

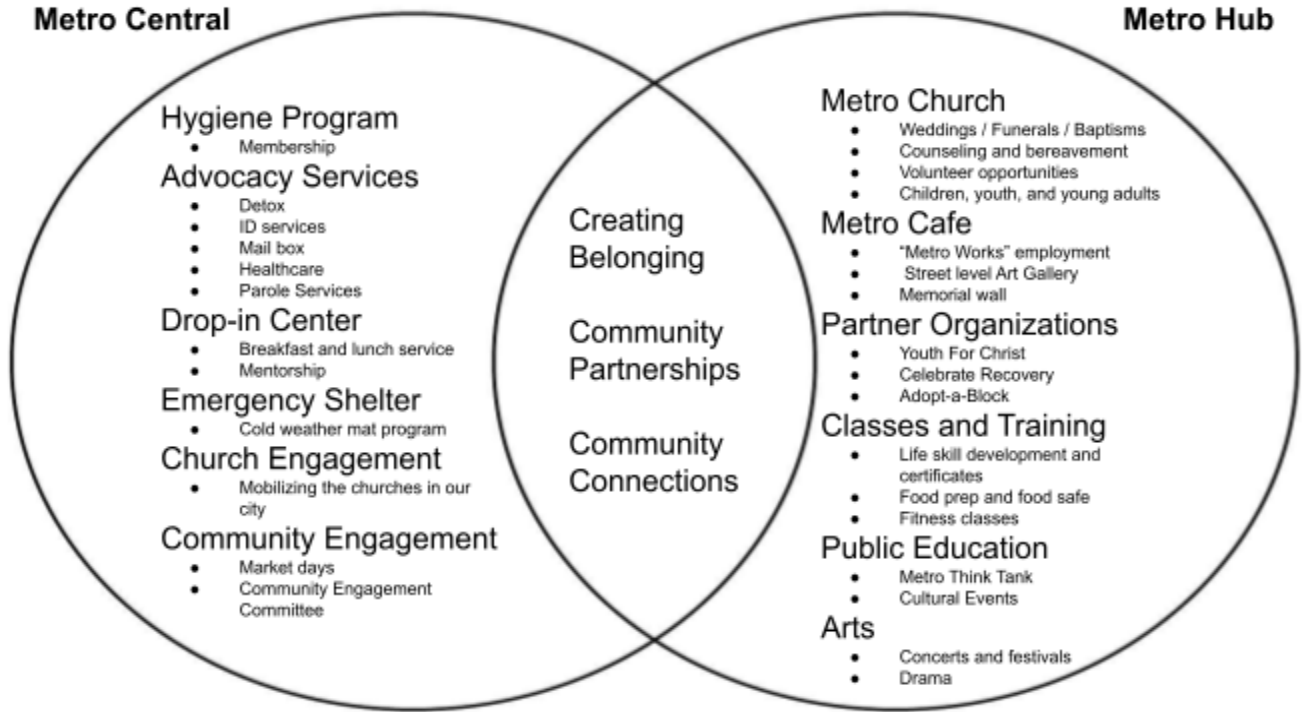
Metro Vision Document

Vision: We are a community from all walks of life, created in the image of God, pursuing the hope of Jesus, where the vulnerable are held at our centre.

Mission: We exist to seek God, pursue truth, in an atmosphere of love, where judgement is left at the door

Values:

- Hope: Jesus is the way that leads to hope, the truth in confusing times, and He offers us abundant life. His love is transformative and creates a sense of awe. We trust Jesus and His word and pursue Him through prayer, worship, and Holy communion.
- Humanity: Every person is created in the image of God and is sacred. We are all worthy of extravagant love. We exist to speak identity and value to a hurting and lonely world.
- Dignity: We exist to elevate the marginalized and most vulnerable. Every person has intrinsic value, is worthy of extravagant dignity and the right to the basic necessities. We seek to be intentionally present and honour everyone's voice.
- Community: God Himself is community and invites us into radical and humble relationships. We desire to be an inclusive community that enjoys each other's presence as we intentionally foster deep relationships through shared meals, creating sacred spaces and serving together.
- Service: We are a community that seeks justice and loves mercy. We desire that every person contributes and uses their valued gifts to advance God's mercy in our community and beyond. We desire to be an integral component of the fabric of our city that builds community partnerships and fights for justice.
- Arts: A robust expression of the arts is vital in a healthy community. We are committed to individual and corporate creativity in expressing our worship to God and communicating our life stories to those around us.



The above diagram is how we view the whole of Metro Community.

Metro Community exists to create belonging through community partnerships whilst creating connections for the whole of our community.

The pages that follow outline the various details related to how we seek to bring this vision to life.

"Don't simply strive to be the best in the world, strive to be the best for the world!"

John Maxwell

Creating Belonging

The needs of our city are ever-increasing and complex. The vast majority of the street community has experienced profound trauma and social isolation. The most damaging and debilitating form of poverty is not material, it is relational. Human flourishing requires human contact and community. Simply put, we need each other. The complex issues of our city cannot be managed by our local and provincial governments alone, but together through collective effort we can make an impact. The nearly 500 people living in homelessness, or on the brink of homelessness in our region, need stable community and human connection. Furthermore, as people move into housing, we are finding that people are lonely and sometimes stuck in unhealthy patterns. The well-documented reality is that those who are newly housed often choose to remain on the street for the sake of maintaining community rather than stay housed without community. God designed us for community; we all need belonging. The Housing First initiative recognizes that once a person is housed and exits survival mode, they can now deal with trauma and addiction. Therefore, it is imperative that once people living at street-level are housed, they remain connected through community. Metro desires to create a sense of belonging with those who live at street level while walking with them into a greater sense of stability. We believe this begins with a sense of belonging.

Metro Central

- 1) **Membership** is key to the programming we offer at Metro Central. We estimate that there are roughly 200 people in our city that have limited access to showers, laundry, mail service, and advocacy for basic services. Metro Central seeks to address this deficiency through our hygiene program. Members have access to all these services while developing a sense of ownership and empowerment to take on the goals they set out for themselves. We currently have 137 members in our program.
- 2) Our **Metro drop-in centre** is a welcoming place for many people with nowhere to go. There is a huge need in Kelowna for our street community to have a safe place during the day. This space is designed to feel like a coffee shop and courtyard oasis where together we seek to live out community with each other in graciousness. This is a place where people are received without judgement and can access compassionate listening while our staff and volunteers facilitate relationships.

- 3) This space will also be used as an **emergency cold weather mat program** to prevent folks from having to sleep outside in below zero temperatures. From this space, we also provide breakfast, lunch, and just as importantly– a place to be. Often people who live at street level have no place to spend the day without issue. Currently, we provide people with simple recreation: puzzles, card games, basketball, and conversation, but over time we expect to expand what we offer. This is achieved through gifted staff who can connect with the community at large, as well as our volunteers.

Metro Hub

- 1) We are creating a **church community** from all walks of life that seeks to foster belonging. Each Sunday, we will gather around breakfast, enjoy church together seated around tables, and then have the option to gather for lunch. The kitchen will be an incredible asset that allows us to gather around food and spend intentional time in conversation. We value our “open mic” sessions that create an opportunity to be heard for anyone in our community. Given the need for interconnection in our city, we hope community will be developed through a diverse group of people committed to serving a diverse group of people. We care to invest in people, believing this is modelled by how Jesus lived.
- 2) We would like to start a **bus shuttle program** to serve people living in supportive housing developments as well as shelters in our city to ensure that transportation isn't a barrier. Partnering with recovery programs like Freedom's Door and committing to walking relationally with people as they seek recovery and restoration is important to Metro.
- 3) We are seeking to create a community where everyone is valued and can **contribute in a meaningful way**. Ownership and belonging are created when people are invited to use their gifts and talents and have the opportunity to do so. We care to avoid contributing to a consumerist society where people don't feel cherished. We want to equip a community that is active in our neighbourhood and who reflects the love of Christ for one another. We desire to build upon our existing ministries to give expression of the many great gifts God has given his people.

Partnering with Organizations

Partnering with organizations in our city that share this vision and value collaboration is key to realizing a healthy sense of belonging. There are several reputable and compatible organizations in our city that are experts in their field and together we benefit our community as a whole.

Metro Central

- 1) Currently, Metro Central staff, primarily through the hygiene program, collaborate with the following organizations: Kelowna Gospel Mission, Canadian Mental Health Association, Interior Health, Turning Points Collaborative Society, Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society, Unlocking the Gates, Freedom's Door, HOPE Outreach, Karis Support Society, the City of Kelowna social development division, John Howard Society, Journey Home Society, the Lived Experience Circle on Homelessness, Kelowna RCMP and City of Kelowna By-Law. We are grateful to enjoy working together with these organizations.
- 2) The many churches in Kelowna are a resource that is yet to be fully engaged.. The foundation of the Church has been to look after the vulnerable and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Metro is seeking to mobilize hundreds of people in Kelowna churches into meaningful engagement with those who are living in poverty of various forms. To accomplish this mobilization, we are creating a Church Engagement Committee that aims to collaborate with other churches in Kelowna, as well as the Kelowna Evangelical Ministerial Association. In engaging with churches that are also committed to serving with those on the margins, we deepen what it means to be the church and enliven our corporate call.
- 3) We care to engage the youth of Kelowna in contributing their gifts while learning from others. We are in conversation with Kelowna Christians School, Heritage Christian School, and Immaculata Secondary to start partnerships in service for our downtown core. We are also in the process of engaging the leadership programs at the public secondary schools to educate their students and give them tangible service opportunities with us.

Metro Hub

- 1) We will be the headquarters for **Youth For Christ Kelowna**, which is an organization that aims to support vulnerable youth living in homelessness and move them into housing and back into school.
- 2) We will also be the home for **Celebrate Recovery**, which is a 12-step program for those desiring to exit addiction. This is a valuable program that provides each person with a mentor and supportive community.
- 3) We are also partnering with **Adopt-a-Block**, an organization that equips the church to serve the 10 city blocks around their location. We want to serve the whole of our community in order to demonstrate our understanding of what it is to follow Jesus.

Creating Community Connections

Metro exists to create bridges in our city through meaningful relationships. People are increasingly isolated and lonely and longing for human connection. Further, we want to be proactive in creating positive conversations and reducing stigma for those who feel marginalized.

Metro Central

- 1) Both the Hygiene Program and Metro courtyard are busy places where people seek out relationships because the tone is one of **safety and belonging**. Staff and volunteers actively seek to connect with people and to connect people to each other. Community partners have the freedom to use our spaces to meet their clients and to follow up with their needs.
- 2) A by-product of having a strong volunteer base is we **deepen community** and belonging also amongst our volunteers.
- 3) Through Metro Central, we have established a **Community Engagement Committee** that invites neighbours and stakeholders into conversation around the joys and challenges of our whole community.

Metro Hub

- 1) The Metro Community Hub will be a central place for gathering and creating meaningful connections for our city. We hope it will be a hub for **weddings, funerals, celebrations, and cultural events** that will add to the vibrancy of our neighbourhood.
- 2) We hope to create regular **"Think Tank" events** where we can discuss real-world issues such as reconciliation, social justice, innovation, culture, and the arts. We anticipate that our space will be used for public education that addresses the issues affecting our local community and provincial concerns.
- 3) We are also keenly interested in promoting the arts. Music is a universal language that creates real connections. We seek to create a venue with professional multimedia equipment to host many concerts and festivals to further this vision. The Metro Hub will be an **event centre for our city**.

- 4) We are excited about hosting **educational opportunities** benefitting the practical needs of our community; for example: Food Safe and other certificate programs, meal prep on a budget, computer skills and even financial literacy.
- 5) Metro Hub will house a **retail cafe** on Ellis. This cafe is imagined to offer connecting space for people in our neighbourhood while providing employment for people that are exiting homelessness. This cafe will prominently feature art from our street community, which is a gallery that both elevates and celebrates our street-level folks and can create a real sense of belonging. Along with a gallery, we are creating a Memorial Wall that remembers the many of our street community who have died and communicates that all of our community are deeply valued.

This entire vision captures only the beginning of what is possible. Of course, we cannot do this alone. Through collaboration and shared investment, together we create a fulsome expression of what the church is called to be. This “dreaming document” is meant to convey not only the hope for what services we provide but also the potential revenue streams that will see these hopes sustainable over the long term. We recognize the need to think creatively and are committed to good stewardship.



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