



The Shape of Our Ministries

I. What Do We Believe?

Covenant Affirmations

1. Bible as God's Word
2. Necessity of New Birth
3. Whole Mission
4. Church as Fellowship of Believers
5. Dependence on Holy Spirit
6. Freedom in Christ

II. Why Are We Here?

Mission

Centennial Covenant exists...
*to glorify God by following Jesus
 on a shared journey of transformation
 in God's mission for our broken world*

III. What Does God Desire?

Priority Callings (pages 2-9)

1. Abiding in Christ
2. Journey of Transformation
3. Peacemaking
4. Connecting
5. Missional Identity
6. Mentoring
7. Equipping Leadership

IV. How Do We Live Our Mission Together?

Shared Ministry Covenant (page 10)

Commitments to...

- ...Christ-Following
- ...Character Development
- ...Connecting
- ...Clarity
- ...Contributing with Excellence

"Right Things"

"Things Right"

V. What Do We Do?

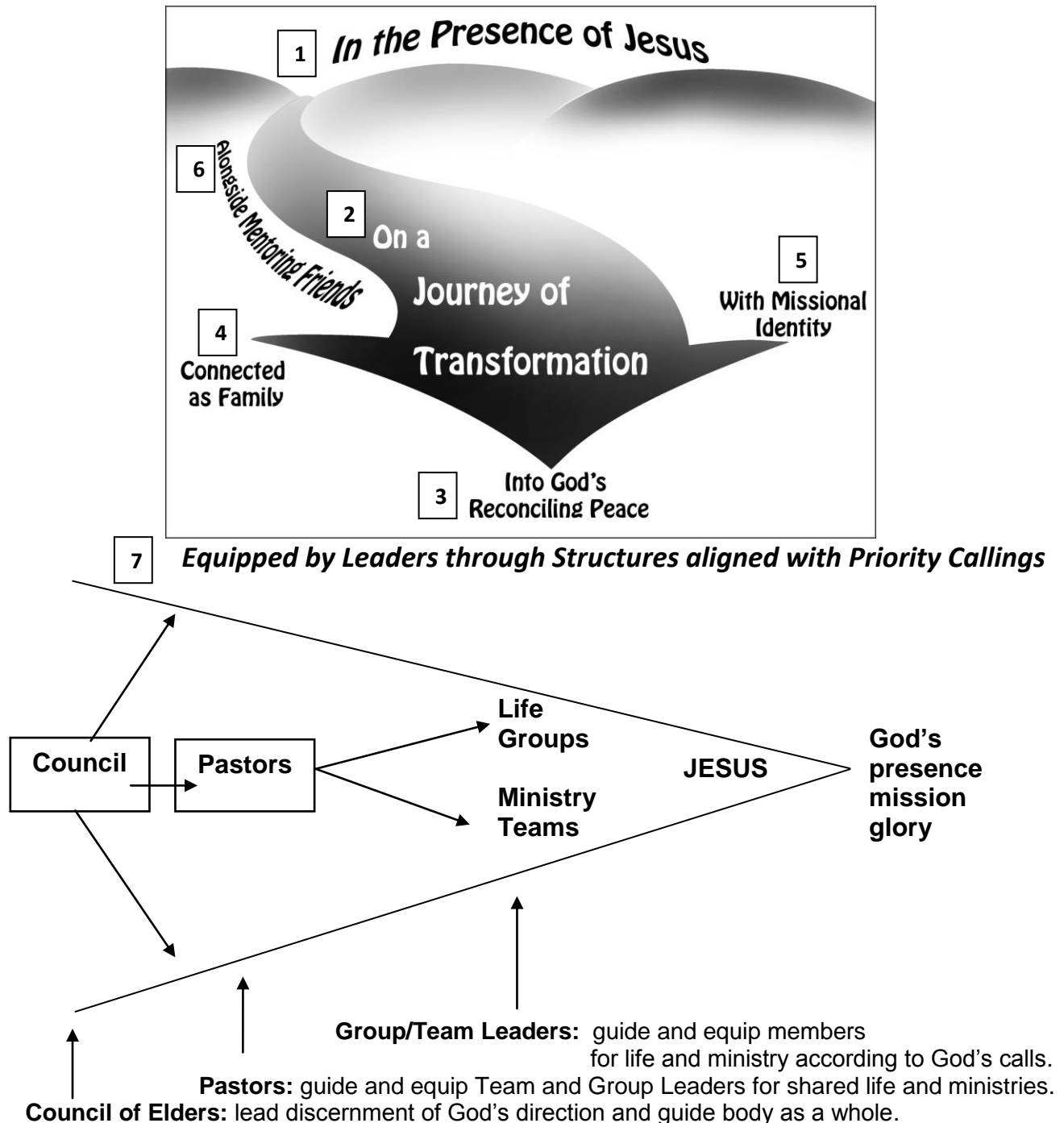
Ministry Team Specific Plans

Discerned from God and implemented by his Spirit,
 shaped by his truth, ways, mission and callings,
 as expressed above.

Priority Callings

Out of Centennial Covenant's biblical foundations and *Covenant Affirmations*, and then our sense of strengths from God, as well as needed growth and change, we believe he is calling us to follow Jesus by his Spirit into seven *Priority Callings*. These are not our own "strategic plans" for his work, but discernments of his desires for our shared life and ministries to guide and empower our prayers, planning, service, and evaluation. All the callings are for every ministry, rather than each being a separate ministry "program."

OVERVIEW



We believe God is calling Centennial Covenant to follow Jesus by his Spirit into...

#1: ABIDING in CHRIST – to choose life in the presence of Jesus

GOD DESIRES to draw us into a love relationship through trust in his Son and being filled with his Holy Spirit.

And so HE CALLS us to personal and congregational living

under the authority and in the presence of Jesus

as Lord of all things and the living Head of Centennial Covenant.

Key Scriptures:

- John 15:5-8; Matthew 16:18-19; Luke 10:38-42; Psalm 27:1-4; Ephesians 3:14-19; Exodus 33:14-15.

Related Covenant Affirmation:

- Traditional Trinitarian and Christ-exalting creeds (*Nicene, Apostles*)

DESIRED OUTCOMES for discerning fruit and progress:

A. Together, in all our gatherings, groups, teams and households, we increasingly...

1. give ourselves with attentive celebration to the **reigning presence of Jesus** in all things;
2. give priority to **welcoming his Word and Spirit,**
and responding through corporate Christ-exalting worship and dependent prayer;
3. seek to **discern** what God is doing and what he desires for us to do *with* him,
as opposed to what we, on our own, decide to do *for* him.

B. Increasing numbers of individuals...

1. are **exploring** who Jesus is (if not yet believers);
2. have **turned** to Jesus in repentance and trust for his gift of reconciliation with God;
3. are growing into a **secure identity** “in Christ” as God’s adopted child;
4. are moving into deeper **intimacy** with him.

We believe God is calling Centennial Covenant to follow Jesus by his Spirit into...

#2: JOURNEY of TRANSFORMATION

– *to pursue life transformation into Christ-likeness*

GOD DESIRES to heal and transform us into Christ's image for loving him and people.

And so HE CALLS us into a faith journey of pursuing growth in his Presence through his Word and by his Spirit.

Key Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (Mark 12:28-34); Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 8:28-29; 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Galatians 2:20; 4:19; 5:22-25; Philippians 1:3-6, 9-11; 3:7-14.

Related Covenant Affirmations:

- *Necessity of the New Birth*
- *Centrality of the Word of God*
- *Conscious Dependence on the Holy Spirit*

DESIRED OUTCOMES for discerning fruit and progress:

A. Together, in all our gatherings, groups, teams and households, we increasingly...

1. **celebrate God's life-transforming work** as we see evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives;
2. cultivate forms of unrushed **rest and more simplified living with Jesus**, resisting our culture's pervasive busyness and consumerism;
3. **embrace everything** in life, and all we do as a church, **as God's opportunity** to carry out his desire to restore humanity's divine image.

B. Increasing numbers of individuals...

1. **desire personal transformation** into Christ likeness and so **choose to pursue** it;
2. understand God's ultimate purposes revealed in **Scripture's over-arching story** of Creation—Fall—Redemption to build a **Kingdom world-view** in everything;
3. have a **vision of the "journey"** into transformation and their next steps in its common stages;
4. practice **disciplines that position** them for next steps with Jesus on the journey;
5. experience increased **love for God and people** and other **fruit of the Holy Spirit**.

We believe God is calling Centennial Covenant to follow Jesus by his Spirit into...

#3: PEACEMAKING

– to seek God's peace through reconciliation in all relationships

GOD DESIRES to reconcile all people in this broken world – to himself, to other people, to creation, and to their own identity and purpose – for the fullness of his “shalom” in the new creation begun in Christ.

And so HE CALLS us to face brokenness, tension and conflict with humility, honesty and love as opportunities to welcome his peace in our relationships with him, others, ourselves and life.

Key Scriptures:

- Isaiah 61:1-6 (Luke 4:18-21); Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:9-10, 23-24; 18:15-35; 2 Corinthians 5:16-20; Ephesians 1:9-10; 2:14-18; James 1:2-4; 3:17-18.

Related Covenant Affirmations:

- *Freedom in Christ*

DESIRED OUTCOMES for discerning fruit and progress:

A. Together, in all our gatherings, groups, teams and households, we increasingly...

1. celebrate **God's promise of “shalom”** in his new creation begun in Christ's resurrection, and already partially experienced by his Spirit in all our relationships and circumstances;
2. **see struggles and losses, differences and conflicts** as inevitable now, but even more **as God's opportunity** for reconciliation, transformation and mission, and so willingly **face** them with humility, honesty and love, out of faith and hope in Christ.

B. Increasing numbers of individuals...

1. **face struggles and losses, differences and conflicts as God's opportunity** to bring his peace through abiding, transformation, connecting and mission by...
 - a. learning principles of biblical peacemaking;
 - b. identifying where personal reconciliation is needed and taking steps into peacemaking (vs. avoiding all conflict and/or dealing with hurts by gossip, vengeance, manipulation);
 - c. preparing to offer Christ-led mediation of conflicts in other relationships.
2. **celebrate** God's work as reconciliation is experienced in their lives.

We believe God is calling Centennial Covenant to follow Jesus by his Spirit into...

#4: CONNECTING

– to move into deeper and greater participation as family

*GOD DESIRES to connect and unite us to be his genuine family,
reflecting the shared love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

*And so HE CALLS us into deepened and greater participation
in honest and self-giving relationships, personal ministry, and congregational decision-making.*

Key Scriptures:

- Genesis 1:27; 2:18; John 13:34-35; 17:20-23; Acts 4:32-35; 1 Corinthians 12-13; Ephesians 4.

Related Covenant Affirmations:

- *Church as the Fellowship of Believers*

DESIRED OUTCOMES for discerning fruit and progress:

- A. Together, in all our gatherings, groups, teams and households, we increasingly...
1. see and celebrate an atmosphere of Christ-filled **hospitality and care**;
 2. develop **clear paths for participation** in...
 - a. caring relationships,
 - b. heart-sharing and story-telling,
 - c. shared ministry,
 - d. corporate decision-making.
- B. Increasing numbers of individuals...
1. can identify several **friendships** that allow honest heart-sharing of burdens and joys, as part of a shared journey with Jesus into life transformation;
 2. are involved in **personal ministry** that aligns with our Priority Callings and with their unique faith-journeys, personalities, spiritual gifts, passions and experience;
 3. have growing **ownership** of our Mission and Priority Callings, and participate with groups, teams and the congregation in shared **decision-making**.

We believe God is calling Centennial Covenant to follow Jesus by his Spirit into...

#5: MISSIONAL IDENTITY

– *to embrace our identity as active representatives of God’s redemptive mission to our world.*

GOD DESIRES to bless us to be his blessing to our community, city and world.

And so HE CALLS us to embrace our identity in Christ as his image-bearing “sent-ones,” to discern and join what he is doing beyond Centennial Covenant, and to make relational investments for conveying his redemptive love and truth.

Key Scriptures:

- Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 49:6; Luke 10:25-37; John 20:21; Acts 1:1-8; 1 Peter 2:9; 3:15.

Related Covenant Affirmations:

- *The Whole Mission of the Whole Church*

DESIRED OUTCOMES for discerning fruit and progress:

- A. Together, in all our gatherings, groups, teams and households, we increasingly...
1. see and celebrate the **centrality of redemptive mission** in...
 - a. God “sending” his Son and Spirit,
 - b. Bible’s overarching story of creation, fall, redemption,
 - c. personal identity in Christ as “sent-ones,”
 - d. all our *Priority Callings*
(vs. viewing outreach as occasional “hit and run” programs carried on by a few);
 2. identify and **share stories of transformed lives** through God’s mission in our community, city and world.
- B. Increasing numbers of individuals...
1. are **understanding** their identify in Christ as sent-ones, “blessed to be a blessing;”
 2. are receiving practical **equipping** for the following dimensions of outreach:
 - a) prayer to discern God’s promptings and to intercede for people needing Christ,
 - b) relationship-building and compassionate serving,
 - c) faith sharing.
 3. are actively **participating** in tangible forms of active outreach in...
 - a) personal contacts,
 - b) our immediate community,
 - c) local differing cultures,
 - d) global people-groups.

We believe God is calling Centennial Covenant to follow Jesus by his Spirit into...

#6: MENTORING – to cultivate faith-building friendships

GOD DESIRES to transform, connect, mobilize and reconcile through our coming alongside others.

And so HE CALLS us to Christ-centered faith-building friendships in mentoring and small groups.

Key Scriptures:

- Matthew 18:19-20; Acts 4:36; 9:26-27; 11:22-26; 2 Timothy 2:2; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 1 Samuel 20:16,42.

Related Covenant Affirmations:

- Heritage of mutual encouragement and accountability in spiritual friendships and small groups.

DESIRED OUTCOMES for discerning fruit and progress:

A. Together, in all our gatherings, groups, teams and households, we increasingly...

1. see and celebrate our being **“called alongside” a few others as “faith-friends”** for all God’s callings into abiding, transformation, connecting, mission, and peacemaking;
2. intentionally embrace Christ-guided **mentoring as an ongoing way of life** in families and friendships, work and play, crisis and blessing.

B. Increasing numbers of individuals...

1. come together regularly in **mentoring relationships** of “two or three gathered in Christ’s name” for intentional life transformation through...
 - a. **receiving** mentoring from people further along in the journey,
 - b. **sharing** mutual encouragement in peer “faith-friendships,”
 - c. **extending** mentoring to people in earlier stages of the journey;
2. participate in a **Life Group** small enough for mutual encouragement and sharing life of abiding in Christ, life-transformation, loving connection, mission, and peacemaking.

We believe God is calling Centennial Covenant to follow Jesus by his Spirit into...

#7: Equipping Leadership

– to guide and empower according to God’s Priority Callings

GOD DESIRES to guide and equip his people for life in his callings through his gifts of servant leaders, organizational structures and material resources.

And so HE CALLS us to a stewardship of our leadership, structures and resources that align with his callings for the whole body.

Key Scriptures:

- Exodus 18; Luke 22:24-32; Acts 6:1-7; Ephesians 4:11-13; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-3.

Related Covenant Affirmations:

- Church as the Fellowship of Believers
- Conscious Dependence on the Holy Spirit

DESIRED OUTCOMES for discerning fruit and progress:

A. Together, we increasingly...

1. see, respect and support pastoral and volunteer **leaders as guides and mobilizers** who cultivate shared vision and equip other ministers (more than doing the ministries);
2. regularly seek God’s grace and truth for response to his callings by **assessing and nurturing**
 - a. leaders’ personal spiritual health, calls and gifts;
 - b. leaders’ relationships, shared ministries, and accountability;
 - c. organizational structures and material resources.

B. Individual Leaders increasingly...

1. **live out our Priority Callings** in following Jesus
 - a. in their personal lives,
 - b. in their relationships and shared ministries with other servant leaders;
2. seek to **use programs and resources to develop people** according to our Priority Callings, rather than use people to develop programs and resources.

Shared Ministry Covenant

This “covenant” was developed for Church Staff, Ministry Teams and our whole membership to express a biblically based “way of serving together” for two major purposes:

- to allow clear agreements on shared values and behaviors (to be included on all “Ministry Descriptions”);
- to use as a discipling, evaluation and encouragement tool on our “journey of transformation,” for carrying out our Mission and Priority Callings.

By God’s grace and for his glory, we commit ourselves...

...to CHRIST-FOLLOWING

1. To follow Jesus (individually and collectively) as Head of the church in every area of life and ministry.
2. To cultivate personal intimacy with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. To worshipping and praying together in God’s presence.

...to CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

4. To value the work of the Holy Spirit as he produces fruit in one another.
5. To personal integrity of being honest, authentic, and taking responsibility for our actions.
6. To respect God-given authority.

...to CONNECTING

7. To each other’s best through mutual encouragement and submission, and grateful interest in our ministries and personal lives.
8. To respect personal and professional boundaries.
9. To appropriate confidentiality, refusing to gossip, and guarding each other’s reputations.
10. To face differences with humility, honesty and love as God’s redemptive opportunity.
11. To have fun together.

...to CLARITY

12. To a unified understanding and support of Centennial’s whole mission and Priority Callings.
13. To value the process of ministry as much as the results.
14. To open, honest, and clear communications of ministry roles, responsibilities, plans, expectations, and lines of accountability.
15. To a freedom to speak and hear the hard truth in love, welcoming healthy debate, and seeking clarity and reconciliation.

...to CONTRIBUTING WITH EXCELLENCE

16. To view ourselves as serving together with Christ in his kingdom.
17. To developing our skills and gifts from God, and aligning them with his callings and responsibilities.
18. To do our best by God’s grace and for his glory.