



An Introduction to Wolf Creek Community Church

What is Our Purpose?

Wolf Creek Community Church exists to reach out and enfold people for Jesus, together becoming devoted disciples of Him. (*Foundational Bible Texts: Matt. 22:36-40 & 28:18-20*)

What are Our Core Values?

Our Foundation:

1. We believe in one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is our Creator, Saviour and Friend. (*Gen. 1:27; Ps. 18:46; Titus 1:4; Luke 5:20; Luke 7:34; John 15:14; John 14:15-30; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Rev 22:13*)
2. We believe the Bible is God's Word. It is the foundation of our faith and the basis of our preaching and teaching. (*Rom. 5:1-2; Eph. 2:4-8; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Thess. 2:13*)
3. We believe that prayer is our communication with God and vital to all aspects of church and personal life. (*Matt. 6:5-13; Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; Col. 4:2; Phil. 4:4-7*)

WCCC exists to reach out:

4. We believe lost people matter to God. We are to befriend and care for them. (*Matt. 9:35-38; Matt. 25:34-40; Luke 15:1-31*)
5. We believe Wolf Creek Community Church (WCCC) should be a light in the community and church members should be authentic and active members of the community. (*Micah 6:8; Matt. 5:13-16; James 2:15-17*)
6. We believe that WCCC should be a safe place where people are cared for, respected and accepted. (*Matt. 11:28-30; Rom. 12:9-12; 1 Thess. 5:11-24*)

... and enfold people for Jesus

7. We believe that every aspect of church life should be characterized by love. (*Matt. 22:37-40; Rom. 12:9-21; 1 Cor. 13 1-3; Gal. 5:13-15; Col. 3:14-17; 1 John 3:16-18; 1 John 4:6-12*)
8. We believe that small groups are important for life-change, spiritual growth and developing a caring community. (*Acts 2:42-47; Gal 6:2; Eph. 4:2; Hebrews 10:24-25*)
9. We believe that worship should be well-planned, God-focused and culturally relevant. Excellence and passion honour God and inspire people. (*Malachi 1; 1 Cor. 14:26-33*)

... together becoming devoted disciples of Christ:

10. We believe that spiritual growth is vital for every member. WCCC is to provide education and opportunities to grow in faith. (*Matt. 18:18-20; John 15:1-8; Acts 1:8; Heb.10:24-25; James 2:15-17*)
11. We believe God has gifted all people. These gifts are to be discovered, developed and used willingly. (*1 Cor. 12:1-27; Rom 12:1-6; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Peter 3:10*)
12. We believe that full devotion to Christ is natural for every believer. (*Jeremiah 1:4-9; Matt. 6:19-21, 33; Eph. 3:16-19; 2 Cor. 5:14-17*)

What Do We Believe?

“We believe that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God. It contains all that people in any age need to know for their salvation.”¹ In terms of our core theological beliefs, they are best summarized by the ancient Creeds (the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed). These core theological beliefs are explained further in three documents, which are called “confessions”: The *Heidelberg Catechism*; the *Belgic Confession*, and the *Canons of Dordt*. In addition to the confessions, we are guided by our *Contemporary Testimony: Our World Belongs to God*—a beautiful and poetic statement of faith.

What does it Mean to be “Reformed”?

We are a contemporary evangelical church in the Reformed tradition. We are a member of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA). Historically, we are descendants of the Protestant Reformation, a sixteenth century religious movement that led some Christians to break away from the Roman Catholic Church. The Reformation spread through various European countries. Many present-day denominations, including the CRCNA, are churches that were birthed in this period. The Reformation churches in Scotland were called Presbyterian. The Reformation churches in Germany were called Lutheran (named after Martin Luther). In England they became the Church of England (Anglican). And in the Netherlands they were called Reformed churches. Sometimes these churches are also called “Calvinist” because of their association with the French Reformer, John Calvin. Another stream of the Reformation broke with the Roman Catholics, in part because of their concern over infant baptism. So they became known as the Anabaptists.

Every church tribe has an “accent”—a way of speaking about God and His Word that is similar to other Christian tribes, yet unique. Three of these potentially unique words include: *Sovereignty*: “It’s all about God! . . . God’s plan, God’s will, God’s power. Everything that happens in the world, from the acts of nations to the faith of individuals, is ultimately under God’s sovereign power.”

Covenant: “The Bible talks of God as a ‘covenant-making God,’ meaning that he makes promises and keeps them. . . . We profess that God’s promises are not simply made to individuals but to a community.”

Kingdom: “By God’s kingdom we mean God’s sovereign rule, God’s sphere of influence. We believe that God’s Spirit is busy extending God’s rule all over creation. . . . God calls each of us to participate in the spread of his kingdom.”

¹ “The Christian Reformed Church: Who We Are and What We Believe” (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2009), 9. Parts of this discussion are taken from or are based on this denominational document.

How did the CRCNA Begin?

In the 1840s, a group of people left the Netherlands with their families to begin a new life in North America. They settled in a place now called Holland, MI. By 1857, they had officially begun the church now called the CRC. Like many immigrant churches, this denomination at first worshiped in its mother tongue, and its identity was closely tied to its ethnicity. Gradually this ethnic imprint has diminished, and the CRC has become much more typically North American.

For the first century of its history, the CRC was primarily located in the United States. This changed by the 1950s when the end of WWII brought thousands of Dutch immigrants to Canada to seek a better life. Many of these found a home in newly formed CR congregations set up to welcome them. These immigrants were quick to adapt to their new context, and the flourishing denomination became well grafted into the North American context.

A third wave of immigration also affected the CRC—this time from South Korea. Like the Dutch immigrants of the 1840s, the Koreans began worshiping in their mother tongue. But for successive generations, English is becoming the language of worship.

Sometimes the CRC is called a “Dutch church.” And in some quarters this is still true. But more and more, *grace* is becoming the “glue” that holds us together as a church. The CRC is a small church by North American standards, but it has made a significant impact in the world, perhaps especially in three areas: scholarship; Christian day-school education and social justice.

What is Our Story?

The vision for Wolf Creek Community Church (WCCC) was birthed in 1999, when several members of the Bethel CRC of Lacombe attended a conference on church-growth in Chicago. The dream became a reality in August 2003, when approximately 40 people attended the inaugural service in the “Big Red Barn” south of Lacombe. By October of that year, Classis AB North (our local governing body of Christian Reformed churches) approved the “birth” of this church, and on February 1, 2004 our first official worship service was held. From the beginning our purpose was and remains: *“to reach out and enfold people for Jesus, together becoming devoted disciples of Him.”* WCCC is a team-based ministry that focuses on outreach in the community and in the world. The first facility was rented commercial space in downtown Lacombe beside the laundromat. In these humble beginnings the Alpha Course was taken by a number of people. Worship services were held every second Sunday. Membership classes were offered. On Easter Sunday 2004 our first baptisms and public professions of faith occurred, and new members signed the “Membership Covenant.”

That same year the church began its search for a full-time pastor, which resulted in the calling of Rev. Andy Geleynse. Happily, the church grew quickly under Pastor Andy’s leadership. So in 2007 the church purchased the Lacombe RV building on the east side of town. The church took possession of the building in July 2007, and began extensive renovations. The first worship service was held on December 16, 2007. We praise God for such a wonderful provision: a

worship, education and fellowship centre on the corner of Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek Drive. How providential! Sadly in 2008, after a period of tension and struggle, Pastor Andy and WCCC mutually agreed to part ways. Shortly thereafter, Henk-John Kuipers was hired as a full-time Director of Ministries and Pastor Harry Valstar became interim pastor. The following year was a time of reflection, but also one of looking forward. New ministries occurred: the Alpha Marriage Course, Mom-Time, Sunday potluck meals and “Hands and Feet” Sundays.

A new chapter of ministry began with the arrival of Rev. Leon Johnston in December 2010. In this new season of ministry many of the longstanding ministries continue, like Mom-Time and “Hands and Feet” Sunday. One of the blessed realities of this season has been the influx of many Millennials, which has resulted in many births and baptisms, and the development of many young leaders. Through worship and small group ministry, the church continues to be spiritually formed for mission in this community and world. And we continue to reach out to the community and world through such ministries as Mom-Time, Alpha, “Hands and Feet” and more recently, Neighbourhood Life under the leadership of Pastor Rick Abma.

How are We Organized?

The model of organization structure (see Appendix A) illustrates how leaders and members work together in the church. Notice how the cross is the centre of this model. While there are different areas of ministry, all people seek to work together for the sake of the church and community. In spite of varying talents and gifts all are of equal value. The goal of church members is to serve and work in harmony. This model helps identify the various teams and responsibilities at WCCC.

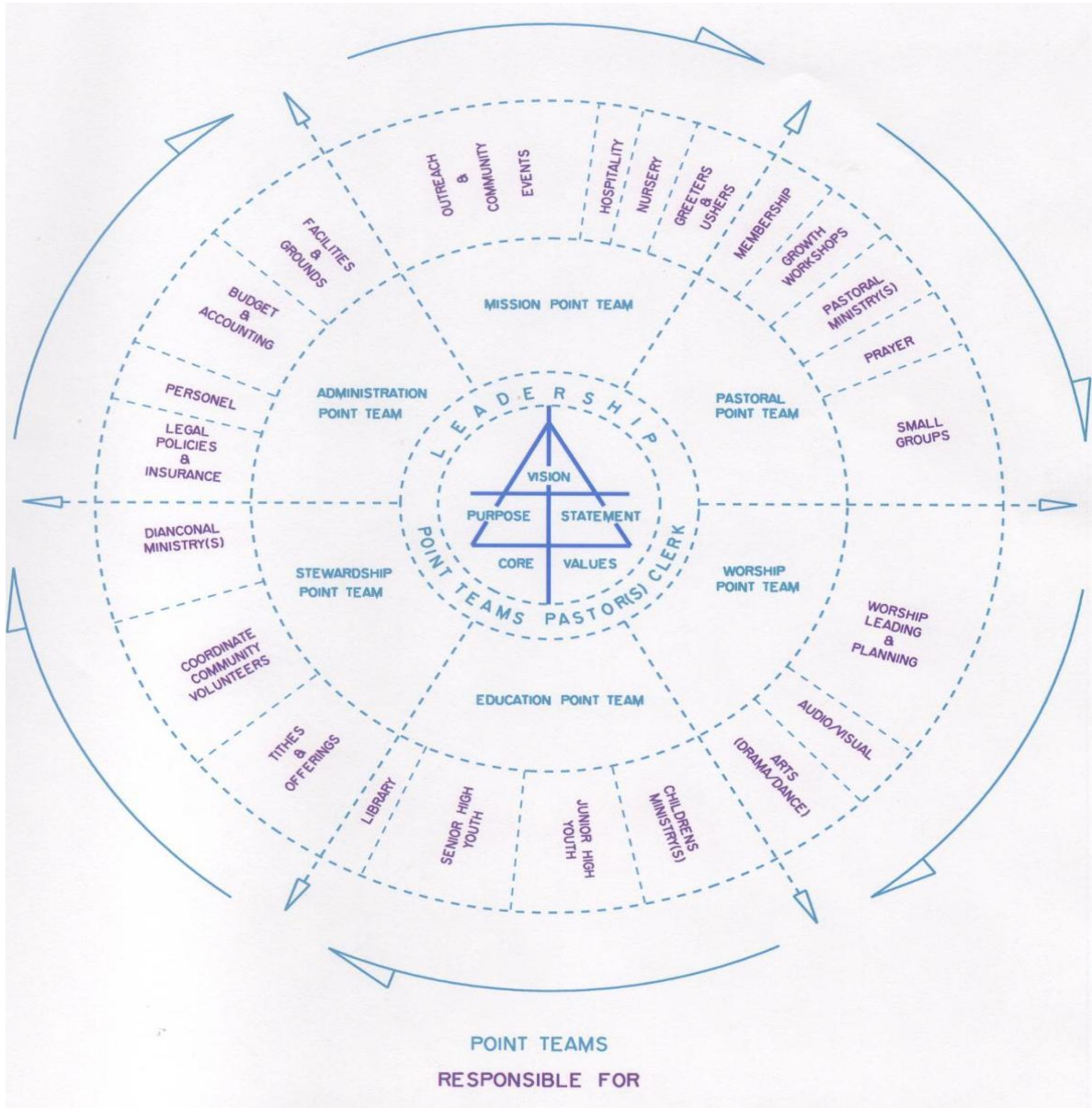
What is a “Membership Covenant”?

“Covenant” is a biblical term that refers to a promise made between two parties. God made a number of covenants with His people as recorded in Scripture. We are a people of the New Covenant. Accordingly, we invite people who want to become members to enter into a covenant (see Appendix B). The prerequisites for entering into a covenant are as follows:

- a. you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior and have committed to follow him.
- b. you have publically professed Jesus as your Lord and Saviour (as a follow-up to infant baptism or through adult baptism)
- c. you embrace the purpose statement of WCCC and commit to using your gifts for the building up of the body and for the glory of God

We encourage and invite you to take the final step and sign the Membership Covenant. If you have *not* publically professed your faith or been baptized and would like to become a member of WCCC, we would like to meet more with you to discuss such a commitment and to discuss the questions you will be asked as part of your profession of you faith or adult baptism.

Model of the Organizational Structure of WCCC



Wolf Creek Community Church Membership Covenant

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I believe that God has called me to be His child; I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, and I have opened my heart to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Being in agreement with the Purpose and Core Values of WCCC, I choose to join with this family of believers so that together we may serve God and grow in faith as we strive to reflect the character of Christ in the following ways:

- A daily walk with God expressed through love, praise, prayer and Bible reading
- Loving, caring and praying for my family, my church family and my neighbors
- Seeking ways to share the gospel message
- Participating in communal worship and fellowship with this body of believers
- Discovering and developing my gifts as part of the body of Christ, and joyfully seeking ways to use these gifts
- Faithfully giving to support this church and other Kingdom ministries as guided by the Holy Spirit
- Respecting the leadership of this church, accepting its decisions and striving by word and deed to promote unity within

Name (printed)

Signed

Wolf Creek Community Church is committed to its Core Values, to serving God and His people, and to providing a safe place for its members to live out this covenant.

We commit to you in the following ways:

- *We will help you understand Gods Word through preaching and teaching*
- *We will help you grow and mature in the Christian life, encouraging you to reach your full potential in Christ*
- *We will provide training and opportunities for you serve God and his people*
- *We will love and support you. We will share your joys and stand by you through personal difficulties and times of grief*

Clerk

Date