

**Mission statement, vision and priorities for ICF Rotterdam**

**Mission statement: Passion for God, compassion for people**

We are an intercultural Christian community in Rotterdam established to help people find Jesus, follow Him and share His Word.

**Vision**

During the past years we have seen a lot of growth and we are thankful to God. The size of the ICF brings us some new challenges. We want to stay accessible and low threshold for non believers. We want to be a place where everyone grows in their relationship with God. We want to encourage teaching, prayer, and Bible study in daily life. We want to be close to our brothers and sisters in fellowship. We want to bridge cultural differences.

God brought us after fasting and prayer, to the image of the tree. This tree concept has been guiding the ICF from the very beginning. In the Bible, the tree is used in several places to represent growth. Two of these are of importance to the ICF at this moment:

**Roots**: In Psalm 1 the tree is a sign of personal spiritual growth. When someone is rooted in the word of God, his life will bear fruit.

**Branching**: In Matthew 13: 31-32 the tree is a sign of the growth of the kingdom. Out of a mustard seed comes a branched tree. Someone who is attached to the tree like a branch, will get relationships with other people through this.

God is not asking us to make a very thick trunk out of the ICF, but rather, to deepen our roots through discipleship, and to strengthen our branches through closer connection to one another. More specifically this means: more attention to group work, reinforcement of the leadership, and through these things, growth in discipleship. We will not put all the energy in the Sunday service, which keeps expanding and is getting filled with more and more elements.

**Priorities**

**1. Committed to mission and outreach in Rotterdam**

We want to be a church for people who do not (yet) know the church. We want to show Jesus through our own life. We encourage our members to be missionary, and to get involved in missionary/diaconal/voluntary initiatives in the area. We collaborate with network partners and like-minded organizations. Our services and activities are low threshold and open to visitors. We want to be a blessing to Rotterdam.

**2. Intercultural community**

We are an intercultural community. We count on our Lord Jesus Christ to help us to make us one. Together we are building a Christian culture in the congregation, by bridging our differences. We stimulate intercultural cooperation and communication among members and the teams. We integrate cultural diversity in the Sunday services. We love to see more flourishing ministries such as the African, Kurdish and Latino Ministries. We support members from a certain culture to have meetings for their own group and in their own language, but we always come together in the Sunday service, in church activities and in the different teams (for example children’s work, Alpha course, church choir).

**3. Discipelship starting with our children and youth**

We want every member to develop as a mature disciple of Jesus. We pay attention to the growth of young and older believers. We stimulate a lifestyle of prayer among members and obedience to the Word of God. We promote a service-oriented and active attitude in church members; we want everyone to flourish as they use their gifts in the Kingdom. We aim to have always enough volunteers for the children's & youth work and for bible study home groups.

**4. Building up our congregation**

We take our given talents seriously, and we work together to make most of it for God’s Kingdom. We aim to be more independent financially. We want to dedicate enough resources for members in need and missionary activities. We have motivated and qualified staff who support the leaders of the different teams.