

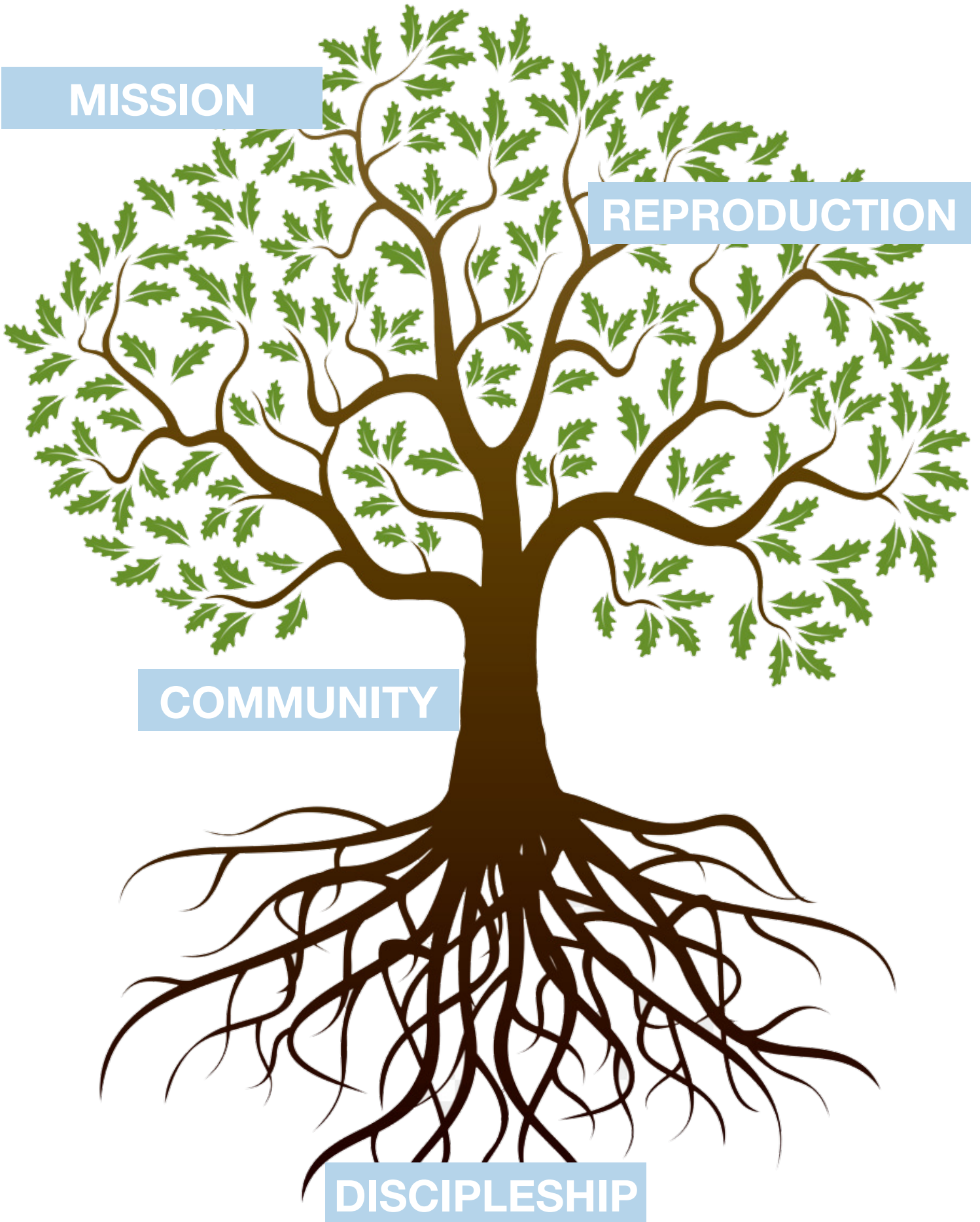
# Northview LifePlan 2022

**MISSION**

**REPRODUCTION**

**COMMUNITY**

**DISCIPLESHIP**



# LifePlan 2022

## Introduction

After adopting our new mission statement and Pastor David returning from sabbatical with a conviction that our next move forward is to deepen our neighbourhood engagement, 2022 seemed the right time to have another round of LifePlan. This, of course, is set in the context of COVID being an ongoing reality in our lives. In a desire to keep the process as light as possible, Pastor David designed and facilitated four LifePlan conversations to be hosted in January (the last one extended into February as a result of weather). These meetings took place on Wednesday evenings from 6:30–8:30 and were attended in person and by zoom. See the included agenda for more details.

## Week 1

Our first conversation focused on assessing what we already do, particularly with community engagement. The summary on **page 4** describes the way we provide social connections with our neighbours, share our space with community organizations, how our staff engage the community within their roles, where our finances are directed to our neighbourhoods, and the types of volunteer opportunities available to our church. To view the entire meeting discussion visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgiBR0sOuOw&t=12s>.

## Week 2

Our conversation during week 2 was around re-familiarizing ourselves with the character of our neighbourhoods: Argyle Park, Englewood, and Hawkstone. We reviewed city and neighbourhood demographics, considering the implications of what we were reading. We also looked at community goals from the city and the board of education. Finally, we reviewed needs that are common to all human beings. We found that there was both a majority and a minority shape to our neighbourhoods which led to corresponding areas of need. The summary for this conversation is found on **page 5**. For the video visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFzxPszIG8s&t=340s>.

## A Shift

Leading up to and including weeks 1 and 2 Pastor David invited Northview as a whole into these conversations. However, for weeks 3 and 4 he limited the invitation to those who had shown themselves interested and committed to the LifePlan conversations. This was done so that our discussions and decisions in the last weeks would reflect our earlier work and LifePlan conversations.

## Week 3

Week 3's conversation was about having a clear picture of ourselves and the types of resources we have to work with. We were able to summarize (on **pages 6 and 7**) our character, our service style, our values and our approach to leadership. We also looked at what physical and personal assets we have, what organizations we are connected to, what other likeminded community groups are around, and where we currently spend our money. For the full discussion visit: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRrIY\\_gz-mk&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRrIY_gz-mk&t=3s).

## Week 4

Our final conversation sought to bring everything together, with prayer and fasting, to establish a clear direction. Together we shared what the Spirit of God has laid on our hearts. Our key questions were around what God is calling us to do, to be, and a vision of the future. This is summarized on **page 8**. Our final task was to establish together what our top 4 or 5 priorities are to commend to the board as direction. These too are included on the summary. The video for this discussion is found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7vlalekQRs>.

## Next Steps

This LifePlan 2022 package will go to the board as a whole for review and comment. As many board members participated in the conversations themselves, it is hoped that the top 5 priorities will be approved as ministry direction for the next three years. Once the board has approved this (with any needed adjustments), the staff and some key leadership voices will move through a process to develop a 3 year ministry plan for each priority. This plan will include an overarching purpose, annual goals, necessary actions to reach goals, and planned evaluations. This team will also determine who will have ministry and leadership responsibility for each. This plan will go back to the board for final approval and budgeting if necessary.

## Important Considerations

Many at Northview drive in from quite a distance. The ministry plans should keep this in mind and strategize how to include people who are out of area. Second, Northview already does much in the area of outreach, our ministry planning should include a plan to expand, integrate or eliminate existing ministry so we do not burnout.

## Thank You's

I, Pastor David, am very grateful to everyone who participated in these conversations. This especially includes board and staff members who already do so much. Also, thank you to those who covered these meetings with prayer. This too has been essential. Finally, thank you Northview for your godly character and heart!

# LifePlan Conversations

## Wednesdays 6.30 – 8.30 pm

***NORTHVIEW'S MISSION IS TO EMBODY JESUS IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS***

**January 12**

**January 5** | *Evaluating our missional engagement today*

In our first session we want to ensure that everyone has a good sense of why we are seeking to engage with our neighbourhoods. We then want to examine Northview's current ministry to chart how it fits within this missional framework.

6.30–7.00 | Welcome, Prayer, and Theology

7.00–7.30 | Two models: Tree and Quadrants

7.30–8.30 | Charting our life together

**January 19**

**January 12** | *These are the people in our neighbourhood*

In our second session we want to explore the area where God has placed us. Who are they and what are their lives like? Where are their areas of brokenness that might need God's shalom? Where are places that God is already at work and might be inviting us into?

6.30–7.00 | Welcome and Prayer

7.00–7.30 | Reviewing the data

7.30–8.30 | Reflecting and praying

**January 26**

**January 19** | *These are the gifts God has bestowed*

In our third session we want to understand ourselves, believing that God has given us everything we need to take the next step. We want to have a good assessment of all the resources we have that should be used to embody Jesus in our neighbourhoods.

6.30–7.00 | Welcome and Prayer

7.00–8.15 | Asset mapping

8.15–8.30 | Prayer

**February 2**

**January 26** | *Bringing it all together*

In our fourth and final session we want to use our prayerful and sanctified imagination under the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit. We want to dream together as to how God is calling us into greater engagement in our neighbourhoods over the next three years: 2022–2024.

6.30–7.00 | Welcome and Prayer

7.00–8.15 | Dream Session

8.15–8.30 | Prayer



## Facilities

God has given Northview a lot of assets. As we evaluate our current missional engagement of our neighbourhoods, we want to examine the way we use those assets missionally.

### Social Connections

Fall Carnival, Halloween Warming Centre, Christmas Event, Games Nights, Paint Nights, Shrove Tuesday Dinner

While we make good use of our building for ourselves, we also have found ways to use it to socially connect our neighbours. As we have found out during COVID, social connections are crucial to mental health and well being. Northview has become a vital part of Argyle Park, Englewood, and Hawkstone. This has been recognized by our community in many ways, but most importantly through the deepening partnership with Argyle Park North Community Association.

### Community Space

Girl Guides, Overcomers Outreach, Al-Anon, MEET, Study, Forever in Motion, "As Needed," Choir, Community Organization Meetings, churches, Freedom in Christ

Many good organizations do not have permanent space and need to find other organizations to partner with. Northview looks to partner with these groups by offering to share our space. Some of these are one time, some recurring, and some weekly.

Our parking lot is used daily to drop off and pick up kids from school and as over flow for Houston Heights. Our garage is also used from time when members of our community need some free temporary storage space. We even have shared our signage with the local school.

We have invested time and money into our outer appearance to be a good neighbour.

# *LifePlan 2022* **You Are Here** *Northview's Current Missional Engagement*

## Staff

Over the last several years Northview has added additional staff. Often this can mean only meeting internal needs. Northview's staff consistently seeks opportunities to be missional.

### Reaching Out

MEET, D4, Youth, Care, Connection, Seniors, Community Response

Connecting and equipping mom's, going into High Schools to talk about Jesus, making space for teens who don't know about Jesus, meeting emergency needs of people seeking help, connecting people to the services that are available in the city, and finding ways to partner with local agencies are all ways our staff engage missionally as a regular part of their jobs.

### Key Moments

Weddings, Funerals, Hospital Visits, Jail Visits, Counselling, Crisis Moments, Online Services

Not all ministry is exclusively directed towards church members alone. There are aspects of what our staff do that bring them into contact with our neighbours at critical times. This allows our staff the chance to be the presence of Christ in these moments, to point to the active presence of the kingdom, and, when appropriate to lead people to put faith in Jesus.

## Finances

Missionaries, Addressing Homelessness, Sri Lanka, Arlington, CORE Tithe

By sharing the financial resources God has blessed us with, Northview is enabling other ministries to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people in our province and around the world.

## Volunteers

Missional ministry doesn't just involve facilities, staff, and finances. If the church is the people, then missional ministry must be the work of Jesus followers. The people of Northview volunteer!

Leave a Blessing & Take a Blessing, Clothing Give Away, Community Fridge, Food Give Away, Gifts for City Kidz, ICCM, Shoe Boxes, Houston Heights, John Schools, Walking Stick Ministries, Prayer Walks, Action Against Sexual Exploitation

Northview people put hands and feet to our missional calling. We are actively engaged in many organizations and opportunities in our own neighbourhoods, our city, our province, and beyond.

Northview is a church that desires to be actively engaged in the life of our neighbourhood. We want to be a good neighbour. We are intentional about using our facilities to help people and organizations, our staff care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual well being of people outside of our membership, our finances go to more than just operating our own building and worship space, and we have lots of volunteer opportunities, both locally and globally. As we embark on LifePlan 2022 we recognize that God may be inviting us to focus our missional engagement, instead of adding more.

To begin with, it is important to note that we don't have all of the information for a clear picture of our three neighbourhoods: Argyle Park, Englewood, and Hawkstone. We are on the cusp of a new census coming out. As well, we only have limited census data for Hawkstone, which is a new build. However, our picture is based on a familiarity with these communities including Hawkstone as we have key people who live here and we can extrapolate from the data that we have.

### The Majority Picture

While Hawkstone is a new build, Argyle Park and Englewood were built in the early 70s. These neighbourhoods have been stable with a majority of married people raising families. The neighbourhood is now in transition as parents are retiring and moving out. However, the majority of people living here remain here. The median age is early 30s. As a result, these neighbourhoods are stable.

Economically these neighbourhoods are mainly strong. The majority of people—especially couples—fit within the “middle class.” This means they own their homes, cars, pay for their children's education, save for retirement, have good health care, and can enjoy vacations. As a result, the majority of our neighbours are self-sufficient and have more spiritual rather than physical needs.

The neighbourhoods themselves are largely “safe.” There is low gang activity and crime tends to be petty. Examples would be cars that are left open being rifled through for cash or goods. Common sense and reporting to the police will reduce this. These crimes are mainly youthful mischief.

Like all of Regina, higher needs caused by COVID include increased domestic violence, drug use, and mental health issues.

### The Minority Picture

While we celebrate the strength of these neighbourhoods, it doesn't mean there are not issues present within them.

These are three suburban neighbourhoods which means they are drive-in neighbourhoods. Most people have to drive out of them to get to work or to procure amenities. As a result there can be little to no sense of being in community with neighbours and a lack of skill to foster community spirit.

There is also a growing presence of new Canadians moving into these neighbourhoods. Their tendency is to form sub-communities based on ethnicity for support while settling. As they settle they have increasing need to make cross-cultural connections as well as help navigating the “major” culture. While the growing diversity is a good thing, our neighbours may also need help as threats to homogeneity are not always welcome.

In addition to ethnic diversity, there is economic diversity in our neighbourhoods. We do have a small percentage of people that live below the poverty line, which includes more than just an income threshold. Some people pay more than 30% of their income in rent. There are those who struggle with food insecurity. And some who struggle with being working poor or unemployed. While education is available to everyone, not all finish high school or move on to post-secondary education. Those at greatest risk are:

- Children in single parent homes
- Single parents, especially women
- The self-employed
- People with disabilities
- Minorities, especially visible ones

In addition, members of the LGBTQ2S+ community struggle for dignity, love and acceptance in every neighbourhood.

## *These Are the People in Our Neighbourhoods*

“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

—Jeremiah 29:7

### Summary of Potential Needs

- Support to foster strong marriages and raise healthy families
- Particularly, right now, addressing domestic violence
- Providing community connections to meet social needs and community spirit
- Petty crime prevention and place for youth to be positively occupied
- Connection to drug abuse prevention and mental health aid
- Help integrating new Canadians into the majority culture and navigating resources
- Help to “majority” culture to embrace new diversity
- Assistance to the most vulnerable to overcome poverty, especially education, food insecurity, and affordable housing
- Advocacy for the LGBTQ2S+ community

# Seeing Ourselves

## What Northview is Like

### Community Character

Northview can best be described in one word: Family. “Everyone is welcome,” isn’t just a slogan. We intentionally make people feel welcome by being accepting and inclusive. We are purposely intergenerational. And, we have a big focus on fun! While we intentionally look for ways to express love and care for everyone, we are real. Like all families, being real means that there can be friction. But, we are committed to working through the issues together. This family feeling is the benefit of being a small church with a consistently stable membership roster.

### Service Style

We are simple when it comes to our worship service and our style. We desire to be down to earth and avoid “performance.” We use tradition and liturgy as tools and we encourage regular attendance to be formed as authentic worshippers. At the same time we maintain a casual demeanour so that we encounter Christ just as we are. Theologically we tend to be moderate rather than liberal or conservative. We start our service on time and keep its length reasonable. But, slipping in after start time is no big deal! And if showing up in person isn’t possible, you can stream the whole service at home or watch it later in the week. A small subsection of our community takes advantage of the other learning opportunities at the church.

### Top Values

When it comes to values there are two clear priorities at Northview: a focus on life with God and a focus on life in the community—and how the two intersect (for a full look at our values: <https://northview.sk.ca/about-us/>). Our main focus is on knowing Christ and pursuing the life we are called to live in him. This means we are firmly biblically minded. Our priority is to be faithful to him in every way. This leads us to be missionally focused. Whether inside the church or out, Northview is other centred. We have deep love and care for our neighbourhoods, so we reach out to them in very intentional ways.

And at these times Northview shows itself, again and again, to be generous and committed to living authentically. We really do go the extra mile with our neighbours. In this way we reflect our denomination, the Free Methodist Church in Canada, which encourages and resources our life and work. Because there is no line separating the life of our church and the life of our neighbourhoods, our two values intersect. We intentionally engage important social issues within our worship service. Some examples are: racism, oppression of women, domestic violence, poverty, and homelessness. We hope that by confronting these issues in the pulpit will lead our membership to confront them in their own lives and in the life of our city.

### Leadership Approach

The leadership at Northview is stable, with both staff and volunteers committed to their roles long term. Our leadership is intentionally diverse, respecting and benefiting from a variety of voices. In fact, leadership is dispersed through teams at every level of church life. In this way, everyone has a voice and can take ownership for the life and direction of Northview. The people of Northview find their leadership to be professional, organized, and careful.

## What Resources Northview Has

There are two main categories that we evaluate as we seek to understand ourselves as an organization: What are we like and What resources do we have (access to). On the left is a summary of our character, our values, and our leadership. On the right and on the second page is a summary of what assets we have, what we spend money on, associations we have, and other like-minded community organizations. Taken all together, this is what Northview has to offer toward a missional engagement of our neighbourhoods.

### Financial Spending

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Staff Salary      | • Leadership Development |
| • Needy             | • Conferences            |
| • CORE              | • Retreats               |
| • Connection        | • Utilities              |
| • Landscaping       | • Maintenance            |
| • Cleaning Supplies | • Insurance              |
| • Curriculum        | • Welcome Ministry       |
| • Gifts             | • Decor                  |
| • Food              | • Preachers              |
| • Youth             | • Communication          |
| • Events            | • Music communion        |
| • Books             | • Coffee                 |
| • Audio/Visual      | • Roof Loan              |
| • Office Supplies   |                          |



Physical Assets		People Assets	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Almost Debt Free</li><li>• Visible Location</li><li>• Close to Highway Entrance &amp; Exit</li><li>• Close to Amenities &amp; Schools</li><li>• Extra Land &amp; Green Space</li><li>• Attractive Landscaping</li><li>• Parking Lot with Ample Parking</li><li>• Loraas Disposal Bin</li><li>• Fairly Empty Garage</li><li>• Snow Blower, shovels, brooms, and ladders</li><li>• Large Baptismal Tank</li><li>• Good Signage Front and Back</li><li>• Wheel Chair Accessible Building (Main Level)</li><li>• New Metal Roof on Main Building and Garage</li><li>• Security System</li><li>• Smart Thermostats</li><li>• Carpets</li><li>• Multiple Flexible Spaces</li><li>• Welcoming Foyer</li><li>• Information Dest</li><li>• Coffee &amp; Tea Bar</li><li>• Water Cooler</li><li>• Resource Library</li><li>• Study and Offices</li><li>• Computers, Printer, and Office Supplies</li><li>• Classrooms and Open Space</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Toys</li><li>• Curriculum</li><li>• Large Youth Room</li><li>• Youth Games and Equipment</li><li>• Projection &amp; Sound Equipment (Basement)</li><li>• Washrooms</li><li>• Storage</li><li>• Kitchen with Utensils and Appliances</li><li>• Large Flexible Sanctuary that is Warm and Welcoming</li><li>• 200+ New Comfortable Chairs</li><li>• New AV Equipment</li><li>• CCLI</li><li>• Theatre Lighting</li><li>• Large Stage</li><li>• Music and Sound Equipment</li><li>• Reliable Wifi and Streaming Equipment</li><li>• Multiple Flat Screen TV's</li><li>• Tools</li><li>• Collection of Decor Items</li><li>• Pastor's Libraries</li><li>• Welcome Materials, Pens, Notepads, Bibles and Kleenex</li><li>• Attractive Website</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Speakers</li><li>• Diverse Gifted Staff</li><li>• Musicians</li><li>• Singers</li><li>• Actors</li><li>• Directors</li><li>• Fine Artists</li><li>• Magicians</li><li>• Hospitality</li><li>• Teachers</li><li>• Cooks</li><li>• Nurses</li><li>• Social Workers</li><li>• Handy People</li><li>• Sleek Signs</li><li>• AV Technicians</li><li>• Counselors</li><li>• Proficient with Languages</li><li>• Prayer Warriors</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accountants</li><li>• Organized</li><li>• Financial Planners</li><li>• Physical Therapist</li><li>• Administrators</li><li>• Leaders</li><li>• Up-and-Coming Generation of Leaders</li><li>• Mature and Active Seniors</li><li>• Vibrant Youth and Young Adults</li><li>• Gifts of Helps</li><li>• Caring Connections</li><li>• Socially Minded</li><li>• Empathy</li><li>• Compassion</li><li>• Event Planners</li><li>• Real Estate Agents</li><li>• Mortgage Specialists</li><li>• Child Care Providers</li></ul>
		Like Minded Agencies	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carmichael Outreach</li><li>• The Caring Place</li><li>• FM Churches in SK</li><li>• City of Regina</li><li>• Regina Police Services</li><li>• Regina Board of Education</li><li>• Regina Catholic School Division</li><li>• Saskatchewan Government Insurance</li><li>• Downtown Regina Community Support Team</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Saskatchewan Health Authority</li><li>• Mobile Crisis Regina</li><li>• Local Churches</li><li>• Caring Hearts</li><li>• Regina Fire Department</li><li>• Munch Catering</li><li>• Friendship Centre</li><li>• Regina Drug Treatment Centre</li><li>• Metis Nation</li></ul>
Local Associations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Al Anon</li><li>• Forever in Motion</li><li>• Walk and Chat</li><li>• Salvation Army Homes and Centres</li><li>• Marian Centre</li><li>• Freedom in Christ</li><li>• Morningstar Ministries Regina</li><li>• City Kidz</li><li>• Girl Guides</li><li>• Knoll Area Music Program Association</li><li>• Healing Hearts</li><li>• Overcomers Outreach</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nikki's Portraits</li><li>• Houston Heights</li><li>• William Booth</li><li>• Regina Food Bank</li><li>• Hospitals</li><li>• Funeral Homes</li><li>• Flatland Gamers Regina</li><li>• Regina Little Theatre</li><li>• Regina Christian Women's Luncheon</li><li>• Promise Keepers</li><li>• Roca House</li><li>• Cobbs Bread</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local Businesses</li><li>• Al's Landscaping</li><li>• Youth For Christ Regina</li><li>• YWAM</li><li>• Regina Ballroom Dance Association</li><li>• New School Arts</li><li>• Burns-Hanley Church Supplies</li><li>• Pass The Word</li><li>• Regina Youth Ministerial</li><li>• Regina Council of Churches</li></ul>	

## What does God want us to do?

### Internal Characteristics

As we explore missional direction for our church, we need to ensure that we are staying true to our calling to holiness. So, we need to continue to live in the truth of God's Word and stay in the light of God's presence. A major part of accomplishing this is to deepen as good listeners. We should be a people who listen to God and listen to our neighbours. Our posture of listening to our neighbours is vital to avoiding the arrogance of "knowing" what they need. So, we want to discern a mechanism to hear from our neighbours themselves as to what they think they need.

As we seek to deepen our neighbourhood engagement, it might be good to add a "welcome video" to our website and ensure that finding our Sunday morning service is easy to navigate. We will also need to intentionally invite the larger congregation of Northview to participate in the mission side of our life together. This begins with simple communication of what we are up to already. Our kingdom work should excite God's people!

### Thinking Differently

While we have a lot to offer our neighbourhoods, we do not need to supply everything! Instead, we can be a resource for other community groups. We can invite groups to use our facilities to accomplish their local missions, and we can simply volunteer and host. These groups can then invite the community itself in to help as volunteers.

We need to also be present when the community itself is looking for help. We might even find some local initiatives that we could help fund. Perhaps our local commitment should be reflected in our name without being so localized that people from other neighbourhoods feel excluded. Or, maybe we simply need to update our sign to reflect our community spirit.

## Top Priorities

1. Support and resource school(s)
2. Intentionally deepen partnership with ANCA
3. Develop into Friendship Hub
4. Be known for service and love
5. Extend facilities to other community groups



## What does God want us to look like?

We should be a people who move in two directions. We should move inwards to worship and build loving community. Then, together we should move outwards to extend that love to our neighbours in service. This means we are thoroughly other-centred to the point that our reputation as neighbourhood centric comes from our neighbours, not ourselves.

This love would not just be from some of our people. Instead, ours would be an intergenerational and multicultural community who are engaged 24/7. Each member would know their gifts—natural and spiritual—and would use them, not being afraid to get dirty for the kingdom. We would be willing and able to share our hope in Jesus while remaining open to loving everyone, being a safe people and remaining faithful in times of struggle.

## Responding to Needs

One major way to engage our neighbours is to intentionally deepen our partnership with ANCA. Under this partnership we might be able to address several community needs. Things like supplying clothing, food, and books. Helping with spring cleaning and things like getting groceries. Perhaps utilizing technology we could create an online forum to connect community needs with registered local volunteers.

In light of the growing population of new comers to Canada it is also important for us to become equipped to meet their unique needs. In the meantime there are things we can do to help. One example discussed was a video to help new Canadians purchase winter boots. We have people at Northview who could help us anticipate and meet these kinds of needs. Part of moving in this direction would be to have a better understanding of our current new Canadian membership: where are they from, how long have they lived in SK, and what languages they know are some basic questions. We also need to grow in our understanding of other ethnicities in order to better help them connect into our church community.

Northview's building could become a "friendship hub" for our area. Between new Canadians and the drive in & out nature of the neighbourhoods, our neighbours need a place where they can build friendships. This would begin as meeting a social need, but it is reasonable to assume that in time other types of needs would surface and be met through those friendships.

We could also share our people assets. We could encourage the people of Northview to share their expertise with our neighbours. Financial planning seems particularly important. Follow up and follow through would be key in successful relationships.

We also could support existing organizations. For example, by supporting schools we are contributing to the wellbeing of children, staff, and families. Likewise, we could encourage others like Fire and Police departments.