

ICF WAGENINGEN

VISION 2018-2019



GENERAL VISION

ICF wishes to be an open Bible-based community of Christians from diverse cultures, countries, denominations or backgrounds that together worships Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior (Jn. 17: 21-22; Gal. 3:28; Rev. 7:9-10), grows through discipleship and is active in the witness of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8).

As it says in Rev. 1:5-6:

“Jesus Christ...who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father—to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.”

And in Eph. 4: 16

“From Him [Jesus Christ] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”



WHY THIS VISION DOCUMENT?

Over the past few months the church council has regularly gathered to reflect upon the past couple of years and gain new vision for the years ahead. In this document you can find the outcome of this process. As a church we are in motion constantly, but we do want to pinpoint some things to focus on for the coming years. Looking back on our roots and our calling, we would love to reach out more to international students and offer them fellowship while they are far from home. We long to be part of God's mission for the world, we are His church, searching for His will and it is our desire to grow in this vision as a church and as followers of Jesus.

REFLECTION ON ICF

In a couple of years ICF grew from a student movement to a full church. Through organic growth new ministries developed where-ever our members saw a need for action. As a church council we appreciate and foster this bottom up approach. We are a spiritual family in which people can explore their gifts and talents and have the freedom to launch something new.

On the other hand there are clear signs that the church needs more structure, vision and visible leadership. For newcomers it is not always clear how our church works and where our focus lays. In the coming years the church council wants to be serving and facilitating on the one hand, on the other hand we would like to be more visible and communicate a clear picture of what ICF is and what we stand for. As an outcome of this reflection process the church council formed five focus points to work on in the coming years. As ICF is growing we wish to build a basic structure that allows us to focus on what truly matters. We wish to equip our members and visitors to learn from God's word, grow character through serving in the church and learn how to share the gospel with friends.

As church council we've defined five focal points:

- Being a spiritual family
- Empowering leadership
- Missional presence on campus
- Disciple making
- Communication improvements



FOCAL POINTS

1. SPIRITUAL FAMILY

Vision

We believe we are children of One Father and believe that Jesus himself laid down everything to find and save us. We are especially moved to reach out to people staying in Wageningen temporary like students or refugees. We realize that those are often in an age or situation when crucial life choices are being made.

We strive to know and serve newcomers in Wageningen, by sharing our hearts, faith and thoughts. We want to encourage people to grow in Christ and to use their personal talents for building up our church.

We consider the connect groups as crucial to function as a spiritual family. Therefore, we continue to stimulate all visitors to become part of a connect group. We hope to increase the participation from 50% to 75%.

Focal points for 2018-2019

- Experiment on teaching nights
- Establishing a pastoral team
- Improve communication between connect group leaders, prayer team, host team and pastoral team
- Establishing a diaconal fund to meet practical needs

2. EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP

Part of our vision is that we invest in the Sunday services as a place of training and equipping to reach out more effectively to internationals who do not yet come to church. We aim at more continuity in the teaching and communicating of the vision. That's the reason why we propose to plan for engaging a full time pastor and a missional worker in five years. We do not intend that people will look up to a pastor and a missional worker who take over all the work. One of the strengths of ICF is that there are many people involved in our activities. So we are looking for servant leaders, who humbly and boldly follow Christ and who can inspire the congregation to be an attractive presence of Christ in Wageningen.

Dick Westerkamp has been assisting ICF Wageningen for some years now as a part-time pastor. Since he retired from his congregation in Houten, he is willing to spend more of his time and energy here. We see this as steps into the direction of engaging a full time pastor. We're grateful for his input at this time and we are looking forward to see the ICF leadership grow in this way.



As students are the leaders of tomorrow, we want to make an effort to better train and coach leaders in ICF. We aim to make the council members who share the leadership of ICF more visible, this is especially important for newcomers.

Focal points for 2018-2019

- More visible leadership: Church council announcements at least every month
- More visible leadership: on the website and on the slides with announcements: photos and who is responsible for what
- Dick Westerkamp is willing to double his time and energy for ICF Wageningen. Among other things he will be available for training and coaching of connect group leaders

3. MISSIONAL PRESENCE ON CAMPUS

Vision

We want all internationals visiting Wageningen to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ! We believe that as a Christian community we can reach out to them on Campus with engaging events and through equipping believers to live out the gospel in their relationships with friends, colleagues and classmates.

We want to be a 'home away from home' for international students. Every student should know about ICF and that we are an open community where you can build friendships and where all questions of life can be asked.

Focal points for 2018-2019

- 4 engaging campus events:
 - o Two intellectual lectures/debates
 - o Two evenings focused on student topics (Stress, fear of missing out, career, ...)
- Connect group event: Being a Christian in Academics
- Organize Bible in three evenings in addition to Alpha
- At all-time posters of ICF celebrations, events and connect groups in the main student buildings
- Build relationships with groups on campus doing evangelism among students
- LIFE as an entry point to invite people to get to know ICF members
- Being present at AID, Passion week & OneWorldWeek (and connect with international student groups like ISOW and IxESN)



4. DISCIPLE MAKING

Vision

The goal of discipleship within ICF is to help everyone to grow in their faith, being enabled and equipped to put their faith into practice, serving Christ and his kingdom.

Focal points for 2018-2019

- ICF academy: going deeper
 - o There is a hunger for more in depth teaching on themes that may not always "fit" into a sermon format. ICF academy will have focus on discipleship
- Mentoring / Coaching
 - o Many have expressed a desire for mentoring. We will promote the idea of triads, small groups of three people that meet to pray, read and encourage each other.
 - o There is also a group who have discussed the idea of coaching people personally in various tasks that are done in ICF. This would be done to supplement broader training that happens within various teams (worship and service leaders, prayer team, connect group leaders).
- Community service
 - o It would be good to get into contact with a group like Present, where we as a church family could help others in the community. Practically serving with others often has the byproduct of stimulating spiritual growth. We could try to take on at least two projects per academic year.

5. COMMUNICATION

Vision

As our church is growing it asks for and is in need of a more consistent communication. Therefore we are constantly working on improvements, visual means that speak to students and being clear about what happens within our church council. Our vision is to stay a grass-roots community. Communication facilitates this.

"Trustworthy messengers refresh those who send them,
like the coolness of snow in summertime."

Proverbs 25:13



Focal points for 2018-2019

- Intern
 - Academic year calendar: start planning activities in time
 - Clear email answering policy as Church Council
 - Structured GOOGLE drive to save all important ICF documents
 - Treasurer joins once every 3 months deacon meeting, 1 deacon = contact person
 - Introduction documents for new church council members

- Extern (Communication important for visitors / new members)
 - Publishing half year calendar, poster format
 - Design of an introduction email chain
 - More structure in announcements
 - Creating (updated) Overview (s) of
 - Map Locations Connect Groups
 - Connect Groups contact persons
 - Vacancies Ministries
 - Focus communication more on mobile phone, where possible use of
 - WhatsApp
 - New Website
 - Offering with App or link

- Church Council
 - Every month an elder or deacon on stage
 - Twice a year a members meeting, with summary documents afterwards
 - Publicity of a Vision document at the start of every academic year.



ICF PROGRAM FOR 2018-2019

We understand the risk of organizing too much could lead to a loss of focus. Therefore we've decided to create a year planning in which we focus on a number of events that we believe are crucial for ICF members to grow in faith:

1. ICF teaching nights that challenge ICF members to understand Gods word and taking time to dive into relevant themes (4-5 evenings)
2. ICF campus events that aim at engaging with students on campus (3-4 evenings)
3. Equipping connect group leaders to build a safe environment to share and learn from Gods word.
4. Encourage triads and mentoring relations in which ICF members meet 1-on-1 or in pairs of three to share life and encourage each another.
5. ICF church council Saturdays where ICF leaders take time to focus on God and search His will for ICF
6. Holy communion and pot-luck Lunch (every first Sunday of the month)
7. Sunday services with relevant topics for students and young professionals (also linked to bible study materials)

For now our year calendar is a behind the scenes document. Every event our congregation should know about will be found on our online events calendar. We publish at least two months in advance.

By January our aim is to send a poster format of our calendar to all our members. This poster calendar will give you an overview of all events of the coming half year!



TEACHING NIGHTS

The core moments on which we gather as a family are the church services and the connect group meetings. In the service we worship the Lord together, a Biblical topic is being preached on and we lift each other and the world up in prayer. In connect group meetings people gather in smaller groups to share and pray together.

The church council proposes to introduce also teaching nights. This will create a possibility to do an in-depth study for a special topic, which we believe may be of interest. By studying together people will discover more and more about the relevance of the Bible for our daily lives.

The aim of the FIVE teaching nights is to focus on relevant topics through in-depth Bible studies:

1. What's the relevance of the old testament? (Studying the Old Testament)
1. Building community through sharing our lives
2. Studying the New Testament
3. Making choices with God
4. The great commission in Academics

CAMPUS EVENTS

Besides equipping our own members through teaching nights, we wish to reach out to students on Campus with topics that are relevant to them. These nights also offer the opportunity for ICF members to bring along friends and to join in conversation and debate with other students. These campus events will alternate with the teaching nights, one month an (internal) teaching night and the other month an (external) campus event.

Topics:

1. Science and ethics: What is life?
2. The pursuit of happiness and the fear of missing out
3. Materialism, Good & Evil
4. Coping with stress & expectations



"Not only is the student scene the fastest growing and most fertile soil for Christianity these days, but many of these young men and women are destined to hold high positions of great influence in a whole variety of careers in the future. Their potential influence is incalculable."

Michael Green