



CHRIST CENTRAL CHURCH



2023-24
VISION
AND
PLANS



**“LET THE FAVOR OF THE LORD OUR GOD BE UPON US, AND ESTABLISH THE
WORK OF OUR HANDS UPON US; YES, ESTABLISH THE WORK OF OUR HANDS!”**

PSALM 90:17



Dear Christ Central Church,

Ten years ago, a small group of 30 people gathered at the John O'Daniel Exchange building in downtown Durham praying, worshiping, and dreaming about what God might do through our new church plant, which we would ultimately name Christ Central Church.

The prayers in those early days are still our prayers ten years later: a church that is fueled by worship and being in the presence of God, a church that is welcoming and invites people to come as they are, a church that equips disciples to live with kingdom of God lenses (every square inch of the world is the Lord's, and all of life for every believer is participation in God's mission). We prayed God would plant us in the heart of our city to be a community that reflects the beautiful diversity of our city as we long for the glory of God to be revealed in Durham, the Triangle, to the nations; a church that seeks the good and flourishing of our city and world, as we live for the renewal of all things.

As we move into our second decade as a church, I have been praying Psalm 90:17: "Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!"

God has been faithful to our church. We have seen the Lord's kindness in building our church and providing for our church as we spent two years praying we would "Become" who He wants us to be. We have endured a world-changing pandemic. As we now move into the future for prayerfully many more decades, I am praying that the Lord would continue to pour out His favor upon us and establish us as His people and His church.

In January, we will celebrate our 10-year anniversary—and Church, let us celebrate and party and give God thanks not just that weekend but at all times! May we first seek His kingdom as we live into who God has made us. Let's not make the mistake of triumphalism and think we alone are doing great work. We are God's people, God's church. Jesus is our Head, and it will be in vain if we attempt to do anything apart from Him.

Let us rest in the One who has promised to build His church and bring His kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. May the Lord pour out His favor and establish us and the work of our hands in this tenth year, as we hope for many more decades and even centuries to come!

Grace and Peace

Reverend Daniel Mason

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "DM", is positioned over a faint circular graphic of a globe.

OUR IDENTITY

Since Christ Central's founding our identity has often been captured in the phrase "in Durham, for Durham." We are hopeful that as we embark on this tenth year of ministry that we can lean into the vision and identity we feel we have been called to by God.

As we seek to be a church for the glory of God and good of Durham, we trust in the Lord for the renewal of all things. While we long for renewal in all things, there are three areas of emphasis: spiritual, social, and cultural renewal.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL



SPIRITUAL RENEWAL: To see individual lives changed and community formed by believing the gospel, belonging to community, and becoming more like Christ.

SOCIAL RENEWAL



SOCIAL RENEWAL: To help cultivate flourishing for all people through championing mercy and pursuing justice for individuals and in systems.

CULTURAL RENEWAL



CULTURAL RENEWAL: To be people who integrate our faith into our vocations, recreations and creations.

We believe that through our five values we can see spiritual, social, and cultural renewal happen in our city. Our five values are that we would be a people delighting in God, resting in grace, embracing one another, serving our city, and seeking a renewal movement.

DELIGHT IN GOD



We believe God created the world and humanity so we might delight in Him. Our chief aim is to know, experience, and enjoy God and His good gifts. As a result, we want to know God in the pages of scripture, in fellowship with one another, and in the beauty of His creation.

SERVE THE CITY



We believe God sent us, His people, to give our lives away in service like Jesus did. We love and serve all people, but we seek out those on the margins of society. We have been called to this place, and we want to serve our city in hopes of seeing it flourish and thrive.

REST IN GRACE



We believe that no one is too good or too bad to be beyond the need or reach of God's grace. Grace is offered freely, so we need not work for it. We simply receive and rest in the grace offered to us in Jesus Christ.

SEEK A RENEWAL MOVEMENT



We believe God is bringing His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We long for home – but this is not it. So we seek what we long for here on earth: the rule and reign of our loving God come to bear in our lives, in our city, and in our world.

EMBRACE ONE ANOTHER

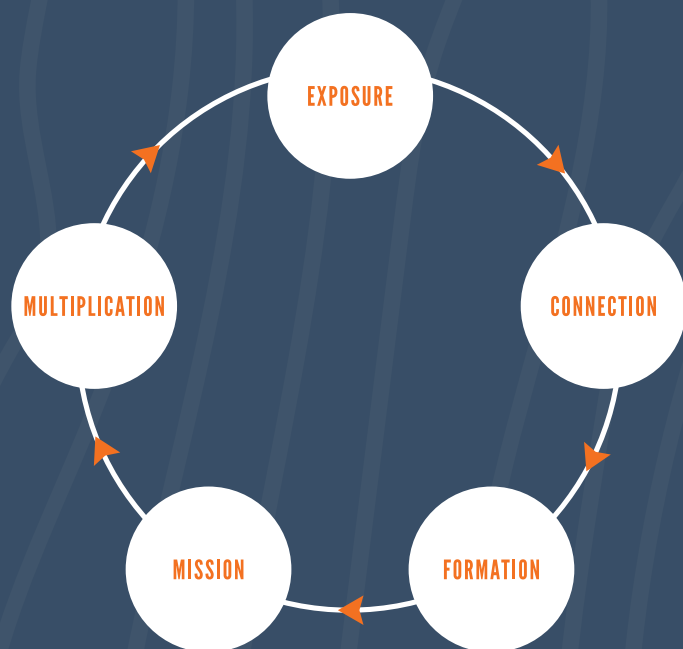


We believe all people are created in God's image. God created us – every tongue, tribe, and nation – to be a reflection of Himself, so we can celebrate our similarities and embrace our differences as complementary aspects of the same God.

It is our hope and dream that everyone who is a part of Christ Central would embody these values as we seek renewal in Durham.

OUR ORGANIZATION

Over the past year, we were very blessed to receive in-depth organizational consulting from Will Gray from Align Consulting. Through Will's time here, he helped us develop much greater clarity on who we are and how we can better live out this identity that God has given us.



THE FLYWHEEL

One aspect of our renewed organizational clarity is our flywheel. The flywheel is a list of intentional commitments that will allow us to live into our identity (a church that is about God's glory, the good of the city) and reach our destination (spiritual, social and cultural renewal).

These commitments themselves may not seem novel to you. You may think, "Don't all churches do these things?" However, we believe that as we say yes to these five things and no to whatever might distract us from these things, then we will create a practical playbook for how to be the church that God is calling us to be.

You may have noticed that we've already used this flywheel this year to inform our decisions around growing our staff team.

The first change is Pastor Timothy's transition into an Executive Pastor role. One essential responsibility of his is ensuring that our flywheel operates smoothly and efficiently. A large part of ensuring this smooth operation is helping find the right people to add to our team and ensure that each of our team members feels seen, valued, cared for, and equipped to do their best work and be their best selves.

Pastor Evan now oversees all adult ministries, and Phabienne Anderson has agreed to transition from ministry intern to Director of Christian Education. The two of them can together strengthen us in our flywheel focus of formation.

We have also created a new job title for Charlie Densmore, who currently serves as our Connections Director. Charlie will transition into a new role as our Director of Congregational Care and increase his hours here at Christ Central. We hope that as we continue to grow as a church, we can improve in the flywheel focus of connection.

We have also hired Mikhail Harris to come on as our Ministry Intern, where we will be supporting him in his seminary education while giving him valuable ministry experience. Mikhail's hiring fits with the flywheel focus of multiplication. We have long desired to raise leaders and send them out to reproduce what we are doing here all over the world and are excited that having a flywheel focus of multiplication will allow us to do that!

We also hired Grayson Reese as our 4th and 5th Grade Ministry Coordinator. Not only is Grayson working towards establishing a new branch of our youth ministry, she is also assisting Bradley Moore with our communication efforts. Having Grayson as a part of the team has already been a great help in bolstering many of our flywheels focuses.

We are still looking to hire a Director of Church Life to help us grow in the area of exposure, as well as a Director of Community and Global Engagement to help us grow in the area of mission.

As you can hopefully see, God is helping us to grow stronger and become even more effective as we lean into this new ministry pathway.

NEW LEADERSHIP ECOSYSTEM

One of the challenges we have faced over the nearly ten years of ministry is learning how to ensure that all of our leadership groups (Elders, Women's Leadership Council, Diaconate, and staff team) are working in tandem and collaborating effectively. We are excited to announce that we are currently reworking our leadership ecosystem to strengthen us in this collaboration exponentially.

The proposed model is to create leadership committees that oversee many different segments of the church (e.g., adult ministries, family ministries, missions, outreach, etc.). These committees will be composed of representatives from all four leadership groups.

The Elders and Women's Leadership Council are still working out the exact details of this new leadership ecosystem, but we are eager to share more with you in the upcoming months as things become clear. We are excited to see how this strategic change might cultivate even more effective ministry.

SHEPHERDING

By God's grace, this has been a season of profound growth. We have added 116 communing members so far in 2023. We desire to care well for our membership. To meet the increasing shepherding demands of our growing body, we have commissioned a team of men and women to come alongside the Elders and Women's Leadership Council in caring for and shepherding the members of our church. With these newly commissioned leaders, we hope that, moving forward, all of our members will have a face-to-face check-in meeting every year. The purpose of these meetings will be to ensure that all of our members are doing well and that, Lord willing, they are growing in grace and maturity in Christ.

MINISTRY PLANS

10 YEAR PARTY

January 2024 marks 10 years of Christ Central Church formally meeting for weekly Sunday worship services. We believe in celebrating big for the blessings God has bestowed upon us. This year we want to reflect on God's goodness to us over the past 10 years, while we hope for God's continued work in and through us for the next decades to come

How: On the weekend of January 20th, 2024, we will be hosting a churchwide anniversary celebration. We hope that this will be a weekend to remember and reflect and respond to God's work. On Saturday we will have an all-church party at the farm of Mike and Angie Waters. This event will take place in the afternoon and will be fun for the whole family. On Sunday we will use the worship services to remember, reflect and respond as a church family. More details to come, but please mark your calendars to celebrate this momentous occasion in the life of our church!

CENTRAL KIDS

This year Central Kids is looking to create meaningful faith milestones and seamless transitions for kids and families from expectant families, to nursery, to Central Littles, to Pre-K, to Elementary, to Central Youth. We seek to include kids and families on the margins so that every child can grow in the Words of the Lord.

How: Through age appropriate gatherings for each age group and stage of children; introducing Central Kids buddies into the classroom to act as one-on-one buddies for kids with extra needs; foster growth of God's words in the hearts of children as they take their next steps through Communicants and Camp Kidventure; and celebrating kids and families at each childhood phase, whether it is a birthday or promotion to the next grade, in order to help the Word of the Lord grow in the hearts of kids and families

CENTRAL YOUTH

This year Central Youth is seeking to see our students grow in their relationship with Christ and grow in their confidence in the Word of God.

How: For all students who are a part of Central Youth, we are going to focus our attention on our small groups. By meeting consistently throughout the year and creating appropriate and engaging curriculum we are praying to see our Central Youth friends grow in their walks with Christ. We will also have retreats throughout the year—ECP Fall Retreat October 13th-15th, 4th and 5th Grade Retreat April 26th-27th, RUSH Conference July 8th-12th, 2024—and Durham Plunge that we pray will help our students grow in their walk with the Lord.

MEN'S MINISTRY

This year our Men's Ministry is seeking to move men in Christ Central from the fringes of our church into Christ-centered communities so that Christ Central men have no excuse for loneliness.

How: We plan to utilize social gatherings (Men's Hi-Wire Hangout, Men's Meat-Up, etc.) as low-commitment onramps to usher people into our high-commitment highways (Men's Retreat the weekend of November 4th) for the purpose of developing deeper connections with other men and growth as disciples of Christ.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

This year the Women's Ministry at Christ Central Church prayerfully aims to be a safe place for connection, spiritual formation, and equipping to live our lives on mission.

How: We want to invite women in through informal gatherings like ice cream socials and game nights, or in more formational gatherings like our Alone Together Women's Day Retreat on September 23rd and Bible study, to more deeply form their understanding and love of the Lord. We also hope to provide spaces for ladies to cultivate friendships and build a strong sense of community.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

This year we are looking to further grow in connection with our new and returning college students. As a church that is situated among several colleges and universities, we desire to be a church that cares for students and gives opportunities to connect and find a home away from home.

How: We will be offering lunches to welcome our students as well as the Adopt-a-Student ministry where we pair college students with church families to experience deeper support and connection

20S & 30S

This year we hope those in our 20s & 30s Ministry grow in their faith; not as superman Christians but as human beings, being formed in a community that bears fruit for the Kingdom in this crucial season of life.

How: Gather in social and service settings that offer different avenues for folks to connect in the church family, creating pathways to find where they have a heart to serve God and Durham through Christ Central.

50ISH

This year our 50ish team is looking to grow our ministry and connect further with those in the 50ish age group at our church. From upper 40s to 70s and beyond, our 50ish ministry is an opportunity for people to connect and share experiences that match this life stage.

How: There will be a Sunday class offered in the fall and various social events throughout the year.

CONFERENCES

This year we hope to be a church community that is formed around various topics that relate to our mission and values.

How: We are prayerfully considering offering a conference for both married and single Christians.

CITY GROUPS

This year our City Groups will continue to meet on different nights of the week throughout the city of Durham. In these groups, men and women commit to doing life together, praying with and for one another, studying God's word together, and loving their neighbors.

How: There will be weekly meetings throughout the wherein individuals, couples, and families will connect around prayer, fellowship, and God's word. We'll also be integrating our different formation modules into the materials that our City Groups work through each week.

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY

This year our Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Course will meet beginning in the fall. EHS is an opportunity to take discipleship into a deeper relationship with God and with others, and it serves as the foundational course for discipleship at Christ Central.

How: EHS is a 9-week course that we will offer in the Fall semester of the ministry year beginning September 10th!

FAMILY ADVOCACY MINISTRY

This year the Family Advocacy Ministry hopes to become more visible to the congregation and raise awareness of the needs of vulnerable children and how to help them. We hope to create an adoption "branch" of FAM. We want all foster and adoptive parents at CCC to feel supported through prayer, meals and financial resources.

How: By hosting a fall panel. This panel will be a chance for the congregation to learn more about fostering, adopting, guardian ad litem, and more. We will also hold socials for adoptive and foster families who are a part of Christ Central and the greater Durham community. It is our hope that we would continue to build out robust Care Communities that support each foster family in our church through prayer and meeting practical needs, such as meals. We also are hopeful that we can create support networks for families in our church that are pursuing adoption.

In the coming year we also plan to provide adoption grants to families pursuing adoption.

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

This year our Educational Partnership is hoping that we will grow in our partnership with parents at all schools in the area to love and partner with their schools in a Christian way. We also aim to continue to come alongside our partner schools, teachers, parents and students.

How: We will host panels throughout the year that are aimed at equipping parents to love their schools and continue to support our partner schools through different events including school supply drives, teacher appreciation, beautification days, and more. We are especially excited for our Love Your Neighbor: For the Glory of God and the Good of your School panel on September 15th.

MISSIONS

This year our Missions Team is hoping to connect with members through participation in God's redemptive mission here in Durham and around the world.

How: Through weekly Sunday service and newsletter prayer requests for our partners, through quarterly lunches to spotlight and prayer for a partner, printing partner posters, through growing our financial support of partners, through prototyping partnership with a focus region of South Africa, and possibly through a short-term missions trip option.

WORSHIP

This year our worship team aims to host Woship Workshops and conferences for the purpose of blessing our church and other surrounding churches.

How: Heading into Advent, Christ Central Church will be hosting Joe L. Barnes from Maverick City's "Promises" and Calvin Lockett from The Voice on November 10th & 11th. On Friday night they will be leading a workshop on worship for those who register followed by a concert that Saturday evening. Separately, an in-house worship workshop is tentatively scheduled for this upcoming February.



WE EXIST FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE GOOD OF DURHAM.

*We prayerfully pursue this vision
by seeking spiritual, social, and cultural renewal*

OUR VALUES:

DELIGHT
in God

REST
in Grace

EMBRACE
one another

SERVE
the city

SEEK
the kingdom

