

# **[Anytown] Baptist Church**

## **Purpose, Values & Vision Forum**



## **2. UNCOVERING VALUES**

based on resources from BA NSW & ACT, Church Health Team and The Johnmark Extension

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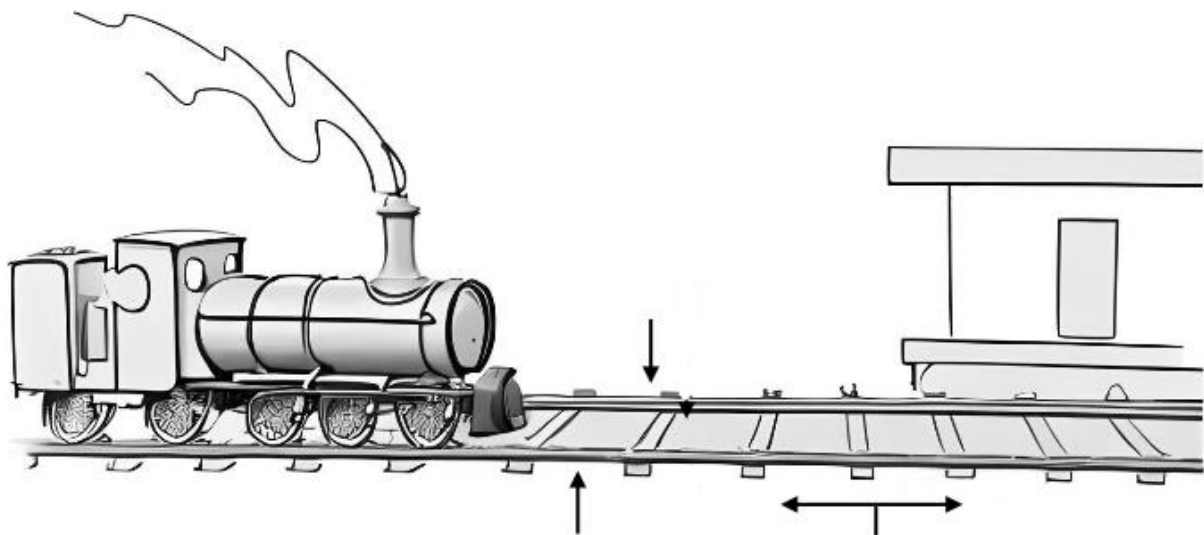
## Foundational Concepts

Three **Over-Arching Questions** for Churches to ask:

1. Do we have an **honest** picture of who we are?
2. Do we have a **shared** vision of where we are going?
3. Do we have a **clear** understanding of the next steps necessary to take in this journey?

Three **Basic Assumptions**:

1. **Growth** is desired by God & a natural outcome of healthy churches.
2. It is the **Holy Spirit** that causes churches to grow.
3. **Prayer** is foundational for any healthy church.



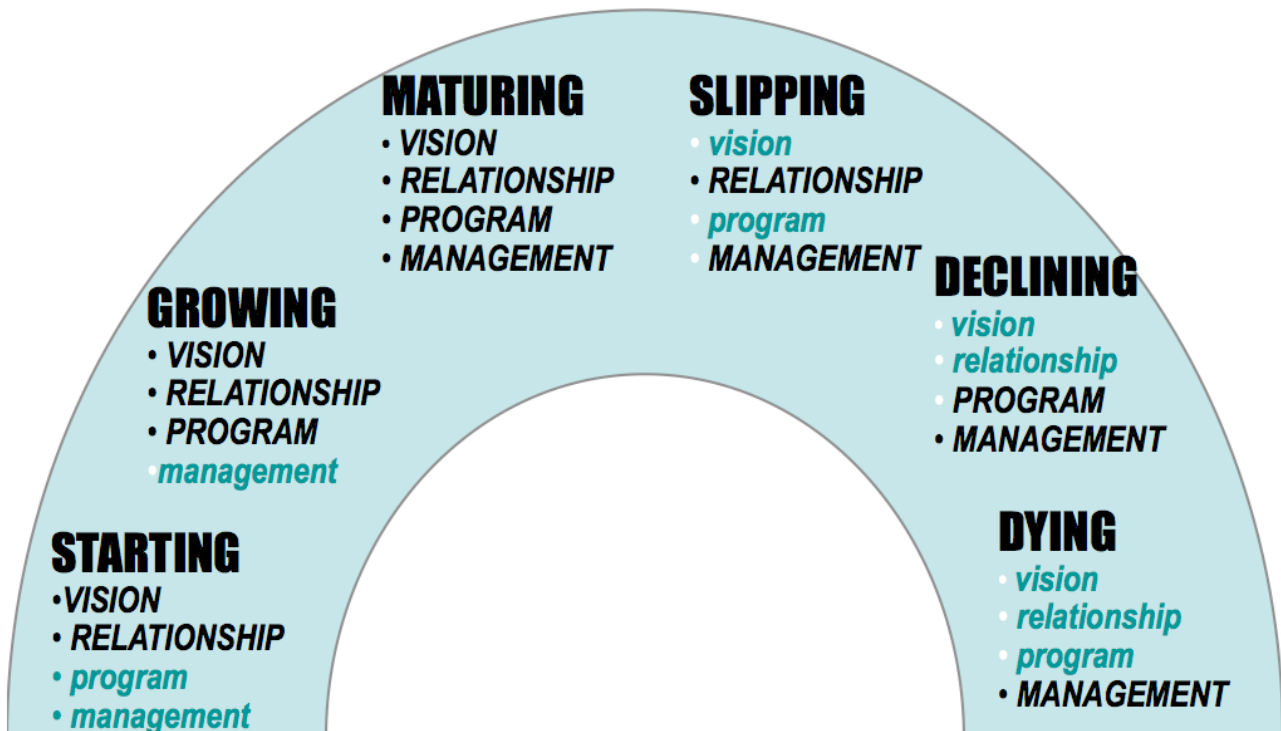
## The Importance of Purpose, Values and Vision

**Purpose:** *Why we exist*

**Values:** *The way we operate, the way we do things around here.*

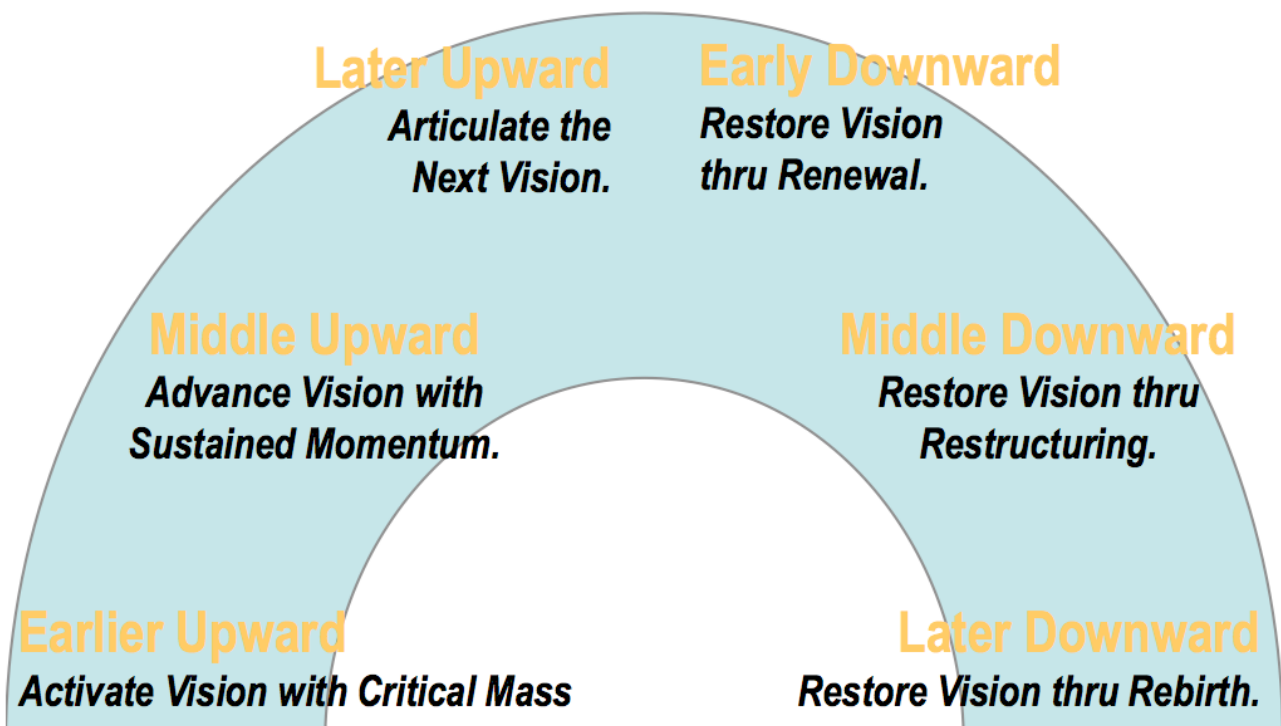
**Vision:** *Our future destination, a word picture of what we think the future might look like under God.*

## Life-cycle of a Congregation - reporting back



### Upward Lifecycle Critical Needs

### Downward Lifecycle Critical Needs



## **Critical Issues - reporting back**

### **Summary of Issues Raised**

- 
- 
- 

*For those interested, a full list of issues raised is available [note location].*



### **CHRIST CENTRED**

- a. enjoying a dynamic relationship with Jesus
- b. relying on the Bible as foundational to shaping our understanding of Christ, our faith and the world
- c. being led and empowered by the Spirit of Christ to live a life of worship
- d. believing God is able to do more than we ask or imagine.

### **MISSION SHAPED**

- a. committed to the announcement and demonstration of the universal reign of God through Christ
- b. motivated by love for God and others
- c. seeing people, communities and societies transformed
- d. biasing our resources toward mission, both locally and globally.

### **RELATIONALLY COMMITTED**

- a. serving each other and working together, honouring the varied expressions of our faith and practice and our cultural diversity
- b. actively promoting healthy unity through mutual collaboration, transparency and accountability
- c. prioritising authentic relationships over programs and structures
- d. honouring marriage as an institution created by God as the foundation for a lifelong faithful union of a man and a woman.

### **PEOPLE EMPOWERING**

- a. nurturing a disciple making culture that encourages, shapes and releases every person to glorify God in all of their life
- b. investing strategically in the identification, development and empowerment of leaders
- c. respecting our heritage whilst championing further innovation.

### **PARTNERSHIP ORIENTED**

- a. recognising and celebrating God at work both within and beyond our movement
- b. partnering with like-minded bodies in the mission of God both locally and globally
- c. evidenced by mutual respect, healthy dialogue, and where appropriate resource sharing and the development of common goals.

## **The Baptist ‘Core 5’ Values**

1. What are your initial impressions of these values as a whole?

2. How biblical do you think they are?

3. How closely do you think they reflect our values as a church community?

## Developing a Values Statement

*Values describes the way we operate*

- Values are uncovered not created!
- Are in the DNA of a church
- Are recognised by a “gut reaction” (emotive response)
- Build quite slowly & change very slowly

There is value in identifying ‘core values’. They don’t have to try to express everything that’s important about being a healthy church. Our aim is to prioritise **3 core values** that define who we are as a church - what is distinctive about us.

A core value is something you’re willing to be punished for:

- even if some people will decide they don’t want to join your church
- to violate a core value is like selling your soul - you can’t do it

Can test by asking ‘what is an example that would affirm / violate this value?’.

**‘Real’ vs ‘Aspirational’ values:** once we’ve ‘uncovered’ real and demonstrable values, we will also consider whether there are any **‘missing’ values**, i.e. values that don’t show themselves in our life together, but that we’re deeply convicted should show themselves.

**Values revealed in ‘good memories’ stories:**



## Top 9 Values for our Church

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	

## Values Banner

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## Missing Values: *(optional, maximum of 2)*

1.

2.

## Congregational Sizes

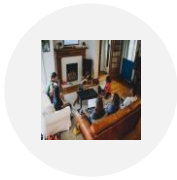
Churches do not transition easily or naturally, from one size to another. Different church sizes impact the way church life happens. There is no right or wrong size for a church but it is important for churches to act in keeping with the size they are, or the size they want to be.

*Tick the boxes that describe how the church presently operates (no need to collect):*

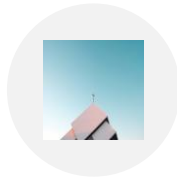
### Congregational Size Overview

Church Size	Family	Pastoral	Program	Corporate
Approx # in worship	Up to approx 50-70	70- 150	175 - 350	400 plus
Staffing	Lay, bi-vocational, Part time, up to a single full time pastor	1 -2 pastors	Multiple staff both Pastoral and administrative	Complex structure, numerous staff
Pastors' role	Chaplain Hi turnover predominantly G.P. Pastor	Pastor-Teacher-Leader Often G.P. Pastor	Team Leader Capable in strategy & admin	Visionary Charismatic Figure head
Orientation	Relational Intimate (enmeshed)	Relational Casual in nature	Programmatical	Organisational
Relationships	Know everyone well in Congregation	Know everyone in Congregation casually	Know over 50% of Congregation	Know a minority of Congregation
Leadership	Resides in key families	Resides in Diaconate & pastor/ team	Resides in committees or ministry groups	Resides in select leaders
Decisions	Made by Congregation Driven by History	Made by congregation Driven partly by history partly by safe experimentation	Made by committees Driven by needs	Made by Staff Driven by vision
Change	Bottom up through key people	Blended Through rigorous consultation	Middle out through key committees	Top down through key leaders

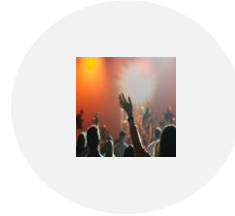
## Blended Ecology



SIMPLE CHURCHES



NEIGHBOURHOOD  
CHURCHES



REGIONAL  
CHURCHES



RESOURCE  
CHURCHES

## Vision Exercise

*Imagine that suddenly 5 years have passed...*

### **What are you like personally?**

- \* Age
- \* Work
- \* Health
- \* New hobbies
- \* What ministry in the church are you involved in

### **List aspects of what you think this church will look like in 5 years time:**

- \*
- \*
- \*
- \*

Size	Smaller or larger
Feeling	Excited or Fearful
Location	Here or Elsewhere
Your Involvement	More or Less
Average Age	Older or Younger

**Take a few minutes to write down some things that you would love or dream this church could look like in 5 years time...**

[intentionally left blank]

## Negative Values

Along with the positive, churches also usually have some negative values. Whilst we often don't talk about the negative values they are still very powerful in the life of any church.

What are some values, attitudes, or behaviours that might hold us back at present?

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## Draft Purpose Statement - Feedback

*Purpose is why we exist*

- Biblically Based
- Usually one sentence
- Over arching rather than specific
- Can be applied to most churches
- It will never go out of date

**Consider the following draft purpose statement...**

<p><b>OUR PURPOSE:</b> [put draft purpose here]</p>
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This statement seeks to respond to the feed-back we received in the following ways:

-

One thing I like about this statement is:

I think this statement could be improved by:

Please complete, tear-off & deposit in the box labelled **Refining our Purpose** in the church foyer by **[date]** at the latest.



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