



Our Vision Statement 2014 – 2019

Our Purpose – “*growing in love for God and people*”

This purpose statement is based on the two great commands given by Jesus

- to love God
- to love our neighbour (*Mark 12:28-31*)

The word “**growing**” challenges us to **develop, deepen and mature in our love.**

‘**Love for God**’ grows as we hear His Word with humility and respond with praise, repentance, faith, thanksgiving, prayer, obedience and submission to His will (*Romans 11:33- 12:2*)

‘**Love for people**’ includes love for fellow believers (*John 13:34-35*), the needy (*Luke 10:25-37*) and those who mistreat us (*Luke 6:27-36*)

Other relevant Scriptures: (*Ephesians 5:1-2, 1John 4:19, 1 Thessalonians 2:12*)

This purpose statement reminds us to emphasise **genuine relationships** over programs and structures.

Ways in which we will grow in love for God and people:

1. **Worship**

We commit ourselves to regular gatherings on the Lord’s Day for worship and fellowship (*Acts 2:42, Hebrews 10:11-25*).

Our worship services will proclaim the amazing love of God in Jesus Christ.

We will encourage response to God’s Word with heart, mind and will.

2. **Prayer**

We commit ourselves to being a prayerful church (*Romans 12:12, 1 Thess 5:16-18*).

We will equip every believer to grow in personal, prayerful relationship with the Lord.

We will be devoted to passionate prayer for the growth of God’s kingdom, for the needs of the church and for people around the world.

3. **Learning**

We commit ourselves to being a learning community – learning together how to grow in love for God and people (*1 John 4:7-21*).

We will encourage everyone in our church community to enter into regular study and meditation on the Bible – individually and in groups.

4. **Evangelism**

We commit ourselves to the faithful proclamation of the gospel of Christ to people, prayerfully inviting many to turn to Christ as Saviour and Lord (*Luke 24:46-47*).

We will help every ministry of our church to be an avenue where Christ is presented.

We will encourage every believer to be a faithful witness for Christ in their everyday lives.

Our Vision is to be *a Christ-centred community, growing in love for God and people.*

Eastwood Baptist Church

5. Welcome

We commit to be a welcoming church with a heart for the diversity of the Eastwood area – as a demonstration of the meaning of God’s love (*Romans 15:1-7*).

We will warmly welcome all people with Christ’s love, irrespective of race, age status or health.

We will enable new people to feel comfortable and loved in a new spiritual home.

6. Care

We commit to being a caring and loving church (*1 Peter 3:8*).

We will show Christ’s love to those in our church who have spiritual, physical, financial, relational and emotional needs.

We will reach out beyond the church with practical actions of justice to people who are hurting or who face difficulties.

We will love and care for people in life transitions from childhood to older age.

7. Equip

We commit to being a disciple-making church, equipping every Christian to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ (*Ephesians 4:11-16*)

We will encourage every believer to demonstrate the love of Christ in the communities and networks of which they are part – including family, workplace, friends, local community, shops, clubs and sport teams.

We will give priority to the identification, development and empowerment of leaders.

8. Global mission

We commit to being a church that contributes to disciple-making among many people-groups around the world (*Matthew 28:19-20*)

We will be generous in sharing our resources with mission agencies and those who are cross-cultural mission partners of our church.

Our Vision is to be *a Christ-centred community, growing in love for God and people.*