

Vision 2030

Warragul Anglican Church

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to state what we believe God is calling our church towards in our current time and place. It does not state everything it means to be a church, but highlights particular directions that are important over the next five years.

Our long-term vision

We are inspired by Jesus Christ to be a church that lives by faith, voices our hope and is known by our love for others.

Our ministry anchors

The purpose of these “anchors” is to describe how we believe God calls us to do ministry. They are not intended to say everything important about ministry, but to be easy-to-remember reminders. They are checkpoints to help us choose which ministries we will start, stop, or continue, and shape how we do ministry of every kind. They will help us continue to do what we are doing well. They are:

- God’s word is God’s means to grow us
- Prayer is imperative
- People are drawn into God’s family through real relationships
- We are all responsible for discipling and being discipled

Our 5-year strategic priorities

Our vision process has identified many things we would love to achieve in the next five years.¹ However, there are two overarching goals which, under God, would make these and other initiatives possible. While we may do those and other things along the way, these two should be our top priorities.

Our strategic priorities for the next five years are:

¹ e.g. deeper Bible teaching, building up our youth and young adults, addressing loneliness, more Bible study groups, training programs, building social cohesion, creation care, evangelism, become more outward looking, prayer meetings, ministries of mercy

Develop our whole church culture around disciple-making

Why?

- Being disciples of Jesus is our core purpose.
- Disciples become leaders, enabling future ministry of all kinds.
- The fruit of discipleship encompasses all God wants us to be, making us salt and light in the world.

What is a disciple?

- A disciple is someone devoted to learning from Jesus' teaching and walking in his ways.
- Every disciple is called to make disciples in their own way, with the gifts God has given them.
- The journey of discipleship is life-long – once a disciple, we need to keep growing.

What does this mean?

- Disciple-making is already happening at WAC, which we are thankful for. However, there is more we feel called to do. We want to 'press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me' (Philippians 3:12).
- Helping make disciples oneself is an important way for each believer to grow. We want to encourage and equip everyone to be able to do this.
- Leaders learn to model and facilitate this in many ways: from the front, one-on-one, in small groups, in ministry teams, giving people practical ministry experience as they grow.
- Ministries are regularly shaped to facilitate this.

How?

- The ministry leaders will meet monthly to plan using the goals shaped by our strategic anchors and focusing on continuous improvement.
- The ministry leaders will work through The Vine Project, an adaptable process that aligns with our ministry anchors. Using this means we don't have to reinvent the wheel. If useful, it can be repeated as we recruit new leaders and our context changes.
- An overview of the process will be provided for Parish Council each year, so they understand the theory (although it is primarily the ministry leaders who will implement it.)
- From the start of 2027 a group will be formed to equip a small number of emerging leaders over 2 years, led by the Rector. If this goes well, we will look to repeat and/or multiply this.

Plant a third service

Why?

- To open new opportunities for people to lead, serve and grow.
- To build capacity and take pressure off the 9:45 service.
- To be able to share Jesus with more people.

What might this look like?

- A church plant in our own building which becomes one of our Sunday services, forming a distinct community who worship and serve together. People joining this plant would be asked to commit to it, making it their own congregation.
- The new service will be open to all with no targeted demographic.
- Activity packs will be provided for any kids who come, but there will initially be no separate kids' program (due to resources required.)
- It will most likely be at 4, 5 or 6pm in the worship centre (in consultation with those who commit to it).
- It will include the building blocks important for worship, including praise, confession, Bible, sermon, prayers and the sacraments.
- Some possible variations from 9:45 (in consultation with those who commit) could be:
 - Music more acoustic/stripped back
 - Communion more often or less often
 - Communion in a circle or at a slower pace
 - Question/discussion time after the sermon or after the service
 - Open prayer
 - A simple meal afterwards – weekly? monthly?

How?

- We will launch the Vision on 24 May. The Rector will invite people to be part of starting a new service.
- The Rector will start weekly prayer meetings for the new service, one online, one in person
- Leaders will be identified as the group grows and starts to discuss service style and roles.
- We will aim to start a service at the start of September with at least 30 people and 8 leaders.
- If we don't have that many by the end of July, Parish Council and ministry leaders will rethink the plan.