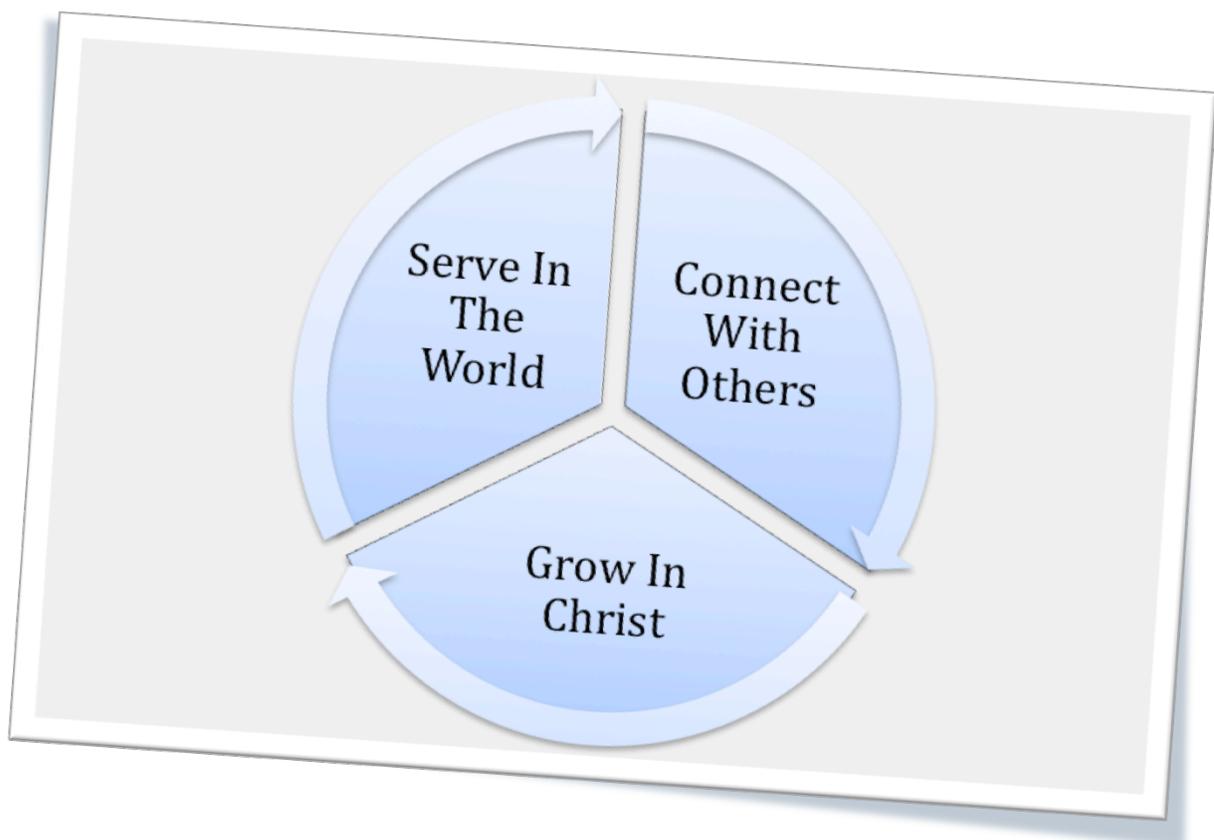

NP 2.0 | ReVISIONING 2010

▲ NORTH POINT COMMUNITY CHURCH ▲
CONNECT—GROW—SERVE

North Point Community Church—

We are here to help people
Connect with others in the journey
Grow in Jesus Christ
& Serve in the World



I. SIMPLE OVERVIEW

NP Purpose

We are here to help people find meaning and belonging in the journey of life. That meaning and belonging will be found through a journey that connects individuals to God, others and the world.

Simply—

our purpose is to help people connect with others
in the journey, grow in Jesus Christ,
and serve in the world

NP Process

The journey of faith will happen as each individual moves through and interacts in three primary environments—community with others, spiritual growth in Jesus Christ and service in the world.

There is alignment, movement and inter-relationship all at the same time.

These environments are found in the following North Point “programs” —

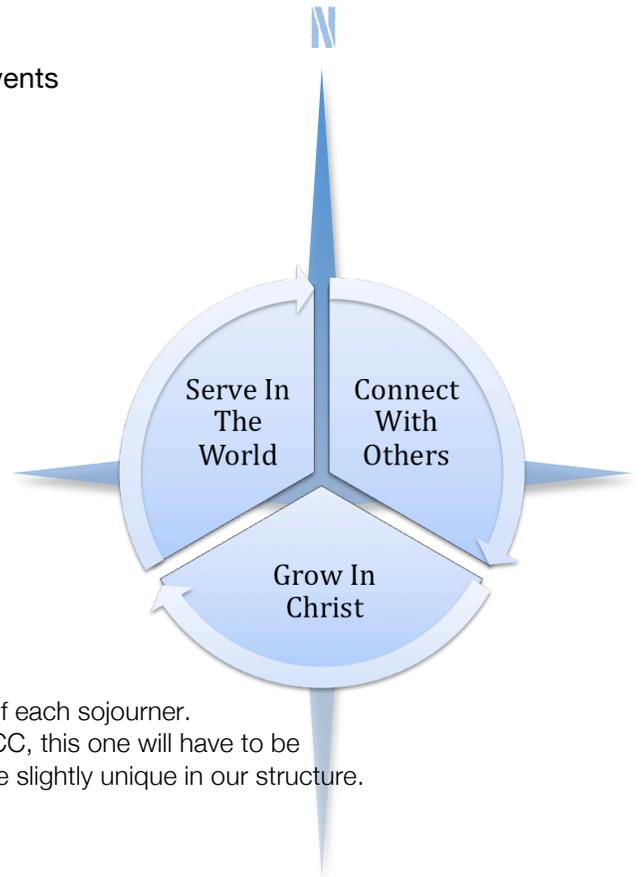
- I. Sunday Worship Gatherings
- II. Weekly LIFE Groups
- III. Serving Opportunities
- IV. (Intermittent) Focused Events
- _____
- V. Personal & Family Life¹

NP Metaphor

A compass pointing to ‘true north’ —
meaning & belonging

Moving through each environment

Centered in Jesus Christ



¹ *Personal & Family Life* is a critical “program” for the growth of each sojourner. While the other four programs will have oversight through NPCC, this one will have to be “owned” by each individual on the journey. That’s why it will be slightly unique in our structure.

II. THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

Gospel, Kingdom & Jesus Christ

The gospel is the good news of the kingdom of God, the reign of Jesus Christ that is here now, and still yet to be fully realized. It is at the center of God's great vision of redemption for humanity. To *step into the journey* with God is to step into a relationship with Jesus Christ, for everything is centered in and through and on Jesus Christ.

Missional God, Missional Church

The whole movement of this journey is a movement of redemption, a movement from the heart of a missional God to the hearts of a lost and broken world. The missional story then is the journey of the spiritual sojourner on a search for meaning and belonging. It is a journey of discovery that takes the sojourner into a community of faith that is experiencing the very life of the missional God in Jesus Christ. And it is a journey of grace that opens ones eyes to see their place not only in the community of faith but in unfolding story of God's greater redemption in the world.

Therefore, to experience the kingdom of God is to experience the heart of the missional God. And to experience the missional God is to participate in the redemption story with the missional Church, a community of faith moving forward into God's redemptive vision.

Discipleship, Spiritual Formation & the Journey of Faith

Each individual who enters into the journey finds that they are part of a process of spiritual life and formation. The path begins as the sojourner moves from a place of trust in themselves towards a trust in Jesus Christ and his kingdom. It is a transformation, a conversion, a move into a journey that is experienced with others and learned as they become disciples (literally, *apprentice*) under Jesus Christ.

Along the way the individual moves from sojourner to disciple to one who is sent out² into the world (while ever deepening in their connection to community and life in Jesus Christ).

Thus, the movement is both forward and continually back and forth through each of the environments.

² Apostle, literally means "sent one." So the movement is from sojourner to disciple to apostle.

III. NP PURPOSE—A MORE DETAILED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROCESS³

NP Purpose

We are here to help people find meaning and belonging in the journey of life. That meaning and belonging will be found through a journey that connects an individual to God, others and the world.

Simply—

our purpose is to help people connect with others
in the journey, grow in Jesus Christ,
and serve in the world

NP Process & Key Environments

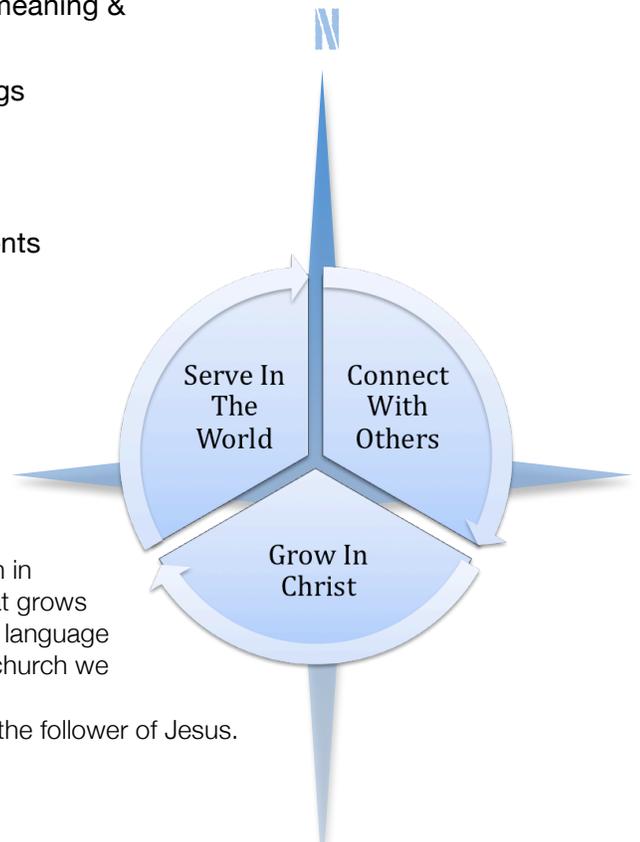
The journey of faith happens as each individual moves through and interacts in three inter-related environments—community with others, spiritual growth in Jesus Christ and service in the world.

These environments are unique in and of themselves and have specific aspects that must be learned there. Yet they are also inter-related in that the disciple never completely finishes learning all that there is to understand as so much of the learning comes through the dynamic relationship between each of the key environments.

There is, therefore, alignment, movement and inter-relationship all at the same time.

These environments are found in the following North Point “programs.” And these programs will be the primary means by which we encourage sojourners to move towards meaning & belonging⁴ in their life.

1. Sunday Worship Gatherings
 2. Weekly LIFE Groups
 3. Serving Opportunities
 4. (Intermittent) Focused Events
-
5. Personal & Family Life⁵



³ NP Purpose & Process. This is a more detailed development of our purpose, giving further explanation and understanding to key points and ideas.

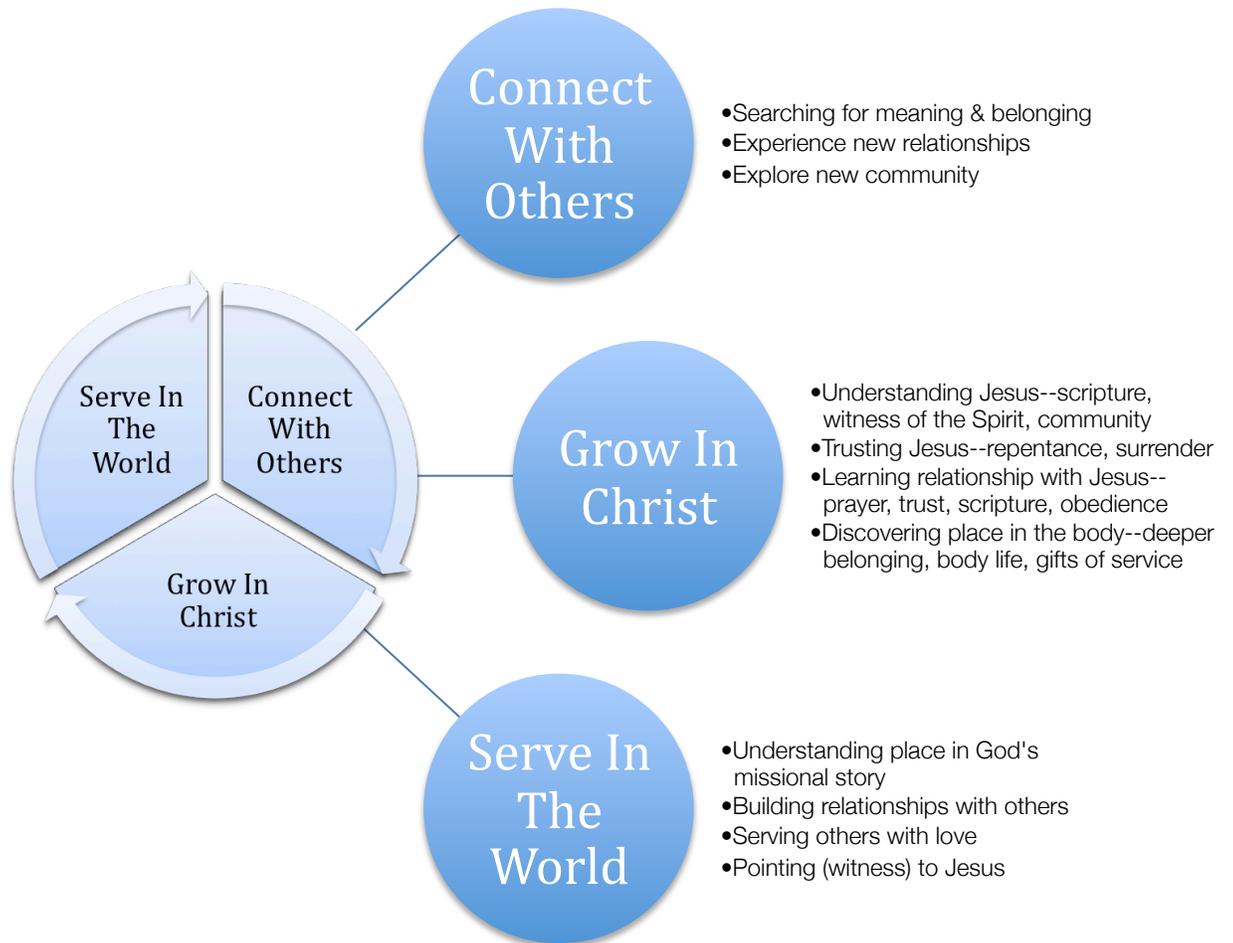
⁴ Meaning & belonging is what it means to find deep satisfaction in God, and in turn, to give him glory. It is the outcome of a life that grows in maturity in Christ. But in an attempt to be consistent with our language in this document and focus our ideas on the newcomer to our church we use “meaning & belonging” here.

⁵ Personal & Family Life is a critical “program” for the growth of the follower of Jesus.

Key Understandings & Movements In The Process

As just indicated, each environment or ministry program isn't set up so that people will move from one to the next without ever returning. No, there will be constant learning and relearning. But it would seem to be realistic to identify critical "understandings" or "spiritual moves"⁶ so the sojourner moves forward in their journey towards meaning and belonging.

The following identifies a sequential order in the process—



While the other four programs will be directed by North Point, this one will have to be "owned" by each individual on the journey.

⁶ These critical "understandings" or "spiritual moves" could also be called marks of discipleship. They are reflective of the progression of spiritual growth that needs to happen in every follower of Jesus. See further detail of this on page 10.

Process, Movement Between Programs & Strategic *Hand-offs*

Critical to spiritual growth, and thus, critical to process is creating strategic *hand-offs* or *connections* between each of the environmental programs.⁷ The following seeks to identify those “strategic hand-offs.”

Movement from—

sunday worship

Sunday Worship to Life Groups will be encouraged as we

- Promote Life Groups via the NP Weekly
- Tell stories of “life together”
- Invite people to join
- Pray for people to join
- Promote through Newcomers Luncheon
- Teach on & refer to community/Life Groups in teaching

Sunday Worship to Focused Events

- Promote events in weekly
- Tells stories of events
- Pray for people to attend events
- Invite people to events
- Refer to and teach value behind events

Sunday Worship to Serving Opportunities

- Promote Serving Opportunities via the NP Weekly
- Tell stores of “serving together”
- Invite people to serve
- Pray for people to serve
- Teach on & refer to serving/mission in teaching

life groups

Life Groups to Sunday Worship

- Tell stories of our Sunday Gatherings and Worship experience
- Invite people to Sunday Worship
- Refer to and teach the value of participation in Worship/Sabbath together

Life Groups to Focused Events

- Tell stories of events
- Invite people to events
- Refer to events in life group

⁷ This will be the real task of leadership—monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of our strategic hand-offs. Are people actually moving from one environment to the next? Is there a dynamic of spiritual life and deepening of meaning and belonging? Or, are people falling between the cracks and/or becoming stagnant?

Life Groups to Serving Opportunities

- Serve together, and then
- Tell stories of serving
- Invite people to serve

focused events**Focused Events to Worship**

- Tell stories of gathering for Sunday Worship
- Invite people to Sunday Worship
- Refer to Worship during event

Focused Events to Life Groups

- Tell stories of Life Groups
- Invite people to Life Groups
- Refer to Life Groups during events

Focused Events to Serving

- Tell stories of serving
- Invite people to serve
- Refer to serving during events

servicing**Servicing to Sunday Worship**

- Various promotions and invitations
- (encouraging this *connection* is a little more difficult due to the nature of many of the serving opportunities)

Servicing to Life Groups

- Various promotions and invitations
- (encouraging this *connection* a little more difficult due to the nature of many of the serving opportunities)

to Personal & Family Life

- Various opportunities, promotions and teachings to encourage growth in both personal & family life
- Also, reflected in *NP Partnership Covenant*

Creating Movement & Process Within Each Program

Each environment, particularly our Sunday Worship & Life Groups, will also be shaped to encourage *connecting with others, growth in Jesus Christ and serving in the world.*

This means that we will shape each program⁸ in three ways—

Sunday Worship

- Time for connecting, invitations to Life Groups, etc
- Creating not just teaching but learning opportunities
- Serve together as the NP Family (couple times per yr)

Life Groups

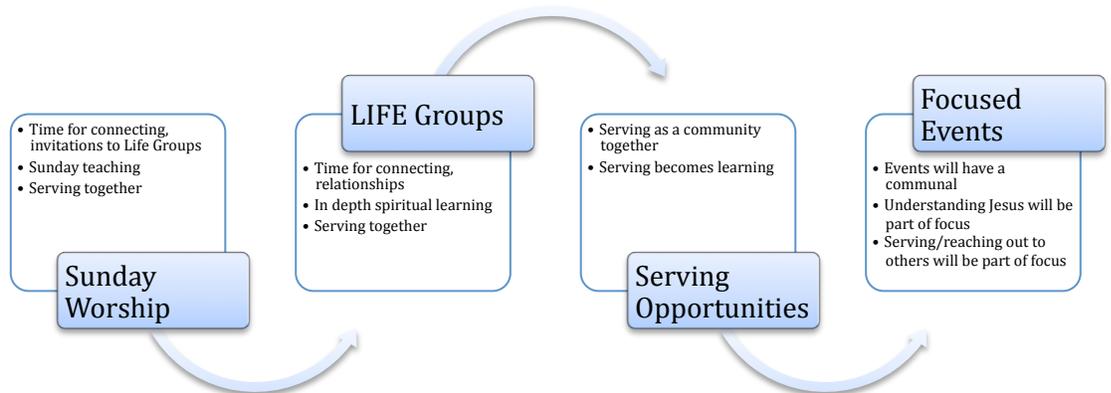
- Time for connecting, relationships
- In depth learning and interaction around biblical truth
- Serving together as a group (and with neighbourhood friends)

Serving Opportunities

- We will try to make all of our serving opportunities communal
- Serving in itself is a catalyst towards learning

Focused Events

- Events will have a communal aspect to them
- Understanding who Jesus is will be part of some events
- Serving/reaching out will be a part of many of the events



⁸ It will be much easier for us to shape Sunday Worship & LIFE Groups in this way, as these two particular programs provide a better context to do so (specific Serving Opportunities & Focused Events will intentionally have a narrower focus to their purpose).

Personal & Family Life

Critical to the spiritual growth and effectiveness of our purpose will be a covenant of action, or ‘rule’ of living⁹. It will be both personal and communal, inward focused and outward focused.

Each North Point disciple who believes in the purpose & process of our church will covenant¹⁰ to make the following commitments—

- To “do life together” with others in a Life Group
- To attend Sunday Worship regularly
- To serve within the body
- To learn from Jesus & his teaching
- To practice disciplines of the spirit
- To bless people each week
- To invest in relationships with non-believers
- To live a life that points (witnesses) to Jesus Christ

⁹ The ancient followers of Christ used a “Rule of Life” as a series of practices that they would commit to. Practices that would reflect the kind of life they are choosing to live and the kind of life that they seek to take shape within their own character and behavior.

¹⁰ This covenant will be expressed through our “Partnership Covenant.”

IV. CRITICAL ‘UNDERSTANDINGS’ OR ‘SPIRITUAL MOVES’

Moving From Sojourner—Disciple—Sent One

Earlier we indicated that it is realistic to identify critical “understandings” or “spiritual moves” as the sojourner moves forward in their journey towards meaning and belonging.

We suggested that there was a sequential order, or growth in the process, as the sojourner moved forward.

Here is further development of those *eleven “understandings”*—

Connecting With Others—Sojourner

1. Searching For Meaning & Belonging. As the Spirit of God moves in the sojourner’s heart there begins a “spiritual searching,” a desire for something more. This will likely look different for many people, but this openness becomes for many the beginning of the journey.

2. Experiencing New Relationships. While it’s possible that the sojourner may have read a book or listened to something on the television, it’s more likely that along the way he or she connects with a follower of Jesus. That relationship, even if it’s just one of practical friendship becomes a place of trust, and trust in turn leads to further exploration.

3. Exploring New Community. “New Community” is at the heart of North Point Community Church. Through friendship the sojourner moves towards a connection with others, maybe through a serving opportunity or a Sunday Worship service or with a LIFE Group. It’s in this environment that the sojourner is not only seeking deeper meaning for their life, but they are watching and deciding if this *community* is authentic—a place where they can be real, ask questions and find answers.

Growing In Christ—Disciple

4. Understanding Jesus. At a certain point in relationship and community with others that sojourner moves to a place of *understanding* where they see Jesus for who He really is. They grapple with his claims on their life, and move to that place of repentance and belief. This will happen through the witness of the Spirit, the community and scripture itself.

5. Trusting Jesus. This is the place of conversion where one has sufficient understanding of Jesus and they turn from their sin and turn towards trust in and surrender to Jesus.

6. Learning Relationship With Jesus. The new disciple now begins to grow “in Christ” as they learn the dynamics of relationship—prayer, scripture, trust and obedience—with Him.

7. Discovering Place In The Body. If the disciple hasn’t understood already, they also realize that their journey is communal, it’s part of a larger story, and they are now part of the body of Christ. It’s this understanding of their place in the body where they begin to see that they are called to love and care and serve one another, and that they have spiritual gifts that need to be used so that the whole body can grow into maturity in Christ.

Serving In The World—Sent One¹¹

8. Understanding Place In God’s Missional Story. The disciple also moves to a place where they see that it isn’t just about their “belonging” in the new community, but that they are part of a greater story in the world. That their place in the body is actually a place of mission and purpose and blessing to others in the world.

9. Building Relationships With Others. As the disciple understands their place in God’s missional story they begin to see their everyday relationships as opportunities to witness and bless others. So they spend time in those relationships and invest in their friendships with non-believers. This begins the next step in the journey from disciple to ‘sent one.’

10. Serving Others With Love. Here the Christ-follower sees their place in serving others in the world—it could be the neighbour across the fence, the homeless downtown, or some where around the globe. In the mind of the ‘sent one’ they understand that there is no difference in who you are or where you are, all of us are called to be ‘sent’ into the world.

11. Pointing (Witness) To Jesus. Through this journey one begins to see their whole life, and thus, their relationship and service to others as an opportunity to be a witness to Jesus Christ. You could say, *that they live each day by pointing towards ‘true north!’*

¹¹ When Jesus sent out his disciples he said—“as the Father has sent me, so I am sending you” (John 20:21). The word “apostle” literally means, sent one.

V. SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATIONS¹²

Importance Of

The Missional Story of God is reveal through the scriptures. And part of being the people of God is recognizing that we stand under the authority of Jesus Christ and the revelation of God’s purpose through the scriptures.

The following outlines the *scriptural foundations* for North Point Community Church’s purpose.¹³

Scripture

Connect With Others—Community. Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-35; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13.

Grow In Christ—Relationship With God, Body Life Together. Matthew 28:18-28; Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:15-23; Ephesians 4:11-13. 1 Peter 4:8-10; 2 Peter 1:4-11.

Serve In The World—Outreach, Blessing. Genesis 12:1-4; Isaiah 43:10-12; Isaiah 45:21-24; Matthew 5:13-14; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 22:27; Acts 1:8.

Gospel. Mark 1:1; Luke 4:18-21; John 1:1-15.

Missional God. Genesis 12:1-4; Isaiah 54:5; Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10; Colossians 1:15-20; 1 Peter 2:9.

Sent One/Apostle. Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:21.

¹² These Scripture Foundations particularly relate to North Point’s Purpose Statement. For scriptural support of our Statement of Faith go to www.cmalliance.ca.

¹³ All scriptures will be from the New Living Translation, unless otherwise indicated.

VI. UNDERSTANDING TERMS

Value Of

The value of identifying key terms and agreeing on meaning is that they become a reference point for teaching and communication in the present and further discussion in the future. Without these terms identified future pastors, leaders and leadership teams will have a tendency to more readily bring in their own biases.

The following intends to give meaning and definition to critical words and phrases in this document.

Key Terms

NP Purpose Statement (simple)—We are here to help people connect with others in the journey, grow in Jesus Christ, and serve in the world. (Feb '10)¹⁴

This simple statement will be our primary statement used on communication materials, teaching, etc. And it will be what we ask people to remember as a summary statement of some of the bigger ideas attached to and undergirding this simple sentence.

NP Purpose Statement (longer)—We are here to help people find meaning and belonging in the journey of life. That meaning and belonging will be found as individuals connect with others in community, grow in Jesus Christ, and serve in the world.

Meaning & Belonging—Meaning speaks of humanity's deep desire to find purpose and value in life. It is that which lies behind all of our pursuits, good or bad, pure or perverse. Belonging is part of meaning, but particularly it recognizes that all of us have been hard-wired for relationship. Meaning will only be truly found with others.

Journey & Pathway—The value of seeing the spiritual life as a journey or path is twofold. First, on the one hand this spiritual meaning & belonging are not found in some magic pill or sequential steps. They, like everything relational, are found as we move down an unknown path. For each sojourner that path is both similar and unique to their life and circumstances. At the same time, the journey is also a good metaphor because it carries with it the idea of destination. All journeys go somewhere. This one is a journey that goes deeper into life with our missional God and His Kingdom.

Connecting With Others—This is the first of our key environments. It is both the idea of the sojourner making new friendships with people on the journey (whether knowingly or unknowingly), and the deeper step of experiencing life together with others in community.

Growing In Christ—This is the coming to understand the life, teaching and person of Jesus Christ, and then moving from understanding to trust, and from

¹⁴ This statement adopted at NP Elders Team meeting, 26.02.10. The whole document was accepted 26.03.10.

trust to further growth in what it means to be a part of the body of Christ. This will typically happen as one cultivates a relationship with Jesus Christ through scripture, community with others and Sunday Worship.

Serving In The World—This is the movement in the disciples life when they realize that they are part of a bigger community which is participating in a much larger story. Here the disciple begins to serve others both within and outside the body. They are seeing now that their lives have meaning and purpose as they live lives of blessing and witness to Jesus Christ in the world.

Interrelationship of Connecting, Growing & Serving—It is important to realize that these three ideas aren't simply stops along the journey, but continual environments of learning and relearning. Much of which happens through the dynamic relationship between the three.

Environments—Spiritual growth and formation ultimately happens through the gracious work of the Holy Spirit. Our part is to create opportunities within healthy spiritual environments that become dynamic places for life to form. Each environment is like an ecological biome that is organically connected to the others.

Programs—Our programs are the primary ministries that the sojourner moves in (and through) to experience connecting, growing and serving. Each program will be used to focus on at least one, or all, of the environments.

Movement—Is the idea of spiritual growth and formation. Healthy things grow, and the journey of faith is no different. We seek to create movement because we seek a deeper life in Christ.

Strategic Handoffs or Connections—These are the specific actions that are put into place to “move” people from one place of learning or environment to another. They are critical to ensure movement and healthy growth.

Partnership Covenant—Our *Partnership Covenant* seeks to reflect our purpose and process.

Alignment—Is how we purposefully structure the ministries around our process. Our alignment takes into account our ends and our means, or our desire for spiritual growth and the critical understandings/learning's that must be grasped. Alignment speaks to the *what* and the *why* of our ministries. *What are we trying to accomplish? And why will this ministry help us accomplish this?*

Focus—Is our commitment to continually evaluate our purpose-process so that we can be effective. It takes into account the organic nature of spiritual growth, which means in part, to be willing to root out anything that doesn't produce life.

Being The Church Together—This is one of our tag lines that both carries our identity from the past and reminds us that we are a community, or maybe better, a family of faith.

Doing Life Together—Is another tag line that continually reminds us that we just don't come to church or do bible studies, we actually are seeking to be a community/family of faith that shares, supports, loves and serves one another. We aren't a church, we are a community of faith that does its life with others.