



CROSSROADS
N A Z A R E N E C H U R C H

Ministry Philosophy, Mission, Vision, and Strategy

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OUR MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY

We believe the Church is a collection of individuals who find themselves as part of a family; adopted sons and daughters of Christ, compelled to live a life of love, pursuing holiness, and thereby overflowing with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the surrounding communities, in relationships, and in every possible facet of an individual's life.

WHOLENESS CORE VALUE

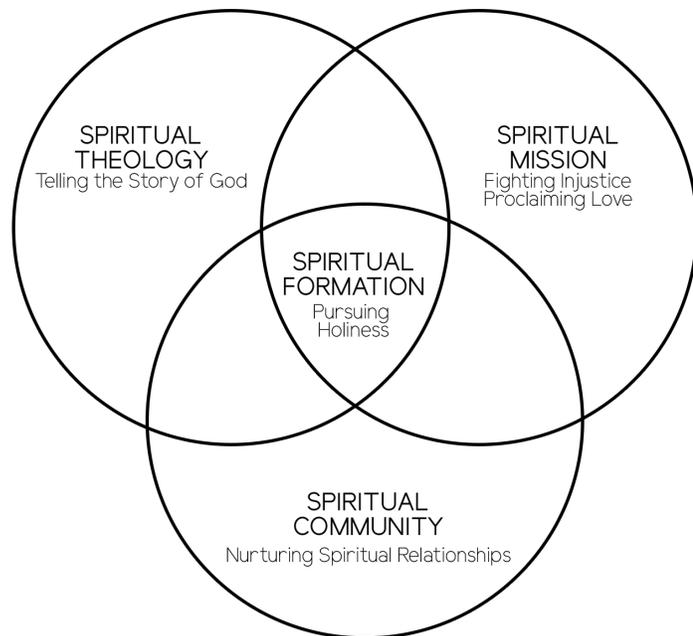
*We believe that God desires to redeem every part of humanity.
On this journey, we believe that Christ is the only hope for
healing the whole person, reconciling and restoring our
relationship with God, each other, and creation.*

We are all called, in connection with our brothers and sisters in Christ, to a life of holiness through spiritual formation. Spiritual formation is a process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others. Our individual task is to allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in us, so we may go and be Christ to the world.

It is the role of the Church, in all its avenues of influence and through the power of the Holy Spirit, to help people on this pursuit of holiness (Spiritual Formation) by constantly telling the story of God (Spiritual Theology), nurturing spiritual relationships (Spiritual Community), and standing firm against injustice while proclaiming love above all else (Spiritual Mission). Spiritual formation must be at the core of the Church. The Church cannot be segregated or divided about this goal.

Ministries of the Church should not exist independently of each other nor be disconnected from the larger vision. They are all expressions of spiritual formation. The expression may change based on context (age level ministries), but we must never lose sight of the purpose for our existence in preparing Christlike disciples to bring about the Kingdom of God in this world. All ministries must maintain this as their primary focus.

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to Love God, Love Each Other, and Love The World.

"Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.'" - Matthew 22:37-40

"Jesus said, 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" - Matthew 28:19-20

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." - John 13:34-35

OUR VISION

Our vision is to lead people into a life that is completely connected; firmly rooted in our love for God and fully expressed through our love for others. This is lived out in relationships as we Gather, Grow, & Go.

In order to succinctly summarize our vision statement in a way for people to assimilate quickly, we are adopting the following slogan: **LIVING CONNECTED WITH GOD AND OTHERS**

In conjunction with the slogan, we are choosing to use the following phrase as our mantra, or rally cry: **LIVE CONNECTED**

The slogan and the mantra will be used regularly and consistently, and will be on official Crossroads printed literature and other media.

OUR STRATEGY

Our strategy is to develop and implement church-wide practices that will facilitate and encourage Gathering, Growing, and Going, all within the context of relationships: Practices such as The Gatherings, Community Formation, Prayer, Outreach, The Mercy Project, and Giving.

GATHER • SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY

The Church is to function as a spiritual community, teaching spiritual theology and with spiritual formation at its core.

The Gatherings

The primary avenue for spiritual formation is in the Gatherings. In the Gatherings, pastoral leadership can model modes of spiritual growth like prayer, praise, sacraments, confession, fellowship, giving and sermon. The Gatherings also provide the primary avenue for teaching spiritual theology; telling the story of God. We recognize that tough times are ahead, already present for many; tough times that serve a purpose in God's perfect plan. So the plan must be heard. The love behind the plan must be seen. We must be committed to knowing the Bible, knowing the One who wrote it, hearing the story it is telling, and ultimately communicating the story of God.

TRUTH CORE VALUE

"We believe in asking the hard questions about life, God, and spirituality. We believe Truth will be found when we seek it. We believe the Bible is the true and inspired Word of God, and therefore we place high priority on the teaching, discussion, and life application of Scripture."

Worship

The English word translated worship derives from the Anglo-Saxon word, "worth-ship." Worship means "to attribute worth" to something. It is the intent of worship to bring people into a personal encounter with the transcendent God in response to His love. Though the Gospel is not bound to any form, ritual, or traditional way of expression, what matters is that people are hungering for an experience that engages and requires their full involvement no matter what form it takes. We believe that the living presence of the Holy Spirit in corporate praise and worship will draw the seeker and grow the believer in their spiritual journey. In these gathering times individuals can breathe in Christ, experience Christ, and thus be equipped and empowered to breathe out Christ in the community throughout the week. When the church was established in Acts, the Scripture says...

"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." – Acts 2:46

God calls the church to express its life in the unity and fellowship of the same Spirit; in worship, through preaching of the Word, observing communion and baptism, and ministry in His name. These corporate times provide mutual accountability and obey the clear command of Scripture.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another -- and all the more as you see the Day approaching." – Hebrews 10:24-25

An identity in corporate worship expresses the identity of a church. Celebration should characterize the mood of our Sunday Gatherings. These Gatherings are intended to be intergenerational and, in content and style, should express the unity as well as the diversity of a local group of believers.

The Bible says, "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth. . . . God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." – John 4:23-24

Jesus' response shows that the method or mode of worship is not significant, but that worship should focus on God alone (Matthew 4:10), with all of your heart and in honesty.

First Impressions

As part of our Gatherings each week, we have the potential for guests to attend for the very first time. We will be dedicated to creating an atmosphere where all guests attending a gathering at Crossroads will be valued and welcomed as a gift from God, with genuine love and care. We believe we can accomplish this by presenting a welcoming and inviting atmosphere, identifying and eliminating any distractions, and making every effort to connect people. The following areas would be evaluated and monitored for effectiveness: hospitality, greeting, ushering, information desk, sanctuary hosting, facilities, security, medical response, communication, and starting point.

GROW • SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

We will not be satisfied with just coming to the Gatherings on Sunday, tithing our income, getting involved in church activities and living moral, decent lives. We want the Holy Spirit to form us spiritually until we love Jesus more than anything else no matter how we feel or how others treat us or how our lives are going. Toward this end we will be committed to the practices of Community Formation and Prayer.

"Under Christ's control the whole Body is nourished... and it grows as God wants it to grow." – Colossians 2:19 (GN)

Community Formation

Authentic and genuine relationships will be encouraged and nurtured. The Trinity is the perfect model of relationship. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as the triune God, exist only as community. We believe that as Christians, we are to live as one, even as the Trinity is one.

COMMUNITY CORE VALUE

"We believe life is intended to be lived in authentic community, so we will purposefully lead people into genuine, loving relationships with each other."

Establishing a connection and sense of community is vital for authentic growth of the Christian life. Our intent would be for the people of Crossroads to experience transformational relationships with each other; relationships that connect at the soul level and help lead each other on the narrow way that leads to life. This is true spiritual community; where souls connect, where shame weakens, where sin surfaces, where failure meets grace, where irritations soften, and where holy desire grows.

Assimilation

Our vision of leading people into spiritual community begins by having a clear plan for assimilating new people into the life of Crossroads. We will be intentional about providing initial steps of engagement, and connecting new people with established people. We will also be intentional about helping new people move along a path of increasing involvement.

Groups

Even though transformational relationships can occur in all kinds of situations, we want to be intentional about creating environments that would facilitate people finding and engaging in these relationships. We envision this being done through *Connect Groups*, consisting of specific groups where the size is limited and the content is prescribed, and *Community Life Groups*, consisting of a wide variety of groups varying in size and content.

Connect Groups and Community Life Groups would have the following 4 things in common:

1. They would provide a place for people's stories to be told,
2. They would recognize prayer as foundational and be dedicated to praying regularly,
3. They would be dedicated to caring for and supporting the members of the group, and
4. They would provide a place where biblical truths are applied to life.

Discipleship

Within the context of Spiritual Community, we want to be intentional about partnering with people on their spiritual journey from new believer to fully devoted follower of Christ. We will be dedicated to providing discipleship training, mentoring relationships, identification of gifts for ministry and connected opportunities for service on various levels; from the new believer to the mature Christ follower.

INFLUENCE CORE VALUE

We believe that Jesus was intentional about raising up servant leaders. Therefore, we will be intentional about training and equipping followers of Christ to impact our families, community, and world.

LifeCare

We will also be intentional about providing general life care, as well as training in life skills. We will be committed to providing a safe place for hurting people to find recovery and healing for the hurts, habits, and hang-ups that are keeping them from living into their freedom in Christ. We envision this being done through *LifeCare Classes* (classes designed to teach a particular life skill, e.g. parenting, financial health, self-defense, healthy living, handling divorce, dealing with grief, etc.), *LifeCare Teams* (ministry teams providing life care, e.g. hospital visitation, meals, ride assists, etc.), and *LifeCare Services* (e.g. financial assistance, marriage counseling, financial counseling, sexual addiction counseling, other general counseling, etc.).

Prayer

Corporate and personal prayer life in regular communion with God should be taught, understood, and practiced daily. The power and importance of prayer is revealed throughout the Bible and is the medium for establishing, acknowledging, and accessing God's covenant promises.

PRAYER CORE VALUE

"We believe that people can communicate directly with the Living God, so we choose to promote an environment in which prayer pervades everything we do."

"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer..." – 1 Peter 3:12

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." – Philippians 4:6

We will be dedicated to keeping prayer a priority at Crossroads. We will provide regular opportunities for the church to participate in corporate prayer times. We will also provide teaching and training on prayer; encouraging people to begin or further develop their own personal prayer life.

GO • SPIRITUAL MISSION

Outreach

The Church exists for the sake of others. We believe the Church is the means by which God will bring about His Kingdom. That is to say that all professing believers in Jesus Christ as Lord are part of the Body of Christ, commissioned by Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit. As we are being formed spiritually, a natural outcome should be a life that is salt and light to the world around us. We understand our commissioning to be missional as our God is a missional God. By missional, we mean that God's efforts are focused on redeeming all of creation. This is our spiritual mission.

"Therefore, in your coming and goings, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...teaching them all things I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20)

Relationship Evangelism

The Church is most effective when it focuses not so much on bringing non-believers inside the church walls through attraction but rather builds up the Body of Christ to go and accomplish the Great Commission. This primarily involves, through the grace of God and power of the Holy Spirit, the Church looking outward and living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in tangible, profound, and compelling ways through relationship evangelism.

"Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how shall they ask him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?" – Romans 10:13-14 (TLB)

CULTURE CORE VALUE

We believe that Jesus understood and engaged people where they were on their unique journey. We desire to see people as God sees them, as those who bear the image of God regardless of their cultural perspective and background.

"The Lord ...is patient..., not wanting anyone to perish, but wants everyone to come to repentance." – 2 Peter 3:9

We will be dedicated to offering training, mentoring and education as it pertains to understanding our areas of influence and how to speak into the lives of those in our areas of influence.

Connecting Opportunities

Relationship evangelism is our desired means for spreading the gospel and we believe it is most effective. We also understand that in today's culture, not everyone responds the same way. Therefore, we will be intentional about providing Connecting Opportunities. Connecting Opportunities provide a means for current Crossroads attendees to more easily invite unattached Christians, or pre-Christians, to experience the community of the Church and thereby move toward a greater understanding of the Gospel. Through an intentional assimilation process, we will be committed to helping these people move toward a new life in

Christ and into authentic spiritual community.

The Mercy Project

God has commanded the Church to care for the poor and needy. The Mercy Project, at its foundation, is a response to this commandment.

MERCY CORE VALUE

We believe that the church is God's ongoing presence in the world. Our hearts should break for what breaks the heart of God, compelling us to fight injustice and to serve others compassionately.

We go and do because our relationship with Christ compels us to act. We are compelled to act and to move in this particular avenue to bring about the Kingdom of God, and in the process we are participating in the continual process of spiritual formation and our spiritual mission.

The Mercy Project should not be reduced to an event-planning endeavor or to a separate ministry of Crossroads that is an all-encompassing catch for all "mission" work. It should be a collection of spiritually formed individuals compelled to fight injustice and serve others compassionately. Our faith in Christ and our loving motives should determine why we do what we do. Participation in the Mercy Project should stem from individuals who have been spiritually formed by the work of the Church.

We will be dedicated to nurturing partnerships that are community-driven, sustainable, bring about lasting change and facilitated in a holistic manner.

While The Mercy Project offers many different aspects of spiritual formation including service, compassion, awareness, evangelism, and so on, it all comes back to the foundational principle that we act because God has commanded.

In addition, The Mercy Project allows for a way to connect with those who want to "see it" before they would consider "believing it" - when it comes to the Gospel we proclaim. It is an invitation to participate with Crossroads attendees to fulfill God's mission that includes to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.

Giving

We believe the Bible is clear in regards to giving as part of our spiritual formation. As we allow the Holy Spirit to continually form us into the image of Christ, we should all the more live as giving people, managing the resources of a generous God in giving of our time, talents and treasure for His Kingdom.

Our giving of our time, talents and treasure should be marked by the following traits:

- Faithfulness - *"This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."* – 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

- Obedience - At Crossroads we teach tithing in support of the mission of God through His Church. We believe that Biblical precepts teach that the "first fruits" belong to God. *"We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the LORD each year the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree."* – Nehemiah 10:35

The Bible says that giving 10% of our income is the reflection of a generous and obedient life and is intended for the support of the ministries and functions of the church. *"A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord."* – Leviticus 27:30

- Generosity - *"Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to."* – Deuteronomy 15:10

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share." – 1 Timothy 6:18

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

- Uniqueness - We believe that every person that is a Christian is uniquely designed for service to Christ through their church and in the world we serve. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service.

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us." – Romans 12:4-6

Time And Talents

In regards to time and talents, it is our desire that everyone who calls Crossroads their church home would volunteer in some capacity serving the Body of Christ and also serving in one of our Mercy Project partnerships.

Treasure

In regards to your treasure (money), a simple rule of thumb to live by is to *give first, save second, and live off the rest.*

MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY, MISSION, VISION & STRATEGY OVERVIEW

<p>MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY</p>	<p>How We View Ministries Within The Church A brief summary of our approach towards ministry and what we believe to be of utmost importance within the Church.</p>	<p><i>Spiritual formation must be at the core of the Church. The Church cannot be segregated or divided about this goal. Ministries of the Church should not exist independently of each other nor be disconnected from the larger vision. They are all expressions of spiritual formation.</i></p>
<p>MISSION</p>	<p>Why We Exist What we are all about. Our driving force.</p>	<p><i>We exist to Love God, Love Each Other, and Love the World.</i></p>
<p>VISION</p>	<p>What It Looks Like To Carry Out The Mission A picture of what the church would look like if we are carrying out our mission successfully.</p>	<p><i>Our vision is to lead people into a life that is completely connected; firmly rooted in our love for God and fully expressed through our love for others. This is lived out in relationships as we Gather, Grow, and Go.</i></p>
<p>SLOGAN</p>	<p>Vision Summary A brief statement that summarizes our vision.</p>	<p><i>Living Connected with God & Others</i></p>
<p>MANTRA</p>	<p>Vision Rally Cry A catch phrase that is part of our everyday language.</p>	<p><i>Live Connected</i></p>
<p>STRATEGY</p>	<p>The Plan For Carrying Out Our Vision A brief statement that summarizes how we plan to carry out our vision.</p>	<p><i>We will develop and implement church-wide practices that facilitate and encourage Gathering, Growing, and Going, all within the context of relationships: practices such as The Gatherings, Community Formation, Prayer, Outreach, The Mercy Project, and Giving.</i></p>
<p>CORE VALUES</p>	<p>How We Behave Guiding principles that define our behavior, or how we act, as we carry out our mission.</p>	<p>Wholeness: Seek reconciliation and restoration through Jesus in all things • Truth: Place high priority on teaching, discussion and life application of scripture • Prayer: Promote prayer in all we do • Community: Live in genuine, authentic relationships • Mercy: Fight injustice, serve others compassionately • Culture: See people as image bearers of God Influence: Equip followers of Christ.</p>
<p>ARTICLES OF FAITH</p>	<p>What We Believe Our belief system. As we carry out our mission, these beliefs, or truths, are the foundation upon which everything else we do is built.</p>	<p><i>We believe in the triune God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, sin, atonement, prevalent grace, repentance, justification, regeneration and adoption, Christlikeness, the church, baptism, the Lord's supper, healing, Christ's return, final judgement.</i></p>