

## Riverside Vision

January 2017

We are a Christian community based in north Perth. We follow Jesus and try to share the good news of God's love for the World. Our mission, aims and values combine in this vision to be disciples of Jesus Christ in our time and place.

**Our Mission:** *words describing what our church wants to do.*

**pray serve grow**

**Our Aims:** *actions we will take to achieve our mission*

- **Grow as a community of Jesus' disciples**
- **Serve each other, our neighbours, our parish, our city and beyond using our abilities and our building.**
- **Pray as a way of life**

**Our Values:** *words describing how we will achieve our aims and mission*

**faith, nurture and generosity**

The following document explains the thinking behind our vision. But before you read on; note this vision is for all of Riverside and we don't expect everyone to do everything! Ask God to help you work out which ideas are most important for you, perhaps it will be prayer or faith, perhaps it will be serving your neighbours.

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## Introduction

In January 2016, the church leaders produced a short report *Towards a Riverside Vision*. This document was a response to the vision day held in May 2015. The following document will show how our ideas have developed since.

*Towards a Riverside Vision* stated that,

“In one sense every church has the same vision; to see the Kingdom of God established. The Bible also gives clear teaching about what the church should do; that is our mission.

We love God and love each other.

We follow Jesus and as his disciples, we tell his story, share the good news about him and try to live like him.

We make disciples.

But every church is different. Every church has its own specific place and time.

So we have to discover how to live as Jesus’ disciples in our place and time. We have to work out how to fulfil the Church’s mission locally. And working this out provides us with a vision for the local church.”

## Aims

In a first attempt to develop that local vision, *Towards a Riverside Vision* also introduced the following seven aims which had resulted from the Riverside vision day:

- **Rely** upon God
- **Grow** as Jesus’ disciples
- **Make** disciples
- **Serve** each other, our neighbours, our parish, our city and beyond
- **Use** our building to bless others and glorify God
- **Offer** our abilities and creativity to expand God’s Kingdom
- **Pray** as a way of life

## Objectives

However, to consider on all seven aims at once, seemed unrealistic and so we chose to focus on the following three aims.<sup>1</sup>

- **Grow as Jesus' disciples**
- **Serve each other, our neighbours, our parish, our city and beyond**
- **Pray as a way of life**

For each of these aims we have developed specific objectives which along with our values will shape and direct the life of our church.

### 1. Grow as a community of Jesus' disciples:

Our church aims to develop a culture of discipleship.

We will do this by;

- Delivering a preaching programme which covers a book of the Old Testament, a Gospel, an Epistle and a relevant topic each year, from January 2017.
- Running 'alpha' or similar courses every two years, with a view to growing our network of small groups, with the next group starting in April 2017.
- Developing outreach to groups with additional support needs. In the first instance by forming a working group to consider this goal, by summer 2017.
- The above group will also review the current pattern of worship with a view to ensure broad accessibility, by the end of 2017.
- Plan, organise and deliver two key events to highlight Christian celebrations in the year, starting with Christmas 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> Further reflection has also identified that our aims are closely related and can be combined under three themes;

**Discipleship** - make and grow as disciples

**Service** - serve each other..., use our building, offer our abilities.

**Prayer** - rely on God, pray as a way of life

By focussing upon one aim from each theme, we should make significant progress towards achieving all seven aims.

## 2. Serve each other, our neighbours, our parish, our city and beyond using our abilities and our building.

We aim to develop a a culture of Christlike service. We will do this by;

- Exploring our gifts, talents and resources through running training (e.g. "Your Personal Mission Statement") by mid 2018.
- A volunteering notice board to be functioning by March 2017.
- An annual celebration, communicating what is happening in Riverside and providing openness and encouragement for others to serve.
- Quarterly newsletters, the next being published by Christmas 2016.
- Feedback from particular groups in Sunday service each month starting January 2017
- Developing publicly accessible internet within the church by summer 2017.
- Keeping the church building well maintained through forming a fabric team led by the fabric convenor, by mid 2017.
- The fabric team regularly considering the building's maintenance, development and usability, reporting to the Kirk Session each October starting 2017.
- Working with PKAVS to encourage links to minority groups such as those with ASN and MEAD. In the first instance, by inquiring how we might support work amongst these groups, by mid 2017.

## 3. Pray as a way of life

We aim to develop a culture of prayer. We will do this by;

- Continuing to develop prayer within the Kirk Session, beginning with restructuring the prayer breakfast by February 2017.
- Developing pray in our session meeting starting November 2017.
- Considering the development of the Tuesday night prayer meeting, by the end of 2017
- Developing a prayer space in the church by November 2017<sup>2</sup>
- Identifying an individual to champion prayer and to identify prayer materials, courses and online resources, by early 2018.
- Starting a monthly prayer meeting for the persecuted church after the Sunday service, by March 2017.
- Developing prayer ministry after church service, beginning with identifying and training a small team to prayer with others, by mid 2017.

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<sup>2</sup> The prayer space might include a prayer wall to share prayer ideas/requests. This space might also encourage other forms of prayer e.g. art, painting, silence etc.

## Values

We carefully considered the original seven aims and identified three values that run through them; **faith, nurture and generosity**. We offer these as family values to shape the life of Riverside Church. These values can guide our community to be more like Jesus and to achieve our aims.

Our aims and objectives say *what* we want to do, our values describe *how* we want to achieve them.

And finally....

## Mission Statement

After much thought, we chose to revisit Riverside's mission statement. Ultimately, we decided that we needed a new statement to reflect our renewed vision.

Our chosen aims; **pray** as a way of life, **serve** our community, **grow** as Jesus disciples, also provide us with a new mission statement which we believe captures what Riverside Church is about.

**pray serve grow**