

LIFE IN CHRIST CRC MINISTRY PLAN



Salt Lake City, Utah

2026

"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men"
— Colossians 3:23

Life in Christ CRC is a place where people can meet Jesus, engage in life-giving community, and everyone is welcome. We believe in creating a space where people can have authentic encounters with Christ, discover their gifts and use them for God's glory.



OUR STORY

How it all started...

In the heart of Salt Lake City, our church has been a part of the 9th and 9th neighborhood story since the 1950s. Founded by immigrants from the Netherlands after World War II, our church became a home away from home for individuals and families relocating to Utah. Members became family to one another: most living only blocks from one another and the church. Today, this sense of family is still evident and longstanding relationships nurture an atmosphere of warmth and familiarity. A continuous commitment to caring for others has led our church to become a home to Native Americans relocating from their reservation and Cambodian refugees fleeing political oppression. Throw in university students pursuing academic endeavors in a new place, Chinese Americans settling in the valley, urban professionals relocating to our city, locals exploring life outside their culture, and you start to get a picture of the faces that together call themselves Life in Christ. We are a diverse group, following Jesus, longing for our true home.

We Are a Part of God's Story

We have seen God's work among us from the beginning, more than 60 years ago. God brings people from all over the world to us. Some become a permanent part of our larger church community, whether a part of Life in Christ's congregation, a part of a partner ministry or a member of one of our daughter churches. Others are with us for a time before they leave, equipped to do ministry elsewhere, whether the next town over or on the other side of the world. By God's grace, we remain committed to our place in our neighborhood, in Salt Lake City, Utah, a community committed to knowing, loving, and serving each other and our neighbors.



Expanding the vision...

Salt Lake City is attracting residents from all over the world! New housing is sprouting up along our train lines and a vibrant economy is reshaping the city's skyline. Located just outside downtown, our own neighborhood is experiencing its share of growth and change, as older homes and businesses are renovated to serve another generation. Our church is not only a part of our city's story of growth and change, but also a part of God's story: a story of continual faithfulness. This story is given to us in scripture but also one God is still writing today.

CORE BELIEFS

Our denomination is the Christian Reformed Church in North America (www.crcna.org). We believe that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God and contains all that people in any age need to know for their salvation. We call the Bible God's Word, believing that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God speaks to us through this book. Reformed believers summarize this biblical story in four major chapters:

- **Creation** - In the beginning God created a world where everything was in perfect harmony. Relations between God and humans and the creation were good and whole.
- **Fall** - Through pride, humans were enticed by Satan into rebelling against God. Their disobedient act opened the door for the "sin virus" to enter the world. This virus contaminates everything: no person, no creature, no institution, no relationship or individual action is free from the totality of this contamination. The results of sin are evident in such things as greed, violence, and oppression as well as pollution, sickness, death, and weeds. The most devastating effect of sin is alienation from God. Still, sin cannot obliterate the "image of God" in us that longs for God and for wholeness.
- **Redemption** - But God did not allow sin to have the last word in this story. Because of his great love for humans and for the whole creation, God set out to redeem the world from its sinful condition. God called Abraham and Sarah and their descendants, the people of Israel, to be his partners in blessing the whole world. Finally, he sent his only Son, Jesus the Messiah, to live a fully human life and then die, thus paying the price for humanity's sinful actions. But death could not defeat Jesus. God raised him from the dead to show that he had conquered sin and death. Now God's kingdom is growing and spreading in this world, and Christians are part of that great work.
- **New Creation** - One day, Jesus is coming back again to extend God's reign on earth completely. He will do away with any traces of sin and its effects. There will be no more sickness, no more suffering, no more alienation from God, no more death. Evil will be eradicated. God himself will dwell with humans and all creation will be fully restored. Praise God!

We believe that the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, the only infallible rule for faith and life. We affirm [three creeds](#)—the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. We also affirm three confessions—the [Belgic Confession](#), the [Heidelberg Catechism](#), and the [Canons of Dort](#)—as historic Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, whose doctrines fully agree with the Word of God. Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we recognize the following Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, adopted by synod as contemporary testimonies: the call for unity, justice, and reconciliation of the [Belhar Confession](#) and the witness of [Our World Belongs to God](#): A Contemporary Testimony. We use the NIV Bible in our worship services.

OUR VISION

Our Mission (what we do)

GATHER, GROW, SERVE IN GOD'S LOVE

Long Term Vision – Life in Christ 2040 (where we are headed)

- Flourishing community of disciples who grow in grace, go deep together, and through meaningful relationships, multiply Life in Christ.
- Faithful witness to our neighbors, proclaiming the Gospel in Word and life, loving broadly and serving our neighbors in Jesus' name.
- Beautiful, revitalized campus serving our community and other congregations, where the Spirit moves, the city flourishes and God is glorified.

Short Term Vision – Life in Christ 2027-2030 (where we are headed)

Evangelism and Engagement

- Neighborhood presence (listen, learn, care, prayer); group-based witness, outreach
- Discipling professionals (life-giving faith where you are; vocation, workplace)
- Church planting (organic multiplication, prayer gatherings, diaspora)
- University/Campus ministry (presence, relationships, mentors)

Next Generation

- Children's ministry (strengthen nursery and GEMS, new ministries)
- Youth group and catechism (profession of faith class)
- College and young adults
- Young families

Discipleship and Prayer

- 222 Disciple (one-on-one reproducible disciple-making program)
- Care and community (visit congregation, new members)
- Culture of prayer, daily Bible reading
- Teaching and training

Leadership and Execution

- Equip team leaders and execution/follow-through (preaching, worship, care, community life)
- Steward, develop and communicate vision (ministry plan, program map, org structure)
- Posture for future ministry with campus (admin offices, adequate restrooms)
- Leader development pipeline, staff ahead of growth (PT/FT)

Our “One Thing” – Focus for 2026 (revised each year)

Living the Gospel Together for the Sake of the World

Our Values (why we do what we do)

Relationships: The ministries of our church spring from God’s relationship with us and our relationships with others. We aim to be a community that deeply knows and cares for one another and embraces people of all ages, races, ethnicity, and languages.

Reconciliation: We recognize that our relationships – with God, ourselves, our neighbors, and creation – are often broken as a result of sin. Life in Christ involves the process of reconciliation – calling ourselves and others to repentance and healing in Christ’s name.

Nurture: We nurture Christ-likeness in people through teaching, training and disciple-making. We also seek to identify how God has gifted people, to mentor and empower them to use their gifts to strengthen our ministry, and to equip all our members for leadership and service.

Neighborhood: We understand that we are a unique part of our 9th and 9th neighborhood and we are committed to the well-being of the local community in which God has placed us. This includes neighborhoods where we live, but especially our 9th and 9th community.

Hospitality: A significant part of our past and present identity involves welcoming new-comers to Salt Lake City, the state of Utah, and the United States as well as offering a home to believers no matter where they come from. We welcome and make room for guests God sends us.

Commitment: We celebrate the Gospel which has a simple outline: Guilt – Grace – Gratitude. Our response to God’s grace must grow into commitment to Jesus Christ and his church. We must therefore act as faithful stewards of our lives and our world for Christ’s glory.

APPENDICIES

- I. LIFE IN CHRIST INSIGHTS REPORT
- II. LIFE IN CHRIST CHURCH PROFILE
- III. VISION INTRODUCTION
- IV. DISCIPLESHIP PLAN
- V. 2023 COUNCIL RETREAT NOTES