Mission and Vision Statements

Mission Statements

A Mission Statement is a sentence or short paragraph which is written by a church which reflects its core purpose, identity, values and principle aims. It captures the values and summarises its ‘purpose, reason for being’ – “who we are and what we do”.

Mission statements contain important information about the church, but in a nutshell. This might include what the church does, its congregation and its services.

It is clear and concise.

It provides clarity and focus about who we are and helps the church to make future choices.

A Mission Statement is agreed and known by the whole church, not just the PCC or leadership.

Mission Statements focus on TODAY – the way things ARE and what is being done NOW.

Examples:

“We are a community church here to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and to serve this community in his love.”

“We, God’s people in the parish of St Anne… in dependence on the Holy Spirit, seek to:
- Worship God with sincerity of heart
- Share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Have fellowship with all our brothers and sisters in Christ
- Offer welcome and service to all people in this community
- Witness to Christian values in our personal and corporate lives.” (see Chew + Ireland p86)

We exist to welcome people to faith; equip people with a faith that works in real life and sends us in service into the world in Jesus’ name.

To fulfil our mission we embrace the following purpose: to bring believers to spiritual maturity through:

Fellowship with other Christians
Learning and living Christ’s teachings
Outreach to all people
Worshipping Him alone and doing
Service in His name.

To introduce people to Jesus Christ, to help them to grow to be more like him, and then to reproduce the process in others.

Our church exists to share the love of Christ and empower people to serve and glorify God.

The mission of our church is: To worship God, to make disciples of Jesus and to service the world.

Our mission statement is: To GATHER as God’s people., to GROW in faith, love and service and to GO into the world as disciples and apostles.
Vision Statements

A Vision Statement is a sentence or short paragraph (2-4 sentences) providing a broad, aspirational image of the future. It is ‘an image of the future we seek to create.’

It expresses the desired destination of the church within a certain time-frame.

It is in line with the church’s values and Mission Statement, but goes beyond them to look to the future.

It expresses God’s challenge to the church and is an expression of faith and hope.

It is short, clear, concise, vivid and inspiring. It energises and builds unity and commitment, and when shared and supported by people inspires them to pray about the future and get involved in practical ways.

“It acts like a compass and a magnet – pointing the way and drawing people to work together”. (Chew and Ireland)

Vision Statements are about ‘dreaming dreams’ – what would people like to do in the future? (eg more Bible study groups, bigger/better children's groups on Sundays, more social events).

Vision is the mountain-top; the destination we long to reach. (Stephen Cottrell)

It is likely to be specific without being comprehensive. It makes choices as to what is included and what is left out. This is vital if the Vision Statement is not to become a ‘catch-all’ justifying everything that the church would like to do.

Vision Statements focus on TOMORROW – the way a church hopes things WILL BE and what will be happening in the FUTURE.

Examples:

By planting a new neighbourhood church at the north end of our town, a number of families will come to faith. Worship will be accessible and informal. We will have a practical concern for the local community. A programme of nurture and teaching alongside growing fellowship will lead people into a deeper spiritual experience.

A Vision for 5 years hence: Growth in attendance, of 15% per year for the last five years, has allowed us to expand our offering of worship styles on a Sunday morning. This growth seemed to stem from highly successful ecumenical celebrations and the increased prayerfulness of our church, both individually and corporately. It’s great to see people spending time with God. Most of the congregation meet weekly in some form of prayer group.

We will become a growing church where all ages can grow in faith and receive spiritual support, and with a reputation for loving service to the local community.

Jesus is calling us to become a church known in the community for open doors, acts of grace, spirit-led worship and growing leaders. (see Chew and Ireland pp90-97)

Our vision is: "to become a visible community of Christ-like relationships, building a spiritual legacy of encouragement and hope for North Texas and the world."