

Understanding of the Roadmap for Toronto Jaffray Chinese Alliance Church

2018-2023



After listening to the voices of discernment at the January and February leadership retreats, the Board of Elders and the pastoral team have prayerfully crafted this document which provides the different ministries at Jaffray some specific directions to plan a 5-year road map. Our goal is to cultivate the soil of Jaffray in the hopes of creating a Christian culture that encompasses the following qualities:

- Deeper Life
- Welcoming Spirit
- Unity
- Kingdom Mind

Like good soil to a plant, the right Christian culture enables believers to grow and flourish. By nurturing a deeper life, a welcoming spirit, a united heart, and a kingdom mind in all its congregants, Jaffray will be able to blossom with the Fruit of the Holy Spirit and become a blessing to those inside and outside the community of Christ.

Deeper Life

A deeper life comes from an ongoing and ever-growing experience of God. It is a spiraling ascent where Christians abide more and more in Christ, allowing the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to sanctify them through and through. As the Holy Spirit works in the life of a Christian, drawing him/her deeper into Christ, he/she naturally becomes more mission focused. This is in line with the vision of Rev. David Hearn (President of C&MA in Canada) for the C&MA as a Christ-Centered, Holy-Spirit Empowered, Mission-Focused movement. In the next five years we hope to see brothers and sisters:

- Read more on, know more of, and walk more in obedience to Biblical truths
- Experience more of the Love of God in Christ Jesus
- Practice more of personal prayer, participate more in corporate prayer
- Be part of a discipleship / mentoring / coaching relationship, working towards lifelong spiritual growth
- Participate more in confession, repentance, and reconciliation with others
- Include others in discerning the will of God in major decisions
- Dedicate themselves in serving, leading and giving
- Dedicate themselves in the work of mission and live missionally
- Serve together across different generations

Welcoming Spirit

By the grace of God, Jaffray has developed into a church with four congregations speaking three different languages. It is also located in a culturally diverse community. We need to recognize this as a God-given opportunity to welcome everyone to Jaffray. In the next five years we hope to see:

- Every newcomer, regardless of cultural and ethnic background, be welcomed and received by Jaffray. Our love for one another will become our witness for Christ to the world.

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Welcoming Spirit (Cont'd)

- Every small group, fellowship, worship service etc. be facilitated in a way that welcomes newcomers, exhibits spiritual growth, and nurtures relationships with God and with one another.
- Church facilities improved to become more welcoming (e.g. bathroom improvements, parking lot signs, etc.)
- Natural numerical growth because the love of God is evident at Jaffray (Acts 2:47)

Unity

Though Jaffray has four congregations, it is one church. As stated in our core values, our congregations are to be “united in diversity”. Therefore, we need to cultivate and pray for a culture where diversity is lovingly recognized and respected, while working together for God’s Kingdom as one Body of Christ. In the next five years we hope to see:

- All four congregations caring for, praying for, and supporting each other’s ministries.
- More friendships established among congregations.
- More opportunities created to share resources, experiences, and wisdom among congregations so that biblical values can be passed on, and that each congregation and generation can and will embrace its own unique vision.

Kingdom Mind

By the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us, we participate in the advancement of God’s Kingdom on earth. We need to think beyond our own church (i.e. Jaffray) and seek to participate in the workings of God in other communities. God has blessed us with a debt-free facility and abundance of other resources which can be offered to assist in church activities beyond Jaffray’s own. Let us take Christ’s words to heart: “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” (Luke 12:48b). In the next five years we will:

- Mobilize Jaffray to reach out to the ~1000 Cantonese and Mandarin-speaking families in our neighborhood.
- Seek God’s guidance on how we can offer our church facilities and resources to other congregations (regardless of ethnic or cultural background) that are in the process of church planting and may need a place to congregate in the meantime. By the nurturing power of the Holy Spirit, we hope to see Jaffray’s heart becoming more and more generous and Kingdom-oriented.
- Explore the possibility of starting a separate worship service that is geared towards university-college students, in addition to the current worship services.
- Explore the possibility of partnering with other C&MA churches in church planting by discerning the guidance of the Holy Spirit through praying (including with other C&MA churches), vision casting at Jaffray, and setting aside a church-planting fund of \$50,000. The target group of this joint venture may be Chinese-speaking or second-generation congregants.