

# THE BIG PICTURE



Jubilé·Jubilee  
MONTREAL

# Contents

- 1. YOU! (3)
- 2. Our Heart (4-14)
  - Our Mission (4-6)
  - Discipleship (6)
  - Environments (6-10)
  - Our Name (10-11)
  - Beliefs (11-14)
- 3. Our People (15-17)
  - Intro (15)
  - Our Focus (15-16)
  - Where Do I Fit? (16-17)
  - Kids at Jubilee (17)
- 4. Our Leadership (18-20)
  - Elders (18)
  - Board (18)
  - Staff (18-19)
  - Jubilee Community Leaders (19-20)
  - Sunday Team Leaders (20)
- 5. Our Story (21-22)
- 6. Our Partnerships (23-24)
  - Affiliations (23)
  - City Partnerships (23-24)
- 7. Giving (25)
- 8. Our Objectives (26)
- 9. Our Current Priorities and Future Goals (27)
- 10. The Big Picture (28-29)
- 11. Diagrams (23-33)
  - Explanations (30-31)
  - Jubilee Environments (32)
  - Jubilee Journey (33)

# 1

# YOU!

Hi \_\_\_\_\_ ! [print your name here]

Thanks for opening up *The Big Picture*—this is what some people would call our “philosophy of ministry”. Here you’ll find an overview of what we’re about and the different things we do.

If you’re reading this because you’re new to Jubilee—we want to thank you for jumping in and giving our community a try. It is our deepest desire that God would transform all things—and well, I guess that includes you.

We believe that ‘church’ is not so much an event on a Sunday, as much as it is a family—or what we call ‘spiritual family’. With that said, it’s impossible to distill the life of a family into words on a few pages. However, we hope this little introduction helps you get a clearer look into who we are.

The foundation of this document has been forming since 2007 when ‘The Living Room’ began, and a good chunk of it was discerned and put into words in 2015-2016 with the relaunching of “Jubilé • Jubilee Montréal”, and from time to time we update and add things that we find are becoming increasingly important to us.

Welcome to *The Big Picture*.

*This version was published in November, 2016.*

# 2

## Our Heart

### Mission

Our mission is the beating heart that drives our community. It boils everything we are about down into one sentence. It describes what we do, who we are and what our goal is. Our mission also contains our 3 values. They are *Good News*, *Spiritual Family* and *Holistic Transformation*.

Our Mission ↓

**We exist to share the Good News as a Spiritual Family for Holistic Transformation**

### Good News

*The Good News is that God, who is our Father and Creator, because of his infinite love for us, has come to free us from all that separates us from Him and each other, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, holistically transforming our world and establishing his kingdom through ordinary people like us in the power of the Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup>*

The Good News of Jesus, otherwise known as *the Gospel*, is the ultimate reason we exist. It is the message *of* Jesus and the message *about* Jesus that has given us life and given birth to our community. It is our belief in this message and the one of whom it speaks that propels us forward. It is the power of the Good News that causes the heart of our community to beat. Without this, we have nothing.

---

<sup>1</sup> This text explaining Good News is our attempt at layering the story of the Good News from Genesis to Revelation with the specific events of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

## Spiritual Family

Church is Spiritual Family—a family marked by radical love and unity in its diversity of language, ethnicity, social status, personal gifting and vocation. The church family exists as a living example of the Good News in everyday life. To follow Jesus is to be committed to a Spiritual Family—sharing what you have and experiencing growth in community.

Spiritual Family is impossible to create. It is the byproduct of love and love is the byproduct of experiencing a relationship with God as Father. Spiritual Family is messy, but God is an expert at creating something good out of chaos.<sup>2</sup>

Church was always meant to be about shared life around the person of Jesus. Church is not primarily an event or organization. Church is Spiritual Family where there is room for everyone, wherever they are on their journey toward Jesus.

## Holistic Transformation

As we receive the Good News we find new life—a life in which Jesus heals us, transforms our character, inspires our actions and compels us to share the Good News with others as we help them to follow Jesus (discipleship) all the while working to address social injustice around us—depending on God to transform all things for good.

We refer to this desire for God to transform all things for good as *holistic transformation*. For transformation to be *holistic* it must include both *spiritual* and *social* transformation. *Spiritual transformation* refers to how God transforms and heals our hearts to have relationship with Him. *Social transformation* refers to how God transforms and heals the systemic and relational injustices that exist in our communities and our world. One is not more important than the other and Jesus' ministry addressed both needs for transformation simultaneously.

---

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 1

To holistically transform the world, God changes our hearts—pouring His love into them. As he changes us from the inside, our outward behaviour changes and He invites us to join Him in (re)creating the world to become more like He originally intended it to be.

## Discipleship

Discipleship is the lifelong process of, increasingly and in spiritual family, becoming who Jesus would be if he were you.<sup>3</sup> Discipleship is the engine by which we *share the Good News as a Spiritual Family for Holistic Transformation*. Discipleship is *what we are doing*. As we go through our own discipleship journey we live each day with a focus on helping other people become disciples of Jesus as well.

It's helpful to think about discipleship as moving *from* something *to* something else. Here's how we express what a disciple of Jesus is moving *from* and *to*:

**A disciple of Jesus is a someone who is repenting and believing the Good News and, increasingly and in Spiritual Family, moving from death to **life**, from brokenness to **wholeness**, from selfishness to **love**, from cynicism to **faith**, from apathy to **mission**, from scarcity to **abundance** and from striving to **abiding****

## Environments

Discipleship is relationship. This means that we can't make disciples without being in relationship with other people. Classes, courses and certificates don't make disciples—

---

<sup>3</sup> This quote by Dallas Willard means that as a disciple of Jesus you will become like Him yet remain a distinct person. You will become like Him by *becoming God's child* and by *being restored to the wholeness* human beings were created to have. At the same time, you will maintain your unique personality. God created us to be whole and loved, but expressing our humanity in unique and diverse ways.

people do. As we make disciples in relationship, understanding the practical places that we do these things can help. We see our community living and making disciples in four environments: Jubilee Sundays, Jubilee Communities, Jubilee Leadership Formation and Jubilee Everyday.

## **Jubilee Sundays**

We see our Jubilee Sunday celebrations as the ‘temple’ experience of the early church.<sup>4</sup> Celebration through worship, prayer, teaching and preaching and encouraging one another. This environment is open to Christians and people who have not yet decided to become Christians. Therefore, we make an emphasis at welcoming newcomers and explaining what is going on in the Gathering. We contextualize Jesus’ message so that it is in the ‘language’ of the hearer—not simply French and English (although this is a future goal) but cutting through old or troubling language so that the heart of the gospel can either be accepted or rejected for what it really is.

## **Jubilee Communities**

Jubilee Communities are Spiritual Families that act as hubs for discipleship and mission. They are open to both Christians and people who have not yet decided to become Christians. Here the disciple walks closely (ideally moving to really doing life together, not simply attending meetings) with others in the community—being challenged and encouraged to move ‘from—to’ in their discipleship journey. The Jubilee Community will take on Acts 2 as an inspiration, living out together the core of what it means to be church. As the Jubilee Community forms new leaders it will work with the Jubilee staff to empower them to lead within their community or in another community—using their unique gifts to serve Jesus and others. Jubilee Communities are the HOMES of the church. Within them they contain smaller groups called DNA Groups and Mission Initiatives.

---

<sup>4</sup> Acts 2:42-47

## DNA Groups

Jubilee Communities are comprised of smaller groups that focus on the heart journey of discipleship. These 3-5 person groups meet biweekly and share their lives vulnerably, pray together for each other and their friends who they are encouraging and introducing to Jesus in addition to any other material that is introduced through the groups time (bible reading, issue-specific studies, etc.). These groups are gender-specific. They are open by invite from the people already in the group. They are geared toward people who want to grow in their faith. Therefore, someone who is not a Christian is welcome to attend when they are open to the purpose of the time and seriously seeking to follow Jesus.<sup>5</sup>

## Mission Initiatives

When we say ‘mission’ we mean joining God in his mission in the world—to welcome his children home and to work for positive transformation in the world. This is not a project, but rather living everyday life with a *missional* intentionality. However, we do support a number of ‘initiatives’ that are more organized to show the love of Jesus to a specific segment of the population or to work for a specific social need (at the date of printing these are *Art Night*, *Language Café* and relationship building at *The Open Door* Drop-in Centre for people experiencing homelessness). *However*, everyone has a mission initiative—it is whatever intentional mission looks like in your life, lived out in community with others in your Jubilee Community.

This is part of what makes us a *missional* church. We believe that all Christians and all churches are caught up into God’s greater mission to transform all things. Therefore, we do not believe that it

---

<sup>5</sup> DNA Groups are for prayer, accountability and support in life and mission. At times, DNA Groups may wish to organize a discussion group for people interested in Jesus or do foundations material together.

is the job of the pastors or staff of the church to ‘program’ all mission or create ‘ministries’ to reach all people. We believe that the Holy Spirit awakens mission in the hearts of people who will love and share the Good News *in their* language and *in their* context. Therefore, new mission and ministries are launched by people within Jubilee Communities. Wondering if we do a specific ministry? Maybe that’s something you and others are called to start...<sup>6</sup>

## **Jubilee Leadership Formation**

We hope that everyone in Jubilee will at some point make their way through *Leadership Formation*. *Leadership Formation* is our leadership development process made up of 11 modules on holistic ministry with a focus on the inner life of the participant. The training does not require that you hold or assume a specific leadership role, but that you will be able to bring ‘Jubilee’ wherever God calls you. This training is open to everyone—only requiring that you (1) be committed to Jubilee as your home church and (2) be in a Jubilee Community or Campus Ministry and (3) that your Jubilee Community Leader or Campus Ministry Staff/Supervisor will recommend you to take the modules. This recommendation is required, ensuring that you are in relationship with a Jubilee Community or a Campus Ministry. You will receive personalized coaching as you progress through the modules.

As a Jubilee Leader or someone taking part in *Leadership Formation*, you are welcome to come to our *Leadership Gatherings* which take place every other month and experience personalized, coaching sessions on the off months. Your specific leadership role is determined by you and your current Jubilee Community leaders. Want to help start a new Jubilee Community? Want to lead within a current one? Want to start a mission initiative or lead a Sunday Team?

---

<sup>6</sup> We encourage people to support and get involved in current mission initiatives before starting new ones. It should also be said that mission initiatives (whether they are highly organized or organic) exist for people who are not yet Christians. We encourage people to invite *a few* people from Jubilee to create something for *many* people who are not in Jubilee—creating a safe, non-threatening environment where people who are not yet Christians can experience relationship with Christians in a new way.

Have another idea? That's great. Talk with the leadership of your current Jubilee Community.<sup>7</sup>

## **Jubilee Everyday**

We do not want all church life to be relegated to scheduled meetings. We have needed to add appropriate structure and support (like the above) but want to continue to celebrate the organic expression of discipleship and mission as it is lived out in community, around tables, at cafés, on errands, over the phone and when you didn't plan it. Discipleship and transformation happen in the everyday stuff of life. This is what we call *Jubilee Everyday*.

We will live Jubilee everyday, everywhere, all the time. Jubilee is YOUR community. It is YOUR family. Jubilee is only as good as the state of our relationships and the quality of our time together.

Turn to pages 30-33 to see a the “Jubilee Journey”—this diagram explains how moving through the different Jubilee events and environments works. The point of all of these things is to support, empower and help your formation into the unique child of God and follower of Jesus that you were made to be.

## **Our Name**

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.*

— Jesus (Luke 4:18-19)

Jubilee is an old word with significant meaning for today.

---

<sup>7</sup> No matter how you practice your involvement and leadership, you must be committed to a Jubilee Community or Campus Ministry and committed to the overall priority of multiplying Jubilee Communities.

It comes from early in the story of the Bible. In this story, God announces to his people that every 50 years they are to free the Israelite slaves they own and forgive any Israelite debts owed to them. This was a radical, social vision giving a glimpse of what God thinks the world should look like.

Later in the story of the bible, the prophet Isaiah writes that one day someone would be born who would announce a new Jubilee—a Jubilee of holistic transformation.<sup>8</sup> This new Jubilee would declare that the world would be made socially just but it would go further to offer personal freedom at a spiritual, heart level to anyone who would receive it—giving a brand new life with God and others.

In the New Testament—Jesus announces this new Jubilee and inaugurates it through his own life, death and resurrection—thus making it possible to receive authentic lives of Jubilee freedom ourselves while joining God in bringing this Jubilee to our city and world.<sup>9</sup>

This is what we're about—this ancient vision lived out in our day. Jesus is the Jubilee.

For more on our name, listen to the sermon “Coming Home” at [www.jblmontreal.org/teaching-audio/coming-home](http://www.jblmontreal.org/teaching-audio/coming-home). “Coming Home” moves through the biblical story revealing the concept of "Jubilee" and our heart and goal as a church and movement.

## Beliefs

We hold to essential orthodox Christian beliefs as best expressed in the following writings. We also aim to practice *dialectical theology*. *Dialectic* refers to the attempt to hold the truths of

**“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.” - Augustine**

---

<sup>8</sup> Isaiah 61

<sup>9</sup> Luke 4:16-21

the bible in tension—where others may minimize or get rid of some truth in order to emphasize and hold up others. The history of the Christian church is full of examples of people and groups separating from each other over disagreement instead of holding the truths of the Bible in tension. All that to say, we just highly value unity—and we commit to the simple, core beliefs of the creeds and statement below—while agreeing to have grace with each other and hold tension on secondary issues. Often, our competing perspectives help reveal the truth in tension.

If you have a specific doctrinal question, feel free to contact us.<sup>10</sup>

### **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:  
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
The third day He arose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.

---

<sup>10</sup> For this, you may contact Michael Touchton at [michael@jblmontreal.org](mailto:michael@jblmontreal.org)

## **Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of the Father before all worlds;

God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God;

begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered and was buried;

and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures;

and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father;

and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead;

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life;

who proceeds from the Father and the Son;

who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic<sup>11</sup> and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;

and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

## **Evangelical Statement of Faith**

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the infallible, authoritative Word of God.

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

---

<sup>11</sup> The term 'catholic' here is not referring to the 'Roman Catholic Church'. It's referring to the fact that all followers of Jesus, from all times and all places, make up 'the church'.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

# 3

## Our People

### Intro

Assumed in our mission statement is the fact that we exist for *people*. It's with *people* that we are sharing the Good News. It's with other *people* that we are a Spiritual Family. We are a *people* movement. We don't exist to sell products or even put on events. We exist to help people find a relationship with God through sharing the Good News of Jesus. It's only if we're doing this that we can accomplish our ultimate goal of holistic transformation.

### Our Focus

We are focused on how to reach people that are not yet Christians, have been disillusioned from the Christian faith or have no experience of it. These people find Christianity irrelevant, outdated, unnecessary, untrue and bigoted. This shapes more and more of who we are and how we operate. We believe this is God's heart and how He operates as well—like a shepherd that leaves the ninety-nine to go and find the one sheep that is lost.<sup>12</sup>

Included in this focus are people who have been marginalized. These are people who have been pushed to the margins of mainstream society. And it is to these that Jesus invites to have the seats of honour at his table and who we desire to welcome, learn from and share life with—believing that God wants to restore their outer lives to match their true identity as God's dearly loved children.<sup>13</sup>

We want to welcome all of those who have been far from God—either because they didn't want to believe, or because they felt rejected by the church—to come HOME. At

---

<sup>12</sup> Luke 15:4

<sup>13</sup> Luke 14:13-14

Jubilee we aim to welcome HOME prodigal sons and daughters, because we are them as well.

People who are already followers of Jesus but who are looking for a new church are not our focus. This is not to say that we do not care about them—many of us are them! We of course welcome them and celebrate their decision to join us—but together, we must continue to work out everything we do so that our message is Good News for the people who need it most. This does not mean our community does welcome or even include many people who are not this focus group—but that they join us in our focus on this group of people.

It is for this reason that we must make sure to contextualize our message for people who don't yet believe it and who think of it as bad news. We will do this through a church that has a 'grass roots' flavour, that can speak in the language of main-stream non-christians while remaining open and postured toward the poor.

## **Where do I fit?**

So, maybe you're already a Christian and you don't consider yourself marginalized or poor. Maybe you're just looking for a church to join. That's great! We invite you to join us in our common mission to *share the Good News as a Spiritual Family for Holistic Transformation*. We believe that your time at Jubilee can help you find inner wholeness, find your passion and leadership, experience family and grow in your relationship with God. Please do consider joining us. We think you'll find that focusing together on something bigger than ourselves will enrich our lives more than simply attending a church that exists to keep us and people like us happy.

To get more connected, we encourage you to come each Sunday and to join a Jubilee Community.<sup>14</sup> From there, we encourage you to serve on a Sunday Team and to attend a *Vision Lunch* (maybe you've just done that! Great!), go through *Transformations* and consider making Jubilee your church family. From there, maybe you'd like to go through *Leadership Formation*—making it your mission to *share the Good News as a Spiritual*

---

<sup>14</sup> For Jubilee Community times and locations visit [www.jblmontreal.org/groups](http://www.jblmontreal.org/groups)

*Family for Holistic Transformation* at all times and in all ways. Check out the diagrams on pages 30-32 for more information on what this “Jubilee Journey” looks like.

## **Kids at Jubilee**

We believe that kids are raised best by their parents in community with others. Because we have and love children, we want them to feel loved and to learn and experience the Good News of Jesus—God’s love for them. On Sunday mornings, we offer Jubilee Junior, bilingual programming for children age 3-10. We believe that the discipleship of the child is the responsibility (or opportunity!) of the parents. For that reason, we see Jubilee Junior as a resource but not the primary way your child will learn about God. Parents are welcome to register their child and send them in during the break or to keep them with them during the gathering.

We encourage parents with children to join a Jubilee Community and do life with students, singles and all those without children. We highly encourage singles and couples without children to be involved in the lives of the children in our community. Our community is rich because it is diverse.

Although parents are ultimately responsible for their children, we were meant to do life, including parenting and caring for our children, in community. As the saying goes, ‘it takes a village to raise a child’.

We are available to join you in dedicating your child during a Sunday Gathering—covenanting with you to raise your child in the way of Jesus. If your child has expressed faith in Jesus, then we are more than happy to baptize them with you.

# 4

## Our Leadership

### Jubilee Elders

We are led by what the bible calls “elders”. Currently Michael and Angelica Touchton are elders and receive external support from Greg Mitchell, Lead Pastor of Every Nation Vancouver, and Brant Reding, Lead Pastor of UChurch in Calgary, AB and we are in the early phase of setting the process of discerning and affirming future elders. This is purposely a slow, careful process.

### Jubilee Board

Jubilee • Jubilee Montréal is a registered charity in good standing with the Canadian Revenue Agency. For legal purposes, our board is held accountable by the government as it relates to our charity status. As Lead Pastors, Michael and Angelica are held accountable by the board and, if need be, leaders of Every Nation North America and the Mennonite Brethren/C2C will come in to give support in situations of serious failure or disunity.

As of the date of printing, the Board of Jubilee includes Jonathan Paradis (President, Treasurer), Michael Touchton (Vice President), Simon Belanger (Secretary), Shirley Cardenas (Administrator), Michael Jones (Administrator) and Omotara Johnson (Administrator).

### Jubilee Staff

The staff lead the day to day operations of the church/charity. As we strongly desire to create a culture of “the priesthood of all believers”, the staff and elders strive to equip people to become leaders who can then take part in discipling and pastoring others— instead of the elders or pastoral staff functioning as the sole pastors for everyone.

The current staff on payroll are Michael Touchton (Lead Pastor) and Allaina van Reeuyk (Partnership and Community Engagement)<sup>15</sup>

## **Jubilee Community Leaders**

Leadership is about a person's character and responsibility—not primarily about their abilities. Leadership is also not about position, it is about relationship. We believe that authority is most helpful when it is authority that has been gained through relationship. At times we find ourselves in places of positional authority—but we should never accept that as the goal, but work from a place to positional authority to a place of relational authority, where people have freely given us that authority out of trust built in relationship.

The main task of a leader is to bring others along with them on their own vulnerable and open journey of inner transformation. This means that what is most important for a leader is to pay attention to what God is doing in their heart—for this is where they will be taking others. The goal is to be a non-anxious presence in the midst of the people they are leading—to be a person in touch with one's own present journey so that they might be of help to others on theirs.<sup>16</sup>

With that said, we all also have different callings within this leadership and ministry realm. We're all called to follow Jesus, to share our faith and to disciple others but we can express this in different core ways. We mostly use the 5-fold framework (Apostolic, Prophetic, Evangelistic, Pastoral, Teaching) to explain this.<sup>17</sup> Our core drive for what matters in ministry and the kingdom and what we find life doing will be motivated by 1 or a combination of these callings.

As a community and movement we seek to identify people that have come to the place of increasing character and responsibility and call them what we feel is already true about

---

<sup>15</sup> Each staff member currently fundraises a portion of their salary from outside ministry partners.

<sup>16</sup> Jubilee Community leaders are accountable to the Jubilee Elders and Jubilee Staff that work with Jubilee Communities.

<sup>17</sup> Ephesians 4:11-13

them—that they are leaders. After being recommended by another leader from their Jubilee Community, and starting the 11 modules, the person begins to identify where they feel called to lead. Together with the leaders of their current Jubilee Community, they will decide where their gifts and passion, the needs of the Jubilee Community, and the city’s opportunities, intersect.

## **Jubilee Team Leaders**

Our Sunday Team Leaders lead our Sunday Teams as they create a welcoming environment for our spiritual family and newcomers to gather together to worship. There are currently six Sunday Teams. They are Ambiance & Setup, Connection, Jubilee Junior, Sunday Prayer, Worship and the Creative Team.

# 5

## Our Story

*Where did we come from?*

### *An “Accidental” Church Plant*

It all started with a university student, a few young professionals and a couple of families, who believed that Jesus’ life and message was relevant to the struggles and questions people face every day and had the power to transform their lives and relationships. For one week in 2006, that group, joined by a team from Vancouver and Calgary, were invited to do a series of seminars about Love, Sex and Relationships at Concordia University which welcomed more than 200 students from many different walks of life. The aftermath of this event was a group of young people looking for a space to talk and ask big questions about “real life” issues, so we started discussion groups which gathered in coffee shops around the city. A group of twelve who wanted to dig deeper in exploring faith started gathering on Sunday evenings in the living room of pastors Michael and Michele Jones to eat, worship, read scripture, and discover how the gospel message had the power to transform their lives, their relationships and their communities.

### *The Living Room*

People began to see this grassroots gathering as their church, and the name “The Living Room” stuck. On Easter of 2007, The Living Room launched a Sunday church gathering in Downtown Montreal at the Concordia University campus bar. We continued to meet on Sundays downtown, and started ‘missional communities’ in various neighbourhoods which sought to live as Jesus lived by loving the city and partnering with existing initiatives to contribute to social change in Montreal.

In 2014 Michael and Michele Jones sensed a profound shift. They felt that their time in Montreal was coming to an end and God was calling them back to the USA to care for parents and on to the next steps in their journey. By late summer 2014, with their recommendation and the support of the church, Michael and Angelica Touchton, along with Allaina van Reeuwijk, accepted the call to lead The Living Room into her future.

### *Our Next Page*

This started a process of ‘transition’ in The Living Room where we prayed about what the next page in our story was to be. In this process, we decided to replant and relaunch the church in 2016. This meant going back through our story to remember who we were while adding pieces that God was calling us to add—and then moving on to living it all out! This process included choosing a new name that would speak to our growing community and vision, clarifying our mission and putting practical pieces in place to support growth through the rest of our story for years to come.

We’ve now turned to the next page in our story and we relaunched on October 2nd, 2016! The story continues and we invite you to be a part of our next chapter!

# 6

## Our Partnerships

### Affiliations

We are an inter-denominational church. That just means that we have multiple partnerships with larger, Christian organizations that oversee and support us.

From the first day we existed, we have been a part of the *Every Nation* family of churches. This unique group has grown to a worldwide movement in one generation. We are grateful for the missional, movemental, Spirit-led passion of this spiritual family. We still see and relate to *Every Nation* as our spiritual family.

After we had already existed as “The Living Room” for a few years, we started a relationship with the *Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches* which led to an official partnership and inclusion in their *C2C* church planting movement. We see the *MBs* (the *AEFMQ* in Quebec) as an integral piece of our story thus far and are privileged to be invited to the *Mennonite Brethren* table as an *Every Nation* church.

Working in partnership isn’t always simple to navigate but we are all richer because of these relationships. For more on *Every Nation* or the *Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches* you can see our website at [www.jblmontreal.org/affiliations](http://www.jblmontreal.org/affiliations).

### City Partnerships

Unity is very important to us and we partner with diverse organizations to work for holistic transformation in Montreal. This includes other charities and non-profits, churches and campus ministries.

Campus Ministry is one of the core values of *Every Nation* and has been in our DNA since we started. If you’re involved in a campus ministry, you may have found

involvement in a local church difficult at times. Depending on your level of involvement, it can feel like you don't have much time to deeply connect into the life of the church. And it can feel that you don't know where you fit—since some of the things that we do as a church, campus ministries are doing as well. Because we believe participation in a local church (as spiritual family) is essential, we've sought to clarify how someone involved in a campus ministry can think about their involvement in Jubilee.

If you're involved in a campus ministry, but still wish to take part in everything we do and offer, then by all means do that. However, if you're not sure how you fit into what we do, consider doing the following:

- Attend each Sunday
- View your Campus Ministry as your 'Jubilee Community'
- Join a DNA group—this will ensure you have a few close, discipling relationships in the church<sup>18</sup>
- If you're in leadership in your Campus Ministry (i.e. small group leader, intern, staff), you are welcome to take the *Jubilee Leadership Formation* and/or attend the *Leadership Gatherings* and receive personalized coaching.

It's extremely important that you invest in the relationships and culture of Jubilee while you are in University and in your campus ministry. Student life only lasts so long and when you graduate and leave your campus ministry, you want to already be connected to your local church community. If you are able to take part in the options above, it will make your transition out of university and your campus ministry much smoother. We recommend this even if you think you will leave Montreal upon graduating—you never know what God will do ;)

---

<sup>18</sup> Normally, DNA groups are organized within Jubilee Communities. so, to join one this way—please contact [info@jblmontreal.org](mailto:info@jblmontreal.org) and let us know that you're in a campus ministry but would like to join a DNA group.

# 7

## Giving

The bible speaks in many places about financially giving to God through the community of faith—the church. We also realize that many have a bad taste in their mouth when it comes to churches and money because of bad experiences they have had or those pesky televangelists. We want to redeem this practice and encourage you to give generously at Jubilee *from your heart* and wherever else God calls you to give.

**“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” -2 Corinthians 9:7**

When you give your gift, it goes into the general budget. We aim to spend 50% of our budget each year on *Transformation*—either opportunities for *spiritual transformation*, like church planting and mission work, or *social transformation*, like work among the poor, education or global health. The rest of the budget covers all of the rest of the activities and work of the church including salaries, space rentals, and general administrative costs of running a church/charity.<sup>19</sup>

**When we give generously with an abundance mentality, what we give away will multiply.**  
**-Henri Nouwen**

Our Board sets the budget every year and the Staff manage the budget day to day. The board reports to the Canada Revenue Agency. If your annual giving is \$25.00 or more, you will receive a tax receipt in the first few months of the following year.

---

<sup>19</sup> To receive a copy of the current year’s budget, email [admin@jblmontreal.org](mailto:admin@jblmontreal.org)

# 8

## Objectives

*When we get really practical, what are we trying to accomplish?*

- Baptize people who have decided to follow Jesus and empower them to live out their faith in their daily life together with others in Jubilee Communities.
- Help disciples of Jesus experience inner transformation, a life of empowered mission and spiritual family.
- Work for social transformation in life-giving ways (often in partnership with others) that end in justice, mercy and reconciliation.
- Train and empower disciples of Jesus to be leaders in the church, the city and wherever else God might call them some day.
- Multiply disciples, Jubilee Communities and churches who will carry on the Jubilee passion to *share the Good News as a Spiritual Family for Holistic Transformation*.

# 9

## Our Current Priorities & Future Goals

You'll read in this book about many things we desire to be and you may not always see them as immediate realities. We are committed to the vision that you've read here and believe that as we grow and everyone plays their part—we will become more and more who God has made us to be together.

### **Past Priorities:**

2014 - 2015: Founding pastors of The Living Room, Michael and Michele Jones, relocated to USA which began a time of transition—evaluating where we had been as a community and discerning the next steps.

### **Current Priorities:**

2015 - 2016: Replant/Relaunch Jubilé • Jubilee Montréal, (re)launching on October 2nd

2016 - 2017: Establish Jubilee discipleship framework including prayer ministry and leadership training. We aim to grow by welcoming new people and baptizing people as they choose to follow Jesus. We aim to begin multiplying Jubilee Communities.

### **Future Goals:**

Launch French or bilingual gathering or church

Begin concrete, sustainable social transformation initiatives that will practically empower marginalized communities—paying careful attention to what is already offered in the city

Much more to come!

# 10

## The Big Picture

This is the big picture. We see a *diverse* church made up of people who otherwise might not enter into relationship with each other—where *reconciliation* between these people can happen. We see a church where people who have not wanted anything to do with Jesus, God, Christianity or Church can belong *and then* believe. We see a church that holds *theological tensions* instead of separating over marginal theological issues. We see a church that works for *social transformation* while at the same time working for *spiritual transformation*. We see a church that *welcomes students*—helping them to become disciples of Jesus during one of the most formative time of their lives. We see a church with a deep experience of *Spiritual Family* not religious events or obligations. We see a church with a deep *culture of prayer* and relationship with God.

We see a church that takes the *study* of the scriptures seriously while putting them into *action* in real life. We see a church that is *Spirit-led*—depending on God and hosting his presence and gifts. We see a church that grows to *multiply* disciples, leaders, and communities—leading to a *movement*, not an institution. We see a citywide church that operates bilingually and is rooted in different neighbourhoods for the transformation of those areas. We see a church that joins others in working for *holistic transformation* in other places in the world where God calls us. We see a church that celebrates different cultures and languages—knowing that only together do we truly reflect the full image of God. We see a church that is not reacting toward what came before it or what other churches are doing, but where we communicate with our own voice, imagining something new and fresh. We see a church that creates a bridge for people who have not thought of Christianity as good news before.

We see a church that truly starts a quiet revolution of love—facilitating heart change back toward God and contributing to the transformation of our city to look more like God's heart.

We see a church that, after all is said and done, has like a mid-wife, helped many, many people experience the new life that is available as they come into relationship with Jesus.

We see *Holistic Transformation*—all death raised to *life*, all brokenness made *whole*, all selfishness swallowed up in *love*, all cynicism turned to *faith*, all apathy transformed to *mission*, all fears of scarcity changed to trust in our Father's *abundance*, and all striving stopped—transforming us and all things to a place of *abiding*—resting in our true identity as God's beloved children.

**Would you join us? Together, we welcome you!**

# 11

## Diagrams

### **Diagram 1: 4 Environments**

This diagram presents the 4 environments talked about on pages 6-10. Here you can see how each piece fits together.

### **Diagram 2: The Jubilee Journey**

The Jubilee Journey shows how people come into Jubilee, solidify their commitment to Jesus, join Jubilee and then find their place and be formed as a leader—living out the spirit and mission of Jubilee. Below are descriptions of the different pieces of the journey.

#### **Jubilee Sundays**

Go to page 7 to read about Jubilee Sundays. The diagram shows that people can enter Jubilee through coming for the first time on a Sunday.

#### **Jubilee Communities (DNA Groups and Mission Initiatives)**

Go to page 7 to read about Jubilee Communities. The diagram shows that people can enter Jubilee through meeting someone in relationship and then connecting with their Jubilee Community, connecting with your DNA Group, or attending the event of a Mission Initiative (i.e. *Art Night* or *Language Café*).

#### **“Vision Lunch”**

“Vision Lunch” is an opportunity to hear about Jubilee, find out how you can get connected and meet our staff. This is the place to learn more about Jubilee.

#### **“Transformations”**

Transformations is a 6 week course on the foundational elements of being a disciple of Jesus. We encourage everyone who is new to Jubilee or who is new to following Jesus to go through “Transformations”. This will be offered in early 2017 and will be offered 2-3 times per year.

## **“Join the Family”**

This is a step along the journey. We used to do all commitment to the church organically —meaning you just kind of knew who treated the church like it was their home church and their family and who didn't. That doesn't work as we've grown larger and it definitely doesn't work for someone who is more reserved. So, once you've attended a “Vision Lunch” and gone through “Transformations” and you know that Jubilee has become your home church—we'll celebrate you on one Sunday morning and covenant with you as a church family. This is a relational commitment, not a legal obligation.

## **“Jubilee Leadership Formation”**

*Leadership Formation* consists of 11 modules—1 per month from January to November. The participant must be in a Jubilee Community or Campus Ministry and be recommended by a Jubilee Community leader or Campus Ministry Staff. The exact role of your leadership is decided between you and the current leadership team of the Jubilee Community you are connected to. For example, whether you will help begin a new community, lead a current one, organize an initiative, or something different. The exact role can change, what is important is that you remain committed to the Jubilee Community as “Home”, what you do is decided by you and your current Jubilee Community Leadership and you're committed to the overall goal of multiplying Jubilee Communities.

## **“Leadership Gatherings and Coaching”**

For all Jubilee Leaders and those currently going through the 11 modules of the *Leadership Formation*, we hold a *Leadership Gatherings* every two months to update each other on what is going on and to deal with current questions and challenges relevant to all of us. On the off months, we offer a personalized coaching session by a staff member or current Jubilee Community Leader.

\*\*For 2016, the *Leadership Formation* modules and the *Leadership Gathering* will take place on the same day back-to-back. For example, if the *Leadership Formation* module is taking place Thursday evening from 6:00pm-7:30pm, the *Leadership Gathering* will take place from 7:30pm-9:00pm to eliminate the need for multiple meeting times. This is because some people will want to attend both.

## **“Special Training Events”**

This simply means that from time to time, we will offer special, one-off training events that are not connected with our Leadership Formation.

DIAGRAM 1

**4 ENVIRONMENTS**

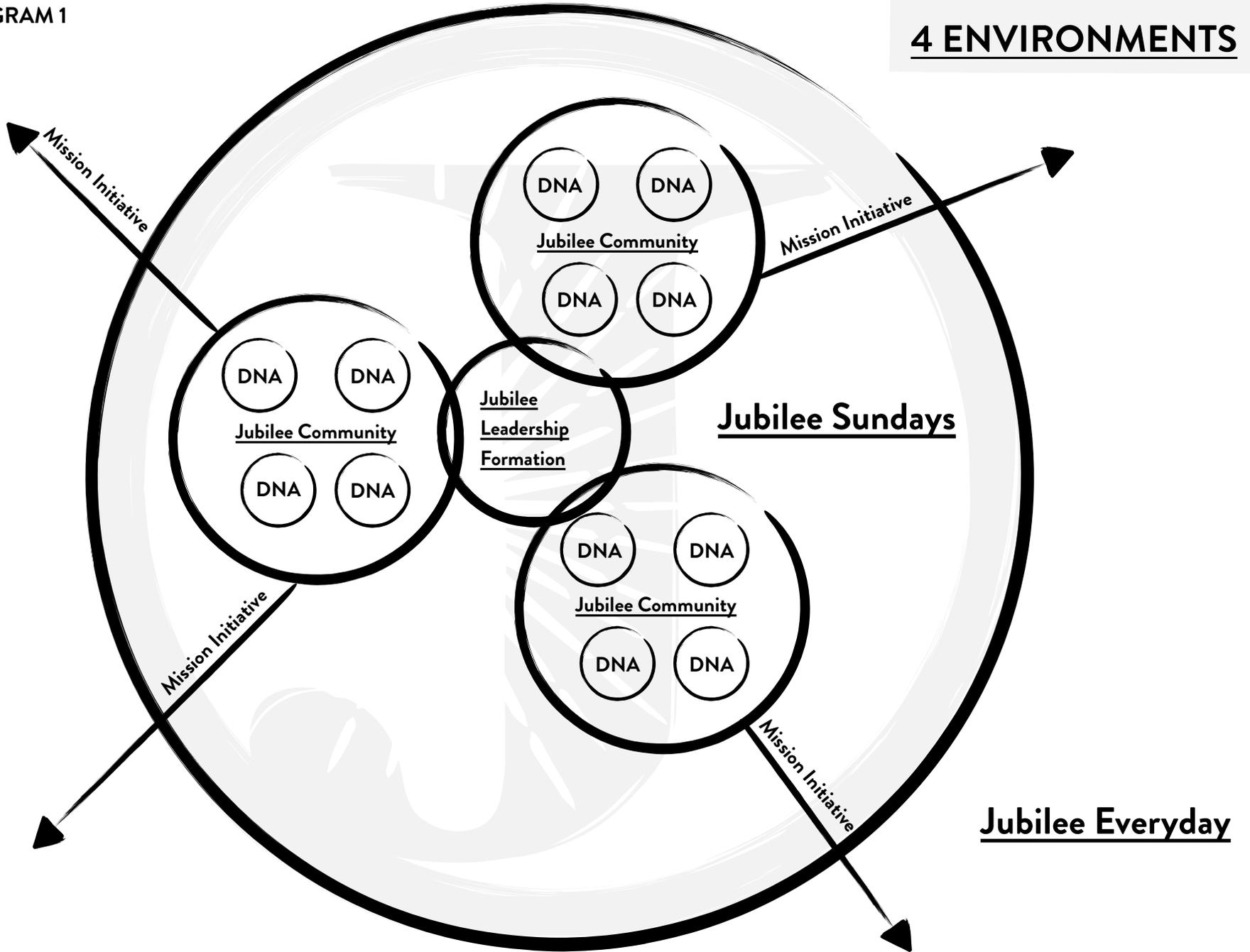


DIAGRAM 2

