

## 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.