

A PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT – included in RCMUC Worship 16Jan22 - compiled by Rev Greg Wooley

In its simplest form, a mission statement describes who you are and where's you're going. As I poked around the internet, first looking for general resources about developing a personal mission statement, and then adding the word "Christian" to the search just to see what would happen, I was pleased to see that a number of sites, both faith-based and not, came up with a similar list of steps.

The version I'm presenting here comes mostly from the job-search site, indeed.com, with additional input from Asheritah at OneThingAlone.com and from bits and pieces of wisdom I have picked up along the way.

1. Pray

Before you begin, centre yourself and pray for God's guidance and wisdom. Ask God to give you clarity and bring to mind those areas of your life where you feel most aligned with the Divine. Open yourself to God's healing grace if you feel disconnected from God's hopeful love, or in some way "not up to the task." Spend as much healing holy time as you need.

2. Write what's most important to you, and the attributes you bring

Consider who you are, who you want to be, how God has uniquely called and equipped you, and how you can express Christ's agenda of love.

Make a list of

- your values – the principles that express your highest hopes for the world
- your actions – "ways of being" in which you have intentionally chosen to be a person of love
- your passions – things you are deeply committed to and find easy to give time to
- your gifts and talents - things you do well, and things you enjoy doing. (these may be the same things, but they might not...)
- situations in different aspects/roles of your life where you have really felt "in the zone" – places of fulfilment where the peace of Christ has been tangible.

If you get a bit stuck on this one, there are lists of words regarded as "virtues" by various religious traditions, that might help you name some things that are foundational to the person you are and the person you most want to be. A great source for this is Calgary's Virtues Project, <https://www.virtuesproject.com/virtues-definitions-1>

3. Listen to the experience of your peers

Check in with your mentors, colleagues, friends, or family members to ask them what they consider your greatest strengths. Write words that come up a lot among your peers. Or alternatively, think of situations in which others seem to frequently turn to you for input and write those down.

Let these discoveries surprise you, if others name back to you things you had not embraced about who you are in the world, and on the flip side: if you aren't happy with what they see, you have a great opportunity to make some alterations.

4. Articulate your hopes

Consider answers to the following questions:

- What do you hope for the world? For your nation, province, community, family?
- What situations in the world move you to tears?
- What can you envision contributing to the greater common good?
- What do you need to learn? Whom do you need to "hear"?
- What will help you find balance and wholeness in your life?

5. Identify the legacy you want to leave

Finally, consider the legacy you want to leave in the world. To help you determine what that legacy is, ask yourself the following questions:

- What lasting change do you hope to make?
- Who do you want to support or uplift in your lifetime?
- How would you like the world to be different when you leave it? (and, how would you want to be remembered?)
- How can you use your skills, aptitudes and abilities for this?

6. Write your statement

When you have a clear understanding of what you want to include, you can draft your mission statement. Use information from each previous step to write one sentence that summarizes your most notable skills or attributes, goals, and values. If you wish, distil it even further to one sentence you can easily remember.

Ensure it reflects who you are now and the person you want to be in the future. If guilt enters the process, do not let it block you or get you down! Consider writing two or more versions and reviewing them to find the best one.

Additional notes: when writing your mission statement,

keep it short and concise,

actually refer to it as you make decisions (post it where you can see it!)

update it regularly, and...

Be true to yourself. It's important to get some input from others in drafting this but your mission statement should reflect your passions, values, and goals, not anyone else's.

Whether you do this structured type of Mission Statement, or simply take some time to ponder how God is calling YOU to participate in Christ's Mission of Love, may God bless your journey.

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