

## Red Cedar Vision Picture – 3-5 Years from Now

### Overall Statement

Red Cedar Church is a story of stories. It's a ministry to Northwest Wisconsin that is having an impact in the forceful advancement of Christ's Kingdom. We are hearing stories of lives that have been transformed by Jesus Christ working through the ministries of Red Cedar Church. We are hearing stories and seeing changed lives in people of all ages and life experiences. These stories are being expressed through our culture, outreach, worship, kids and students, discipleship and leadership development.

### Culture of the Church

1. Christ is the head of the church. When it comes to the mission of the Church His vote is the only one that counts.
2. We are committed to equipping people with Biblical literacy.
3. We are committed to reaching lost people for Christ.
4. We have a leadership pipeline that pours into existing and new leaders on staff, the board, the congregation, and throughout all of our ministries.
5. When God directs, we say "yes" before we ask how.
6. Red Cedar is a safe place for non-believers and believers to explore faith, ask questions, and chase after the God who is pursuing them.
7. The Holy Spirit is actively released in unprecedented ways and we regularly see the miraculous happen.
8. We are committed to intergenerational experiences throughout every ministry of the church.
9. We have a hunger for God and are chasing after revival in ourselves, our church, in our region through Red Cedar Rooms and with other churches.
10. There is demonstrated trust and relationship within the congregation, board, and staff, as well as in the local towns and the region.
11. People are spreading the gospel wherever they go. The church building is a hub for people and we're equipping them to go out to their workplaces, homes, and communities to share the Jesus who loves them.
12. We are taking obedient risks and encourage leaders to try new things without the fear of consequences or failure.
13. We have an engaging & relevant online campus/presence to expand our reach. This online campus has as much of an impact in a number of regions as we hope for regional in person experiences/discipleship.
14. We are an evaluatory church on the front end and be willing to make strategic changes in response to that evaluation, even hard changes, to be in alignment with the mission.
15. We are a church of innovation, with both in-person and online communities. We will not only define ourselves by the spread of our geographic locations, but also by the reach of our online presence.
16. We are committed to making disciples who are continuously being formed into the image of Christ.
17. Red Cedar Church is built around the idea of practicing the way of Jesus together in our communities. We strive to live out the Gospel in our communities throughout the week.
18. We are spiritual contributors and not spiritual consumers. The church does not exist to serve us first. We are the church, and we exist for the world.
19. We are operating under an effective Guiding Principles document.
20. Our church attenders engage in wise financial stewardship in their personal lives and give generously to fully fund the mission and vision of the church.

## **Outreach and Engagement**

1. We engage in our communities and region and are known for having a positive impact and reputation.
2. In the communities we have a presence, people want to be part of what God is doing through Red Cedar Church and Red Cedar Rooms. There is a buzz about the impact the church is having in the region and many are joining us in what God is doing.
3. There is a school after-care ministry that is investing in children and families.
4. We are intentionally partnering with other churches in the communities we engage in to multiply Kingdom influence and impact.
5. We have “fresh expressions” of the church including 20 Red Cedar Rooms within 5 years throughout the Wisconsin Northwoods, from Ladysmith to Siren - from Ridgeland to Hayward.
6. During focused serving seasons whole towns are flooded with red “Here to Serve” shirts as we do everything possible to serve and engage our neighbors with the love God has for them.
7. We identify, equip, and release “marketplace ministers” into the communities and region we impact.
8. Recovery Ministries see weekly life transformation through the power of Jesus Christ.
9. We are relationally connected with missionaries who serve worldwide and we support them with finances, prayer, and participation in their ministry through regular short-term mission teams.
10. We offer all content & experiences in multiple languages (Spanish, Somali, Chinese, etc.)
11. We continue to identify felt-needs in the community and respond appropriately.

## **Worship**

1. Worship services are engaging and Holy Spirit-filled. The presence of God is life-changing and palpable.
2. We frequently celebrate baptisms, stories of transformed lives, and regularly see people make commitments to follow Jesus Christ
3. The weekend experience is an environment where all people feel at home.
4. There are times when the power of the Holy Spirit is so “real” that we set aside the sermon to stay in presence of God.
5. The weekend services are a time of gathering and celebrating what God has done during the week.
6. The primary purpose of the worship gatherings is to put the work of God on display and give Him glory. In doing so we facilitate a space where non-believers can be drawn in to his presence and maturation discipleship can begin to take root in believers.
7. There is a full and creative use of the worship arts every weekend from ancient traditions to contemporary expressions.
8. We use well-executed production, technology, and online ministry to assist us in effectively worshipping God regardless of location.

## **Children’s Ministry**

1. Kid’s ministry is so effective at engaging with children that the parents have to come because their kids can’t stay away.
2. Parents are equipped to disciple their own children and to lead them to Christ.
3. Adult volunteers are passionately serving because they sense God’s call to make an eternal difference in Kid’s lives.
4. There are teachers, leaders, and apprentices in every area of ministry. New leaders are always being developed.
5. Children are accepting Christ regularly.

6. Within 3 years we will have completed the research for a “reduced cost” daycare so that under-resourced people in the community can bring their kids to be cared for and have them exposed to the message of Jesus.
7. Kids are telling their friends about Jesus and about Red Cedar Church.
8. We have a play place open to the community.
9. Kids Worship services are engaging and Holy Spirit-filled. The presence of God is life-changing and palpable.

### **Student Ministry**

1. Students are grounded and have ownership of their faith and feel confident to share it with their friends.
2. Students are proud to invite their friends to attend Red Cedar Church in Rice Lake and at Red Cedar Room student ministries in other communities.
3. Parents are equipped to disciple their own students.
4. Biblical literacy is widespread for our kids and teenagers. When the kids start middle school they know how to feed themselves spiritually. They know Jesus and how to interact with him personally.
5. Our student ministry is highly focused toward being a place where everyone is welcomed. We are intentional in working together as a community to create and establish a safe space for all.
6. Student ministry is a place where students feel safe to ask questions and confront non-biblical worldviews and are equipped to Biblically respond to those views when on their own.
7. Student worship services are engaging and Holy Spirit-filled. The presence of God is life-changing and palpable.
8. Young Adults ministry is thriving and draws many students from Student Ministry (YTHX) as well as from our local young adult subculture. They are connecting with what life is like with other adult Christians. This demographic, 18-28 year olds, are engaging their friends and impacting the local social culture. A full team of leaders and volunteers pours into them and builds relationships as they grow in spiritual and human maturity.

### **Discipleship Ministry**

1. Groups are doing service projects in their neighborhoods - shoveling, mowing lawns, helping elderly/widows, small scale and large scale projects.
2. “People are living sent.” People see themselves as ministers in their sphere of influence.
3. There are many mature believers. People reaching maturity in their faith, have a deepening passion, and are mentoring and discipling others to multiply themselves.
4. People are learning what their gifts are and are serving in areas that match those gifts. They are being equipped in and living in their gifting in the church and in their everyday life, 24/7.
5. There is a strong community within the Body of Christ at Red Cedar and is shown through groups and relationships resulting in 75 % of the adults are in small groups that are functioning effectively and being led by called, trained, and equipped leaders.
6. Small group participants are going deep in their faith and raising up disciples.
7. We are faithfully equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry. No ministry area is lacking passionate volunteers. We are continually looking to develop new volunteer ministry opportunities that are aligned with the giftings of the people in our body.
8. We are consistently equipping people to share Jesus in their sphere of influence.

## **Care Ministry**

1. The people of the church know they are loved, valued, and are cared for in practical expressions of meeting their needs and fully supporting them.
2. We have a team of experienced volunteers and leaders who are ready to help with practical needs like small home repairs, moving, winterizing, and spiritual encouragement.
3. We have a well-led and fully developed benevolence ministry that includes financial counseling and a clear evangelism strategy with follow-up and connection to discipleship.
4. We have a dynamic hospitality team that creates an environment where everyone really feels welcomed regardless of their background. People who walk in with reservations or barriers quickly drop them and are able to experience the presence of God without reservation.
5. Red Cedar feels like home to everyone who comes into each campus or Red Cedar Room.
6. We have an active prayer ministry that ministers to the people and moves the hand of God.
7. People are freed from spiritual bondage weekly through inner healing ministry. This ministry is also helping other churches experience this ministry.
8. We are a regional hub for inner healing ministry in Northwest Wisconsin.
9. We are effectively caring for those who are elderly or unable to attend our worship gatherings.

## **Leadership Development**

1. The Lead Pastor models leader development and has a passion for the Red Cedar Leadership Pipeline that all staff and elder board are engaged in.
2. We are committed to monthly and quarterly intentional leadership training, equipping, and development with staff, the board and identified leaders and future leaders in every area of ministry.
3. We are committed to grow as leaders and to invest in the growth of leaders around us.
4. We are committed to identifying potential leaders and giving them space to learn, try things, take risks, and help them identify the “sweet spot” God has for them either inside the church or outside the church or both.
5. Red Cedar ministry influence is always expanding locally, regionally, and globally as more leaders increase our Kingdom capacity.
6. Red Cedar Church invites other churches into our leadership development strategy to assist them in increasing their ministry capacity.
7. Strong leaders are drawn to Red Cedar to participate in residency and intern opportunities.