

Vision 2025 Draft

ST JOHN'S
DIAMOND CREEK



Introduction

St John's Diamond Creek has been serving our local community for over 150 years. Over that time the good news we have shared about Jesus has remained unchanged. As Paul puts it:

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

This is still good news for Diamond Creek and the surrounding areas, and we want to share it and grow in Jesus together as a united community of his followers.

While our message remains unchanged our context has changed dramatically in the past 150 years, and rapidly in recent years. The last two years of Covid and lockdowns have presented us with new challenges and impacted the way that we do ministry. As a church we need to be thinking constantly about the best way to share the good news of Jesus for our current context and communities.

In 2017 we launched Vision 2022, to be an intergenerational community which is loving like Jesus, growing in Jesus, and sharing Jesus. At the time of launching that Vision we could not have anticipated the dramatic events of 2020-2021 and the ongoing effects today. And yet God in his grace has continued to work out our Vision in these changed circumstances and by his empowering Spirit led us into new means of mission and ministry.

In 2022 we are developing a new Vision to take us forward for the next season of our mission and ministry. We have been encouraging our church family to imagine and ask God what the next 1000 days will look like as we follow Jesus together.

Through this process we have done the following work together:

- Developed Vision Themes from a staff planning day in March, which were discussed and reshaped by Parish Council in April and May
- Shared these Vision Themes with the congregation in May, asking for feedback and using them as a focus for prayer at our Vision prayer night in May
- From this feedback, formed a draft Vision which was discussed by Parish Council in June and has been approved for release to the congregation for prayer, feedback and discussion

We ask you now to prayerfully consider the draft Vision. It is accompanied by our church mission and values which remain largely unchanged from Vision 2022. Given the compact nature of a Vision statement we have written an accompanying explanation to help you understand the thinking behind each aspect of the Vision. We have also included examples of strategies which would accompany the Vision. These Strategies are necessarily preliminary and basic. They will need expansion and development once the final Vision is approved. However, we hope they also help to build understanding of the direction of this draft Vision. I commend it to you for prayer, discussion, and feedback as we continue to Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Johnson'.

Tim Johnson
Senior Minister
St John's Diamond Creek



Mission

Know Jesus. Make Jesus Known.

Vision

*Reconnect and build a multiethnic
and intergenerational network of
congregations and home hubs for
the northern suburbs*

Values

Pray expectantly

Apply the bible to every part of life

Serve God and other people

*Share Jesus in word and action,
locally and globally*

Equip leaders from all generations

Commentary and Examples of Strategies

Reconnect and Build

In Christ Jesus you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.
Ephesians 2:22

The impact of Covid and lockdowns over the past few years has led to a sense of being disconnected and isolated. We need to rebuild community and recommit to being together in-person. This is not about reclaiming the past but looking forward, building new ministries, and taking on new mission opportunities in a changed world.

Examples of strategies:

- Investment in Life Groups as a key place for discipleship and mutual care
- More social activities around, and in addition to, services to reconnect with each other
- Put time and focus into taking the lessons God taught us during the pandemic and implementing them in the life of our church moving forward.

a multiethnic

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

Revelation 7:9

We want to increasingly reflect the ethnic diversity of the northern suburbs as people from other nations and cultures join us. We see a future where people pray in a variety of languages in our gatherings.

Examples of strategies:

- Recruitment of volunteers and staff from ethnically diverse backgrounds
- Developing the next stages of our Reconciliation Action Plan
- Investing in the partnership with the Persian Resurrection Church

and intergenerational

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.

Acts 2:39

We are a church for all ages, from 0 to 100+. We want to harness the strength of this rich diversity by relating with, and ministering to, each other. We must invest in children and youth ministry to grow new generations in faith. We need to help adults to continue to grow as disciples of Jesus as they face each new life stage.

Examples of strategies:

- Peak Experiences (camps, events) – for different age groups and across age groups
- Equipping people for different life stages and transitions (e.g. marriage, parenting, retirement, older age)
- A centralised youth ministry across multiple congregations and Home Hubs.

Network of congregations and home hubs

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.

Acts 2:46-47

Our church currently exists as three in-person congregations and a digital service. We want to start new initiatives throughout the northern suburbs. Home Hubs will be digitally resourced in-person gatherings in a variety of locations with a mission focus to people in that area. In time these may grow into congregations themselves. This will make our church more complex and will require us to establish a network that is well governed and resourced.

Examples of strategies:

- Develop clear governance and staff structures that enable us to function well as we grow in complexity as a network
- Raise up and equip new leaders for higher level responsibilities like leading home hubs
- Start first Home Hub in South Morang and then in subsequent areas.

for the northern suburbs

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Luke 12:48

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20

We are a well-resourced church located in the north-east, near one of the fastest growing areas of Melbourne, the northern growth corridor. We feel a responsibility to reach out and share the good news of Jesus in the areas around us and to help develop strong and vital church communities for new and developing northern suburbs.

Examples of strategies:

- Investment in local mission initiatives in Diamond Creek as well as each new Home Hub location, so that our mission is targeted to local needs and demographics
- Strong knowledge of demographic trends in the north and where the needs are arising
- Partnership with the diocese, other denominations, and other churches around church planting possibilities in the north