

# Brimbank Presbyterian Church

## Ministry Plan

Revised and approved unanimously at a congregational meeting 14/3/10

**Please note:**

1. This ministry plan outlines the foundational framework for how ministry will be carried out at the Brimbank Presbyterian Church.
2. Our Ministry Plan is a 'living document', which will be regularly reviewed and can be changed if necessary.  
The Session (the elders), want as much input and feedback as possible, from the congregation. We therefore propose to hold regular 'congregational forums'. In those forums, we will meet to discuss our Church's ministry.

### **Preamble**

Whenever someone is going to build a house they start by drawing up a plan. The plan is then made available to all the contractors to ensure that everyone is working **together** toward the same end – a completed house as the designer originally envisioned it in his or her head. The same principle applies when it comes to building the Lord's 'house'. Our congregation must have a ministry plan so that we're all working **together** toward the same end.

The Lord's 'house' is a worldwide group of disciples of Jesus. That 'house' has many local geographical expressions – in our case it's Brimbank Presbyterian Church.

Moreover, Psalm 127:1 says, "*Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labour in vain.*" Therefore it's vital that we strive to build the 'house' as the Lord would wish us to. We must apply his instructions, use his model and depend on him for the life and strength to do it. How will we do that? Well, the Bible is our instruction manual, the ministry of Jesus and his disciples is our model and the Holy Spirit provides our church with the life and strength to build.

When you're preparing a house plan you usually start with the desired end or 'vision' of the completed house that you have in your mind. **You then plan from the foundation upward to fulfil that vision.** Having a 'vision' of what we're trying to achieve is just as important when planning Christian ministry.

## **What is our VISION?**

So, it would seem that a good place to start in developing our Ministry Plan would be to start by working out, (from the Bible) the desired end (or 'vision') of our ministry, then plan from there. Therefore, to clarify our vision and sharpen the focus of our planning let's study the Bible and answer the following questions.

What instruction did Jesus give his Church?

Consequently, what kind of person is our Church trying to produce?

# What instruction did Jesus give his Church?

Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, he gave the following instruction to the Church. It is his parting instruction. It is known as the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:18, "Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The church is to do what is underlined. But note, the only command in the underlined sentence is the verb '**make disciples**'. It's a continuous tense verb; which means that the making of disciples is to be a continuous process.

**Disciple** – a definition: To learn from and follow a teacher.

Then notice verse 20a. Who are we to learn from and obey? - Jesus our Lord and Master.

It follows then, that the kind of person our community should be trying to produce is; **A disciple of Christ.**

But Scripture goes further and instructs us to produce a certain kind of disciple.

## **A mature disciple of Christ.**

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to **maturity**....

Ephesians 4:13 ... until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God **and become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

James 1:4 Perseverance must finish its work so that **you may be mature** and complete, not lacking anything.

## **What does a maturing disciple look like?**

Note: growing toward maturity is an ongoing process.

Jesus and Paul's instructions (especially to Timothy) are a good model.

1. They're **trusting in Christ and his Gospel of grace.**

1 Tim 1:11.... *the glorious gospel of the blessed God ...*

*Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, **because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."***

Please also read 1 Timothy Ch 4

2. They're **growing in their knowledge of the truths of the faith** -1 Tim 4:6.

3. They're **growing in godliness** - 1Timothy 4:7,8,12,15

*1 Tim 4:7 Train (NIV), exercise (NKJV), discipline (NASB) yourself for the purpose of godliness. (ie. they're practicing the spiritual disciplines and teaching and modelling them to others).*

4. They're **using their gifts to build up the church** – 1 Tim 4:13-16  
*They're serving in the ministry of the Church.*
5. They're **reproducing themselves**, by making disciples. Matthew 28:18-20.

Therefore, understanding these instructions, we can formulate a Vision for our congregation.

## **Our Vision**

**“Trusting in Christ and his Gospel, we will make disciples of Christ, who will also make disciples of Christ.”**

# **What kind of community produces maturing disciples of Christ?**

**Firstly**, we will be a community that knows, understands, believes and is able to share **the Gospel of Christ**. We will be ambassadors for Christ, who will be resting in his grace alone as we tell others about Christ and His Gospel. Furthermore, the love of Christ and His Gospel will produce a people with a passion to be used to plant new churches, when possible and wherever the Lord leads.

**Secondly**, we will be passionately committed to personally growing to maturity as a disciple of Christ by:

1. **growing in our knowledge the truths of the faith**
2. **growing in godliness** (*practicing the spiritual disciplines*).

**Thirdly**, we will see ourselves as fellow workers in the Kingdom of God and not ministry recipients who watch others do the work. We are called to receive **and** exercise ministry.

**We will strive to build an every member ministry or team ministry.**

1 Cor 3:9 For we are God's **fellow workers**; you are God's field, God's building.  
(See also Romans 16:3,9,21, 2 Cor 8:23, Col 4:11, Philippians 2:5, Philemon 1)

The belief that we are fellow workers will see us wanting to serve in a ministry in the church and being trained for ministry service.

**Fourthly**, we will have a commitment to intentional disciple making (ie. one – to – one ministry to each other).

**Fifthly**, we will be a people who understand that just as God is a community: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so the church is a community. Humans are made to be in community. The church is one body - in Christ – and therefore each of us is called into a close relationship

with Christ's people (1 Cor 12:12-27). Christians need each other. We can't express love toward one another without spending time together.

Therefore, we will be a community which is committed to fulfilling the '**one anothers**' of the New Testament. Our shared belief in the importance of Christian community will be expressed in a desire and commitment to fellowship with the saints; by attending Sunday corporate worship and being involved in a small group when a group is available.

*Jesus said, "A new command I give you: **Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.** By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34, 35.*

## What kind of leadership produces that kind of community?

Our definition of leaders includes the elders and deacons, as well as those in other ministry leadership positions. They will be leaders who are mature/ing disciples of Christ who will be committed to:

- passionately persevering in their own growth as a disciple of Christ
- promoting a culture of **one – to – one disciple making** in the Church. Thus they will be intentionally discipling at least one other person toward maturity
- telling others about the Gospel and teaching others to tell others about the Gospel.
- exemplifying the importance of fellowship with God and other believers. Thus they will be passionate about Sunday worship and small group involvement when available.
- the concepts of the church being **an every member ministry and ministry training church**. Thus they will be endeavouring to discover gifts in others and provide training for them to enable them to exercise those gifts. Likewise, they will be receiving training in ministry themselves, leading one of the ministries in the church and training others so as to reproduce themselves.
- working toward establishing new churches.

## What kind of pastor produces that kind of leadership?

A pastor of a congregation has various roles to fulfil as a fulltime servant of Christ and His people.

**The pastor as a model;** he will be passionately persevering in his own growth as a disciple of Christ and modelling this to others.

**As a leader he will be endeavouring to exhibit the qualities of leadership as outlined above.**

**The pastor as a leader;** vision setting, management and team building.

**The pastor as a shepherd and parent to the congregation** (1 Cor 4:15, 1 Thes 2:7-12); which includes providing pastoral care, visitation and limited counselling.

**The pastor as a teacher/preacher and intercessor**; study, preparation and delivery of sermons and bible studies as well as doing the vital ministry of intercessory prayer. (Acts 6:4) His teaching ministry will be Christ and Gospel centred. (1 Cor 15:1-6)

**The pastor as trainer/equiper/coach** (Eph 4:11-12) – **preparing God’s people for works of service**. Firstly, the pastor will strive to **intentionally reproduce himself** by training, equipping and coaching local church leaders. Jesus didn’t invest himself in thousands but poured himself into just twelve. They then reproduced themselves. So his focus would be on developing local leaders.

To do this he will use the tools and models as outlined in the **Ministry Training Strategy (MTS-NSW)** and other appropriate materials.

Secondly, he will work closely with the PCV Training Officer and Theological College in providing training for theological students through providing **Student Field Experience (SFE)**. He will also work closely with the **Ministry, Equipping, Training and Recruiting Organisation (METRO)**, to provide opportunities for ministry traineeships.

**While trying to wisely balance all his responsibilities, ministry training will have a major focus in his ministry at Brimbank PC.**

**The pastor as servant to the wider denomination.** In the Presbyterian system a certain amount of time must be given to support of the work of the Presbytery and Assembly and serve and represent the national Church in various ways (*such as conducting baptisms, marriages and funerals and serving in various Chaplaincies etc.*)

## How then will we apply this Vision?

As a relatively new church and a small congregation we need to work within our capabilities.

### **1. We will continuously promote the importance of disciple making in the church.**

The leadership, especially the elders, would promote the importance of **disciple making** in the life of the church. Encouraging everyone to study the Church Vision and promoting it as often as possible in the church’s life.

We would describe our church’s work on letterheads etc. with a brief Vision Statement which encapsulates what we’re trying to do. (*eg. Trusting in Christ and his Gospel, we will make disciples of Christ, who will also make disciples of Christ.*)

### **2. We will continuously promote and establish a culture of one – to – one discipleship relationships in our Church.**

We would encourage church members to intentionally establish one – to - one discipleship relationships, with members of the same sex, or one to a couple, in which people are discipling each other. Each member of the church will be either working towards, or actually discipling at least one person. We will do this using the two main tools God has given us; the Word of God and prayer.

**3. We will promote the importance of being involved in a small group when available.** The church small groups would meet for 2.5 hours weekly, **around food**, in blocks of 4-6 weeks, during the school year calendar. That means the church would rest during the school holidays and Christmas/January break. The groups themselves would decide which day of the week and time they meet.

### **Our overall goal.**

Our overall goal is to see everyone:

- growing to maturity as a disciple of Christ
- attending worship on Sunday morning
- in a one – to – one discipleship relationship with at least one other person.
- involved in and being nurtured in a small group, when available.
- and as gifts are recognised and developed, serve in one ministry in the church. (*'ministry' - might include things like - music, Sunday school service, welcoming at the door, youth work, men's ministry, women's ministry, M.O.P.S. etc*). The number and scope of ministries is endless and will grow as the church grows.

### **Focussed Leadership.**

To ensure we're staying on track the Pastor and Elders of the church will regularly review the church's work in relation to this Ministry Plan. They will do this at their Session meetings and other meetings, as called. As well as this they will work through the book, "Mission Minded" by Peter Bolt every two years.

### **The PCV's Specific Goal**

The above approach to ministry agrees with and will be focused on fulfilling the PCV's specific goal of March 2005.

***"Our specific goal, both individually and as a denomination, is to engage in making disciples of the Lord Jesus, to direct all our efforts to preaching repentance to God and faith in Jesus and to nurturing those who believe the Gospel."***

### **Come and join us.**

**If you believe in Brimbank's Vision, please come and join us and become a fellow worker and make it happen.**

**We'll serve together trusting in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.**