

Greyfriars Eden Epsom Presbyterian Church



Our mission together 2015-2020

Those who are noble plan noble things and by noble things they stand.
Isaiah 32.8

Our mission flows from our relationship with Jesus,

faithful to the scriptures,
enveloped by prayer,
discerned as a local fellowship
and engaged through service.

Our Mission:

To help people know and follow Jesus

Our Vision is to be

a vibrant and thriving,
cross-generational and cross-cultural Christian church,
faithfully following Jesus.

We are committed to being a Spiritually Healthy Congregation

Living in Love
Growing in Faith
Uniting in Purpose
Devoted in Worship
Sharing in Fellowship
Proclaiming the Gospel
Serving with Compassion

Historically we are part of the Reformed faith and are members of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. As such we:

- Hold the Bible as the supreme rule for life and faith, and also adhere to the subordinate standards and governance of the PCANZ.
- Build on the faithful witness of this local church in times past whose Christian life was expressed as being:

**Christ-centred
Bible-based
Mission-oriented
People-related**



Values we share:

- Integrity
- Compassion
- Applied Faith
- Innovation

Our overarching strategy is to continue:

- *developing services of worship which are life-transforming*
- *emphasising Christian growth and fellowship*
- *encouraging mission and evangelistic outreach*
- *developing a permission giving church*
- *developing short and long term goals to achieve our mission.*

Growth Goals

Our growth goals draw upon the biblical imagery of organic growth, where there is depth in the roots, strength in the trunk and fruit on the branches. A plant that ... *will take root below and bear fruit above* (Is 37.31). This reflects our desire to see people mature as disciples and be fruitful as God's people.



Our specific goals for Growth

Growth in Discipleship

- helping people to become mature followers of Jesus who are able to help others come to and mature in their faith
- to work out a process (steps) that people may aim at as indicators of increasing maturity in faith (baptism/membership, elementary bible courses such as Journeys/Alpha)
- celebrating spiritual milestones and accomplishment.

Growth in Leadership (employed and volunteer)

- to use our resources strategically to identify, encourage, train and equip leaders to minister in key areas of church life
- aim at developing teams as core mission/ministry groups to strengthen our ability to achieve our mission
- appropriately give responsibility, authority and resources to leaders and teams to enable them to achieve mission goals.

Growth in Outreach

- outreach (especially to the 20-40 age group)
- getting to know our community by developing an awareness of community needs, aspirations and issues
- staying up to date with our changing demographics
- developing **come** and **go** outreach plans (on occasions we invite people to come to us and at other times we go to them).

Growth in Fellowship

- to be an Eden within Eden
- growing in love and understanding
- developing relationships and deepening connections with others by living out faith, serving in mission, worshipping together and meeting socially.

Growth in Attendance

- building to an average attendance of 350 adults attending our morning services
- improve how we welcome people who visit our services and connect with people who come to church events
- to embrace an openness to change.

Short term goals from 2015 planning day

The Property Team is aiming to complete resource consent for our new buildings by the end of the year and also to complete the strengthening of our Gardner Road church.

The Global Mission Team aims to involve more people and hopefully send more people on overseas mission. They hope to have increasing numbers at the monthly mission prayer meeting and to inform the congregation of mission during our Sunday services.

Playgroup want to build on links to the church to investigate having a second playgroup session during the week and to make a suggestion/prayer box available for those people attending playgroup. It is recognised that more volunteers are needed for this important ministry.

G-SET have plans for activities throughout the year. They aim to connect church, friends and community through these events. The team will also look at a Christmas item in December.



Strategic plans and goals 2016-2020

The plans highlighted below are for special attention for a period of time and this does not infer that other ministers are less important.

1) Developing ministry to Children and Families

Our goals are to:

- help children come to and grow in faith
- enhance and nurture family/community life
- see growth in attendance at all our children's events
- to attract families to our church through the good relationships our leaders have with the children and because of the quality of our events
- become a kids friendly church
- support parents/caregivers through relationships, education and tools for parenting.

To achieve this we plan in 2016-2018 to focus significant resources to develop and grow our children's ministry

- resources of people and finances
- oversight from our second minister.

Accountability will be evident/measured by:

- time given to children's ministry
- people engaged leading/supporting children's ministry
 - paid/volunteers
- variety of events focused on children, such as
 - kidzone
 - mainly music
 - Playgroup
 - Holiday clubs
 - After school clubs
 - Light Party
 - White Sunday



- end of year surveys of families asking their views on the effectiveness and quality of our children's work
- resources allocated to children's ministry in the budget and in buildings
- growing attendance of children
- while hard to quantify we will look towards the degree to which children are engaged in and enthusiastic about this mission.



2) Developing Cross- Cultural Ministries

Our goals are to:

- improve our relationship with people from different cultural backgrounds who attend our services or church events
- connect with people of different cultural groups in the communities of Mt Eden and Epsom
- gain a reputation as a church where people of different cultural groups are welcome
- help people find salvation in Christ and a spiritual home in our church
- provide culturally inclusive environments.



To achieve this we plan to develop cross cultural ministries. This includes exploring what it means to be an *International Church* worshipping primarily in English.

Accountability will be evident/measured by:

- promoting the English bible lessons class and our international students' ministry
- appropriate use of languages/cultural input in our services

- use of languages in our advertising/brochures
- encouraging people to learn/appreciate other cultures through fellowship at international meals
- supporting Yukiko (Japanese missionary at Playgroup) and others who can help us bridge cultural gaps
- having signs in multiple languages
- cross-cultural involvement in leadership.

3) Completing our Building Projects

Our goal is to be worshipping in our new church building as soon as possible

Our mission will be positively impacted by having our new church open on Mt Eden road.

- a new church building in constant, obvious use will give a positive image of the church and will help to raise our profile in the community
- it will help the community to notice the vibrant life and faith of the people of the church
- members of the church and people in the community will be able to use the building for significant events like baptism, marriage and funerals.



To achieve our goal of worshipping in our new facilities as soon as possible we plan to:

- investigate and explore issues with affected groups including the City Council, Heritage New Zealand, the Mt Eden community, Northern Presbytery and the Church Property Trustees
- use an architect with experience in church buildings and an awareness of heritage issues to give us concept plans based on

the needs and uses of the church and our desire to have facilities suitable for community use

- arrive at an agreed plan for building church facilities that will help to advance the mission of our church.

The achievement of this goal will be evident/measured by:

- the progress of discussions with various stakeholders
- the completion of plans for the facilities and the agreement of all parties to proceed
- the successful tender for building and the raising of funds to complete the project
- the date of the opening service.

