

# **Strategic Goals Of New Era CRC**

**Vision: Connecting with Christ...It's a Beautiful Thing**

## **Adopted by Council on August 8, 2018**

### **Worship - We're Here to Make God Glad**

#### **Focused worship - "To make God glad"**

- A. Description** - Focusing our service so that in everything we do, we seek to "make God glad".
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Genuine God honoring worship focused on "making God glad." The implementation of a mindset shift has already begun. All people who are a part of the worship group will have the proper "To make God glad" mindset by January 2019.
- C. Accountability** - Worship committee, GRG, Pastor

#### **Commitment to excellence in preparation**

- A. Description** - Our functioning Worship Committee prepares services that are Bible based dialogue.
  - incorporating Technology (Audio/Visual)
  - intentional screen use
  - appointing a worship coordinator (volunteer or paid)
- B. Desired outcome** - Worshipers, young and old, encounter God in a meaningful, celebratory way through Praise, Prayer, Confession, Assurance, Word, Offering, Sending. God speaks. We respond. (Baptism, Lord's Supper, Profession of Faith)
  - Use of technology encourages all to encounter God....seeing, hearing. Visual learners are able to focus, follow, and encounter God as we use Screen for readings, sermon outlines, expressive visual aids (for readers and nonreaders)
  - Worship coordinator communicates with pastor and all appropriate support: Worship teams, Audio and Visual operators, Powerpoint administrators, Accompanists
- C. Accountability** - Worship Committee, GRG, Pastor

#### **Evaluate and prioritize elements of the service**

- A. Description** - Appoint a group of people, led by the worship committee, to evaluate and prioritize the elements of the service. That is, determine which elements are non-negotiables, that need to be in every service, and those that have flexibility.
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - The worship committee will be given the guidelines from which all services will be planned with a clear understanding of necessary elements and elements with flexibility. All people who are a part of the worship group will have been trained with the guidelines by January 2019.
- C. Accountability** - Worship committee, GRG, Pastor

### **Blending of contemporary and traditional music**

- A. Description** - This one mostly speaks for itself.
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Every morning service will have at least one contemporary song and at least one traditional song. Ideally, every morning service will have at least two of each. September 2019.
- C. Accountability** - Worship committee, GRG, Pastor

### **Deacons**

#### **Create a job description and task list**

- A. Description** - The duties of the deacons will be listed and described to help with the continuity and experiences of the Deacons.
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - a better understanding of what is expected of Deacons. This will be especially useful with yearly transitions of new Deacons.
- C. Accountability** - Deacons

#### **Restructuring of the budget to align with the church mission**

- A. Description** - The yearly budget will be presented within the three areas of the NECRC: Growth with God, Growth with each other, and Growth with the Community.
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Currently ongoing
- C. Accountability** - Deacons

#### **Be proactive with benevolence opportunities**

- A. Description** - With prayer and open hearts, Deacons will search for ways to benefit the needy, both in and outside of the church.
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Continuously, as needs are found and supported.
- C. Accountability** - Council

## **Hospitality**

### **Providing enthusiastic and welcoming greeters**

- A. Description** - Team of greeters will be chosen to greet on Sunday. Greeters will be rotated on a regular basis. Greeters will receive copy of schedule ahead of time and encouraged to switch assigned Sundays as needed.
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Currently ongoing
- C. Accountability** -Hospitality Team, GRC

### **Personal invitations to new attendees**

- A. Description** - Once new families attend a service three to four times, a subgroup will invite them to a dinner, social event, etc., within a month.
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Develop relationships with new families. Ongoing.
- C. Accountability** - Hospitality committee, GRC, Council.

### **Non-Sunday morning social activities**

- A. Description** - Provide periodic non-Sunday social activities that provide opportunities to grow in relationship with each other and grow in relationship with community
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Develop a calendar of events such as church picnics, activity nights, etc. Post calendar for members. Have a fellowship committee for these
- C. Accountability** -Hospitality and Fellowship, GRE

### **Manna Monday**

- A. Description** - Attract community to Manna Monday
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Increase number of non-NECRC individuals attending MM for meal and fellowship by 15-20% from Sept 2018-May 2019
- C. Accountability** -GRC

### **Building and Grounds**

- A. Description** - Make entire church building and grounds inviting
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Update, remodel, and maintain building and grounds to accommodate all individuals including handicapped (adequate elevator) and to provide a welcoming and inviting

atmosphere to the building and grounds. Over next 12 months, repair, paint, remodel as needed. Update outdoor appearance including landscaping. Complete outdoor worship area

**C. Accountability** - Building and Grounds

**Update nursery procedures**

**A. Description** - Develop a nursery schedule consistent with needs of the nursery, print schedule a month or two in advance to enable attendants to switch weeks, and provide expectations to attendants(ie., be in nursery no later than 9:15). Develop a system to notify parents if needed in nursery.

**B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Have in place by Sept 2018

**C. Accountability** -Nursery Committee, GRE

**Outreach**

**Find a community need and fill it**

**A. Description** - Look for needs and issues in our community that need met and address those needs using prayer and all available resources.

**B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Our desired outcome is that people come to know the love of Jesus through us and that their lives may be improved by our efforts. This should be ongoing.

**C. Accountability** - Outreach committee, GRC, Pastor

**Connect with our community**

**A. Description** - Being involved in community activities and events.

**B. Desired outcome and timeline** - That the community would know who NECRC is and see that we are filled with the Spirit and love Jesus and care about others. This should be ongoing.

**C. Accountability** - Outreach and Hospitality committees. GRC.

## **Prayer**

### **Provide regularly scheduled focused prayer times**

- A. Description** - February - Lent, May - National Day of Prayer, August - New Church Year, November - Thanksgiving
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Congregation spending more time in prayer “My House is a House of Prayer.” Ongoing.
- C. Accountability** - GRG

### **Sunday morning prayer time**

- A. Description** - 9:00 AM gather to pray prior to worship
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - focus on worship time and congregational concerns. Ongoing.
- C. Accountability** - GRG

### **Elders and Deacons meet specifically for prayer once a month**

- A. Description** - Council meeting begins with 30 minutes of prayer.
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Prayer focus of Council. Begin -2018
- C. Accountability** -GRG

### **Create a prayer team for specific needs**

- A. Description** - Prayer with individuals with specific needs
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Prayer cover upon request. Begin 2018.
- C. Accountability** - GRG

### **Sunday evening prayer requests**

- A. Description** - Prayer requests for congregational prayer
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - My house will be a house of prayer. Ongoing.
- C. Accountability** - GRG

### **Evaluate and refine the prayer chain**

- A. Description** - Immediate prayer requests for members of congregation

**B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Immediate prayer cover. Ongoing.

**C. Accountability** - GRG

## **Discipleship**

**Provide opportunities to grow spiritually through relationships with others -Small groups, Bible studies, etc.**

**A. Description** - Small groups will be organized to encourage members to become involved in a small group, BIBLE study, or adult Sunday School. Attempt to get assistance from existing small groups would be helpful.

**B. Desired outcome and timeline** - At least 2 small groups within a year after a Casting of the Vision by Pastor and Council. Casting of the Vision should be done at am service before beginning of fall Activities and refresh in January.

**C. Accountability** -Discipleship Committee, Elders, and Pastor

**Develop relationships that encourage accountability**

**A. Description** - Develop relationships that encourage accountability

**B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Personal Mentoring, Develop list of those willing to be mentors. Contact new members to assess need and desire for mentoring

**C. Accountability** - Discipleship Committee and elders

**Refine the “church family” structure and accountability**

**A. Description** - Presently 3 church families. Possibly increase to 5. Elders could meet more with families with smaller number. Could be more accessible and meet needs easier.

**B. Desired outcome and timeline** – Rearrange church families before Casting of the Vision. Set goal for church families to meet 2 to 3 times per year minimum.

**C. Accountability** - Church family leaders and elders

**Develop a process to integrate new families**

**A. Description** - New attendees invited to a member of NECRC's house for supper/dinner after attending 4 to 6 services. Ask if they would like to be included In a church family, given directory, and possibly introduce to congregation.

**B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Start now and encourage ALL members to be involved.

**C. Accountability** - All members and elders.

## **Children**

### **Regular children's messages**

- A. Description** - Children's Messengers are people who love children and love passing along God's Good News to them in creative, engaging ways.
  - The Message is presented to children during a worship service.
  - The Message is based on scripture text or element of worship.
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Faith formation will occur, as children are included in worship. "Children learn through observation, but they learn best through participation. We take them to church so that being part of a church family and gathering regularly to worship God in community with others becomes part of the fabric of their lives"(Karen Deboer, Home Grown Handbook for Christian Parenting, Faith Alive, p. 187). Ongoing.
- C. Accountability** - Pastor, Worship Committee, GRG

### **Sunday School Superintendent**

- A. Description** – A person that loves children, is excited about training them, has the necessary gifts, and a sense of calling from the Holy Spirit.
- B. Desired Outcome and Timeline** – Find a Sunday School Superintendent to replace Phil Morse by August 24, 2018.
- C. Accountability** – Pastor, GRG

### **Curriculum**

- A. Description** - New Era CRC will plant seeds and provide opportunities for our children to learn about Jesus, to receive his love, and to connect to Christ. A curriculum and teachers will be offered so that our children hear the story of the Bible and learn the truth of the gospel message.
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** – Materials that tell the full story of the Bible and teach a gospel message will be ordered by Aug 24, 2018. Teachers will be chosen and assigned to their class by Aug 31, 2018 and materials will be given to them with a short training session.
- C. Accountability** – GRG, Sunday School Superintendent, Pastor



## **Music**

- A. Description** – Teach our children to sign and to appreciate the gift of song.
- B. Desired Outcome and Timeline** – Choose a leader and piano player. Have our Sunday School children sing for 10-15 minutes before classes begin each week. September, 2018.
- C. Accountability** – GRG, Sunday School Superintendent, Pastor

## **Youth and Emerging Adults**

### **Integrating Youth into the Life of the Congregation**

- A. Description** - Providing mentoring adults who love teens. Use resources provided at [crcna.org](http://crcna.org). - opportunities for youth to LEARN, SERVE, AND GROW with those of various ages. Involving youth in worship planning and leadership (singers, readers, actors, drummers, instrumentalists). Planning of intergenerational service projects and mission trips.
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** - Faith formation of teens develops; Learning, Serving, Growing happens. The youth recognize that they are the Church Today, along with the old. 2019.
- C. Accountability** - GRG

### **Integrate Post High/Working Young Adults (singles/marrieds) into fellowship with the congregation**

- A. Description** – Provide community relationships with the congregation: effective communication, a clear way to connect and serve, and positive experiences.
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** – Post High Singles and Marrieds will experience a warm, welcoming, authentic body of followers of Jesus Christ and see themselves as vital to the life and health of NECRC. They will know and experience Christ who changes hearts and minds to love Him and Serve Him and Share Him. 2019
- C. Accountability** - GRE

### **Integrate Post High/Working Young Adults (singles/marrieds) with each other**

- A. Description** - Provide opportunities to gather as young adults in an atmosphere that is designed to be welcoming and joyful and a reason to connect over and over again. Have fun together!
- B. Desired outcome and timeline** – Relationships develop as friends, as co-workers, as peer supporters, as responders to and followers of Jesus. These relationships will prompt the group to invite others into fellowship. 2019
- C. Accountability** - GRE

