

# ***Living Out Good Intentions: Practical Love in Life, Ministry, and Mission***

A Next Steps Action Plan for Sherman Street Christian Reformed Church

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- OBJECTIVE 1 -

## ***LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR***

*Prioritize “love of neighbor” as a primary expression of faithfulness to God*

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### OBJECTIVE 1 GOALS

1. Encourage greater involvement in good neighboring by members where they actually live and work
  2. Collectively increase relational presence and strengthen neighbor-to-neighbor connections in the Baxter area and nearby southeast side communities
  3. Establish and/or sustain working partnerships with identified local organizations for the purpose(s) of spiritual and social transformation
  4. Actively support local businesses, establishments, and “common good” initiatives
  5. Cultivate and deepen our passion for justice and sustained advocacy around the acknowledged challenges of local residents and institutions
  6. Consistently assess the effectiveness and relational capacity of all outreach ministries through the strategic lens of “with others”
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- OBJECTIVE 2 -

## ***WORK FOR JUSTICE***

*Work for and demonstrate racial reconciliation and justice in our everyday lives*

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### OBJECTIVE 2 GOALS

1. Establish training opportunities for raising awareness and developing competencies for socially diverse engagement(s)
2. Increase the number of friendships we have with those who are racially-culturally different
3. Invest in organizational partnerships that help us reach this objective
4. Participate in events and initiatives that encourage relationship building and mutual learning

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- OBJECTIVE 3 -

## ***STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY***

*Strengthen the internal sense of community in a way that promotes holistic discipleship, cross-generational participation, and leadership development for kingdom influence*

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### OBJECTIVE 3 GOALS

1. Identify key milestones and habits on the spiritual journey for all disciples of Jesus (to assist those serving as spiritual mentors and guides)
2. Utilize small groups and ministry teams as primary contexts for ongoing spiritual growth and effective mission
3. Form an apprenticeship strategy for all council and ministry leadership roles
4. Establish life mentoring connections between willing, wise adults and willing, open teenage youth
5. Implement a gifts-based approach to ministry/mission participation ... from “cradle to grave”

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- OBJECTIVE 4 -

## ***IMPROVE STRUCTURE***

*Improve structural support for effective ministry/mission*

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### OBJECTIVE 4 GOALS

1. Refocus and enhance prayer strategies around key initiatives
2. Identify needed building improvements to better utilize embedded hospitality passion(s), teaching gifts, and educational/training skills
3. Develop better, more creative, more interactive communication processes
4. Cultivate faithful stewardship and sacrificial giving among members