

Male Devotional Leader - Jeffrey Lam

Years at CCF: 2
Years as a Christian: 1-3
Current Church: New City Church Toronto
Home Church: Milliken Christian Community Church

Vision Statement

UTCCF is a community built on our common identity as Christ's beloved. Together we strive to be a space where brothers and sisters can enjoy each other's presence, freely approach each other, and openly share with each other what God is bringing us through in each of our lives. To be a community is to actively journey through this part of our lives, together.

To be loved by Christ involves accepting His love: we must understand that when the God of the universe loves each of us as an individual, we each have a relationship with Him. The Gospel tells us that we are beloved by God and that God chose to love us (John 3:16), even when we were sinners (Rom 5:8). We have community by collectively making up the body of Christ (1Cor 12:27) because of the work of Jesus on the cross; and after His resurrection, the same Holy Spirit is in each of us (1Cor 12:13), expressed through our unique motivations, perspectives, opinions. We have reason to connect with one another, to share, to invest, and to pour time and effort into these relationships because our commonality is eternally relevant, universally. Our identity as beloved by Christ is more important than our differences. And even our differences in attributes and values are infinitely more interesting because this Spirit that is at work in me is also at work in everyone else, expressed in many different ways that will all ultimately bring glory to God.

That is exciting!

But we are quick to forget, and too easily satisfied. Sometimes the warm fuzzies seem to disappear and we don't "feel" anything. We must remind ourselves and each other to see the value in having fellowship -- and to take part in it as it happens.

And this is hard work. To be intentional involves being willing to be real and be honest, with yourself and with every single person you interact with, every single time. To build a community requires consciously choosing to connect instead of hiding, effortfully being transparent while knowing that we may not please everyone, remembering to have hope because the things we do are relevant to the Gospel. We can take courage and find rest in knowing that building up the body of Christ is a process that is too much for us -- and we have

a God who is sovereign and is faithful. Knowing that God is glorified regardless of the immediate outcome of our efforts to connect and relate to one another gives us reason to choose to try again