



Mission and Vision Guide

Mission and Purpose

The mission of any church as given by Jesus—is quite simple: love God, love people, make disciples and witness to Jesus.

Cornerstone Crystal summarizes all that Jesus instructed the church to do saying:

Connecting people to Christ and His community.

This is our way of expressing the great commission through the greatest commandment. Our love for God and our love for people is motivation to introduce people Jesus, invite them to believe in Him and instruct them to live in the ways and words of Christ.

Vision

To fulfill that mission Cornerstone, if God permits, would see Gospel Saturation across the Twin Cities through missional church planting and disciple making.

Strategy

Cornerstone Crystal is a gathering of people who desire to connect with Jesus and His community of faith. Our purpose as a faith community is to help people enter into and experience the good life Jesus promised. We do that through a simple strategy—Worship + 2:

- Gather to worship Jesus together (The Sunday Experience)
- Center our life rhythms around the Gospel (Missional Communities)
- Serve one another through love and encouragement in practical ways (Ministry Teams)

Values

The full life Jesus promised is experienced through regular and intentional engagement with Him and His family. We can actually help people identify areas of strength and matters of growth by using Cornerstone Crystal's current values as measures of engagement. These values identify for Cornerstone what it means to enter and experience the full life Jesus promised. These engagements are as follows:

- GRACE: Experiencing Regular Renewal and Refreshment through the Spirit
- GROWTH: Learning and Applying the Word of God to My Everyday Life
- GATHER: Experiencing Christian Community and Gospel Renewal with Others
- GIFTS: Applying My Time and Talent for the Benefit of Others
- GENEROSITY: Honoring God by Sharing My Resources to Benefit Others
- GOODNESS—Expressing the Gospel at Work through Love and Good Deeds

Initial Targets for Gospel Saturation

Unchurched, de-churched and unreached people in the immediate area of Cornerstone Crystal. These people might best be described in three unique ways:

- Immigrant peoples (both 1st and 2nd generation) in the area (Hispanic, East and South Asian, Arabic, African).
- Wayward American adults (Builders, Boomers, Busters, Millennials) and their kids.
- Christianly religious people who live life uncommitted to Jesus

People of Peace: As Luke 10 describes, there are people in the community whose lives are orienting toward Jesus. Although they may not yet be believers in Christ, these individuals are being drawn towards Christ.

Operating Identity

Think of the Operating Identity as bumpers on a bowling lane or banks on a river. Based on Cornerstone's Vision, Values and Strategy, the Operating Identity serves as bumpers to guide our thinking and processing behind the scenes of Cornerstone Church Crystal. These are the statements that address why we should or should not do something. Essentially, every program, activity or event should intentionally promote one or more of these identity statements:

1. **Practical Gospel:** The Gospel we preach should also be the Gospel we practice. Faith in Jesus is intended to make a real world, real time difference. (James 2:14-26). At Cornerstone Church Crystal, this is seen through our Faith at Home focus in our Family Ministries and in the practical equipping of needed skills to follow Jesus in the world today.
2. **Formative Growth:** The goal of Scripture is the same today as it was when it was first given through Holy Spirit—that the way, truth and life of Jesus would be formed in each person who follows Jesus (Galatians 4:19). Formative growth is more than an education of Bible facts, it is an encounter with God's word in such a way that our lives can and will be changed for the better.
3. **Intentional Neighboring:** Jesus teaches his followers that the greatest thing we can do for another person is to love them well (Matthew 22:36-40). Love is never accidental, but always intentional. Being an intentional neighbor through the love of Christ is being Jesus' witness in the world today (Acts 1:8). Intentional Neighboring drives Cornerstone's engagement with the community and encourages each person connected to our church to live this out in their own circles of influence.
4. **Necessary Church:** Relevance is determined by the culture. Necessity is driven by the soul. The maker and creator of all things deemed it necessary for the church to exist in the world (Matthew 18). As followers of Jesus today, our aim is to be so necessary to the community-at-large both in good times and in moments of crisis.

Ministry Platforms

Ministry Platforms are the necessary strategies for accomplishing Cornerstone's vision.

- **Missional Communities:** A Missional community is a group of people, about the size of an extended family, who are united through Christian community around a common service and witness to a particular neighborhood, network of relationships, or need in the broader community. Missional Communities are the backbone of discipleship and multiplication.
See Cornerstone Missional Community Strategy Guide for more.
- **Ministry Teams:** A ministry team is a grouping of committed people who perform tasks for the benefit of Cornerstone Crystal's faith family through love, encouragement and good works. These teams help fulfill Cornerstone's programmatic offerings with excellence; to carry out Cornerstone's practical ministries to strengthen and build up one another; and to care for the broader Cornerstone faith community. *See Cornerstone Ministry Team Strategy Guide for more.*
- **Multiplication and Equipping Center:** Developing Cornerstone Crystal's own faith family and reaching into the lives of future leaders and partners, multiplication and equipping center has three goals:
 - **Cornerstone Crystal**
 - Leadership Pipeline for Cornerstone Crystal's ministry opportunities
 - Volunteer recruiting, equipping and retention
 - **The Cornerstone Community**
 - Church planter/revitalizer assessment, coaching, training and support
 - Pastor-in-training residency opportunities to develop current and future staff

- **Beyond Cornerstone**
 - Equipping city-wide Christians who are pursuing degree-based, experience-infused theological education
 - Developing international, indigenous church leaders through relationships, seminar based training and formal degree-based theological education

- **Ministries of the Word:** Jesus's invitation to life centers around the power of God's word. This power is realized as belief grows in us. Just as Jesus' disciples declared that he had the words of life, we believe that ministries of the word bring life to us today. The following are opportunities where the people of Cornerstone can minister the word to each other.
 - **Worship:** Gathering together each week, Cornerstone Crystal seeks to worship God together. Worship is both communal (together) and personal (in your own heart). The Bible describes six distinct practices of Christian worship:
 - **Scripture:** Worship begins as God's word intersects our lives
 - **Prayer:** Addressing God in praise and request reminds us of His presence in our gatherings.
 - **Offering:** Giving to God from our resources affirms trusting Him in all things
 - **Singing:** Singing connects the head with heart preparing us to receive instruction from God's word
 - **Ordinances:** Particular symbolic practices that orient a person towards Christ
 - **Baptism:** Representing the significance of the new life Jesus brings by cleansing us from sin.
 - **Communion:** Remembering and reenacting the life and sacrifice of Jesus symbolically through the bread and the wine.
 - **Serving:** Giving one's time and talent to honor God within the faith community.

 - **Word:** Personal engagements that invite us more into relationship with Jesus.
 - **Spiritual Disciplines of the Word**
 - **Study:** Engaging God's word regularly, prayerfully and intentionally as you learn from the Scriptures how to live and love like Jesus.
 - **Prayer:** Relating to God through by talking with Him, honoring Him with your words and asking for His help with your needs and the needs of others.
 - **Cornerstone Opportunities with the Word**
 - **Cornerstone U**
 - **Missional Communities**
 - **Sunday Morning Gathering**

 - **Witness:** Jesus said that you will be his witness (Acts 1:8). Witnesses point people to Jesus.
 - **Evangelism:** Telling people who do not yet believe in Jesus about God's love for them.
 - **Testimony:** Telling anyone and everyone about God's love for you.

Beliefs

1. **The Word of God**

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

2. **The Trinity**

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

3. **God the Father**

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of all people, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

4. **Jesus Christ**

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

5. **The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

6. **Regeneration**

We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

7. **The Church**

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

8. **Christian Conduct**

We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

9. **The Ordinances**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

10. **Religious Liberty**

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

11. **Church Cooperation**

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether it is the Conference or a district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

12. **The Last Things**

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.