

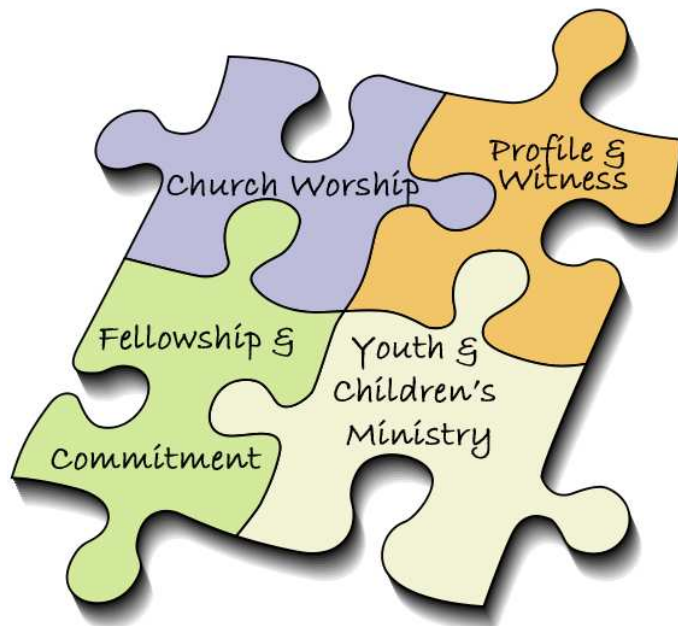
Faughanvale Presbyterian Church

Mission Plan

2010/11

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“Connect”



Introduction

This mission plan has been prepared in line with the “Tell it Again” mission planning process using the following key themes:

- Why?..... (the Bible’s story of God’s mission to the world)
- Who?..... (the story of our congregation’s life and witness)
- Where?..... (the story of our local area)
- What?.... (the story of what God is calling us to do)
- When?.... (the unfolding of the story God is calling us to be part of in the future)

Why?.....(the Bible’s story of God’s mission to the world)

In setting the background for the mission plan, it is clear that:

- As Christians we have come into a **relationship** with God – but that relationship brings responsibilities
- The responsibility of **stewardship** towards all God has given us
- The responsibility of **action** – living lives changed by the Gospel
- The responsibility of **sharing** the Good News of Jesus Christ
- We have to take on these responsibilities **ourselves**
- We have a responsibility to act in **humility**
- The responsibility to **communicate** God’s message, through teaching, educating, influencing and baptising

As we accept our responsibilities we believe that we will see God at work and so we pray that His will may be accomplished in our midst.

Who?.....(the story of our congregation's life and witness)

Our discussions centred around the history and tradition of our church and a number of key points were identified:

- Long tradition – established in 1730
- Traditionally rural/farming community
- Links to local area and Military Forces based in the area
- Excellent facilities – Church Halls
- Innovative – Organ Music, Children's Day, Sunday School Excursion, Crèche, PowerPoint
- Involved in Local Mission – clubs, youth
- Involved in Overseas Mission – BB India, Financial Support
- Team-working – fund-raising, Millennium Hall
- Strong children's ministry with long connections with youth – Girl's Auxiliary, Boy's Brigade, Guides, Crusaders, Nite-Lite etc.

It is evident that as a church we have a lot to live up to, there is a long tradition of service to the community and involvement in mission both locally and abroad. In short we are a caring church that hasn't been afraid of change and progress.

Church Activities

Infants (Aged 1 – 4)	Creche, Baptism
Primary School (5 – 11)	Sunday School, Robins, Juniors, Rainbows, Brownies
Teenagers (12 – 18)	Crusaders, Nite Lite, Sunday School, Bible Class, Boys Brigade, Guides, Rangers
Young Adult (20 – 30)	YWG
Young Parents (31 – 45)	Family Service, PW, YWG, Baptism
Mature Family (46 – 60)	Bowling Club, PW
Retired (60+)	Bowling Club, PW, Sunshine Club

An analysis of Church activities shows that whilst there are a large number of organisations catering particularly for children and teenagers, there is a void particularly in the young adult and adult male areas.

Where?.....(the story of our local area)

An analysis of our local area demonstrates that we live in:

- Growing, busy villages of Eglinton and Greysteel which are expanding rapidly
- Also local commercial/business area
- A safe environment with a 50:50 mix of religions
- Generally affluent area – high proportion of owner occupied households
- An area which experiences some crime, drug, alcohol abuse and social needs
- An aging population
- A changing village and area – rural community now commuter town
- Little activities for teenagers
- Good educational standards
- Good community co-operation
- High educational achievement – many teenagers progress to higher education
- 27% births to unmarried mothers – lower than NI average.

We should count ourselves very fortunate to live in an affluent, safe area with excellent educational standards but we need to recognise that it has changed radically over the last twenty years and is continuing to change. That change obviously brings many challenges.

What?....(the story of what God is calling us to do)

In considering what God is calling us to do, we identified both Internal and External issues which need to be addressed.

Internal Issues:

- Infrequent Church attendance
- Low representation from 25-40 age group
- Lose touch with teenagers after they become full church members
- Strong youth groups but need to encourage stronger links with church attendance/involvement
- Difficult to get to know new members
- Out of sight – out of mind (need to raise local awareness)
- Less involvement in community than in the past
- Poor attendance at evening services
- People reluctant to get involved or volunteer – “same faces all the time.”

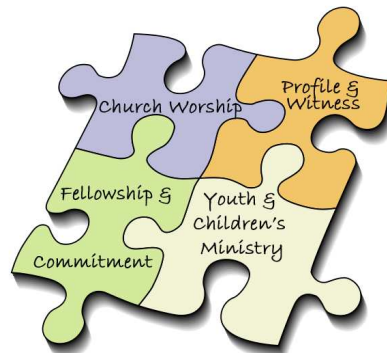
External Issues:

- Crime, drugs, alcohol culture and social needs
- Teenage boredom – e.g. Eglinton busy in the evenings with young folk hanging around
- Increasing number of unmarried mothers
- Village centres around the “Happy Landing” bar, not the church
- Both parents working – no time for church
- New people coming into the area/villages
- People feel they don't need church – secular society
- Potential for greater involvement in overseas mission.

We then developed what our Mission Statement should be:

“To present the gospel of Christ in a relevant way to all”

In considering our Mission Statement and looking at the various internal and external issues that we had identified, we felt that there were four key areas or themes involved and that a key theme of Connections was evident. Our Mission Plan should therefore address the issues identified under each theme.



● **Church Worship**

- Infrequent Church attendance
- Poor attendance at evening services
- Low representation from 25-40 age group
- Both parents working – no time for church

● **Youth and Children's Ministry**

- Lose touch with teenagers after they become full members.
- Strong youth groups but need to encourage stronger links with church attendance/involvement
- Crime, drugs and alcohol culture
- Teenage boredom e.g Eglinton busy in the evenings with young folk hanging around

● **Fellowship and Commitment**

- Difficult to get to know new members
- Less involvement in community than in the past
- People reluctant to get involved
- New people coming into the area

● **Church Profile and Witness**

- Out of sight – out of mind (need to raise local awareness)
- Increasing number of unmarried mothers
- People feel they don't need church – secular society
- Social needs
- Greater involvement in overseas mission
- Village centres around the "Happy Landing" bar, not the Church

When?.... (the unfolding of the story God is calling us to be part of in the future)

This section considers what we intend to do within our Mission Plan and when these events are expected to happen, see year plan.

A critical aspect of the plan is the recognition that the responsibility for the implementation of the plan should involve a larger group of people than the current six person Mission Plan committee. It is planned to hold a focus group of key influencers within the congregation in September and with God's guidance encourage greater ongoing participation through this approach. However, we recognize that the work of mission is ongoing and our plan also includes current events which are already in progress.

It must also be noted that this is an ongoing process and we plan to prepare the Mission Plan on an annual basis and review six-monthly.

Key Actions

● **Church Worship**

- **Sunday Fellowship** – Monthly starting September 2010 – A re-think of the traditional monthly evening service with a more informal event, e.g. looking at relevant issues and aimed at encouraging wider participation across the whole congregation. (Linked to Fellowship)
- **Church Service Structure** – Whilst attendance at the regular family services is good, there is a noticeable drop in attendance at the normal church worship. We intend to carry out a general review of the traditional church service to identify ways of encouraging greater attendance.
- **Elderly & Sick** – We are conscious that the issue of the elderly and sick in the congregation needs further discussion. In particular, transport, visiting and the recording of the Sunday service are areas which need to be addressed. (*Pastoral Issue*)

Youth and Children's Ministry

- **Leader's Sunday** on 23 May 2010 – An initial training day for all youth leaders.
- **Children's Day** – 6 June – We will continue the traditional children's day service and use it as an opportunity to involve a wider representation across the congregation.
- **Summer Team (2010)** – July 4 – 11 – A week long range of events organized by the PCI Youth Team. Main features of the programme are a Holiday Bible Club for Primary age children and evening events for Teenagers, including contact with some of the young people who hang around Eglinton Village in the evenings. This year we intend to encourage greater involvement by the congregation and plan to have a planning meeting with the team leaders in mid June.
- **Youth Event** – Aimed at the 18 – 30 age group, we are planning to hold a youth event in February 2011. Again the specific details need to be agreed but initial thoughts are some form of modern praise service.
- **New Members** – Further meetings of this year's New Members Group will be organized and these young people will be encouraged to take an active role in the ongoing development of the church. *Also the possibility of a church team taking part in overseas mission will be considered. (See also Witness)*
- As part of our youth planning, we will use specialist advice to assist us.

Fellowship and Commitment

- **Social Event** – Two general congregational social events are planned, the first at Harvest time and the second round St Patrick's day. With the large number of new people coming to the village these events will help encourage people to get to know each other better.
- **Men's Event** – We plan to hold an initial social men's event in November 2010 the details of which are still to be agreed. The objective of the event is to encourage greater social involvement with the male members of the congregation.
- **Walk & Talk** - A series of walks are planned in the village during the month of June 2010. These are aimed at the ladies within the congregation and will offer them the opportunity to socialise and encourage encouraging new members into the church. If successful, it is intended to repeat this approach on a regular basis.

● Church Profile and Witness

- **Publicity** – An initial information card detailing basic church details has been printed and will be distributed to local hotels, restaurants etc. A further more detailed information booklet is planned to be ready for the end of the summer. An ongoing publicity campaign will be maintained with local press with the objective of increasing the awareness of the church within the local community.
- **Social Responsibility** – We recognize our social responsibility within the community in which we live. Last year, we attempted to reach out to the local teenagers through the summer team initiative and this work will be continued this year. In addition, the revamped Sunday Fellowship meetings will allow a range of social issues to be highlighted and discussed.
- **Overseas**– The possibility of a church team taking part in overseas mission will be considered to include not just our Young people, but people of all ages.
- **Web Site** – The church website has been running for over a year now and continues to provide a wealth of information. This will be maintained and developed in the future.

● General

- **Mission Plan Focus Group** – There is a need to broaden out the mission planning function from the core 6 person mission committee. It is planned to hold a focus group to discuss the mission plan in greater detail and from this identify four working groups who will be responsible for each section of the mission plan.
- **Prayer** – In all our plans we remember that without the Lords hand upon us we will achieve nothing, so we therefore call for both corporate and individual prayer that God would guide us all as we seek to be used in the extension of his Kingdom in Faughanvale and further afield.