

VISION 2023

Vision 20-23: A three-year prayerful plan for MPC, 2020-2023

Introduction

In 2020 we set out a prayerful vision called “Vision 2020” and it is a joy to see that over those three years that the Lord has enabled us to make disciples, see CCW move to independence, train an assistant pastor and train and appoint a new generation of leaders. As we near the end of 2020, we want to prayerfully lay out another three year vision. Let’s remind ourselves first....

God is a Planner

The Lord God makes plans. He created the universe using a six-day plan (Genesis 1). He planned history to bring his Son into the world, “when the time had fully come” (Galatians 4:4). The apostle Paul adopts a plan to preach in the major cities of the Roman world, from where the Gospel can travel to smaller towns and villages (see from Acts 13). It is right, therefore, for churches to develop prayerful plans, always aware that the plan may change as the Lord leads us. We note for example, that the apostle Paul has to change plans (Acts 16:6; 1 Thess. 2:18). We only see in part and so must be humbly open to the Lord’s overruling of our plans – however prayerful they might be. “In their hearts people plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.” (Proverbs 16:9)

Core Principles

Underlying our plans are the following core principles:

1. **Making disciples of all nations.** Following the Lord’s command in Matthew 28, we are passionate about making disciples.
2. **People are more important than bricks and mortar.** We are convinced that while it is still possible for us to hire premises, for the foreseeable future, our time and energies should go into building Christian communities rather than bricks and mortar (Acts 2:46).
3. **Smaller churches.** We are committed to smaller churches where most people know each because we believe that loving fellowship fosters discipleship and encourages the expression and use of spiritual gifts (see for example the lists in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12).
4. **Church Planting.** We see church planting as the best means of reaching new communities with the Gospel, as difficult as the task may be (the story of Acts is the story of planting new churches).

A Seven Point Plan

As we look to the next **three years** we want, the Lord helping us, to:

1. **Make Disciples.** Placing this point here as well as in the core principles ensures we do not lose sight of the primary command of Jesus. Whatever we do, making disciples through evangelism and small groups is the primary task the Lord Jesus has set for us, in Dines Green, St John’s, Worcester and the world, to the glory of God.
2. **Develop a new strategy of outreach into the school and surrounding area.** We need to find new ways to connect with and share the Gospel with local folk, including elderly.
3. Establish and build our **online presence and influence** more firmly for the Gospel’s sake.
4. **Enlarge the Eldership.** We need to expand the eldership, especially as we seek to plant again.
5. **Enlarge the number of missionaries we support.**
6. **Begin training another assistant pastor.** MPC is a wonderful place to train pastors.
7. **Church plant Again.** We would like to church plant again within the next three years. We plan to actively explore church planting in Malvern from 2021 onwards.