## Purpose & Core Values

**Purpose:** To Know Jesus & Make Him KNOWN.

**Core Values:**

1. **This is the core.** The Gospel starts with a perfect and holy God and contains the bad news of our falling well short of His perfection. But along with that, the Gospel is good news. Through the person and work of Jesus Christ, God fully accomplishes salvation for those who call on him in faith. He rescues us from judgment for sin, brings us into fellowship with himself for all eternity, and will one day redeem all of creation as far as the curse of sin has touched it.
   
   1 Cor. 1-3; 2 Cor. 5:21; John 3:16-17; Rom. 8:21-22

2. **This is the expectation.** The Gospel changes everything and moves through our other core values. Jesus will one day return and make all things new. Until that day comes, He is surely and continually making those who turn to Him in faith new creations. By reordering our affections to love the things He loves, He is making us look more and more like His Son, Jesus, as individuals, as a community, and in the world.
   
   2 Cor. 5:17; Rev. 21:5; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 1:6

3. **This is the context.** Community is the church, a group of needy people who have been redeemed, and need one another to mature in Christ as we treat one another according to the same Gospel.
   
   Col. 1:24; 1 Pet. 2:9-10; Eph. 4:1-16; Rom. 12:3-8

4. **This is the direction.** God’s people are called outward on mission. We have been called to make disciples as we bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit while loving our neighbors both locally and globally.
   
   Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:8; Luke 4:18-19; Mark 12:30-31; Jer. 29:5-7
As the Strategic Planning Team went through the survey, met with one another, and met with others in the church, we began to pick up on three areas of sin and brokenness that we felt the Lord wanted to push in on:

1. **Isolation from God** - We are prone to drift from knowing God in deeper ways.
2. **Isolation from others** - Our cultural idols of comfort, control and busyness draw us away from true community.
3. **Lack of Gospel witness** - Fear and comfort tempt us to keep the good news of Jesus from those who need it most.

In light of this, for the next five years we want to focus on three areas:

1. **Knowing Him More** - Going deeper in our discipleship as a church.
2. **Being More Known** - Moving towards one another in the church in community.
3. **Making Him Known** - Witnessing about Jesus while loving our neighbors locally and globally.

The good news is we are already doing quite a bit as a church in these areas. However, there are also clear places that need some attention that we set specific goals for in each category. They are as follows:

### Goals

**1. Knowing Him More**

- **Discipleship Pathway**
  - Create and implement a discipleship pathway for NLD considering the diversity of our congregation by September 3, 2020.

- **Develop Servant Leaders**
  - Identify, equip and install 15 new officers and 15 other leaders in non-officer positions by June 2022.

- **Dependent Prayer**
  - Create three new corporate prayer opportunities and identify and advertise ongoing corporate prayer groups by June 1, 2020.
2. Being More Known

● Connection
  ○ Small Groups
    - 70% of NLD members are engaged in smaller discipleship community in the church by June 2024 (Home Group, Men's/Women's Bible Study)
    - Have a clearly articulated and connected philosophy for Men's and Women's small groups as well as Home groups by December of 2020.
  ○ Men’s Ministry
    - Have a clear plan in place for our men's ministry by January 2021 relative to our Core Values and Discipleship Pathway (integration of small groups, breakfasts, men's retreat, and other opportunities)

● Care
  ○ Director of Congregational Care
    - Establish Congregational Care Position, create and hire by June 30, 2019.
    - This person will oversee the Shepherding Session, coordinate and oversee the Diaconate, coordinate care in shepherding cases between pastoral staff, oversee the women caring for other women, coordinate sick visits, and do some individual counseling. Note: this type of counseling will be short-term and he will encourage engagement in the person’s smaller community or outsource to other counselors where deeper help is needed.
    - We announced that Todd Hill will be the person to step into this role and he will do so as soon as a new Pastor of Emerging Generations is hired to replace him.
  ○ Women Caring for Women
    - Identify, equip and clearly establish a group of at least ten women who will be able to more effectively minister to other women by December 2020.
3. Making Him Known

- **Present**
  - Two video stories a month of transformation will be shared during worship. This will begin in August 2019 and run through the end of the year. (Need to check with the calendar and may bump to the Spring)

- **Proclaim**
  - Missional Communities
    - A process is in place for greater engagement and ownership of our local ministries by the end of 2019.
    - 6 missional communities that impact surrounding communities of NLD are in place by the end of 2019.
    - 100% (6/6) of the missional communities will be listed on the NLD website, with clear opportunities for NLD members to become involved by the end of 2019.
  - Overseas Partnership
    - Identify one international partnership by December of 2020
  - Giving
    - Tether outreach budget to overall increase of church budget. Currently our giving stands at 12.3% of the annual budget, not counting the Resurrection offering ($50k) or Deacon’s fund.
  - Director of Mission

- **Plant**
  - We have a church planter identified, location identified, and a core group identified by the end of 2024.

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**Communication**

- Web - Sermons, videos, Known video, overview
- Revamped bulletin and email to communicate these three categories and opportunities within each
- Print material for Fall ministry season along with other decor
- Use of other technologies

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**So What?**

- Consider the Call...to Know Jesus and make Him known
- Reflect over the summer
- “One Each”
- Pray with us
- Pay attention come the Fall