

Vision, Mission & Core Values

Erin Village Alliance Church

EVAC's Vision (a description of who God wants us to become with His help)

“To be disciple-makers who love God and love others”

(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Matthew 22:37-39; I John 4:12&21)

To be disciple makers who love God and love others: we need to be **Genuine Followers of Christ** ourselves; fully centred on Christ, empowered by His Spirit and focused on His Mission;

- ***This means that we need to be disciples of Jesus who are actually learning to be like Jesus and experience the abundant life He talked about:***
 - We want others to see a church family in an intimate relationship with God; fully dependent on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
 - We want others to see real love, joy, hope, faith and humility in us.
 - We want them to see honesty and vulnerability – disciples who are truly hospitable and approachable; who are willing to take their masks off and share their life with others (sharing both their joys and their struggles).
 - We want them to see people who are enthusiastic about their faith, a real encouragement to others
 - We want to be defenders of God's Truth, who are filled with both courage and grace
- ***We want to be known as peacemakers and ambassadors for Christ – people with a servant's heart –***
 - We want to be followers of Christ who are compassionate toward others, selfless in serving others rather than self-serving.
 - We want to be known for our acceptance of others, for our willingness to extend grace to others, even those we disagree with;
 - We want to love those that others find hard to love, fight injustice wherever we encounter it, and care for those in need
 - We want to be known as people willing to get our hands dirty, showing Jesus' love to those who need help.
- ***We want to actively look for where God is working around us, and join Him there in building His kingdom on earth.***
 - We want our words and actions to match. Like Jesus, we only want to say what the Father wants us to say, and do what the Father wants us to do.
 - We want others to see the truth of Christ and His Good News in us, and desire a relationship with Christ.
 - We want to be disciples who develop close relationships with others both inside and outside the church family; a church family that always has room for one more person to join.
 - We want our love for God and our love for others to be so evident that when a need arises in the Community, they will turn to us for help.

EVAC's Mission (a description of how God will help us fulfill our Vision)

"To make disciples who love God and love others we will:

Connect others to Jesus (*Outreach & Evangelism Component*)

(*Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:19-20; Romans 10:14-15*)

- We will commit ourselves to being mission-focused like Jesus – both in our community, our province, our nation and our world. Our commitment is to grow through conversion.
- We will discern where God is working around us and join Him there; meeting relational, spiritual, emotional and physical needs as directed by and empowered by the Holy Spirit;
- We believe that we exist for others first, ourselves second. As such, we will be more “outward” thinking than “inward” thinking. We will be intentional in taking our church to the community rather than expecting the community to come to us.
- We will equip followers of Christ to lovingly build close and lasting relationships with those who as yet don't know Jesus personally – sharing themselves, their story, and Christ's story - with the confidence, courage and grace of Jesus.
- We will develop opportunities for others to meet Christ: *cultivating* opportunities (introducing people to Christians), *sowing* opportunities (introducing people to Christ), and *reaping* opportunities (inviting people to receive Christ).

Grow to be like Jesus (*Discipleship – Spiritual Formation Component*)

(*Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:3-12*)

- We commit to being more than Sunday Christians. We want to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus; committed to living in community and unity with one another – caring for, learning from, being accountable to, submitting to, and loving one another
- Regardless of where a person is in their walk with God (i.e. a new, growing or mature follower of Christ), we will help them grow in their relationship with Christ, using a variety of means (i.e. Small Groups, Mentoring, Bible Studies, Doing life together, Serving together, Praying for One Another)
- We will commit to a more holistic approach to discipleship – building Christians who grow not only intellectually, but are emotionally and relationally healthy; who will live with a spiritual vitality that can only come from God.
- We will build believers who exhibit the fullness of the Holy Spirit – who are empowered by the Holy Spirit – who exhibit the “Fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22&23).
- We will commit to teaching believers to be people of prayer and people rooted in the Bible.
- We will be good stewards of our time, finances and other resources.
- We will commit to and encourage a culture of mentorship.

Equip us to Serve Jesus (*Serving Component*)

(*I Corinthians 12:7-11; I Peter 4:10-11*)

- We want to develop a servant's heart - We want followers of Jesus to be passionate about serving others, both in our church family and in the larger community.
- We want to develop a church family who has compassion for others – compassion that leads to action.
- We need to develop a listening and discerning ear, so that we might learn from God how to serve our community.
- We commit to equipping one another so that we might serve more effectively. We will use a team approach to serving and share our stories with one another.
- We will commit to discovering how each of our Spiritual Gifts, Passions and Interests, Abilities and Skills, Personality, and Life Experiences can be used by God to serve others and fulfill our God-given Vision and Mission.

Develop Leaders to Lead like Jesus (*Multiplying Leaders Component*)

(*Exodus 18:17-26; Mark 9:35*)

- We will develop leaders, who develop leaders – using Jesus' example
- We commit to identifying, equipping and empowering current and potential leaders.
- We will connect our more mature leaders to those learning to lead.
- We will develop leaders who will build a team approach to serving
- We will provide new leaders with a safe place to lead (i.e. a short term opportunity; together with a more mature leader)
- We will build an environment in our church family where it is safe for leaders to lead. This means letting leaders lead, supporting them, encouraging them, submitting to them, and thinking the best of them.

EVAC's Core Values (our character & conduct for living out our Vision & Mission)

These are the values we desire God to build in us:

- **Faith/Prayer** – We want to be known for our faith in God – the kind of faith that believes with certainty, that when we pray, He will act in powerful ways, in His timing, to fulfill His purposes, both in and through us; that He will make possible the things we consider impossible. This means we will pray first, listening to and discerning God's voice, and then act – with confidence that God is walking with us.
(John 14:12-14; Ephesians 6:18)
- **Servant's Heart** – we want to develop a culture for serving others with a generous, sacrificial and selfless posture; a generosity that comes from the compassion and tenderness of God. We want the generosity of our time and resources to be lavish in nature with no strings attached - willing to give to others even when it's hard. We want to be known as the church family who cares enough to spring into action whenever needed.
(Matthew 20:25-28)
- **Authentic** – we want to be known for our authenticity; people who are genuine and humble of heart; followers of Christ striving to live this way consistently, not just when it's convenient. As we walk with others through life, we want to be vulnerable and self-aware; willing to share both our victories and failures with others; to be open about our joys and our challenges; to allow others into our lives; to be accountable for our words and actions.
(John 13:35; I Peter 2:12)
- **Encouraging and Joyful** – we want to be known for our encouraging and joyful attitude. We want to be people who affirm the goodness we see in others – their spiritual giftedness, passions, and abilities - inspiring them to be all that God is calling them to be. We desire a deep sense of joy, a child-like sense of happiness; becoming a resilient church family that experiences both the joy and the peace of God, even in times of turmoil.
(I Thessalonians 5:11, 16-18)
- **Approachable** – we want to be known as people who are gracious, welcoming, and hospitable; valuing others like Jesus did. We want to build relationships where we're quick to listen, slow to anger, willing to admit our shortcomings, and eager to reconcile. We want our church family to be a safe place to encounter Jesus. We want others to know that there's always room for them.
(Colossians 3:12-14; James 1:19)
- **Truth** – In a world where truth has become relative and subjective, we value God's biblical and objective Truth – Come and explore the truth found in Jesus who described Himself as the Way, the Truth and the Life; the only way to get right with God. This is the message of hope and reconciliation we will promote. But we will do so with the heart of a peacemaker; with a deep respect for others, even those who disagree with us.
(John 14:6; II Corinthians 5:19-21; I Thessalonians 2:4)

With God's help, these are the values we aspire to – come grow with us!