THE VISION OF CHARIS RIVER CHURCH

Spirit-Filled. Grace-Focused. Truth-Grounded.

Charis River Church exists to be a place where people encounter the life-changing grace of Jesus Christ, discover who they are in Him, experience the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and are equipped to fulfill the purpose God has placed upon their lives.

CHARIS — GRACE

The name **Charis** comes from the Greek word for grace. Grace is at the heart of who we are because grace is at the heart of the Gospel.

Scripture tells us, **"For by grace you have been saved through faith… it is the gift of God, not a result of works"** (Ephesians 2:8–9, ESV).

We believe Jesus has accomplished what we could never accomplish for ourselves. Through His finished work, we have been forgiven, made righteous, brought into relationship with the Father, and given a new identity in Christ.

The Christian life does not begin with grace and then become a life of religious striving. We are saved by grace, we grow in grace, and we live every day from what Jesus has already accomplished for us.

We want people to understand who they are in Christ, what they have received through Christ, and how to live confidently from His finished work.

RIVER — LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

The **River** represents the life and activity of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said that the water He gives becomes within us **"a spring of water welling up to eternal life"** (John 4:14, ESV). Later He said that from those who believe in Him would flow **"rivers of living water,"** speaking of the Holy Spirit (John 7:37–39, ESV).

We desire to be a church where the Holy Spirit is not merely discussed but welcomed—where His presence, leading, gifts, and power are a normal part of the life of the believer and the church.

Ezekiel saw a River that became deeper and deeper until it was water to swim in. As that River flowed, it brought life, leading to the powerful declaration that **"everything will live where the river goes"** (Ezekiel 47:5–9, ESV).

That is a beautiful picture of our vision.

We want people to receive the life of Jesus, experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and carry that life into their homes, families, workplaces, neighborhoods, communities, and wherever God sends them.

The River flows to us, rises within us, and flows through us—and wherever the River goes, it brings life.

TRUTH — GROUNDED IN THE WORD

Everything we believe and practice is grounded in the truth of God's Word.

Jesus prayed to the Father, **"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth"** (John 17:17, ESV). He also declared, **"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"** (John 8:32, ESV).

We believe God's Word is truth, and knowing that truth brings freedom.

The Spirit of God and the Word of God are never in competition. We want the freedom and power of the Holy Spirit while remaining firmly established in Scripture. We want believers who know the Word, understand the Word, and confidently live according to what God has said.

This is what we mean when we say:

Spirit-Filled. Grace-Focused. Truth-Grounded.

These aren't simply words beneath our logo. They describe the kind of church we are committed to becoming.

A HEALTHY CHURCH FLOWS

A healthy river moves. It doesn't remain stagnant. It flows, and it brings life wherever it goes.

We believe a healthy church should do the same.

For Charis River Church, five essential expressions of a healthy church can be remembered with one simple word:

WATER

W — WORSHIP

We worship God for who He is and for all He has accomplished for us through Jesus.

Worship is more than the songs we sing on Sunday morning. It is the response of a heart that has encountered the goodness and grace of God. We don't worship to earn God's presence or acceptance. We worship because through Jesus we have already been welcomed into His presence.

A — ANNOUNCE

We announce the Good News of Jesus Christ, sharing the simple message of grace with those who don't know Him.

The Gospel really is Good News, and good news was never meant to be kept to ourselves. We want to be a church that continually reaches beyond its walls, sharing Jesus with our community and wherever God gives us an opportunity.

The Gospel came to us, and now it flows through us.

T — TEACH

We teach the Word of God, equipping believers to understand who they are and what they have in Christ.

We want people firmly established in God's Word and confident in their identity in Christ. We want them to understand the finished work of Jesus, renew their minds according to Scripture, recognize the voice and leading of the Holy Spirit, and learn how to apply God's truth to everyday life.

Teaching isn't simply transferring information. **It is equipping people for transformation.**

E — ENGAGE

We engage in meaningful relationships with other believers, building genuine community and doing life together.

Church was never intended to be something we simply attend. We are a family and members of one Body. We want people praying together, laughing together, growing together, celebrating victories together, and standing together through life's difficulties.

We want Charis River Church to be large enough to reach people while always remaining personal enough to know people.

R — RESPOND

We respond to God's call, discovering our gifts and fulfilling the unique purpose He has given each of us within the Body of Christ.

We don't believe God has called a handful of professional ministers to do the work of ministry while everybody else watches.

Every believer has a place. Every believer has gifts. Every believer has a calling.

Our desire isn't simply to recruit volunteers to fill positions. We want to help people discover how God has uniquely gifted them, equip them for ministry, and encourage them to fulfill the purposes God has placed upon their lives.

Ministry isn't reserved for the person standing behind the pulpit. Ministry happens wherever God's people respond to His call.

LET THE RIVER FLOW

Worship. Announce. Teach. Engage. Respond.

That's **WATER**.

We want to be more than a church people attend. We want to be a church where people encounter Jesus, discover grace, grow in truth, experience the Holy Spirit, build genuine relationships, and find their place in God's purposes.

Our **WORSHIP** flows upward as we respond to God and His grace.

Our **ANNOUNCEMENT** of the Gospel flows outward to people who need Jesus.

Our **TEACHING** allows the truth of God's Word to flow deeply into people's lives.

Our **ENGAGEMENT** allows the love and life of Christ to flow between His people.

And our **RESPONSE** allows the gifts, callings, and purposes God has placed within His people to flow into the world.

Jesus spoke of a spring welling up within us.

He spoke of rivers of living water flowing from us.

And Ezekiel saw a River bringing life everywhere it went.

That is our desire for Charis River Church.

Let the River flow.

“Everything will live where the river goes.” — Ezekiel 47:9

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