

Vision, Values, Goals and Strategies for Hope Missional Community (MC)



Why we need a new vision...

Without one, the church will perish and so will the lost...¹

Vision

Our vision is not about doing, because we are not what we do; we are what's been done for us. Therefore, our vision is about our identity, rather than our purpose.

"We are a family on mission, through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, discipling one another to become more like Him, for Him".²

Values, Goals and Strategies

Our values help us to define our vision; also to set our goals – what success will look like. In turn, our strategies help us to achieve our goals – in effect, describing what our values will look like as they are being lived out in pursuit of our goals.

¹ "The why" seeks to explain what will happen if we are not visionary, giving a rationale for the vision. Without a new, scalable way to make full-fledged disciples from unchurched people we will rapidly fail to engage new people from the community and DCF's attempts at mission will grind to a halt. Already we do not have enough life-group leaders or homes willing to show hospitality to people from the fringe, let alone to complete strangers. Numerical growth will require conversion and conversion will require our lives to be completely reoriented around mission, given the extent of functional separation between church and community. In short, it takes a lot more time to actually make disciples than we thought. To achieve this, we need to create "new wineskins" (*Matthew 9:17; Mark 2:22; Luke 5:38*) to avoid losing both the new wine and ruining the old wineskins.

² For the Kingdom of God to advance significantly, tangibly, in Dawlish, and in our lifetime, we will need to see a widespread increase in faith, hope and love in our community. We will need to see the culture and atmosphere transform from worldly to Gospel-inspired. This will be marked by increasing numbers of non-Christian people coming to faith, living under the authority of Christ and themselves going on to make disciples who make disciples.

Value 1. We worship God primarily through our obedience to His commands.³

Goal 1. To be a truly worshipping community that lives in wholehearted obedience to what Jesus clearly commands us to do.

Strategy 1. To intentionally discover the truth of God's word, nurture belief in that truth in our hearts, and live out that belief in obedience to all that Jesus commands us (Discover, Nurture, Act; DNA).

Value 2. We share our everyday lives together as God's family on mission.

Goal 2. To be good family and visibly display God's hospitality and welcome to the wider community.

Strategy 2. To eat together, play together, pray together, serve together and live authentically, as God intended.

Value 3. We pray daily for the Gospel to advance.

Goal 3. To see the Gospel advancing daily through prayer, with specific people who need Jesus being put in our path by God, and more doors opening for the Gospel in our community.

Strategy 3. To have a regular, disciplined pattern of prayer for daily opportunities to witness to specific, named people and for God to move in power in specific, named situations in our local community.

Value 4. We make disciples who, by definition, know how to make disciples.

Goal 4. To see a growing body of disciples who have a track record of making disciples.

Strategy 4. To ask good questions, and listen well to people, so the Holy Spirit can reveal connections between our story and God's story, providing opportunities to 'speak the truth in love'.⁴

Value 5. We glorify God by offering back to him all that he has given us.

Goal 5. To bring glory to God by being known as a family that lives hospitably, abundantly, sacrificially and missionally, displaying his qualities to broken and hurting people.

³ "If you love me, do as I have commanded" (John 14:15)

⁴ Ephesians 4:15

Strategy 5. To share all that we have been given, our money, our time, our talents, our homes, our possessions, and in vulnerability, even our very lives, to advance the Gospel.

Value 6. We demonstrate and proclaim the Gospel to the people we are being led to reach.

Goal 6. To bear much fruit for Jesus.

Strategy 6. To be intentional about loving, serving, listening and 'speaking the truth in love' as part of our everyday rhythm of life.

Value 7. We love each other like family and openly shares this love with others.

Goal 7. To become a growing family that loves each other and invites others to become adopted into this family.

Strategy 7. To live out our identity as dearly loved, adopted sons and daughters in the Father's house, sharing everyday life together as family on mission.

Value 8. We only do what advances the Gospel.

Goal 8. Our goal is to see the Gospel advance as we focus our time and energy in wholehearted pursuit of it.

Strategy 8. Our strategy is to grow, in both number and depth, by doing only what is good for Gospel growth, intentionally avoiding anything which distracts us from this.

Value 9. We believe every human being is made in the image of God, redeemable in Christ, and able to make disciples.

Goal 9. To see an inclusive community of diverse people drawn together in Christ, living in daily, growing obedience to His commands.

Strategy 9. To create a positive, encouraging culture where we passionately believe anyone can repent, be forgiven and follow Jesus, and everyone gets to participate.

Value 10. We believe that all healthy things grow and reproduce.

Goal 10. To see multiplication growth happening at every level, through reproducing DNA groups, MCs, clusters and gatherings.

Strategy 10. To weave the principle of multiplication into everything we do from the smallest, and earliest possible, moment.

Value 11. We believe men and women are equal, but not interchangeable, in the sight of God, as both are needed to fully reflect the image of God.

Goal 11. Our goal is to see men and women working together to advance the Gospel as co-heirs with Christ, whilst simultaneously displaying the Gospel to the world through God's pattern for family life.

Strategy 11. Our strategy is to release men and women, young and old, into their calling as apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers,⁵ and their spiritual gifts,⁶ whilst distinguishing these callings and giftings from the prescribed roles of elder and deacon in the local church.⁷

Value 12. We celebrate and share our abundant life in Christ.

Goal 12. To be known for the fun we have together, for the love we show one another, and for the accessibility of our hospitality.

Strategy 12. To have a regular pattern of meals, parties and other gatherings that are known for how good and welcoming they are.

⁵ *Ephesians 4:11*

⁶ *Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:6-10, 27-31; 14:1-15*

⁷ *1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17-21; Titus 1:5-9*