



St. John the Baptist Anglican Church Lakefield

Discipleship Vision

This is who we will be by 2022

The St. John's community recognizes that it has a fundamental responsibility to make disciples, that is, to move its members toward Christlikeness. We embrace discipleship with passionate enthusiasm, joyful thanksgiving, and effective action.

There is a well-developed and clear pathway that leads people to becoming more mature disciples. Our gospel-centred approach to discipleship has three important components:

- 1) establishing and maintaining a personal relationship with Jesus;
- 2) engaging in meaningful, healthy relationships with other members of our community of believers so that together we become more like Jesus;
- 3) joining with other members in mission-oriented activities that serve others beyond our own church community.

There are four ways in which we engage in discipleship at St. John's:

- 1) Individual Spiritual Development – members engage in individual reading and learning activities that promote increased knowledge of the Bible and its relevance to their lives, as well as an improved prayer life.
- 2) Mentoring – more spiritually mature and experienced members mentor others in faith; this is often a one-on-one activity
- 3) Program – short-term content-based sessions occur that are focused on a curriculum or other content; these often have a topical or seasonal emphasis (e.g., Advent, Lent, etc.)
- 4) Discipleship Small Groups – these small groups are missional-relational in nature and led by two or more experienced members; the emphasis is on developing transformative relationships through small group activities and sharing life together.

Within each of these four modes of discipleship, there are on-ramps to the discipleship pathway that allow people of different maturity levels and different generations to access activities that help to move them toward increased Christlikeness. We recognize that becoming more Christlike is not a goal just for our own personal growth and maturity, but the purpose is to encourage us to live out our mission in the world to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to everyone. Church members enthusiastically engage in activities that allow them to mature as followers of Christ who make disciples.

The effectiveness of this discipleship pathway is evident in a number of outcomes. A high percentage of the congregation regularly participate in the discipleship opportunities that are offered. There is clear evidence that people are growing in their love for God and for one another. There has been an increase in the fruits of the Spirit evident among members. There has been an increase in participation in the life and mission of the church. Scores on the Natural Church Development Survey's Passionate Spirituality factor have increased. There are enough skilled leaders available to provide all four discipleship modes to an increasing number of individuals, to carry out the church's evangelization and ministry projects, as well as to fill all the administrative positions in the church.