | Listen to the community and identify needs | Service team to identify needs of community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit Clearing our Vision community audit • Check availability of other local church audits • Do wider community audit, co-operating with local churches • Understand who is marginalised in our community and start to identify their needs |

Aim: To be a caring, serving presence in the community

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| 43 | Listen to the community and identify needs | <p>Service team to review needs...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current CMC initiatives 2. Community audit (above) 3. Clearing our Vision feedback <p>... and propose response to Church Council</p> <p>Specific ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee mornings • Luncheon clubs for elderly • Street tidy, in collaboration with council, other churches • Transport – not just for Sundays • Gardening / grass cutting • Food ministries • Investigate co-operation with CAB, CRUISE etc • Church accessible for people to experience welcome • Repeat previous church open day • Prayer ministry as part of this • What can be linked to small, existing, local community initiatives? |
| 44 | Develop outreach | Database of practical skills within congregation e.g. grass cutting, making meals, professional skills |
| 45 | | Alpha Courses: Mission team to arrange leaders & hospitality |
| 46 | | Summer scheme |
| 47 | | Street reach – volunteers to link up with NiteZone |

Aim: Increase awareness and support for Mission and the World Church

| Ref. | Objective | Action |
|------|---|---|
| 48 | Develop our involvement and interaction in global mission, both spiritual and practical | <p>Mission team to review our commitment to overseas mission and examine opportunities to extend this work.</p> <p>Encourage involvement with Mission Partners through prayer, giving, action</p> |
| 49 | Giving to World Development | Continuing commitment to 1% Appeal |