

# Our Vision After 25 Years

***A passion for God in Jesus Christ demonstrated in our worship,  
our love for one another, and our compassion for His world,  
fueled by the Gospel, and fired by the Holy Spirit.  
Who we are passionate about: Jesus Christ.***

## **ONE: WHAT OUR PASSION PRODUCES**

### **A. Worship**

#### **1. What We See**

- a. A body of believers captivated by the supreme value of Christ, glorying only in the cross of Christ, by which we are crucified to the world and the world to us.
- b. Corporate worship services that are alive with a singular, Spirit-breathed passion for God, bearing witness to his greatness in the way we approach Him.
- c. We come together to exult and delight in Christ, in Lord's day worship that is a natural extension of the daily living sacrifice we offer. A time of refreshment celebrating the work of God in our lives, strengthening our faith, and challenging us to an ever-deepening dependence on the grace of God.
- d. Private and family worship taking place day to day, flowing from and preparing for our weekly corporate celebrations of praise to God.
- e. An excited and committed group of servants who joyfully use God's gifts to serve the body in support of corporate worship, displaying Christ's value in their approach and execution of this ministry.

#### **2. How To Get There**

- a. By preaching that is worship, that enables us to see the triune God revealed in all his glory, that communicates the whole counsel of God, reveals His infinite value, and that increases our faith by grace.
- b. By leading worship services that are reflective and formative, centered on Christ alone as our only hope, fully engaging our minds and our affections with His truth.
- c. By building a sanctuary for worship that transposes our gaze heavenward, unhindered by temporal distractions.
- d. By shepherding our families and individuals in private worship, including providing devotional and musical support to these ministries.

### **B. One Another**

#### **1. What We See**

- a. A Reformed church of families and individuals that welcomes people of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds. A diverse congregation experiencing the overflow of the grace of God in our hearts and through that overflow of grace meeting the

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needs of those around us. A community of saints exercising their gifts to build up one another, speaking the truth in love, being used by God to draw the lost around us whom He is calling to new life in Jesus.

- b. Families growing together in their love for Christ, as God turns the hearts of children to their parents and parents to their children through the teaching of the Word and the modeling of the self-sacrificing love that is the fragrant aroma of Christ. Covenant children growing to attain and profess full maturity in Christ.
- c. A congregation that applies the one another commands throughout the New Testament in communities of 8-18 people and embraces the call to powerful fellowship, to use their gifts in ministry with each other, and to encourage one another to share their hope in the gospel with those around them who don't yet possess that hope.
- d. A body manifesting the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, marked by an ever-increasing love for one another. A community living out of the love of Christ with a tenderheartedness and kindness that transcends all social, cultural and racial barriers through the power of the gospel.

### **2. How To Get There**

- a. By equipping and supporting the heads of the home so that husband-fathers are shepherding their families. By God's grace they accept their God-appointed headship and sacrificially love their wives and children, to present them mature in Christ.
- b. By equipping the heads of single parent families to lead and shepherd their families. We also recognize the difficulty of this task as a single parent and endeavor to support these parents as they sacrificially love their children and work to present them mature in Christ.
- c. By encouraging individuals to be connected to the body, active in ministry, service and fellowship.
- d. By providing family-based youth ministry, with family ministries that are consonant with and supportive of this approach to raising covenant children.
- e. By encouraging members and friends to experience the community of intimate fellowship found in regularly attending a cell.
- f. By endeavoring to improve communication and cooperation between each elder and cell and small group leaders as they respond to the needs of the families they are serving in their ministries.
- g. By celebrating, as a congregation, Christ's glory in evangelism and conversion of the lost, as new believers are assimilated into our Body.
- h. By developing and implementing strategies that improve congregational outreach to unbelievers both individually and through our cells and small groups.
- i. By building a facility that will provide more classrooms, to be used during the Middle Hour for training adults and children in Christian living.

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## C. His World

### 1. What We See

A congregation so focused on our relationship with God that He controls our very being...our thoughts, words and deeds. We are by His grace and command adapting ourselves to the Great Commission so that it controls our thinking and shapes how we live. We are expectant and unashamed of the Gospel because God has demonstrated to us that it IS the Power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. Jesus sends us to proclaim His Gospel to a world filled with people who are facing God's wrath and righteous judgment upon their sin, and who need the redemption Jesus accomplished in His life, death and resurrection. Jesus is our savior, and He is our example of bringing the wonder of the Gospel to the lost around us. He opens our eyes to see the desperate need of those around us who are yet cut off from Him. Then He leads us to proclaim His glorious promise of salvation for those who come to faith in Him. Our changed lives give witness to the transforming power of the Gospel as we serve others in need and as we speak the truth in love. In every circumstance where God puts us, we are salt (the preserving influence) and light (pointing to the finished work of Jesus Christ) to the glory of God.

So we see ourselves loving and intriguing those around us with an energy and freedom that joy produces, even in very imperfect, but grace filled lives of kindness (I Thess. 3:12; 5:15 "everyone else")

#### a. Locally:

- i. All kinds of people regularly coming to Christ thru individual witness and various CPC ministries as God grants us increase. We know that every tribe, tongue, and people will be represented in heaven (Revelation 7:9) and in our culture today, many different people groups are living among us in Howard County. We long for everyone to hear the gospel, and to be called to faith in Jesus. Those who respond will be welcomed into the body of Christ, and particularly into our body. We want CPC to be a home for anyone who loves Jesus regardless of culture, language, and background.

#### b. Globally:

- i. More CPC people going on short term mission trips and some becoming career missionaries.

### 2. How To Get There

#### a. Locally:

- i. By preaching, teaching, and mentoring CPC members in how to live out of the power of the gospel and equipping them through classes to reach out to offer that hope to the lost around them.
- ii. By continuing to offer our Gospel discussion class for several weeks following each Easter Sunday.
- iii. By preparing for the people we believe that God will indeed be bringing to faith in Christ by expanding the space for people to worship and learn by building our sanctuary and additional classrooms.

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- iv. By providing a training program to equip coaches for Upward in evangelizing and in discipling their team members this season.
- v. By looking into evangelistic tools we can use to enhance our outreach. As we find tools that will strengthen our outreach we will employ them.
- b. Globally:
  - i. By keeping a global mission focus for our people by encouraging cells and small groups to adopt the foreign missionaries in our budget to care for them and to support their ministry.
  - ii. By strategically considering short term mission opportunities and recruit the participants for those trips, and provide more financial assistance for those who go on those short term missions.
  - iii. By periodic visits from CPC members and leaders to full time foreign missionaries abroad both to support their ministry using our gifts and talents, and also to keep that ministry in focus before the congregation.
  - iv. By the World Missions Task Force continuing our February Month of Missions.

### **TWO: HOW WE RECEIVE OUR PASSION**

#### **A. The Fuel Of The Gospel**

##### **1. What We See**

A congregation growing in grace and in the knowledge of Christ, understanding the Gospel and how to live out of it in deepening repentance and faith, so we are more eager to worship our God, more willing to follow Jesus and take risks for Him, and more excited about sharing the gospel with the expectation that we will see lives changed by its power (Rom 1:16-17).

The mysteries of possessing Christ's righteousness, the resurrection life, the privilege of sonship, and the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit more comprehended in our hearts.

##### **2. How To Get There**

- a. By preaching gospel saturated sermons with practical application.
- b. Families, cells, and small groups which pray, study, and apply the Word together, living out their faith in love before a watching world.
- c. By Middle Hour and weekend seminars proclaiming the whole counsel of God, exploring the various facets and applications of the Gospel in concentrated ways.
- d. By discipling and counseling ministries that, by God's grace, apply the radical truth of Scripture through which God heals our brokenness and gives us the joy of our salvation (e.g. discipling couples and individuals through Sonship, Gospel Transformations, Person of Jesus, Redeemer, and other such materials).

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## B. Fired By The Holy Spirit

### 1. What We See

The NT Church spontaneously witnessed wherever it went so, for example, Paul could say to the Thessalonians, "Your faith in God has been known everywhere!" (I Thess. 1:8). Little reference is made to the Great Commission, and there is no sense of being compelled simply by duty. Rather, evangelism seemed to be the response of a healthy organism to the law of its being. "For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). "Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach" (I Cor. 9:16). Why? Because the Holy Spirit at Pentecost converted an external Law ("Go make disciples") into an internal law of how something is "wired."

We see a recovery of this adapting ourselves to the Great Commission because God's Spirit has IGNITED the Gospel in our hearts so that we seek opportunities to share Christ with those who are lost.

We see regular testimonies: at the Lord's Supper, on Sunday mornings, of people who have recently found Christ either through interaction with the saints at CPC who so behold and are transformed by the beauty of Christ that they are used by God to bring many sons and daughters to glory as they go about their daily lives, or through the ministries of CPC. We see such testimonies making all of us bolder and more expectant that the Spirit IS at work in our midst.

Seeing our own lives changed by the Spirit's releasing us from bondage to our idols, giving us new joy, and setting the Gospel afire in our own hearts.

### 2. How To Get There

- a. The Holy Spirit ministers to us through the Word of Christ, producing faith that leads to a God-glorifying obedience and the fruitful use of our spiritual gifts. We will endeavor to take part in this by modeling, encouraging and supporting regular public, family and private reading of the Word, systematic and regular Scripture memorization, and the training of covenant children through scripture-based catechism programs.
- b. By focusing on prayer in all aspects of our ministries thereby recognizing and delighting in our dependence upon God. One opportunity for such a focus on prayer is to conduct a Sunday afternoon "Prayer Walk" in neighborhoods of our cells and small groups this fall.