

Week of Prayer

October 2019



CENTRAL
BAPTIST CHURCH
V I C T O R I A

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

How to use this prayer guide

Three years ago we mapped out our RENEW vision—“Renewing our Community Through the Gospel”—and identified 5 ministry objectives and 1 operational objective.

As we prayerfully consider the next chapter of our RENEW vision, we are planning to develop these further. After working through the prayer booklet, please give us your feedback on each objective on the questionnaire so that together we participate in shaping RENEW 2.0.

We are asking people to pray 15 minutes per day.

STEP 1 | Pray through the scripture verses

STEP 2 | Pray through the vision & objectives

STEP 3 | Write down your reflections and thoughts

Use your reflections to complete the RENEW 2.0 questionnaire, a handout included in this booklet.

RENEW 2.0 VISION PROCESS

“the next three-year strategic plan”

STEP 1 – WAITING ON GOD AND PLANNING PHASE

Oct 6 | Barton, Steve, & John Yakielashek communicate to the congregation that we are doing an extension of our Renew vision

- *Invite church-wide prayer to ask God for direction for the next Renew 2.0 vision and key objectives.*
- *6 days of focused prayer (Oct 15-20). You are welcome to fast during this time.*
- *Church-wide survey with strategic questions (due on Sun, Oct 27).*

Oct 8 | Pastoral staff prayer and planning day

STEP 2 – DEVELOPMENT PHASE

Nov 6 | Planning meeting with the board, staff, and approximately 30 ministry leaders. Purpose: to identify new initiatives under our current renew objectives.

- *Recap of the vision*
- *Values discussion to help shape the new initiatives*
- *Report from the survey*
- *Start to identify potential new initiatives*

Nov 16 | Board and staff tweak the current major objectives for Renew 2.0 (board meeting).

**Defining terms: a major objective is a specific goal that you want to achieve with a clearly stated outcome and a deadline.*

Jan 21, 2020 | Staff develop key initiatives for the major objectives (draft given at the board meeting).

**Defining terms: a key initiative is the means in which the objective goals are accomplished.*

STEP 3 – COMMUNICATION AND FEEDBACK PHASE

Sunday, Feb 16, 2020 | Dessert night for membership with presentation of next phase of Renew plan including major objectives and key initiatives. Includes time for discussion.

March 18, 2020 | AGM: the new three-year plan is presented to the congregation.

April 2020 | **Renew 2.0 is launched.**

In preparation for the week of prayer, please read our Vision:

Renewing our Community Through the Gospel

To renew something assumes that it was once good, has subsequently been ruined, but is in the process of being restored. This is the story of the Bible.

We believe that the gospel message is not merely a body of truth to be acknowledged, but that it is the very power of God that transforms and renews everything it comes in contact with—personal lives, families, workplaces, and whole societies.

We envision a movement of the gospel that brings renewal to “our community,” which encompasses:

- **OURSELVES:** We need the gospel to renew how we relate to God, family, culture, sexuality, money, singleness, and every other area of our lives.
- **OUR CITY:** We envision gospel renewal throughout the CRD as we strive to introduce people to Jesus Christ, increase the number of gospel-centred congregations, engage in social justice, and discover gospel transformation in our work.
- **OUR WORLD:** Through global missions and strategic partnerships, we envision Central bringing gospel renewal to those places around the world where we have influence.

A PEOPLE REVITALIZED.

A CITY RENEWED.

A WORLD TRANSFORMED.

THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING.

Scripture Meditation:

Pray through each passage in preparation.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Colossians 1:6

The gospel is bearing fruit and growing through the whole world — Just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Thanksgiving & Requests:

Give thanks for things that have been accomplished and pray for those initiatives that are ongoing.

- Sunday worship services—people are encountering the good news
- This year 20 people were baptized and several have come to Christ
- People are finding Central—often through social media and Central’s website—and making it their home church
- Youth & children’s ministries are growing. Kids are coming to Christ and being baptized
- God is providing the resources we need to reach Victoria:
 - Staff were realigned and hired—Executive Pastor, Youth Director, Youth Intern, Director of Music, Immerse student (Community Engagement), Children’s Director, and Pastor to Seniors
 - In the midst of unexpected transition, God provided a team to lead worship, oversee technology, and promote Central through social media
 - Budget needs were met, stretching people in their giving, and the RENEW objectives were mostly completed
- Thanks to the generous support of Central in finances, time, and resources, we welcomed two refugee families to Canada
- Partnerships with Compassion, Qwanoes, Living Edge, and Mission San Quintin

Reflection & Prayer:

1. Pray that we would be effective in “Renewing our community through the gospel.”
2. As you pray and reflect, write down any thoughts you have as to how we can be more effective.

After you have written your response, consider summarizing your insights on the questionnaire to join us in shaping RENEW 2.0.

Objective 1:

Develop a clear pathway for people to learn what the gospel is and how it works out in every area of life.

Scripture Meditation:

Pray through each passage in preparation.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

Joshua 1:7-9

⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Thanksgiving & Requests:

Give thanks for things that have been accomplished and pray for those initiatives that are ongoing.

For adults

Discipleship pathway is being finalized to include:

- Christianity Explored & Discipleship Explored – seekers are attending and coming to Christ
- Starting Point – a 2 week introduction to Central was established and is well attended
- Community Groups are growing and we need more leaders
- 12 week GROW discipleship material was developed and is being implemented
- Foundations theology class is in the second year and has over 30 people attending
- Immerse students are being trained for pastoral ministry – 2 have graduated

For youth

- Leaders – training and meeting with kids during and outside meetings - going well
- Solid group of committed youth
- Deeper – 2 times a month during morning service. Up to 40 kids attend

For children

- Club 456 – very active and growing. Kids are bringing their unsaved friends and having amazing conversations
- New Kid's Church curriculum – Gospel Project, Bible memorization, and sharing of faith

For families

- Wednesdays – dinner & devotional for large group—up to 100 people are attending—and the group continues to grow

Reflection & Prayer:

1. Pray that we would be effective in developing a clear pathway for people to learn what the gospel is and how it works out in every area of life.
2. As you pray and reflect, write down any thoughts you have as to how we can be more effective.

After you have written your response, consider summarizing your insights on the questionnaire to join us in shaping RENEW 2.0.

Objective 2:

Become known for seeking the common good of the city.

Scripture Meditation:

Pray through each passage in preparation.

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Jeremiah 29:7

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

Thanksgiving & Requests:

Give thanks for things that have been accomplished and pray for those initiatives that are ongoing.

For the city (Victoria)

- Street Teams – prayer focus
- Neighbourhood Market – over 100 people come to receive fresh produce. Over 40 volunteers set-up, serve, and interact with each person
- Our Place - financial and volunteer support
- George Jay & Quadra Elementary – reading, year-end party, breakfast club
- Quadra Village Day
- Serve our city (service projects) – semi-regular

For evangelism of children

- Spring Easter Outreach
- Urban adventures – 120 children attended, with a waitlist of 14
- Fall Festival – many families from the community drop in

For global outreach

- Long-term missionaries – continued support
- Short-term missions projects and teams (Compassion Survival, Esperanza, Mission San Quintin Dream Center)
- Through Compassion International, members from Central have sponsored over 120 children around the world

Other Initiatives

- Refugee support for two families (Sudanese and Eritrean) – affected 13 lives and showed God's love
- Prayer network for missions – 70 + people involved
- Apologetics conference with RZIM & Apologetics Canada

Reflection & Prayer:

1. Pray that we would be effective in being known for seeking the common good of the city.
2. As you pray and reflect, write down any thoughts you have as to how we can be more effective.

After you have written your response, consider summarizing your insights on the questionnaire to join us in shaping RENEW 2.0.

Objective 3:

Utilize current technology to contextualize the gospel for our culture.

Scripture Meditation:

Pray through this passage in preparation.

Psalm 145:1-13

- ¹ I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
- ² Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
- ³ Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.
- ⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
- ⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.
- ¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your saints shall bless you!
- ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
- ¹² to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Thanksgiving & Requests:

Give thanks for things that have been accomplished and pray for those initiatives that are ongoing.

For communicating with multiple audiences

- Networking through social media (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram)
- Provide weekly live feeds of the worship service on Sunday morning
- Sermon videos – on average are getting over 100 views
- Sermons are now available by Podcast
- Create story-telling videos for specific occasions (e.g. increasing awareness of church, capsulizing Urban Adventures, sharing baptisms, etc.)
 - Renew video has over 950 views on YouTube and 1900 were reached on Facebook. People are seeing the video, coming to Central, and getting plugged in
 - A Community Group video was made which increased the Community Group sign-up when launched

Technology upgrades

- Installed large screen in auditorium (bigger screen and back of church display) and appropriate software
- On-line giving through Tithely is being well used
- An online method to sign up for Community Groups was created
- Launched and integrated a Kid's Ministry check-in system for security
- An online church database was implemented to organize services, attendees, and events
- RightNow Media has 208 people subscribed from Central and is a great resource for our Community Groups

Reflection & Prayer:

1. Pray that we would be effective in utilizing current technology to contextualize the gospel for our culture.
2. As you pray and reflect, write down any thoughts you have as to how we can be more effective.

After you have written your response, consider summarizing your insights on the questionnaire to join us in shaping RENEW 2.0.

Objective 4:

Grow our under 40 demographic while engaging those over 40.

Scripture Meditation:

Pray through each passage in preparation.

Galatians 3:25-29

²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Ephesians 4:1-7

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Thanksgiving & Requests:

Give thanks for things that have been accomplished and pray for those initiatives that are ongoing.

For all

- Sunday service – creating a vibrant and relevant worship service
- Encourage newcomer integration process
- Greeting Team is established
- Redesigned lobby and features (upgrade interior signs, provide multimedia presence, move info desk)
- Track newcomers
- Apologetic focus through Sunday school and special conferences

For children

- Upgrading of children's wing – started. Kids registration and check-in system is established

For youth

- Encouraged to bring non-Christian friends

For universities, colleges, young adults

- One community group at U. Vic, Merge, youth leaders

For seniors

- Ongoing prayer support from group and volunteer support for Urban Adventures

Future Initiatives (2019)

- Outreach – Sam Allberry from RZIM on Gender and Sexuality, Nov 2019
- Complete children's wing renovations
- Develop leadership development process for young adults ministry

Reflection & Prayer:

1. Pray that we would be effective in growing our under 40 demographic while engaging those over 40.
2. As you pray and reflect, write down any thoughts you have as to how we can be more effective.

After you have written your response, consider summarizing your insights on the questionnaire to join us in shaping RENEW 2.0.

Objective 5:

Multiply gospel-centred congregations.

Scripture Meditation:

Pray through each passage in preparation.

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Luke 10:1-3

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ² And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

Thanksgiving & Requests:

Give thanks for things that have been accomplished and pray for those initiatives that are ongoing.

Key Initiatives (2017, 2018)

- Financially, we began supporting the church plant of West Saanich Village church; however, the church plant closed down due to lack of being self-supporting. We are grateful for the opportunity to support a sister church and seek new opportunities

Future Initiative (2019 and beyond)

- Continue to consider church plant by Central in the next 5 – 10 years
- Continue to consider the possibility of a second worship service

Pray for

- Church planting through FEB Pacific, C2C, and Multiply as they seek to resource leaders in planting new churches

Reflection & Prayer:

1. Pray that we would be effective in multiplying gospel-centred congregations.
2. As you pray and reflect, write down any thoughts you have as to how we can be more effective.

After you have written your response, consider summarizing your insights on the questionnaire to join us in shaping RENEW 2.0.