

God's Dream for Calvin

A Ministry Plan for Calvin Presbyterian Church

A Working Document, May 2021

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Group who met to "Dream God's Dream" on Saturday, March 7, 2015.

God's Dream Built on a Strong Foundation

"And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid". (Ezra 3:11)

Calvin was established in 1925.

Calvin Presbyterian Church is taking risks and making great things happen! Several years ago, the congregation made it very clear that it was time to risk doing things in new and creative ways. One of the key steps to making this happen was our congregation working together to develop and approve a faith based Ministry Plan. We need to celebrate the risks taken. The organizational structure of Calvin changed, empowering Teams to exercise their respective expertise in implementing creative initiatives to fulfill the broader mandate of this plan. With this approach, we as a whole congregation, have experienced many successes. Our initial areas of focus included: bridging the building to people who use our church facility; discipling children and youth; excellence and variety in music as has been a tradition at Calvin; and continuing the care of Jesus in our community by taking a very "hands-on" approach. We have accomplished much! It is our continued mission to take risks to live the gospel mandate to GO and make disciples.

In a report to the General Assembly, a task force which identified some commonalities among Presbyterian congregations that are growing noted that: "Congregations which grow and are vital in the Christian mission have several things in common. They are healthy, have relevant ministries, they consider growth a priority, they are inviting and welcoming to newcomers and they are mission, not maintenance, based."

This Ministry Plan is a working document of Calvin Church. Through this document, with focused Team work and valued input of the congregation, we are setting a course for the work and mission that we believe God is calling us to. It was initially developed after a time of prayer and reflection and is reviewed bi-annually by a team of church leaders. The Ministry Plan is a continuation of the excellent ministry that Calvin has done for the kingdom of God throughout its history.

This document sets out areas of ministry that we want to grow and develop. The Ministry Plan highlights recognized ministry needs, the values we share and ministry opportunities as recognized by this congregation now. We have identified that

WE ARE A PEOPLE...

Who WORSHIP together...

Who GROW together as disciples of Jesus...

Who SERVE together...

Who CARE for each other.

Our role, as congregants of Calvin, is to act upon the Foundation of Faith started by those who went before us. As we learn and grow together through worship, prayer, Christian Education opportunities, mission and service, may the Holy Spirit give us strength and wisdom to share our faith with others in our community, invite others to worship with us, and live our lives based on the firm foundation of His Word.

"Faithful God give us courage, boldness and passion, to follow where you lead and embrace your mission in the world." Amen.

We Are a People...

God gathers us to grow as Christ's servants. People of all ages join together in worship, study, fellowship and service; in both large and small groups. Worshipping together helps us to open our hearts and our lives to God, give voice to our gratitude, embrace healing and forgiveness, and take to heart the call to deeper and more abundant life. Through words and the Word, silence and song, music and meditation, drama and discomfort, we create the space to encounter the living and saving God.

Who WORSHIP together...

To engage in and provide a vibrant, meaningful, all inclusive, welcoming service of Worship that shows God's presence.

- ❖ We value participatory worship both in-person and on-line, regardless of participants geographical location (Zoom has removed all barriers for attendance: weather, health, mobility issues...).
- ❖ We value prayer, the reading of scripture and the centrality of Christ in word and music.
- ❖ We value youth participation in worship.
- ❖ We value different styles of music.
- ❖ We value many voices in leadership (minister, lay leader, scripture readers...).
- ❖ We value that our worship sometimes takes us outside our church building.



Worship pre-COVID 2020



Worship in the Park 2018



Participatory Worship: In-person and Zoom 2020

Who GROW together as disciples of Jesus...

Jesus commanded us to become fully formed followers and to help others become the same. This is a lifelong process. Discipleship crosses many facets both specific and inferred.

- ❖ We value and disciple children and youth (through worship, LOGOS and VBS ministries...).
- ❖ We value one-time educational events and longer studies that encourage spiritual growth, knowledge of the Bible and how to connect God's word to our everyday lives (Bible Study, Book Study, Movie Night, Journey to the Cross...).
- ❖ We value all ages growing as stewards who share their gifts of time, talent and financial resources.



Journey to the Cross 2018



LOGOS 2020
Zoom Style

- ❖ We value being intentional about sharing our faith journeys with others (in formal and informal settings) and learning and developing the vocabulary of our faith.
- ❖ We value that working together is an expression of discipleship (team structure and communication is essential).
- ❖ We value intentional events that invite and welcome the community (special luncheons inviting groups who share our facility, neighbourhood garbage clean-up...).



VBS 2019
Roar: Life is Wild...God is Good!

It is in Christ we serve in every aspect of our life as a church. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be stewards. As God has blessed us with gifts, talents and treasures, we are called to appropriately and faithfully use them for Christ's mission in the world. Stewardship is about lives in balance. It is about personal, familial, congregational and denominational lives that flow from what God is calling us to be, living out a Spirit-empowered vision of what God's world could be.

Who SERVE together...

“Congregations are to be living demonstrations to the watching world within their local contexts that God is the living and true God, and that God’s redemptive and reconciling love is freely and graciously available to everyone.” (Field Guide for the Missional Congregation p. 39)

- ❖ We value being a congregation that engages in serving the needs of our city with a “hands-on” approach (Participating at The Gathering Place and Hope Awaits Ministries, Sharing in Recovery Day Activities, Food Bank Drives...)
- ❖ We value being a bridge to God’s community for the people using our facility.
- ❖ We value serving with the Facilities Team to maintain our facility by bringing a sense of community—our building is alive! God is at work!
- ❖ We value working with our mission partners in our city, with Presbyterians Sharing and Presbyterian World Service and Development.



Collecting can tabs for wheelchairs—working with the Shriners Club



Coldest Night of the Year 2020 supports The Gathering Place



Reverse Advent 2020 Shares with Nipissing University & Canadore Food Banks



Who CARE for each other.

Calvin strives to ensure our ministry is well funded and resourced so we are able to welcome, encourage and care for each other.

- ❖ We value that we are able to reflect the demographic make-up of our community.
- ❖ We value supporting and nurturing all congregants.
- ❖ We value being a bridge to God for the people by welcoming visitors within our community.
- ❖ We value caring for each other through formal structures in small groups (pastoral care, choir, teams, LOGOS, Charlotte Small, Men's Breakfast Team...) and as individuals through our interactions (intentional and unintentional) with others.



Neighbourhood Garbage Clean-up Inviting Groups who use Calvin Facility to join us in this missional initiative. Spring 2018

We love and care for each other because Christ first loved us and gave himself for us. Each member of our community, from youngest to oldest is a gift from God...a gift to be nurtured and cared for. Each of us grows in the richness of Christ's blessing as we learn to continue the caring of Jesus.

Implementing our Ministry Plan

- ❖ The Organizational Team structure is established to implement the Ministry Plan
- ❖ Calvin Teams develop budgets to fulfill respective mandates which are guided by the Ministry Plan
- ❖ Team budgets are supported by the congregation through weekly offering via envelope givings, Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), on-line donations, e-transfer, special appeals and one-time donations. Team budgets are approved by both the Session and the congregation at the Annual Congregational meeting.

**GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!
ALL THE TIME...GOD IS GOOD!**

Next Review of Ministry Plan and Team Structure—Spring 2023