

Christ Community Covenant Church

Mission: *Love God, Love Others and Advance the Kingdom Together*

Call: Pursuing Jesus Christ and His Priorities in the World

‘S T O N E S’	A MULTPLYING CHURCH (Green)	A FAMILY CHURCH (Blue)	A TEACHING CHURCH (Red)	A COMMUNITY MINDED CHURCH (Yellow)	A CELEBRATING CHURCH (Purple)	OPERATIONS
	<p>Building relationships with the <u>undecided</u> that result in a <u>loving, persuasive proclamation of the Gospel in word and deed</u></p> <p>(Missions and Outreach programs)</p>	<p>Finding intimacy and family in a <u>believing community</u></p> <p>(Ministry opportunities) (Care Ministries) (Service groups)</p>	<p>Encouraging believers into entering a <u>life long apprenticeship of Jesus, being disciplined into a deep, abiding relationship with Christ</u></p> <p>(Mentoring) (Adult, Youth and Children Spiritual Formation)</p>	<p>Finding <u>your place of Kingdom service</u></p> <p>(Spiritual gifts for the equipping of the saints) (Natural gifts and avocations) (Civic/Humanitarian efforts of compassion and mercy)</p>	<p>Encouraging and offering <u>transformational encounters with the One True God – instilling a heart of worship and prayer that is both corporate and personal</u></p> <p>(Corporate and private opportunities)</p>	<p>Giving: Biblical stewardship Facilities: Maximum use for Kingdom impact Administration: Maximizing our time, space and financial resources Leadership: Elder led - Staff supported - Laity driven</p>
S T R A T E G I C I D E N T I F I C A T I O N S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We believe that corporate Sunday worship is for Christians but seekers are enthusiastically welcome and care is given to make the undecided comfortable in our fellowship. We believe that coming to Christ is often a process and not simply a decision point. We seek to present the Gospel in a Spirit-led and winsome manner while not compromising on the truths that are the person, work, and life of Christ. We believe we are called to reach the community, the city and the world. We believe that while some have the spiritual gift of evangelism, all Christians are charged with sharing their faith in a winsome and Spirit-led manner. We seek to be an ‘inviting’ fellowship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We believe that our Christian faith must be lived out in corporate terms – our relationship with Jesus is personal but never private. We believe that the primary way to engage community and to create friendships is in a small group (GROW Groups, Life Groups, Women’s and Men’s ministries, ministry service groups, etc.). Belonging is not merely a function of connecting to one another but also connecting too to our God, ourselves and our world. We believe that belonging is intergenerational, cross cultural and transcends the worldly socioeconomic pressures that often divide a community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We believe that God uses truth, relationships, life experience and the Holy Spirit to transform people. We believe that spiritual growth is a life-long process and thus we never arrive or graduate from knowing God more deeply. We believe that spiritual growth is an organic process and thus there is no one-size-fits-all program. Everyone walks their unique spiritual journey. We believe that spiritual growth is the individual responsibility of every Christian. The role of the Church is to equip believers by providing resources and environments for growth. We believe that we can participate in the Kingdom mission through internships and residency programs that “teach teachers.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We believe that we are to be involved in acts of mercy, justice and compassion of many forms. We believe that every person is gifted for ministry and called to use those gifts both inside and outside of the church. We believe the Gospel is core to our acts of service. We believe in inviting the community at large to serve alongside us and to serving alongside the community at large. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We desire for God’s transformational power to be present in our corporate worship gatherings. We believe that corporate worship is to encourage the believers to worship God in Spirit and Truth. Secondly, we want our corporate worship experiences to be both attractive and intelligible to non-Christians and relevant to our culture. We strive for balance of emotion, experiential participation and thoughtfulness in our corporate worship gatherings. We want to be culturally relevant in our worship: incorporating elements of church history, music, preaching and art into our worship and thus participating in the transformation of the arts for Christ in the world. We are committed to excellence in every area of corporate worship. We seek to inspire individuals to deeper personal (non-corporate) worship experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving: We want to produce life-stewards not simply financial stewards. Facilities: We believe the building is a tool for ministry not God’s dwelling place. The ministry happens from our church AND in our church building. We believe we are to maximize the building usage for Kingdom purposes not simply ourselves. Staff: We believe that paid ministry staff are primarily ‘equippers’ and ‘mobilizers’ of various specialized ministries done through laity. We believe in the sainthood of believers and the ministry of the laity.

Prayer is the foundation for all ministries and is the core foundation of our values, strategies and ministries. (White)

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Christ Community Covenant Church is compelled by the Great Commandment:

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37-39

The Great Commandment compels us to participate with God in extending the Kingdom of God:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

It has been said, "The church does not have a mission but the Mission has a Church." We are committed to **Loving God, Loving Others and Advancing the Kingdom together** because this is the mission of God to do so.

To accomplish this three-part calling, Christ Community Covenant Church has set her sights on the Kingdom of God, dedicated to becoming a church that experiences the fullest blessings God has to offer; a '**100-fold**' blessing. The **100 Fold Church** draws her inspiration from the Parable of the Seeds and Soil found in Mark 4. In this Kingdom parable Jesus compares the spreading of the Word in the hearts of mankind as the sowing of seeds onto various conditions of soil:

Mark 4:3-9

"Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Three conditions of the heart made it impossible for the seed to grow and produce fruit; hardness, shallowness and choking temptation. Contrasted with this sadness is the hope of good soil and well planted seed. This represents hearts ready to enjoy a miraculous harvest of God; thirty, sixty, even One Hundred Fold. **The 100 Fold Church** lives in 'readied anticipation' (reminiscent of the wise virgins of the Matt. 25:1 parable) of great good deeds of divine proportions that none can mistake for anything but the handiwork of God.

Christ Himself did not describe what this **100 Fold Blessing** would look like; He only described the circumstances that impede the falling of this blessing (sun, weeds and rocks) and exhorts those listening to be watchful for when the blessing may fall. Following, you will find a narrative that helps to describe our longings to put on the values and behavior of a church desiring to experience and to participate in the **100 Fold Blessings** of God. It is our effort to put form to a mysterious Spiritual condition. Still, if we define this blessing too tightly and look for a formula, we may *program* the **100 Fold Miracle** right out of our efforts!

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Call to Action: *Pursuing Jesus Christ and His Priorities in the World!*

The Five Smooth Stones of Christ Community Covenant Church

Only a shepherd boy, David found himself facing a giant. He chose not to wear the heavy ornate armor of King Saul. He knew that God had created him to use his own gifts, his own heart and skills to respond to the giant. Instead he chose five smooth stones out of the clear running brook. As he took the field of battle he spoke these words; "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty . . . This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands." (1 Samuel 17:45-46)

In the same manner that David was faithful in his generation, we at Christ Community Covenant Church seek to be faithful to God in our generation using our God given gifts, following our passions and utilizing the natural skills that God has provided through this congregation. We desire to pursue Jesus Christ and His priorities in the world.

With this in mind we at 4Cs have chosen 'five smooth stones' – distinctive values that help us sharpen our focus and fulfill our mission of Loving God, Loving Others and Advancing the Kingdom of God Together! These 'stones' represent at once our foundations on which we build our church and at the same time they are the 'weapons' by which we engage in the spiritual battle by which we love as Christ loved us. They are values that allow us to measure our steps of faith.

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Stone 1 (Green): A Multiplying Church - Building relationships with the undecided that result in a loving, persuasive proclamation of the Gospel in word and deed

- We believe that corporate Sunday worship is for Christians but **seekers are enthusiastically welcome** and **care is given to make the undecided comfortable in our fellowship**.
- We believe that coming to Christ is often a process and not simply a decision point. **We seek to present the Gospel in a Spirit-led and winsome manner while not compromising on the truths** that are the person, work and life of Christ.
- We believe we are **called to reach the community, the city and the world** in word and deed.
- We believe that while some have the specific spiritual gift of evangelism, **all Christians are charged with sharing their faith** in a winsome and Spirit-led manner.

Planting - We see 4Cs as a church of 500 to 750 regular attendees and planting local, national and international churches and ministries once every three years as growth and opportunity demands.

Missions – Comprehensive and long term, collaborative in nature, strategic in form.

Evangelism Training – So that all will be prepared to give a defense of their faith.

Evangelistic Events – Gathering events where the Gospel is proclaimed.

Ministries of First Impression – A welcoming expression on Sunday morning including Greeters, Ushers, Ambassadors, information booth, fellowship pads, follow-up, etc.

Kingdom Preaching – Regular attention to the priorities of Jesus through preaching and teaching ministries.

Leadership Development – Growing through the training and releasing of laity.

Collaborative Ministries – Partnering with ECC, local, national and international ministries.

Community Involvement – Serving our community through acts of compassion, justice and mercy.

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Stone 2 (Blue): A Family Church - Finding intimacy and family in a believing community

- We believe that our Christian faith must be lived out in **corporate** terms – our relationship with Jesus is personal but never private.
- We believe that the primary way to engage community and to create friendships is in a **small group** (GROW Groups, Life Groups, Women's and Men's ministries, ministry service groups, etc.).
- Belonging is not merely a function of connecting to one another but **connecting too to our God, ourselves and our world**.
- We believe that belonging is **intergenerational, cross cultural and transcends the worldly socioeconomic pressures** that often divide a community.

Small Groups – These are ministries where deepened relationships can occur that are otherwise difficult through the large worship alone. They may be service groups (worship team, care ministries, etc.) through affinities (hiking, book clubs, etc.) or through the traditional life stage groups (young married, parents of teens, etc.).

Youth and Children Ministries - While 4Cs values that benefit of intergenerational and cross cultural interaction, we also recognize that age appropriate and specific ministries that come alongside the parent also significantly contribute to the spiritual formation of children and youth.

Marriages – Ministries that encourage and support loving and committed marriages that honor God and the ordinance of marriage.

Singles – This represents ministry efforts to those who are not yet married, those who have chosen not to marry and those who, through divorce or the death of a spouse, are 'single again.'

Men's and Women's Ministries – Opportunities are provided where men and women can gather to pray, serve and learn with their peers.

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Stone 3 (Red): A Teaching Church - Encouraging believers into entering a life long apprenticeship of Jesus, being discipled into a deep, abiding relationship with Christ

- We believe that God uses truth, relationships, life experience and the Holy Spirit to **transform** people.
- We believe that spiritual growth is a **life-long** process and thus we never arrive or graduate from learning about God.
- We believe that spiritual growth is an **organic** process and thus there is no one-size-fits-all program. Everyone walks their unique spiritual journey.
- We believe that spiritual growth is the **individual responsibility** of every Christian. The role of the Church is to equip believers by providing resources and environments for personal growth.

Internships and Residency Programs – 4Cs has a tradition of inviting those who believe that they have a call to ministry into year long training experiences of internships and residencies. We believe that the teaching of teachers, mentoring of mentors and leading of leaders is a strategic contribution to the development of Kingdom workers.

GROW/Small groups – Classes for the spiritual education and encouragement of groups of adults offered Sunday mornings and evenings.

Spiritual Directing – The one-on-one prayerful encouragement of an individual's journey with Christ through the Spirit-led process of spiritual exercises, an encouragement of the disciplines of the faith and through the use of effective listening and encouragement.

Mentoring and Discipleship – Traditional 'Paul/Timothy' relationships

Men and Women's ministries – Opportunities are provided where men and women can gather to pray, serve and learn with their peers.

Evangelism training – So that all will be prepared to give a defense of their faith.

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Stone 4 (Yellow): A Community Church - Finding your place of Kingdom service

- We believe **that every person is gifted** for ministry and called to use those gifts both inside and outside of the church.
- We **believe the Gospel is core** to our acts of service.
- We believe that we are to be involved in acts of **mercy, justice and compassion** of many forms.
- We believe in inviting the community at large **to serve alongside us** and **to serving alongside the community at large**.

Promoting “Every Member a Minister” mindset—The Bible tells us that every believer is called by God to participate in good deeds that have been set aside for us all to walk in. It is the interests and passions of our laity that drives the ministry at 4Cs.

Volunteerism—We will help you find your place of purpose and satisfaction in Kingdom service by knowing and exploring our God-given Spiritual gifts.

Community Ministries of Justice, Compassion and Mercy—True Kingdom work does not care who on earth gets the credit as long God gets the glory. This is ministering “to the least of these.”

Hospitality—Making visitors and seekers not only feel at home, but experience true fellowship.

Care Ministries—Tangible acts of kindness for those grieving or in crisis to those both inside and outside of the church.

Extension Ministries—Partnering and collaborating with various ministries that share our Kingdom perspectives and values.

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Stone 5 (Purple): A Celebrating Church - Encouraging and offering transformational encounters with the One True God by instilling a heart of worship and prayer that is both corporate and personal. We celebrate in singing, praying, reciting the psalms and offering the sacraments of Communion and Baptism. We worship in the sharing of our testimonies and in the giving of our time, talent and treasures. Our services are marked by joy, by the love and grace of Jesus Christ and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit.

- We desire for **God's transformational power** to be present in our corporate worship gatherings.
- We believe that corporate worship **is to encourage the believers to worship God in Spirit and Truth**. Secondly, we want our corporate worship experiences to be both attractive and intelligible to non-Christians and relevant to our culture.
- **We strive for balance** of emotion, experiential participation and thoughtfulness in our corporate worship gatherings.
- We want to be **culturally relevant** in our worship; incorporating elements of church history, music, preaching and art into our worship and thus participating in the transformation of the arts for Christ in the world.
- We are committed to **excellence** in every area of corporate worship.
- We seek to **inspire individuals to deeper personal** (non-corporate) worship experiences.

Sunday Worship Ministries—Is our regular time of gathering of the 4Cs fellowship where we can worship in the reading of scripture, the sacrament of the Lord's Table, worship in song, prayer, service and giving for the mutual encouragement and edification of the saints.

Special presentations of various Worship Arts in the church—Sponsoring and hosting musical recitals, concerts, dramas, art, poetry readings, literature, film, and dance that honor and worship Jesus Christ.

Music and the Arts in Community—Participating in redeeming the arts in community for the sake of the Kingdom by presenting and partnering with various expressions of the worship arts in community settings (hospitals, schools, parks, nursing homes, Community Theater, etc.).

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Stone 6 (White): Prayer-Full Church: The common foundation and core of all our values, vision and ministries

It is our hope that Christ Community Covenant Church will become what is described in **Isaiah 56:6b-7** as a “House of Prayer”:

“Everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast to my covenant –
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”

We know that striving to be intimate with God cannot ultimately be done without extended, personal, private times with God in prayer. Still we also know that modeling prayer and teaching about prayer and finding times of corporate prayer are also important:

Luke 9:18

Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him.

Luke 9:28

Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

Mark 14:32-35

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.” And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

At Christ Community Covenant Church we do not believe that prayer is “A” ministry of the church, but “THE” ministry of the church, foundation and primary. Knowing that prayerlessness is our declaration of independence from God, we seek to make prayer a vital part of every ministry. Our goal is not simply to be a church with a prayer ministry – but a praying church. That is why this “Stone” is not included in our list of values. Prayer is the foundational truth by which all our values ultimately take on meaning and form.

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Operation and Resources are not one of our values, rather they represent the gifts from our Lord to our church so that we might know, love and obey Christ sacrificially for Kingdom purposes.

Giving:

- We want to produce life-stewards not simply financial stewards; a congregation that understands that all our resources of time, talent and treasure are His resources for His Kingdom.
- We want our congregation to be known for her generosity and that begins with each member coming to understand giving as worship and that it can be entered into with discipline and joy.

Facilities:

- We **believe the building is a tool for ministry** not God's dwelling place. The ministry happens from our church AND in our church building.
- We believe we are to **maximize the building usage for Kingdom purposes** not simply ourselves.

Staff:

- We believe that paid ministry staff members are primarily 'equippers' and 'mobilizers' of various specialized ministries to be accomplished through the laity. We believe in the sainthood of believers and the ministry of the laity.

Leadership:

- Elder led - Staff supported - Laity driven; always promoting the development of lay leaders through mentoring and modeling; choosing never to do ministry alone, preferring instead to at least go in twos, as our Lord sent the disciples into the field.

Strategic planning and administration

- Through the establishment of goals and strategic plans, we strive to measure the work of the Spirit against our values. As with all Kingdom endeavor, it is critical that we measure our progress not in false and worldly ways, but rather look for an increase in our congregation in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness faithfulness, gentleness and self control (Galatians 5).