



## Our Mission

Helping people  
**find grace. learn hope. be light.**

## Our Values

### Grace renewal

We get that there is an ever-present temptation, powerful in the Inner West, to preserve our pride by thinking that strong willpower alone is the way that we change and grow; but, that results in a Christianity for the strong and excludes the weak – when actually, we’re all weak.

*And so ...*

We value grace renewal – the fact that being Christian is grace from first to last. The grace which saves us is the grace that changes us to be more and more like Jesus, because it’s only grace that melts our hearts and orders our loves, and the loves of our hearts drive everything we are and do.

### Spiritual rhythms

We get that life in the Inner West is pressured and pressurising, pulling and pushing us in different ways; the result is that over time, this can make discipleship to Jesus compressed and incomplete.

*And so ...*

We value intentional rhythms of grace – daily, weekly, monthly, spontaneously – that knead the gospel into our hearts and lives: Bible reflection and prayer, corporate worship, witness, service, fellowship.

### Gospel fluency

We get that it’s much easier to live a compartmentalised life, rather than an integrated one, with Christianity confined to some corners; but the fact is that the gospel changes everything.

*And so ...*

We value being really clear and really good at knowing how to speak the gospel into every situation, decision, temptation and opportunity that we face, so that every crevice of our lives is being conformed to Christ.

### Full devotion

We get that, despite our fervent wishes, life is rarely under control, that things can go tragically wrong, and that suffering is only a heartbeat away; and the temptation when things are hard is to turn inward to ourselves and away from God; but the fact is that only God is strong enough and trustworthy enough to be the anchor for our soul.

*And so ...*

We value being full in our devotion to the Father; we hold nothing back, trusting that we never miss out by going all-in with Jesus and that the more you’re in Jesus, the more you are you.

### Cultural literacy and engagement

We get that a post-Christian culture makes it tempting to hide away in holy huddles and shrilly shout at the world around; but the truth is that the gospel is too good not to share, and too important not to be understood.

*And so ...*

We value deeply understanding the joys and sadnesses, desires and fears of the people around us so we can speak the gospel to their hearts. And we value investing our time and energy in doing what is good and undoing what is bad – by enacting justice and enriching culture – so we can adorn the gospel to the people around us.

### A community of grace

We get that it is all too easy to drift into pseudo community (superficial friendliness and acceptance, only loosely holding onto Jesus’ call to holiness) or, into moralistic community (superficial holiness, only loosely holding onto our mutual need of Jesus’ grace and forgiveness). Yet the truth is, in this lonely world, more and more people are desperate for deep, authentic connection.

*And so ...*

We value a grace-based community, where we lift one another up in our striving to grow like Christ, both as the church gathered on Sunday in worship and as the church scattered during the week in the world, but never putting another down because we all stand in the grace of Jesus.

## Our Prayer

To grow more and more into fully devoted children of God, who know, love and serve, the Lord Jesus Christ, His church and His world, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father.

## Our Vision

***In 10 years time, CCIW will be a community of Christ’s people who are...***

### Thriving, not just surviving

We will be a people who are both more and more deeply grounded, formed and renewed by the grace of Christ in spiritual rhythms and gospel fluency; and at the same time more and more insightfully attuned and attentive to the culture of the Inner West and Sydney; so that we not only cope with the particular temptations and opportunities of the culture around us, but flourish in it with poise, passion, and gospel-driven purpose in full devotion to the Father.

### More fruitful , less fearful

Strong in Christ, we are confidently and intentionally embedded in our networks of family and friends, neighbours and colleagues so that we know the joy of seeing hundreds of people – some who’ve never been to church, some who used to go to church – find grace, learn hope, and be a light for Christ, added to His church.

### Beyond ourselves, not just for ourselves

We are one church, knit together over an increasing number of sites, in sustainably multiplying congregations, each one a joyful community of grace in which we strengthen one another to be intentional kingdom servants who are a blessing to the Inner West and beyond by enacting justice and enriching culture in Jesus ’name.

#### By the end of 2025



A humming invitational culture, flowing into our Sunday gatherings and outreach events, resulting in:

- 3 Alpha cohorts per year, of 25 guests per cohort.
- 25 adult baptisms per year
- 10 confirmations per year.



The rhythms of grace are well known, well understood, and increasingly practiced, and every member knows what their next steps are to grow.



A suite of resources and opportunities developed and piloted that release kingdom servants to bring light to their homes and workplaces, schools and universities, neighbourhoods and communities.



Growing from 3 sites and 5 congregations to 4 sites and 8 congregations, with fully resourced outreach, youth and children’s ministries.

#### By the end of 2023



Every member of CCIW will be an everyday witness: more equipped and intentional in prayer, spiritual conversations, and invitation to church life, to help people find grace.

#### By the end of September 2023



The Parish Council and staff will produce a draft 10 year strategic plan for ministry structure, property, and finance, alongside the long term vision and Five Dock masterplan.



Parents will be invited to help finalise the children’s and youth ministry white paper, and we will begin to implement recommendations.



Mid-week groups will complete the Ripple Effect (Module 2), and we will take the temperature on everyday witnesses and determine next steps.



The staff team will research alternative models for mid-week fellowship and spiritual learning, and decide whether to augment our programs in 2024.

## Our Strategy

**Outreach → Inclusion → Spiritual Growth through the rhythms of grace**  
supported by excellent stewardship of our physical and financial resources.