



LIFESTREAMS

Christian Church

Philosophy of Ministry

Helping People Find and Follow Jesus

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

— Colossians 2:6–7

Lifestreams Christian Church

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“We are called to be a church that gathers in His presence, grows as His disciples, and goes in His mission. AND We do this together, empowered by the Spirit.”

Our Heart

At Lifestreams, we believe God has called us to be His people here in the City of South Perth and beyond. This Philosophy of Ministry is not just a document—it is a reflection of who we are, why we exist, and how we live out our calling as followers of Jesus, reminding us that ministry is not just the work of a few, but the joy and responsibility of all who are loved, redeemed and empowered by God’s Spirit.

IDENTITY – Who are we?

Individual Identity

We believe every person is created in God’s image (Genesis 1:27), saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8), called into new life as a disciple of Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17) and is a son or daughter of the King (John 1:12, 2 Corinthians 6:18). Each believer is empowered by the Holy Spirit and uniquely gifted to join in God’s mission (1 Peter 4:10).

Corporate Identity

We are the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27)—a spiritual family called to love, worship, and serve together. As the Church, we GATHER to glorify God, GROW in spiritual maturity, and GO to serve as His disciples. Every person belongs, every person contributes, and Jesus unites us in our diversity (Ephesians 4:16).

The Body is active throughout the week, living out God’s mission in every sphere of life. We are devoted to prayer, generosity, caring for those in need, living according to God’s Word, and gathering together regularly (Acts 2:42–47).

Lifestreams is a community marked by God’s peace and presence—known for its mission, healing, encouragement, hospitality and grace. We strive to be a people known more for what we stand for than what we stand against.

Kingdom Context

We are ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20), joining in His Kingdom work of renewal and reconciliation. Our ministry extends beyond Sunday gatherings into every sphere of life— our church campus, our homes, schools, workplaces, and communities, and even to the nations. As salt and light (Matthew 5:13–16), we seek to embody God’s justice, mercy, and truth wherever we go, participating in His mission to see His Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.

MISSION AND PURPOSE– Why do we exist? What are we called to do?

Our mission is simple: **helping people find and follow Jesus.**

Our purpose is to make disciples, equip the church, B.L.E.S.S our neighbours, care for the vulnerable, and engage in both local and global mission.

DEFINING MINISTRY – What ministry and mission mean to us?

Ministry is the ongoing expression of our mission and identity—an active, Spirit-led participation in God’s redemptive work that helps people find and follow Jesus. Ministry is serving God by blessing & serving others with love, truth, and our God given gifts.

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B.L.E.S.S is our guiding philosophy for GOING — simple, relational, and deeply aligned with our mission. B.L.E.S.S stands for begin with prayer, listening, eating with people, serving and sharing our story and God’s story. B.L.E.S.S. provides some guiding principles for how we do ministry outreach and it encourages our people to become a blessing to others in their various local communities where God has them placed (education, work, clubs, sports, community groups, neighbourhoods).

Ministry is:

- **Missional by nature** — rooted in our identity as God’s sent people.
- **Intentional** – called out to take bold steps of faith.
- **Contextual and diverse** — flourishing in global and local settings.
- **Inclusive and relational** — engaging all people, in all places, at all times.
- **Transformational** — where people encounter God’s Spirit through love, truth, grace, and power.
- **Formational** — equipping and strengthening the church to GROW in faith and unity.
- **Worshipful** — ultimately glorifying God through faithful service and surrendered lives.

MINISTRY PRINCIPLES – *The key theological principles that guide our practice*

1. **Ministry is an overflow** – It flows out of deep abiding in Jesus (John 15:4–5).
2. **Prayer is foundational** – All ministry must be rooted in prayer (1 John 5:14).
3. **The Holy Spirit equips and empowers** – Life-giving ministry depends on the Spirit’s power (Acts 1:8).
4. **Our book is the Bible** – Our message and actions are grounded in God’s Word, with the good news of Jesus at the centre (2 Timothy 3:16–17).
5. **Ministry is service** – It begins with worship of the King and service for the sake of others (Colossians 3:23).
6. **The priesthood of all believers** – Ministry belongs to every believer, not a select few (1 Peter 2:5).
7. **The whole body is needed** – A diversity of gifts and unity in mission strengthen our impact (1 Corinthians 12).
8. **Equipping is essential** – People must be GATHERED, empowered, trained, and released for ministry (Ephesians 4:11–12).
9. **Ministry is grounded in love** – Transformation requires vulnerability; ministry must be relational, trusted, and safe (John 13:34).
10. **Ministry is transformational** – True ministry changes lives and moves people closer to Jesus (Romans 12:2).

These principles shape every ministry we run — from Sunday gatherings to small groups, from our community services to our global partnerships. They remind us that what we do flows from who we are.

THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP – **Clarifying the calling of leaders**

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Leaders are **servant-equippers** (Ephesians 4:11–12). Their role is not to do all the ministry, but to multiply it—guiding, training, empowering and releasing others. They build healthy teams, cast God’s vision, and steward His purposes in and through people and programs.

LIFESTREAMS MINISTRY FRAMEWORK – What we do and how?



GATHER – VITALLY CONNECTED; Helping and urging our church to function and GROW as an authentic representation of the Body of Christ

Purpose:

At Lifestreams, we want everyone to feel seen, welcomed, and connected. Gathering means becoming part of the Body of Christ—building genuine relationships and caring for one another, and growing together as we follow Jesus. We create spaces and moments where people can experience God’s presence, discover community, build unity and be equipped to find their place in His mission.

What it looks like in practice:

A person who is intentionally GATHERing:

- Feels known, accepted, safe, and valued in God’s church,
- Builds authentic, caring relationships within the church and wider community, sharing together in both the joys and struggles of life.
- Participates regularly in formal and informal gatherings of the Body and actively invites others

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- Serves and contributes their gifts to B.L.E.S.S others and advance God’s mission.
 - Practices generosity through hospitality, time, talent, and resources.
 - Engages in mutual encouragement, worship, prayer, and support with others as we journey and GROW together.
 - Practices the way of Jesus in everyday life.
 - Embraces and engages all people (multi-generational, multi-ethnic and those who are on the margins).
 - Actively pursues and builds unity, with a commitment towards resolving conflict in a Godly and biblical way.
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GROW – SPIRITUALLY FORMED; Helping and encouraging people to become mature Disciples of Jesus

Purpose:

This area of ministry helps people grow as fully devoted followers of Jesus. It guides them to be transformed into Christlikeness—spiritually, relationally, and practically—so they can reflect Jesus in word and deed, live out their calling, and join in God’s mission in the world.

What it looks like in practice:

A person who is intentionally GROWing:

- Abides in Jesus, growing in intimacy and dependence on Him.
 - Engages in spiritual disciplines such as prayer, bible reading, worship, reflection and retreating.
 - Actively participates in formal and informal discipleship relationships and activities.
 - Learns, reflects, and grows in obedience, resilience, and wisdom, responding to God’s Spirit.
 - Participates in making disciples, supporting others in their growth and transformation.
 - Faithfully steps out in trust, partnering with Jesus and others to make a positive impact in the church, community and beyond.
 - Willingly submits themselves to others for the sake of accountability and growth.
 - Embraces more formal opportunities for growth and spiritual development aligned with their personal call and passions (eg LEAD, Bible College etc).
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GO – LIVING OUR MISSION; Helping and inspiring our church to impact the world

Purpose:

This area of ministry inspires and equips people to take their faith into their spheres of influence and passion, reaching into their communities, workplaces, and the world. It encourages disciples to serve, make disciples, and participate in God’s mission, bringing hope, love, and transformation to others locally and globally.

What it looks like in practice:

A person who is Intentionally GOing:

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- Readily recognises their own spheres of influence as a mission field and actively shares God’s love and helps others find and follow Jesus.
- Lives out the B.L.E.S.S. principles in everyday relationships—praying, listening, serving, sharing meals and their story and God’s story.
- Engages in formal and informal missional opportunities (local outreach, mission trips, or cross-cultural initiatives, both in Australia and globally.)
- Uses their gifts, time, and resources to serve, support, and make a Kingdom impact.
- Prays regularly for their community, nation, and the world.
- Supports and celebrates the work of others going beyond.
- Shows generosity, compassion, and love in action, making disciples and transforming communities.
- Actively looks for opportunities to multiply and establish new ministries/churches.

DEFINING FRUIT, SUCCESS, AND MINISTRY MEASURES

We measure success not only by numbers and activity, but by faithfulness and fruitfulness, noticing impact through stories of transformation and evidence of Jesus changing lives.

Faithfulness (Outputs) – the things we commit to do:

- Discipling and being discipled.
- Equipping, empowering, and releasing people into ministry.
- Encouraging and inviting people to actively serve with their unique gifts.
- Living our mission, Strong community engagement, seeing workplaces, neighbourhoods, and networks as mission fields.
- Providing practical care, with needs being met.
- Multiplying disciples and ministries.

Fruitfulness (Outcomes) – the impact we long to see:

- People finding and following Jesus and being baptized.
- Stories: Ongoing testimonies of transformed lives.
- Growth in faith, maturity, and obedience.
- A church walking in unity together and with the wider church.
- Leaders who reflect Christ and His Kingdom.
- Communities locally and globally experiencing hope and transformation.

We regularly discern where God’s Spirit is bearing fruit and adjust our ministries accordingly based on the following principles:

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- The heart of our mission is about people, not programs or activities. We hold ministry activities lightly, regarding them as vehicles which serve our mission.
 - We desire to honour the faithful ministry and foundations of our past, recognising how God has worked through them, while remaining alert to new directions and opportunities He may be leading us toward.
 - We are determined to be faithful stewards of all resources that God has entrusted to us (time, money, talents), and we recognise that this may mean saying no to some good and worthwhile things- in order to pursue the specific priorities that He is calling us to.
 - Together, through prayer, fasting, and attentiveness to the fruit being produced, we are committed to regularly reviewing our ministry activities and discern what God is calling us to focus or step away from in a particular season; then act confidently.
 - This discernment is not the task of the Church's leaders alone, but a shared process that seeks out and values the input and prayerful insight of everyone in our church.
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Our Prayer

As we seek to live out this Philosophy of Ministry, our prayer is simple: that every person in our church will encounter Jesus, grow in faith, and discover the joy of serving Him in every part of life.

We pray for a church where every gift is offered, valued, and celebrated, where every person belongs, and where every ministry flows from a heart to B.L.E.S.S, to love, and to walk in the power of the Spirit. May our lives and our church community be a living testimony of God's Kingdom—bringing transformation to hearts, families, and communities, both here and beyond.

SO WHAT does this mean for me?

As a valued member of our community, will you intentionally commit to GATHER, GROW and GO with us for his glory?

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