

ANNUAL REPORT

Built to Flourish



Message from Pastor Adam

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, it is a joy to have the opportunity each year to reflect on the year that's been. The AGM is the perfect place for us, as a church family, to pause, give thanks for God's faithfulness, and actively listen for where God is leading us next.

Looking back over the last five years, my heart is absolutely overflowing with gratitude for how far we have come. When you step back and look at the trajectory of our church, it is nothing short of a testimony to God's grace and our quiet, faithful resilience. We haven't just been passing the time or keeping programs running; we have been deeply and permanently transformed.

Think about where we've grown:

- **Wiser, Gospel-Centred Decisions:** We have moved from quick fixes to seeking God's wisdom first. The way we discern our choices today reflects a deep maturity and trust in Christ's guidance.
- **Perseverance Through Storms:** We have walked through discouraging circumstances, unexpected hurdles, and seasons that could have easily broken our momentum. Yet, we didn't pull back, we pressed in. We showed up, prayed through, and demonstrated a faithfulness that has strengthened the very foundation of this church.
- **Expanding Compassion:** Our hearts for the broken, the lonely, and our surrounding community have grown. We are seeing compassion move from an abstract value to a lived reality in how we care for one another in times of trial and how we extend grace beyond our doors.
- **A Culture of Curiosity & Deep Relationships:** We've become a people who aren't afraid to ask big questions, to grapple with Scripture, and to learn together. In doing so, our relationships have shifted from superficial Sunday greetings to genuine, authentic fellowship where we carry each other's burdens.

Every quiet act of service, every hour spent in prayer, every step towards reconciliation, and every moment of generosity over these five years has mattered. We have allowed Jesus to form us into a discipleship-focused, service-hearted community. I want to say a profound thank you to you all. God has done something truly beautiful among us, and we have every reason to celebrate!

What next? Just like we all need a regular check-up with the doctor, so does the church. We want to make sure every aspect of church life is aligned to God's will and that we are heading in the direction of His calling. I have been Pastor since November 2019 and it's time we have our check-up. So, as part of this coming year we want to ask ourselves a searching question: *What will God hold our church accountable for in our generation, and what does our preferred future look like if we faithfully pursue it?* Assessing our spiritual and operational health right now allows us to discern that future together with clarity, unity, and purpose.

To help us evaluate where we are, we will be using the Baptist Union of Victoria's **Flourishing Church Framework**. This model saves us from chasing single-issue trends, leaning on past traditions or favoured ministries. A healthy church isn't just focused on one thing; it is a living system that balances every dimension of ministry. This framework keeps us grounded in a holistic vision: holding grace and truth together, pairing good news with good deeds, and nurturing both our internal care and our external mission without compromising either.

The framework gives us four clear pillars that shape our shared life:

- **Spirituality:** This is our foundational experience and expression of God. It's about cultivating deep intimacy with Jesus through the everyday habits, rhythms, and practices, our spiritual *habitus*, that anchor our daily lives in prayer and worship.
- **Church Character:** This addresses our internal leadership, structures, and processes. It's where our leaders act as enablers, equipping every single believer to see their daily job, community, and neighbourhood as a primary place of worship and ministry.
- **Church Life:** This is the vibrant heartbeat of our congregation, our growth in discipleship, hospitality, and rich diversity. It's where we move from being passive sheep in a building to active shepherds caring for one another in accountable community.
- **Church Mission:** This is our outward calling to the communities around us. True mission isn't just an occasional 'outreach project,' it's an all-in lifestyle shift where our members are invested across the whole neighbourhood, bringing individual and community transformation through evangelism, justice, and compassion.

As we look to our next chapter, we aren't just leaving our future to chance, we are taking action together. **This coming October**, everyone is invited to help shape our next five years through four key initiatives:

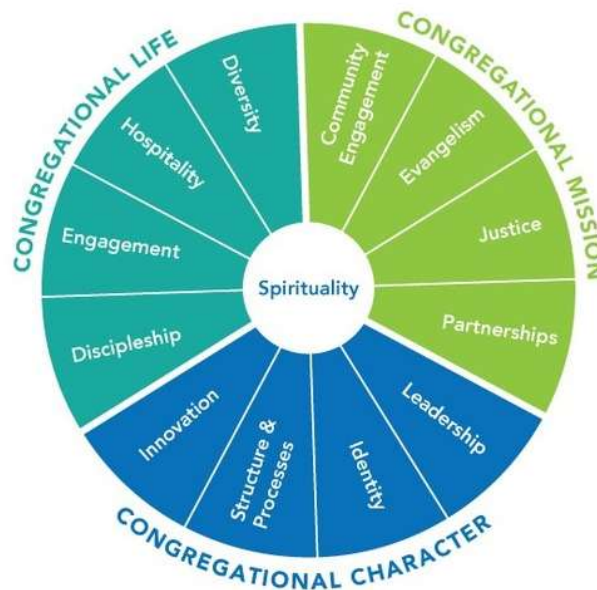
1. **Our Sermon Series – "Built to Flourish":** We will explore what it means to be a resilient, Kingdom-shaped church in our culture today.
2. **A Mid-Week Study and Fasting Guide:** Designed for personal reflection and small group communities to help us form everyday rhythms and practices of faith.
3. **Post-Service Strategy Workshops:** Interactive sessions right after our Sunday services in October where you can share your voice, roll up your sleeves, and help shape our strategic roadmap for the next five years.
4. **Commitment Service:** The first weekend in November will be a table-based Sunday morning service, where we will run through the key aspects of our action plan and seek everyone's commitment to make it come alive.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, your deep heart for our church, and your partnership in sharing the Gospel to the neighbourhood. I believe that God has big plans for us and the best is truly yet to come!



Our Focus This Coming Year

Flourishing Church Framework



Here are some questions to prompt our thinking

Leadership: To what extent does your church have the leaders it needs for its current life and mission and future strategy and aspirations?

Identity: To what extent are the ministry decisions and activities aligned to this purpose vision and values in decision making?

Structure and processes: How well do the organisational structure and administrative processes of your church enable effective and efficient decision making and action by members and leaders?

Innovation: To what extent is there encouragement to have-a-go and permission to fail in your church?

Discipleship: In what ways does your church intentionally equip and encourage people to walk with God through the week?

Congregational engagement: How does your church assist people to discover and use their gifts and talents in serving others through ministries of the church?

Hospitality: To what extent do members of your church meet together outside of organised church events?

Diversity: To what extent does the demographic profile of your church's leadership reflect the congregation?

Community engagement: If your church disappeared from its neighbourhood, who outside the congregation would miss it and why would they miss it?

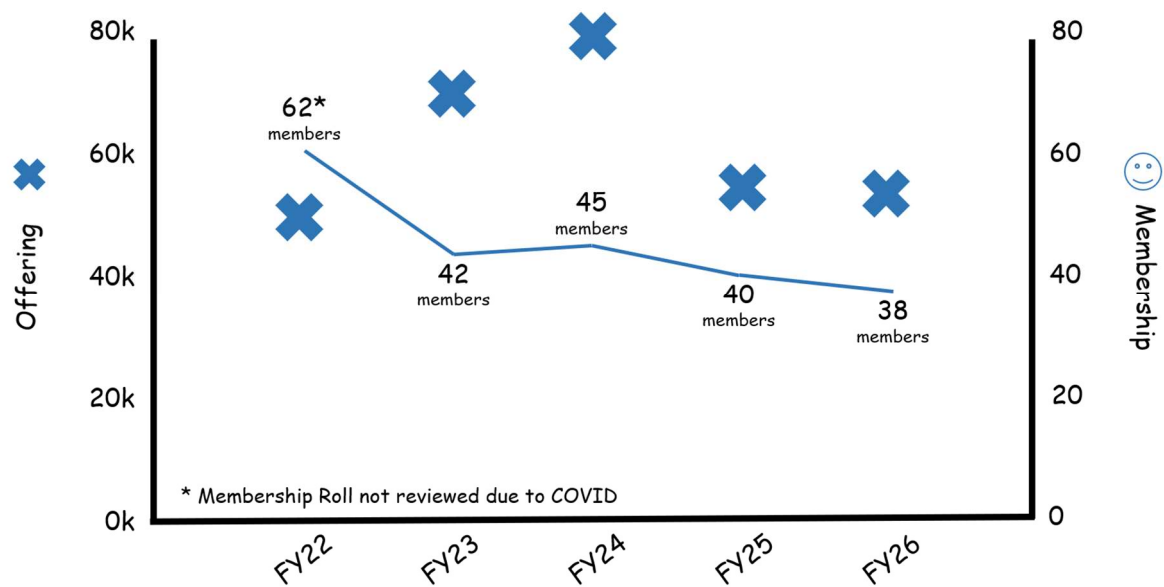
Evangelism: Think about how many people have begun to follow Jesus Christ in the past year as a result of personal witness and activities provided by your congregation?

Justice: What has your church done this year to care for the marginalised or people in need (i.e. those living in poverty or homeless, with domestic abuse, asylum seekers/refugees, first nations people, etc)?

Partnerships: In what ways has your church worked with other churches this year?

2026 Snapshot

Offerings and Membership (5-year overview)



Total Deductions actuals (5-year overview)

