



What We're About At Island Bay Presbyterian Church

Connecting People with God and Each Other

Island Bay Presbyterian Church (IBPC)

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If you wish to financially support IBPC and its ministries by direct credit from your bank, our account details are:

Bank: ANZ

Account Name: Island Bay Presbyterian Church

Account number: 06 0577 0004356 02

Automatic payment forms are available from the church office.

What We're About At Island Bay Presbyterian Church



Connecting People with God and Each Other

This booklet briefly outlines what we're about at Island Bay Presbyterian Church (IBPC). It answers

questions such as what we most value, where we put our resources and focus, and what we're committed to. In summary it gives you a good overview of the unique flavour or 'DNA' of our church community.

The Church is unique in that its vision and organisation is shaped and equipped by God. However we, as his disciples, also shape the values and qualities of our church community, just as the churches described in Revelation 2 and 3 did in the bible .



The church is shaped and equipped by God

In this booklet you'll find a collection of value statements relating to key areas of our church life, such as discipleship, social justice, worship, fellowship and service to each other and to our community. These

statements reflect our heart - what we most value and believe. It's our hope that in reading and praying through this booklet, you'll gain insight into what God is doing with and through us, for this time and in this place.

Please join us on this exciting journey in connecting people with God and each other!

Faith Family in Action!



Our Heart Statement:
Connecting People with God and each other

Our Heart Statement

You may have noticed the statement **Connecting People with God and Each Other** on the top of our documents. This statement reflects the heart of what we're about. *We're a faith family in action!* In all we do, we strive to help connect people with God, and deepen that connection through discipleship in Jesus Christ. We are so blessed as Christians to have God come to us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. God *wants* to be known, and wants us to come together in that knowledge and love. God also wants us to participate in sharing this relationship with our community, helping others find their own connection with God; Jesus tell us we are 'salt' and 'light' to the world (Matthew 5:13-16). *Connecting People with God and Each Other* reflects what we most value. It expresses our heart at IBPC.

Fellowship at IBPC

What is fellowship?

Fellowship is the gathering of the people of God under the direction of God's Spirit. One of the unique and very beautiful qualities of the church is that it crosses social boundaries such as race, age, or economic classes. This reflects God's love for everyone, and God's desire for us to find solidarity with people whom society often neglects or ignores. This makes fellowship deeply rewarding and occasionally challenging! At IBPC, we prioritize time with each other through small groups, Sunday services, opening up our homes and tables to each other, and praying with

Making it a reality

The values listed in this booklet can only be sustained with your support and prayer. The well-being of the church, Christ's body, depends on you and everyone's commitment to what God has called us to be and do. To help sustain and promote the values of Island Bay Presbyterian Church:

- Please keep this booklet in a place where you can read and pray through it regularly.
- Attend an Orientation evening if you haven't already.
- Take some time to reflect on what you are doing against the values written in this document.
- Reflect on your level of financial giving to support existing and new ministries in our communities (*see details on the back of this booklet for direct credit*).
- Attend a Connections Course, if you haven't already, to help identify your spiritual gifts and calling.



We turn toward a new life characterized by forgiveness of sin

means to stop and renounce the domination of sin in our life and turn back to God - to turn from a life characterized by sin and separation from God, to a new life characterized by forgiveness of sin, obedience to Jesus and renewed fellowship with God and God's people.

While most people can recall a time or event when they became a Christian, evangelism remains a *daily* journey of turning towards God, and turning away from things that harm or bind us or those around us.

At IBPC:

- ✎ We value serving our community as a symbol of our faith
- ✎ We equip people to share with confidence the Gospel (or good news) of Christ.

Reviewing our life together

To help sustain and uphold what we value, we review how we are going against our values and what we are actually doing. Findings will be reviewed by our parish council and shared with the church.

each other. We serve our community through acts of loving service as an expression of God's love and care.

At IBPC:

- ✎ We support each other and our community with practical help and prayer
- ✎ We strive to meet with each other outside of communal worship in different ways that enables deeper fellowship.

Our Worship at IBPC

What is worship?

Worship is about setting ourselves aside for glorifying God and celebrating creation. This is all the more important when our lives are filled with constant busyness. There is a graciousness and gratuity to worship; we renounce what we could be doing, set aside our own agenda and creatively enter God's story. We experience this in song or music, poetry, art or in the written word. In worship, God is the One who requires *all* of our being; our bodies, our minds and our hearts. This is why it's so important to gather together as the body of Christ, such as partaking in communion (the bread and wine) together.



We support each other with practical help and prayer



In worship, we creatively enter God's story

At IBPC:

- 👏 We value creativity within order to aid different groups coming together
- 👏 We seek to link our communal worship experiences with the rest of our life with Christ and each other through the week
- 👏 We make space for people to connect with God at our Sunday worship

Our Discipleship at IBPC**What is discipleship?**

Christian faith is a journey. While it starts off with God accepting us just as we are, God wants us to move deeper in our identity as a disciple or follower of Jesus (discipleship development). As we journey with God, we belong less to ourselves, and more to Jesus and God's people; it's a process of giving up, but in return, receiving abundant life in Jesus (John 10:10). This journey enables us to become more 'salty' or transformative in God's world through how we live, what we say and what we do.

At IBPC:

- 👏 We actively disciple our children and youth and provide regular discipleship opportunities for everyone
- 👏 We value equipping people to share faith experiences
- 👏 We intentionally seek to share and connect our journeys and passions to help one another grow in Christ.



Discipleship is a journey of belonging less to ourselves and more to Jesus

Our Social Justice at IBPC**What is social justice?**

Since the birth of the Church, Christians have engaged in the realities of injustice, oppression, poverty and discrimination. God invites and commands us to be part of his redeeming work in God's world; to loosen the yoke and chains of those who share our flesh and blood. It is woven into our mission, and is also part of our evangelistic (good news) response. We stand in solidarity with those who are oppressed, imprisoned or locked in poverty, because God does (read Matthew 25:34-36). Where there are structures of oppression or evil, such as organisations that use child labour or sweat shop labour, terrorism or violence, Christians are called to be a light in the darkness.



We stand in solidarity with those struggling with poverty, discrimination or injustice

At IBPC:

- 👏 We value being involved in people's work in social justice as part of the global church
- 👏 We seek to promote social justice issues even when it causes us discomfort.

Our Evangelism at IBPC**What is evangelism?**

Evangelism is about witnessing to what God has done, what God is doing and what God will do. Jesus began his ministry on earth by asking people to 'Repent and believe the good news' (Mark 1:15). To repent in this context