

## Imagine Christ's Vision for the Future of FPC

### Our Mission

***The mission of FPC is to love and lead all people to deeper life in Jesus Christ.***

### Imagine . . .

How will the Holy Spirit inspire, lead, and direct us as we seek Christ's vision and our call in 2020 and beyond? Looking ahead, our future will stretch us and build upon our rich history of faith, hospitality, generosity, love, family, and mission.

### Passionate Prayer

Prayer is our lifeline to God, our source of strength and blessing. Imagine engaging our congregation in active, regular communal prayer as a priority for lives to change and for dreams and visions to be realized (Acts 1:14). Passionate prayer, like wind and fire, sweeps over the congregation of FPC, igniting deeper faith, obedience, and empowered ministry (Acts 4:31). New prayer groups and prayer ministries involving believers of all ages have formed. Answered prayer becomes an expectation and a reality as we continue to learn to pray in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. Lives are changed. Restoration, renewal, and revitalization accurately describe the effects of passionate prayer (Rom 8:26).

### Intergenerational Discipleship

Imagine each of us is being equipped with tools to explore our faith and pursue healthy/holy habits in and through mentoring relationships, small groups, and Sunday services. In pursuit of growing deeper and loving others, covenant partners develop *spiritual practices* to guide the ordinary parts of life as significant and full of opportunities to grow as followers of Jesus. We are less concerned with *what you are doing* and more interested in *who you are becoming*. Every part of life is significant and stories of conversions, transformation, and "God sightings" are regularly celebrated in our life together. Anyone who spends time around FPC experiences the push and pull of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 3:16). Each person is compelled to take new steps of faith and pick up their cross and follow Jesus daily (Matt 16:24).

Imagine we discipled and loved children and students with excellence because our adults are committed and devoted disciples. Children and students are compelled to clear their schedules by a heartfelt desire to be with their Jesus-seeking leaders. They long to hear the truth, the stories, and the promise of the Gospel, and are stepping out in faith to walk with Jesus (1 Peter 2:9-10). They are comfortable asking the tough questions because they know they will be lovingly guided through this time by authentic truth seekers, imperfect in faith but genuine in heart. This is a vibrant and contagious community of Jesus followers (1 John 1:7 & Heb 10:24-25).

## **Unwavering Hospitality**

As a church in the heart of our community, imagine if we reflected our community. We grow as a multiethnic, multicultural, multigenerational, and economically diverse congregation (Acts 4:32). We believe God is at work in the whole community, not just within the walls of our church, and we seek ways to erase the boundary lines between insiders and outsiders (Luke 4:12-14). People from all around Midland feel drawn to something new, authentic, magnetic, healing and life-giving – to God (even if they don't know God's name). Our congregation reflects Jesus' hospitality where all feel invited, welcomed, and warmed. As a result, all of us grow in our understanding and identity as children of God, made in the image of God. (1 Peter 4:8-11)

Imagine we actively cared for our congregation and the people with whom our daily walks intersect. Our covenant partners are entering and speaking into the brokenness of life with wisdom and grace. Not only does our community have a sense of belonging at FPC but we confidently walk with those who are dealing with grief, divorce, addiction, and depression as participants with God's work in our community (Phil 2:3-11).

## **Sacrificial Service**

Locally, we are in the community on a regular basis, building relationships with ministries, non-profit organizations, churches and other community leaders. In response to Jesus' command to love God and love our neighbors (Mark 12:30-31), FPC creates a "Research and Development" team in association with our local missions. Going beyond allocating resources, this group prayerfully identifies, discerns, and implements ministries to respond to current challenges, needs and changing demographics in Midland. In our church and in our homes, we have open doors, long tables, and extra chairs (Luke 14:12-14). Through the mission and ministry of FPC, we see Midland become a city where "thriving" is defined less and less by economic terms and more and more by measures that describe the Kingdom of God (Luke 6:20-23) and the transforming love of Christ.

Imagine if the result of our local missions influenced and trained another generation of everyday missionaries who begin to participate in the greater needs of the world (Matt 28:18-20). We've deepened our relationships with the ministries we support around the globe. Subsequently, different groups in the church take mission trips to visit various global partners regularly to encourage them and deepen our connection. Out of our relationships with these ministries, different projects and support opportunities are adopted and participated in throughout our community.