



An Introduction to Wolf Creek Community Church

What is Our Purpose/Mission?

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?

Our theological beliefs are best summarized by the *Apostles' Creed*:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.**

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic* church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

**that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places*

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). Although there are certainly differences in theological belief among the various branches of the Reformed tradition, the following points serve to highlight some of the key beliefs of the Swiss/French Reformed tradition that we belong to:

- Salvation is by grace alone through faith, and not by our own good works.
- The Bible alone is the authoritative Word of God for our lives—not church tradition or the proclamation of church leaders.
- *All* believers are priests of God, anointed in Christ to serve him always, everywhere, in all they do.
- God gave us two sacraments, baptism and communion, which are signs and seals of God’s promises.
- A clergy’s blessing of the communion bread and wine does *not* really turn them into the actual body and blood of Christ.
- Prayer should be directed to God alone, not to saints or to Mary. In fact, all believers are both sinners needing God’s constant forgiveness and saints whom the Holy Spirit is already remaking to be like Jesus.

What is Our Story?

The vision for Wolf Creek Community Church (WCCC) was birthed in 1999, when several members of the Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Lacombe attended a conference on church-growth in Chicago. After several years of planning, 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, Classis AB North (our local governing body of Christian Reformed Churches) granted permission for the church to organize, and on February 1, 2004 our first official service was held.

From the beginning the mission was and remains: *“to reach out and enfold people for Jesus together becoming devoted disciples of Him.”* It was decided that WCCC would be a team-based ministry with a “permission giving” spirit that focused on outreach and the community. Anyone with a passion or a deep desire to reach out into the community in a certain way is encouraged and supported in that initiative.

The first facility was rented commercial space in downtown Lacombe, beside the Laundromat. In these humble beginnings the Alpha ministry was offered and enthusiastically received by a number of church and community members. Worship services were held every second Sunday. Membership classes were offered. On Easter Sunday 2004 we witnessed our first baptisms, public professions of faith, and a membership covenant signing.

A search began for a full-time pastor and for a larger permanent home. After a considerable process, we invited and welcomed Rev. Andy Geleynse and his family to WCCC.

Happily, the church grew quickly, and it soon became apparent that a larger building was needed. So in 2007 the church purchased the Lacombe RV building and lot east of town. On July 2007 we took possession and immediately began extensive renovations. Following a tremendous effort by many volunteers the first worship service was held December 16, 2007. We praise God for such a wonderful provision: Wolf Creek Community Church, located between Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek Drive and now across from Wolf Creek Landing. Only God could have worked this out!

Sadly in 2008, after a period of tension and struggle, Pastor Andy and WCCC mutually agreed to part ways. Shortly thereafter, WCCC hired Henk-John Kuipers as a full-time Director of Ministries and invited Pastor Harry Valstar to be interim pastor.

The following year was a time of reflection, but also one of looking forward. New ministries were undertaken with great success: the Marriage Course, MOM’s Time, Sunday brunches and even dance classes. Between 150 and 170 people attend regularly on Sunday mornings and many others are involved in weekly ministries. In addition to the existing programs Band of Brothers (BoB) and Women of Worth (WoW) now meet regularly and small groups continue to flourish. In its short history WCCC has delivered special Christmas Eve programs in the community, and continues to reach out in various ways.

A new chapter began with the arrival Pastor Leon Johnston in December 2010. Pastor Leon embraces the mission of WCCC, and seeks to spiritually form people for mission in the community and the world.

What is Our Organizational Structure?

The model of organization structure (see Appendix A) provides an illustration to help explain 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”?

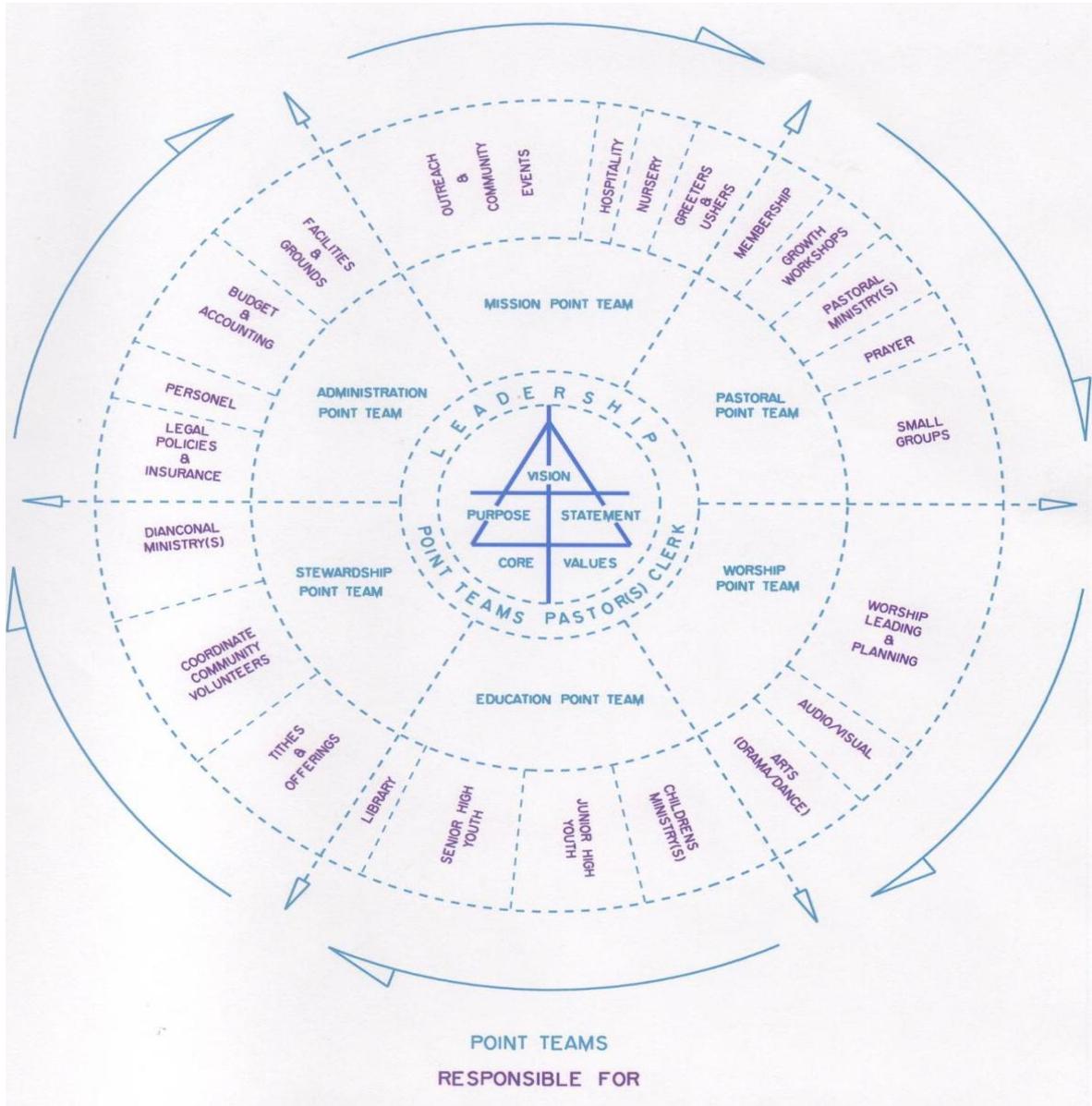
“Covenant” is a biblical term that refers to a promise made between two parties. God made a number of covenants with His people as recorded in Scripture. We are a people of the New Covenant. Accordingly, we invite people who want to become members to enter into a covenant (see Appendix B). The prerequisites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

- a. Know Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and trust him for your life
- b. you can embrace the purpose/mission statement of WCCC and commit to using your gifts for the building up of the body and for the glory of God
- c. and you have publically professed Jesus as your Lord and Saviour

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 your 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