

# **THE VIROQUA VISION**

**A PLACE WHERE I SEE PEOPLE'S NEEDS BEING MET**

**I SEE PEOPLE EXCITED, FINDING JOY, HOPE, AND PEACE AS THEY DRAW NEAR  
TO GOD**

**I SEE FAITH THAT IS SO GENUINE IT IS CONTAGIOUS, I SEE HURTING PEOPLE  
MEETING THE GREAT PHYSICIAN**

**I SEE PEOPLE FINDING PURPOSE FOR THEIR LIVES, FINDING LOVE AS THEY  
LOVE,  
I SEE PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREAT MISSION**

**I SEE A CHURCH WHOSE HEAD IS JESUS, WHOSE HELP IS THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
WHOSE FOCUS IS THE GREAT COMMISSION**

# I SEE PEOPLE'S NEEDS BEING MET

“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.” – Galatians 5:13

## Overview

We learn best in life by serving. Serving gives us an opportunity to grow and it also allows us to make an impact in the lives of those inside of our church and in our community. We want to be a church that helps the hurting, that loves those who feel unloved. Every time we serve we show the love of Christ and help to create the peace of Christ.

## Acts of Service and Organization of Kindness

When needs arise in our community, we will respond. When floods struck this area in 2007 and 2008 we responded. We need to be ready to continue to respond. If that means supplying furniture to help families who have lost theirs again, we will act. We will make a difference. When we see needs, we try to act. We want to help not only our own areas recover, but those outside of this area. That is why we continue to help with hurricane recovery efforts.

## Benevolence

Throughout the year, special needs come up. There are times when people have a need that a gift of money can help with. Our missions team works to help those who have a financial need that they cannot address on their own. Please be praying for us to see those needs. Please be prepared if you see someone in need to talk with our missions team leader.

## General Ministry Teams

All of our ministry teams involve service of some kind. They function to do something. Everybody in them is working and helping to make that ministry as effective, as possible. Each of these teams has an incredible responsibility and they need people to work alongside them. The ministry teams are Building & Grounds, Discipleship, Evangelism & Fellowship, Finance, Missions, Children, Youth, and Worship. Many of the things that happen in this church happened because these people donated their time and efforts to make sure they were done.

## Elders & Deacons

Every elder oversees at least one ministry team. They do not necessarily lead them but they make sure that things are being done in a Christlike manner. These men are nominated in August and are voted upon by the congregation in October. They are overseers of the flock. Each year we also select men to come beside them and to serve in those ministry teams, to be lead servants. These men are called deacons and their responsibility is to set an example in service for anybody who is on that team.

## Volunteers

Most of the things that happen in this church happen because people like you give their time and energy to make them happen. The best way to say “Thank you” to those people is by getting involved yourself. We are always looking for more teachers, more people to help with our ministries, or to work beside those in those ministries.

# I SEE PEOPLE EXCITED, FINDING JOY, HOPE, AND PEACE AS THEY DRAW NEAR TO GOD

“Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.” – Psalm 100:2

## **Overview**

Worship is critical for the life and health of a Christian. It is one of the few things we can do here on earth that we know we will continue to do throughout eternity. It is critical, in worship, to remember that God has made us and our particular tastes in worship can be very different.

## **Creative Worship**

People need to be allowed to experience what worship is. In Romans 12 we get the sense that worship is a lifestyle. We will work to make worship memorable. The lessons and themes ought to be memorable. We will use videos, visual aids, and individual testimonies to create a worship experience that helps to show who God is. We will adjust the songs, format, and elements of our worship services to best meet the needs of those who are attending.

## **Authentic Worship**

Worship is not a show. It is an expression of our love for God. Our services will be built around Scriptural principles that we know are Biblically founded. We will tailor our services to the themes each week that we feel God is leading us to communicate. We want to help people grow nearer to God. The message is Jesus Christ, and Him crucified and we must communicate passionately about His love for us.

## **Sensitive Worship**

A part of worship is taking into account those who are present. We will create ministries that will greet those coming for the first time and will challenge those who are returning for the hundredth time. Our services will try to be simple enough for a non-Christian to grasp and deep enough for the mature Christian to leave with something to work on in their own life.

## **Relevant Worship**

The goal of our worship services is to see changed lives. We want to help people change. We will tell stories and sing songs that lead people to change, that help them become better people. When we look at Jesus and His ministry we see that application was present throughout His ministry. We will teach people lessons that they can apply in their daily lives and use to grow. We will remain relevant.

## **Inclusive Worship**

Our worship service is geared toward including people. In an area like ours, this can be difficult. We have people who are extremely liberal in their thinking and living, as well as those who are equally conservative. Our goal is to welcome them all. Jesus welcomed tax collectors and sinners, and also conversed with the deeply religious. We will attempt to cultivate an environment that welcome people. We want to show the love of Christ.

## **Contemporary Worship**

Our worship is geared toward our church, area, and community. The words to our songs will be put on a screen to allow people to read. We will use modern techniques to communicate with a modern culture. But everything we do is centered on Christ. We want our message about Him to be clear.

# **I SEE FAITH THAT IS SO GENUINE IT IS CONTAGIOUS, I SEE HURTING PEOPLE MEETING THE GREAT PHYSICIAN**

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” – Matthew 28:19

## **Overview**

Evangelism is something Jesus expects every one of us to be involved in. The grace that can be found in Christ is good news and it is our joy to share the good news of Jesus Christ. As we grow in our walk with Christ, we hopefully become more aware of others who do not know Him. That gives us an opportunity to share Him with others and to invite them into a relationship with Jesus as their Lord.

## **Evangelism Ministry Team**

The Evangelism Ministry Team leads our local efforts in evangelism. They are responsible for helping us to focus our efforts in these areas. Visitors to this congregation are hopefully being greeted and challenged to come because of this team’s efforts. We need vision and organization for our efforts to reach out community and this team provides it. Please, be praying for those who are on this team and for those who will come to this church. If you would like to be on this team you welcome to be a part of it.

## **Missions Ministry Teams**

Our Missions Ministry Team leads our global efforts in evangelism. They are responsible for finding missions or missionaries who they can support to increase the success of their efforts. They connect us with these efforts, helping Viroqua Church of Christ to make a difference outside of Wisconsin.

## **Special Efforts (July 4<sup>th</sup>, Hobby Day, Hobo Dinner, Christmas Concert, etc.)**

At different times during the year, we have events that encourage us to invite our friends. These are great opportunities to try and introduce others to this church and more importantly to Christ. For many of these events we print tickets as tools for you to share with friends or family. Any time we print tickets for an event we are communicating that this would be a good time to invite a friend.

Occasionally, we might take an ad out in the paper or on a billboard. When this happens you can ask a friend if they saw. If they did you can say, “That was from my church. We would love to have you come.” That takes an impersonal invitation and makes it into a personal one. I once had someone say, “I have never turned down an invitation to anything.” Let’s find people like him and invite them here.

## **Evangelism Plan**

If you have never reached out to any one in your whole life, here is a simple way to do it:

Tell someone you are a Christian

Tell someone why you like being a Christian

Invite someone to church (If they say wait and ask later)

Once they say yes, come to church with them

Tell someone how you became a Christian

Ask someone if they would like to become a Christian

For those who want a specific booklet to share there are copies of “One Message” in the pew

# **I SEE PEOPLE FINDING PURPOSE FOR THEIR LIVES, FINDING LOVE AS THEY LOVE, I SEE PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREAT MISSION**

“The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ – Galatians 5:13

## **Overview**

Fellowship unites and strengthens worshipers by connecting them with other worshipers. A cord with many interconnected strands is much more difficult to cut than a cord simply of one strand. So, we work at Viroqua Church of Christ to connect Christians with other Christians.

## **Sunday School**

Many of our Sunday school classes are electives. We do this to foster positive relationships with other Christians. Our Sunday school classes create friendships that we hope will continue further. Our hope is that these classes and moments will create a stronger love for one another.

## **Small Groups**

Occasionally, we will offer small groups on different topics. Again, these are made to create positive relationships. The small groups allow for sharing of thoughts and study of topics. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet others in relaxed settings and to talk without time constraints. Our small groups will be offered for a limited amount of weeks. This is done to create relationships that are positive but to keep small groups from becoming exclusive.

## **Fellowship Dinners**

We have fellowship dinners on the third Sunday of every month. People bring plates of food to pass so that we can share a meal and our lives, as well. This time is an open time. It takes place at 12:15 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month.

## **Fellowship Events**

Throughout the year we offer events that allow friendships to be cultivated and grown. Take the time to enjoy those relationships, to build those friendships by coming to these fellowship events. At every one of these events you will find opportunities to grow and form friendships.

## **Senior Involvement**

Many people in our congregation are retired or in that age range. Those who are a part of that are invited to be a part of the occasional dinners that are offered as a part of this ministry team. We know that with the flexibility that is gained with retirement, there is sometimes a limitation on the amount of interaction that takes place in a person's lives (since they are not forced to work with people any more).

## **Ministry Teams**

Every time someone gets involved in a ministry team or takes advantage of a service opportunity new friendships are formed. The love of Christ should be shared among followers of Christ. There is nothing more uniting than working together with other Christians for the same goal. So, please, find a place where you can roll up your sleeves and work with others who love Jesus like you do.

# **I SEE A CHURCH WHOSE HEAD IS JESUS, WHOSE HELP IS THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOSE FOCUS IS THE GREAT COMMISSION**

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” – Acts 2:42

## **Overview**

As worshipers of God, we need to constantly be growing in our knowledge of God and likeness to God. We do this through discipleship. Discipleship is learning to be more like Jesus, finding more of Him in who we are through the help of the Holy Spirit and the people who call Jesus “Lord.”

## **Morning Worship**

Every worship service gives us an opportunity to focus in on Christ. This time is our communion time. It is open to all who consider themselves followers of Christ. The sermon is also geared toward helping people become the Christians they want to be or ought to be. During these times we ask that people take notes or order their thoughts toward how they can become more like Christ. The goal of our teaching time is life change. We need to become more like Jesus in the way we think and act.

## **Evening Bible Study**

Every Wednesday night, we have a study at 6:30 p.m. that is geared simply at understanding the Bible better. Application is a part of it, but the main goal of that time is to help people to read and learn how to read their Bibles. The best way to learn how to get something out of the Bible is to study with others who do get something out of it. That is what the Wednesday evening Bible study is all about. It is an opportunity to read and understand a chapter (or more) of the Bible.

## **Wednesday Prayer Meeting**

Prayer is an essential part of the Christian life. Jesus taught his followers how to pray. He prayed before he selected the apostles, before many of his miracles, and even in Gethsemane before his crucifixion. We encourage people to pray. On Wednesday night, a group of people get together to pray for the needs of those in the church, as well as to pray for the church as a whole.

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School is built to help us create more mature Believers. Each class has a different focus with an overall view help people to grow into mature people of faith.

## **Student Ministries**

Our goal is to help students to become fully mature followers of Christ. We want to see them attend a church once they have passed through our youth ministry. We provide opportunities for them to grow Wednesday night (youth group), Sunday morning (Sunday School), and through other special events. There is also similar programs as children, as well.

## **Special Opportunities**

Throughout the year we may offer opportunities to learn, grow, and become more like Christ. These can include all sorts of special events or special speakers who will help us grow and learn.