

**The Seventh-day Adventist Church at Kettering**  
**Strategic Planning**  
**Mission, Vision & Values Statement**  
**June 1999**

**Our Mission – What We Do:**

It is the purpose of this church to fulfill the Great Commission: (1) to reach lost people everywhere with the gospel; (2) to transform them into fully equipped disciples for Jesus Christ.

**Our Vision – What We're Becoming:**

Our vision is to become a health and well-balanced church that functions like the church described in the book of Acts.

We understand this to mean that we will be a church that:

- Cares for people and nurtures them with the love and compassion of Christ
- Sees every member as a minister with Spirit-given gifts for ministry
- Grows numerically through conversion, baptism and church membership
- Practices good stewardship of money, time, abilities, health and life
- Supplies adequate financial resources to all ministries
- Builds people and develops leaders
- Worships God in innovative, joyful and varied ways
- Mentors younger members into ministry and servant-leadership
- Makes disciples who make disciples
- Makes it possible for every child to obtain a Christian education
- Invests in youth as the future of the church
- Serves its community
- Is made up of small groups
- Lives by grace as it has been saved by grace

**Our Values – What We Believe In:**

- **Lordship of Christ** – Jesus is Lord absolutely. Everything we do is subject to His will. He expresses His will largely through the Bible, to which we look as our authority in all things pertaining to the church, its life and its work, its ministry and its leadership. Since Jesus is a living Lord, we look to him for a dynamic and living leadership, thereby avoiding the mistake of so many church leaders who said, “We have arrived at truth. This far, and no farther.” We want to be doctrinally and Biblically pure, and, at the same time, culturally relevant. We understand all the distinctive core teachings of Adventism under this heading.
- **Worship** – Since God is primary, our worship of God is secondary only to our obedience to God under the dynamic lordship of Jesus Christ. We seek to worship God with vitality, reverence, glory, awe, wonder, excellence, and with our minds, hearts, souls, emotions, intellects, and artistic expression. The worship of God should be meaningful and accessible to all generations; therefore, we value both traditional and contemporary forms of worship. We believe that all worship should be done with excellence.
- **Community** – We value loving, genuine, and authentic relationships with one another. We are committed to speaking the truth in love, and to loving one another with the kind of love with which Jesus has loved us. We believe that God is striving to build a new community, and that all we do in ministry should be done in community.

- **Equipping** – We believe in the priesthood of all believers, i.e., that all Christians are ministers. Those of us who have the call and gifts for pasturing are to understand ourselves primarily as equippers, enablers, empowerers of the ministries of the rest of the church. We believe that all members have received spiritual gifts for ministry, and that it is our ministry as pastors to help every member of the church to discover and use their gifts for ministry. Our leadership is thus a servant leadership rather than a commanding, authoritarian leadership. We value self-directing teams that do ministry in community.
- **Evangelism** – Lost people clearly matter to God and, therefore, they matter to us. We understand our mission to be the Great Commission. We understand the Great Commission to consist of two halves: First, to go into the world proclaiming the gospel in order to seek and to save the lost; and second, to disciple those who believe and are baptized so they become fully devoted followers of Jesus, equipped to do “all things whatsoever” Jesus might command them.
- **Growth** – All Christian begin their life in Christ with baptism, which is not an end but a beginning. This is new birth and from it we are to grow to maturity in Christ, be transformed and changed into His image, becoming as like Him as possible by becoming all that He created us to be. Full devotion to Christ is normative for every believer.

<b>Our Strategy – What We Plan to Do:</b>
---

**Corporately, as a church:**

We will commit to build a health New Testament church where all the five characteristics of the Biblical church are present and functioning in a well-developed and balanced way. These five characteristics of a health church are:

- **Worship** – joyful, gospel-rich, Christ-centered, Biblical, creative, heart-touching, God honoring
- **Fellowship** – caring, sharing, burden-bearing, authentic, vulnerable, loving with Christ’s love
- **Discipleship** – growing to maturity, learning how to live under the lordship of Christ
- **Ministry** – using spiritual gifts to serve others in the name of Jesus
- **Evangelism** – sharing the good news of the gospel with those we meet in our daily lives

**Individually, as Christ-followers:**

We will each commit to these seven steps for following Christ into servanthood:

- **Make friends with some lost people** – we will find, meet, make friends with, love and serve people who are not Christian so Jesus can use us to love them.
- **Become a contagious Christian** – we will prepare ourselves to be good witnesses for Jesus Christ by learning how to give a winning verbal witness for Him
- **Invite people to the seeker service** – we will invite people to come with us to a service designed especially for the unbeliever/unchurched person
- **Take full advantage of what the church offers me** – we will be part of corporate worship, study and growth opportunities, fellowship, and training events in order to become fully functional followers of Christ
- **Become a member of a small group** – we will find a small group of fellow-believers and become part of the fellowship for worship, genuine relationships, growth and ministry to others
- **Put spiritual gifts into play for the kingdom** – we will learn about our personal spiritual gifts and use them according to our joyful passion for ministry in order to serve others and advance the cause of Christ
- **Be a faithful steward** – we will remember that what we have belongs, not to us, but to God, and we will use our money, our time, our health, our abilities and all our resources wisely and for His kingdom