

**St Peters Mission Plan**

**2023 – 2027**



**Helping people  
Find, Follow and  
Know Jesus**

St Peters in the City  
130 Spring Street, Tauranga 3110  
07 578 9608  
[stpeters.org.nz](http://stpeters.org.nz)



## St Peters Mission Plan 2023-2027

Life was designed to be lived to the full. At St Peters, we want to help you live life to the full, the fullness of Christ. Our Mission plan is designed around growing people. We believe that God grows His kingdom by growing people – people who are coming to believe in Him, people who are learning to follow Christ, and people who are giving their whole lives to God's mission.

This document is a draft and we want your input and ideas, your prayer and your passion to turn this paper document into a living letter.

The Plan has three elements:

- Our Mission & Vision – What
- Our Strategy and Values – How
- Our Action Plan – When and Where.

We believe that that people need to lay solid foundations for their life of faith and that these take time to develop, so we are committed to helping people lay good foundations. We are also aware that people often make the biggest changes in their lives in quite short time-spans in what we can call catalytic experiences and so we are committed to providing these. Thirdly, we believe that God doesn't want us to grow alone and so we are committed to encouraging people into deep friendships and lasting small groups where we can know Christ together.

We want to be an open and welcoming community integrating new people into the heart of our church, but most of all we would like to grow by bringing our friends and neighbours to Christ, not by impersonal advertising but with life on life relationship.

We value excellence but not above authenticity – we gather for Worship and we disperse to serve and influence our community. We delight to include members of the wider community as fellow helpers beside us when we serve and we always point to Christ who we believe is the hope of the world.

You and Jesus are the heart of our Mission Plan. We, the people of St Peters, by prayer, by conversation and by invitation will bring our friends and neighbours to come to know Christ. There is no magic bullet or course or event that will replace the hard work of you bringing your friends to Christ but we as a church exist to help you achieve that goal. You are not alone. Your small group will encourage you and your church will provide events for you to invite your friends to. You, the Christians, you are God's strategy to bring many people to faith. Life will never be boring while you are engaged in this the most exciting of all adventures. It will push you further than a mountain climb, stretch you more than a bungee jump and challenge you more than an advanced degree – but you will never feel more alive than when you are on-mission with Jesus.



## Our Vision and Mission:

### Vision Statement:

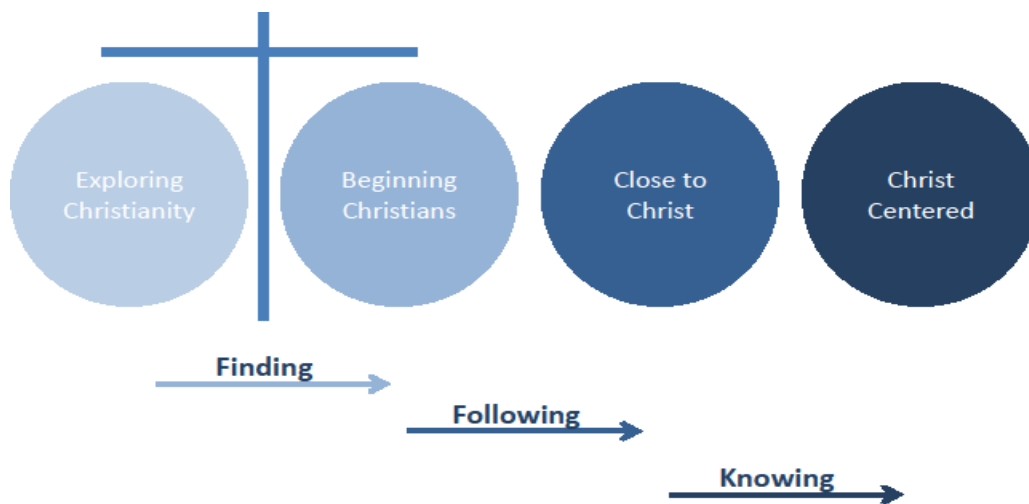
To be **Christ to the City, The City to Christ**

Our Vision is outwardly focused. We desire our city to be impacted by Jesus and his message, and we want to make a positive spiritual impact on our city, by being Salt and Light.

### Mission Statement: Helping people Find, Follow and Know Jesus.

Our Mission is summed up in a simple diagram where we see people moving across the diagram as they grow deeper in faith. We start by praying, sharing, and inviting people to consider Christ. The first transition is to recognise who our friends and neighbours are and to add spiritual value to our relationships, in the hope that they will come to believe. The second transition is taking new believers and helping them become established followers. The third transition is to take faithful followers and invite them to see how all of life can be lived for God's mission.

### St Peters Mission: Helping people Find, Follow and Know Jesus



Our Mission is very people centred rather than activity centred; we want to be growing people. Our aim is to grow all of us as Christian Missionaries who will bring others to faith. Our aim for pastoral care is spiritual care that asks how we can love people and draw them closer to Christ.

Our Mission is to see more people come to Christ, more people be well disciplined as followers of Christ and more people treating life as being on Mission with God. That challenges us to provide excellent flexible facilities, leadership and staff who focus on coaching and developing people and catalytic events and programmes. We also think beyond parish boundaries, church location and the sacred / secular divide.



## Element Two: Our Strategy & Values (DNA)-Heartbeat

Our strategy is to grow what we call 'the DNA of a healthy Christian' in each of our people. We believe that spiritual health leads to numerical and personal growth and fires people to serve in God's Kingdom.

The DNA model is a goal and teaching plan for our church. It is also what we will ask new members to commit to. At its simplest, **we encourage members in five areas**; to practice individual spiritual disciplines (**learning**), to belong to a small group (**loving**), to attend

regular worship (**worshipping**), to frequently serve (**servicing**) and to invite others to join or deepen their life of faith (**inviting**). The words in brackets are **our church values** that encompass these practices but are also a little wider.



Learning, Loving, Worshipping, Praying,  
Serving and Inviting



### Element Three: Action Plans-Outworking of the Vision

The third element looks at what we will do and where we will run activities and programmes. We see the world as God's classroom and mini-mission trips as some of the best avenues to grow disciples, whether it be gardening in Welcome Bay, business place Alpha at the Hospital, or working in the Philippines. We plan to identify contexts that provide experiences that grow our people. We will become an action/reflection church where we are hungry to learn, because our faith is being demanded of us. Our work colleagues will see us forgoing chocolate for Lent and ask us "Why?", and we will be prepared to give an answer! The elders met in **October 2022** and prioritised four strategic areas for church actions and activities starting in 2023.

### Strategic Thinking 2023-2027

- 1 A faith that is foundational for all our children, families, youth, and adults (2023-2024 continue)  
*Faith that is Scripture centred (2 Timothy 3:16-17), Prayer focused based on Jesus model and Spirit Led as experienced by the First Church in Pentecost (Acts 1:4-8)*
- 2 A community that is connected (2024-2025 continue)  
*An intergenerational whanau worshipping, connected, inviting, belonging, serving, loving. Community outreach including St Peters House, Counselling, Christmas Dinner, Tuesday community lunch. We are a bicultural church in a multicultural context.*
- 3 A life that is authentic (2025-2026 continue)  
*Worship in Spirit and Truth, finding our true identity in Christ, sharing joys and challenges, praying for each other and sharing manaakitanga (caring, sharing, hospitality). Being people of grace and truth, speaking the truth in love.*
- 4 A voice that is authentic (2026-2027 continue)  
*Involvement in local and global mission, a voice for the voiceless, Christ-centred community service (speaking the Gospel of the Kingdom, testifying to what God in Christ has done)*



**For 2023-2024 we will focus our actions on the following.**

## **Priority Goal: A faith that is foundational.**

### **Key Areas for Actions and Activities**

1. **Worship:** A Spirit lead worship service encouraging the gift of the Spirit to be spoken for the common good of the congregation. To one there is a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge, another a gift of healing, to another a gift of prophecy, to another a discernment of the spirit, to another is speaking in tongues and to another interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
2. **Mission enablers:** to share their faith stories with neighbours (testimony), to live a lifestyle of following Jesus, to grow their faith amongst believers (fellowship and discipleship)), participate in church events (prayer meeting, working bees, volunteers services church functions)
3. **Pastoral care:** Provide engagement opportunities for individual members to participate in the expression of their faith in pastoral care activities The include:
  - visiting the elderly homes and villages where our members are living,
  - visiting families with extreme illness diagnosis or a family event
  - visiting children of our church families with specific needs or special celebration
  - Visiting friends and share their faith story or with others in the street
  - ringing a congregational member pray with them
  - ringing a congregational member and share scripture with them
  - social/ meet one parent families
4. **Discipleship and Fellowship.** Enabling members to grow in spiritual maturity (1 Corinthians 14:20, Hebrew 6:1-3, 1 Corinthians 13:11, Hebrew 5:14) in their relationship with Jesus by being part of a small or home group setting. They may include:
  - Small home bible groups
  - Men's and Women fellowship
  - Single parent groups
  - Grandparent specific workshops
  - Service volunteers groups
    - I. Community luncheon
    - II. Working bees
    - III. Special projects (church auditorium environment)
    - IV. Worship leaders
    - V. Musicians
    - VI. Data and sound
    - VII. Hospitality
    - VIII. Florist group
    - IX. Managers
    - X. Eldership
    - XI. Cleaning group
    - XII. Pres-schoolers ministry support
    - XIII. Y1-6 discipleships leadership support
    - XIV. Y7-8 discipleship leadership support



- XV. Y9-13 discipleship leadership support
- XVI. Pastoral care visitation groups
- XVII. Mission committee
- XVIII. Outreach group

5. **Children's Ministry Y0 -13.** An intentional integrated discipleship curriculum will be fostered and implemented from Pres-school to Year 13 ( final year of college) will be adhered to develop children spiritual formation as they journey through the following stages (similar to schools year level progression):
- Pre-schoolers to 3-5
  - Y1- 6
  - Y7-8
  - Y9-13
6. **Young Families and Adults**
7. **Finance and Property.** To raise, nurture and manage resources to support the development and growth priority actions and activities.

### City Focus-continue.

**What:** To engage with and serve the CBD, University, and city residential area

**Why:** Evangelism, growth, discipleship, service

**Now:** A modest series of passive engagements with the CBD and neighbourhood for most of the year. Some contact opportunities through St Peters House, Childcare and ICONZ and IFG contacts. A significant contact with the homeless community through a lunch each Tuesday. A small civic engagement with the Minister and Elders attending Community leaders' prayer meeting during a month, and the rental of our buildings for council purposes. An annual Christmas Dinner serving 200 plus.

**Then:** A regular Students ministry with tertiary aged youth people. Regular social invitational opportunities for people living and working in the city, perhaps including neighbourhood street parties and groups such as an apologetics group - thinking matters with food.

**Metric:** 50 new believers baptised

### Invitation Focus-continue.

**What:** Equipping each other to share our faith.

**Why:** So that we can see increasing numbers finding faith in Jesus.

**Now:** Few numbers of people coming to faith through youth, Alpha and CAP.

**Then:** Increasing numbers of adult baptisms. Testimonies of life change regularly offered. Regular opportunities to learn how to share our faith effectively.

**Metric:** 100 labourers equipped



### **Nurture Focus-continue.**

**What:** Cultivate a sense of Whanau among all our members

**Why:** To demonstrate the love of God in community.

**Now:** Small group carrying most of the responsibility. Disconnect between generations. Serving at an individual level. Back door problem.

**Then:** Active involvement of all members. A sense of belonging and commitment. Willing, well supported workers. 90% of people in small groups. Established follow up systems. Greater depth of spiritual maturity. Development of leaders.

**Metric:** 10 new small groups.

### **Spiritual Focus-continue.**

**What:** To grow our prayer base and life.

**Why:** To undergird every activity with prayer and develop people in all the DNA facets

**Now:** Fragmented prayer strategy with small numbers of people active in a few areas. Lack of apparent engagement in the current ways that we offer and cultivate prayer. Limited participation in prayer events and prayer after Sunday services.

**Then:** Noticeable increase in personal and corporate prayer. Every member has a prayer partner or participates in some form of prayer group. A range of settings and groupings for participation. Clear mechanisms for prayer with opportunities for witness and encouragement for others.

**Metric:** 1000 people prayed for by name.

### **Families Focus-continue.**

**What:** Strategies to develop ministries to families

**Why:** To grow our church younger and strengthen our community by supporting families.

**Now** KIC/JBC/Youth. Incredible years (SPH). ICONZ and IFG.

**Then:** In 2 years to see a 50% increase in numbers in SB/KIC/JBC/Youth. 2 playgroups per week with a young mum's study. Perinatal Support. Childcare roll full and connecting with church monthly. ICONZ and IFG leadership strengthened with adequate volunteers. 2 marriage seminars each year.

**Metric:** Average age of congregation reduced by 5 years





## Cross Cultural Mission-continue.

**What:** To engage in cross cultural missions across the city, country and world.

**Why:** To increase our understanding of different cultures and to redress inequality between people of different cultures by engaging in community, service, and worship.

**Now:** With Marine Reach in Tauranga and with groups in the Philippines, India and China

**Then:** To see 50% of our people engaged in some sort of short or long-term cross-cultural mission.

**Metric:** Number of people engaged in a cross-cultural mission.

**Partnership.** St Peters Church will partner with others to see God's Kingdom advanced. We partner with Childcare and St Peters House and see these as our first relationships. We are open to partnership with other churches or organisations of good will where we can see our goals being achieved. Some partnerships might provide off-site centers for catalytic learning e.g. Easter Camp, After School Clubs, Philippines base, etc. We are willing to offer to partner with churches so long as we can clearly see the Kingdom of God being advanced and we are neither draining our resources nor extending ministries whose season has ended.

We can offer:

1. Vision to see beyond what is.
2. Implementation to get things going.
3. Spiritual warfare as there may have been false teaching, wrong agendas or debilitating conflict.
4. People and Resources including encouragement to use available resources. We wish to be both good neighbours and to be clear about the parameters we are willing to work within.