

Crafting Your Church Mission Statement

A mission statement defines your church or your ministry's purpose and calling; it's the "why" of your church. If you don't have a mission statement, there's no time like the present! It will take time, reflection and effort to land on the right words, but having a carefully developed mission statement will provide direction and consistence for all of its ministries, aka it's worth it.

Some things to consider when writing your mission statement for the church:

WHAT DOES OUR CHURCH DO?

If your church has existed for a while, what has its past work looked like in theme, groups served and outcome? If your church is new, focus on what type of work you feel called to/hope to do. Jot down what comes to mind.

HOW AND WHY WAS THIS CHURCH PLANTED?

What motivated your team (or the original team, if your church is well-established) to form this church in the first place? Has that motivation changed over the years? Try to articulate why you've put in this effort so far. The answer to that question could be the start of a mission statement!

WHAT ARE OUR VALUES?

Values go hand-in-hand with your mission. Most churches share common broad values such as service and obedience to God's will. For your mission statement, try to narrow your focus to those values that matter most to your congregation.

EXERCISE

In the outer ovals, each person in your discussion should write values you believe your church demonstrates or would like to demonstrate. Discuss your choices and narrow them down to three that you agree are central to your church's mission. Write those in the center oval.

The diagram consists of a large central oval. Surrounding it are eight smaller ovals, arranged in two vertical columns of four on either side of the central oval. This layout is intended for a group discussion where each person writes a value in one of the outer ovals, and then the group narrows down to three values to be placed in the central oval.

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT OUR CHURCH?

Consider the unique aspects of your church. What sets it apart from other churches in the area?
How do you differentiate (or plan to differentiate) yourselves in the community?

START WRITING YOUR STATEMENT

Our Tips (Before you declare your statement finished, use these as a checklist!)

- Keep it brief. Generally, one sentence not exceeding 50 words suffices.
- Visit other church websites (or search “church mission statements”) for examples. Use ones you like as a potential model for your church mission statement.

The Barnabas Foundation shares these examples of phrases you can build on or adapt for your own purpose:

- The mission of (the Church Name) is to ...
- Our mission is to ...
- Some churches jump right into the action, beginning their statements with phrases like “to create,” or “to equip.”

List some organizations/churches whose **mission statements stood out to you** and, if you wish, include details about what stood out:

- Write multiple drafts. As you go through the writing process, keep every statement you create. Schedule more than one mission statement meeting with time in between; revisiting earlier drafts with fresh eyes often brings new clarity and ideas.

- Pray and Discuss. It’s just one sentence, but it carries a lot of weight. Ask for God’s guidance in crafting a mission statement that provides biblical direction for every ministry in your church. Discuss with your team any reservations or “have we thought of it from this angle” types of questions.

YOUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Congratulations on completing this important piece of your church’s DNA!

- Share your mission statement with your congregation and decide where to publish it. (On your website, in printed materials, etc.)

Adapted from <https://www.churchplaza.com/writing-a-mission-statement-for-your-church/>