

Review of Existing Definition

CURRENT "VISION" STATEMENT

New Life Church is a Christ-centered family of believers committed to the whole counsel of God in Scripture. We seek by God's grace to be a household of faith that provides instruction, inspiration and encouragement, equipping its members for the work of the ministry. Together, we are committed to freely offer the good news of salvation to our neighbors.

Review of Existing Definition

“New Life Church is a Christ-centered family of believers committed to the whole counsel of God in Scripture.”

Positives:

- ✦ Focused upon Christ being the One who brings us together
- ✦ Focused upon commitment to the Word

Review of Existing Definition

“We seek by God’s grace to be a household of faith that provides instruction, inspiration and encouragement, equipping its members for the work of the ministry.”

Positives:

- ✦ We are here to learn
- ✦ We are here to be encouraged and helped
- ✦ We are here to be useful in God's work

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“Together, we are committed to freely offer the good news of salvation to our neighbors.”

Positive:

One of our main commitments is speaking about salvation to others.

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Negatives:

- No explicit mention of worship – we felt that this was an aspect that could be improved upon.
- Too general – most of these are general, but we felt that adding some headings would be clarifying to why the church exists and what her main roles are.

Who We Are

Our Process – prayer and review of other churches' statements.

Conclusions – there was no need for us to “reinvent the wheel”, there were many good and compelling statements.

Today & Future – receive feedback and modify if necessary; then begin to think about how “who we are” translates into “goals and expectations”.

Who We Are

Worship

God is the focus of worship. God has prescribed how He is to be worshiped,¹ and in submission, NLPC conducts historically informed, biblically saturated, and Reformed public worship.

¹ Known as the “Regulative Principle”.

Worship Rationale

Answers the questions: “Why worship?” & “How do we worship?”

- Highlights the most important aspect of who we are – we exist to worship God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Reflects our commitment to worship biblically – much praying, Word-centered singing (including psalms), reading & preaching the Word (predominately consecutive, exegetical preaching).
- Reflects our conviction that worship is not in a constant state of flux, suspicious of need for innovation or “improvement”.

Who We Are

Discipleship

All Christians are servants of the Master.

In response to the Great Commission, NLPC seeks to build a fellowship of committed Christian disciples who are growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ, serving the Lord, and applying the truth of the Gospel in every area of life.

Discipleship Rationale

Answers the question: “How does the church make disciples?”

- Promotes that the Christian life is one of continual growth.
- Encourages that with growth in Christ there is commitment to service.
- Reflects that the Word is central and essential – since it is THE authority, that the Christian should be applying it.

Who We Are

Outreach

God uses means to reach the lost. As stewards of the Good News of Jesus Christ, NLPC seeks to serve the kingdom of God and build up the Church through the promotion of evangelism, church planting, missions, and mercy ministry, both locally and throughout the world, by engaging every member in the work of missions.

Outreach Rationale

Answers the question: “How are we to relate to the world around us?”

Reflects that we are responsible as stewards – what God has given, we must give to others.

Reminds that building up the kingdom is building up the Church.

Promotes that the biblically approved method is by sharing the Good News of the gospel.

Next Steps

First, we want to finalize our definition of “who we are”.

Second, we want to begin thinking and explaining how this statement will be reflected in all the various aspects of church life and ministry.

Third, we want to establish goals and expectations for the future.