
Vision

**an overview of the
mandate, mission,
and map for Artisan Church**



Mandate | Why do we exist as a church?

Understanding *why* a church exists is of paramount importance. Most people seem to primarily care about what the church does, but understanding a community's soul gives insight into why they do what they do.

We exist to join God in the renewal of all things.

Why is this our core motivation? We believe that the story arc of the Scriptures moves toward this end: that Christ is making everything new (Rev. 21:5). Through Jesus, God is reconciling all things to himself (Col. 1:19-20). So then, the Church exists primarily to share in this movement—to join in what God is already doing.

This is in fact the very thing the church has been commissioned with: a ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:17-20). We share God's desire for every person, neighbourhood, industry — every thing—would be reconciled in renewed relationship, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

FULL STORY VS. HALF STORY

THE BIG STORY IN FOUR ACTS:

Creation – explains how the world *ought to be*.

Fall – explains how the world *is*.

Redemption – explains how the world *is being remade*.

Restoration – explains how the world *will be*.

HALF STORY

- 1.
2. Fall
3. Redemption
- 4.

vs.

FULL STORY

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Redemption
4. Restoration



Knowing our story matters. These two stories provide completely different ‘whys’. The Full Story is about creation and God bringing about a new creation. The Half Story is about sin and the removal of it. The Full Story is about renewal, the Half Story is about escape. The different starting and ending points of these two stories produce two very different identities and missions for the church.

If someone were to ask the question: why do you want to be part of a church...or why are you part of Artisan? Our hope is that we would know and live God’s story to such an extent, that our answer would be “to join God in the renewal of all things”.

The whole point of what Jesus was up to was that he was doing close up, in the present, what he was promising long-term in the future, was not saving souls for a disembodied eternity, but rescuing people from the corruption and decay of the way the world presently is so that they could enjoy, already in the present, that renewal of creation which is God’s ultimate purpose—and so they would thus become colleagues and partners in that large project.

N.T. WRIGHT

MISSION | Where are we going?

A clear *why* — joining God in the renewal of all things — enables us to sharpen our focus on the direction we are moving in. We will know we are fulfilling our MANDATE as we aim toward the following MISSION:

To see Vancouverites transformed into followers of Jesus, practicing his way and becoming like him in every sphere of life.

To join God's movement of making all things new, a new kind of humanity is needed. Jesus is the prototype, savior, and leader of this new humanity. He is the one who has come as God in the flesh, full of grace and truth, to reveal what a human life lived under God can look like. Jesus reveals a life lived to the full.

He also is one that remedies humanity's broken relationship with God, creating a renewed relationship—offering full reconciliation, justification, adoption, and the promise of sanctification—as sons and daughters. The work of Jesus is to remake human beings.

As we see throughout the Gospels, Jesus invites women and men to follow him in this work. Through his teachings, miracles, and passion, He has demonstrated and enabled a new way to be human. Jesus has created a new relationship to everything —living in renewed relationship with God, the world, and with each other. Living in these relationships is called discipleship. A life of discipleship, becoming and practicing the way of Jesus, can be summed up in Jesus' deceptively simple phrase, "Follow me."

MAP | How are we going to get there?

This is the pathway that shows how we will accomplish our MANDATE and hit our MARK — the pattern for how ministry fits together.

The MAP locates and guides the next step. Not having a strategy means confusion about next steps and meaningless ministries. The MAP connects our MANDATE to various ministries and helps people find meaningful engagement.

The key is for people who call Artisan home to know not only *why we exist*, but also *how we get there together*.

Thankfully, Jesus' call to "Follow Me" is not left to us to figure out on our own. Because Jesus' work is primarily relational, he formed a group of disciples. Discipleship is a personal and collective movement with Jesus, together.

We seek to be changed and create change along the following pathway:

Community Formation, Spiritual Formation, and Ministry Formation

COMMUNITY FORMATION

Definition:

At Artisan we place high value on creating a culture of embrace where people are welcome to observe, connect with, and participate in the way of Jesus in the context of the church community.

We realize that as much as people long for community, our cultural values fight against it. The overriding values of our city are individualism and self-sufficiency, which often lead to isolation and loneliness.

In 2011 the Vancouver Foundation conducted a survey taken by 275 charitable organizations. Each organization was asked what they thought the greatest need was in the city. The Vancouver Foundation discovered that the greatest needs were not affordable housing, or even help for addictions. The greatest needs were surrounding issues of isolation and loneliness.¹

Church is not merely the two-hour event we attend on a Sunday. It is a thriving community. In the New Testament we see the Church as a community of interconnected lives sharing a common way of life through Jesus. It is a community that leads us to full engagement, deep transformation, and high accountability.

Acts 2 offers a glimpse of how the early church sought to embody this call as people responded to the message of the gospel:

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

¹ <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/sites/default/files/documents/VanFdn-SurveyResults-Report.pdf>

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity – all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.
ACTS 2:42-47

The early church experienced deep community because the challenges they faced were so great that they were forced to truly *need* both each other and God.

We often feel like we don't need each other, and tend to act like we don't need God. Community is something we must surrender into. We do this as we surrender our individualism, self-sufficiency, and self-protection, and allow Jesus and others into our lives.

This is expressed whenever we gather together – whether meeting a friend for coffee, sharing a meal or in a more formal context of a worship gathering. It is about moving from a place of isolation to being connected in authentic, Christ-centered community.

We see a threefold pathway of opportunity through which community formation happens:

Observing > Connecting > Participating

Observing

Allowing people to observe and begin to experience the shared life of the church. This includes low-barrier and low-pressure ministries like Sunday gatherings, community-wide events and digital engagement (web/social media).

Connecting

Creating opportunities for people to begin making real connections with others within the church family. This is where the movement 'from observation to participation' begins, through ministries like Intro to Artisan, Moms & Tots and Alpha.

Participating

In this pathway, a personal commitment is made to begin to “do” life with others. This is mainly practiced in Groups, which offer a high level of support and challenge.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Definition:

A potter ‘forms’ a lump of clay into a pot or mug. Parents and teachers talk about children being in their ‘formative years’, and of the need for ‘character formation’ among the youth of today. “Formation”, in these contexts, brings to mind shaping and moulding, influencing the development of potential into a completed actual, into something that possibly resembles an ideal design.

Spiritual formation refers to a similar shaping process with reference to the spiritual dimension of a person’s life – which is to say, his or her whole life.

Spiritual formation is the lifelong development of a person’s intimate relationship with Jesus, in the context of community, and in accordance with biblical values. It is a lifelong process of having our thoughts, behaviors, and ways of relating to God, others, and creation steadily and gradually transformed into the image of Christ.

At Artisan, we cannot form you. Only God can. But we can provide opportunities to be attentive and responsive to God’s ongoing work in your life.

We see a threefold pathway of opportunity:

Learning > Practicing > Becoming

Of course these categories are somewhat fluid and overlapping. For example, can we really separate Learning from Becoming? As such, the important thing is that we don’t confuse these pathways with ‘classroom teaching’, in the sense of one person merely transferring information to a group of people.

Rather they are more like an immersive journey of discovery where you learn and practice connecting with God, becoming transformed through intimate friendship with God.

MINISTRY FORMATION

Definition:

At the heart of being an authentic follower of Jesus is making efforts to be obedient to Jesus' commands and to model our life after his life. Artisan sees a primary role of the Church as making disciples of Jesus. In other words Church is working to make human beings that look like Jesus in word and deed. Essential to this is both our inner work (focused on in the Spiritual Formation section of this handbook), and our outward work addressed in Ministry Formation. Ministry Formation is how we share, in word and deed, the good news of Jesus Christ.

This is the work of our whole life. As our spiritual life matures and our lives are transformed into the image of Christ we are called to share this news in word to the ends of the earth, as well as to show this news in deed in our service of others. We believe that the world is in need of the news of Jesus Christ. Just as a health worker *ministers* to the wounds of someone who is sick, so do we *minister* to the wounds and the wounded in the world.

At Artisan we believe that all are called to actively engage in ministry, and we see a threefold pathway of opportunity:

Partnering > Leading > Creating

While these three streams overlap, there is also a reason for their order.

All ministry arises and is based on serving others. Following, it is only through immersion into serving that one can learn to practice leading in the way of Jesus—who came and served all of humanity and creation. Third, all followers of Jesus are called into creating new ways of expressing the good news of Christ.

All of us are called to be co-artisans with God in the renewal of all things, in all areas of life.

MOTIVES | What are the things that move us?

These are our shared convictions — the conscience and collective soul of the church. MOTIVES are the filters for decision-making, reminders of what is most important to us; the reasons behind what we do. MOTIVES are what help limit and find what is most essential. This is our culture, our shared heartbeat.

SIMPLE DEVOTION

COURAGEOUS WEAKNESS

TANGIBLE GRACE

LOVING PURSUIT

COLLABORATIVE CREATIVITY

MEASURES | What kind of change are we looking for?

This is a set of attributes in an individual's life that reflect alignment with the church's mandate. What are the results we are after? What does fruit look like? What are we looking to make?

The true measures of a church are not 'how many' but 'how loving,' not 'how relevant' but 'how real.'

ROBERT LEWIS

Jesus' Great Commission clarifies our task: we are to make disciples. In keeping with this, our MISSION (as stated above) is:

To see Vancouverites transformed into followers of Jesus, practicing his way and becoming like him in every sphere of life.

We are looking to partner with God in creating a new kind of human being. An audacious goal! And only achievable through the Spirit's empowering presence.

But what would such a portrait of change look like? How do we envision this transformation?

When Jesus calls someone to "Follow me" — to enter a new way of life — that person will experience a number of significant shifts:

FROM/TO IMPERATIVES

From Death to Life

Key Texts: Eph. 2:1-7; 2 Cor. 5:17

The first shift is about a call to respond to God's invitation to life. This gift of life, accessed by grace, through faith, enables us to be born again. It reorients the story of our lives as we learn to walk in intimacy and union with God.

From Slave to Son/Daughter

Key Texts: 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:14-16

The good news of what God has done for us does a deep work internally, about how we see ourselves and where our identity is rooted. We are welcomed into God's family, freed from guilt, shame and condemnation. We learn to walk in new covenant life, enjoying our freedom and walking in authority over our old wounds, lies, and addictions.

From Striving to Abiding

Key Texts: John 15:1-9; Col. 2:6-7

The central invitation for Jesus is to do life with him; not simply for him. He invites us to abide in his love. It is from this place of acceptance and ease that we are rooted in the true source, receive power for life and ministry, and bear the kind of fruit that remains.

From Self to Others

Key Texts: Phil. 2:1-4; John 13:35

God does not just reconcile us to Himself, but to each other. This shift calls us to learn to live in vulnerable love and to offer grace and forgiveness for the faults of others. It calls us to find our unique gifts and talents so we can use them on behalf of others, and to be present in each other's lives in ways that reflect God's tangible love for us in Christ.

From Consumer to Maker

Key Texts: 2 Cor. 5:18-20; John 14:12

We want to see people understand, live and communicate the gospel to the world. We want to break down the walls between the sacred and the secular and enable people to see their work as both worship and renewal.

All of these shifts require great intention and community. The default will always be to drift toward death, shame, striving, narcissism, and bystanding. We have plenty of this already. Jesus' call is an invitation into so much more.

Jesus didn't come to make us Christian; Jesus came to make us fully human.

HANS ROOKMAAKER