



Last week our governors agreed to a number of developments relating to the future of the college. This letter is to let you know about these changes. We decided to adopt a new statement of vision and values, a new logo and a change of name. Taking them in reverse order we would like to comment briefly on each.

We will once again be known as *Northern Baptist College* but with a new strap line, *A Learning Community*. It is now five years since we adopted the name *Northern Baptist Learning Community*. This change was made to reflect the reality of our life and ministry as teachers and learners working not just at Luther King House in Manchester but also in churches and communities across the northern half of England. The decision to revert to *Northern Baptist College* is a response to the struggle that many people have had getting their heads and their tongues around the change of name. Only last week Glen was introduced at an induction service as, “the Co-Principal of The Northern Baptist Learning Community Facility.” As the new strap line indicates we are still very much committed to being and becoming a community learners, discovering together what it means to follow Jesus today in the light of scripture and the rich theological tradition of the Christian Church. Same reality, simpler name.

As you will have noticed the change of name goes hand in hand with a new logo. This in turn is part of a whole new look to accompany a much-upgraded website. We are aware that for some time now our website hasn't been up to scratch. As part of a renewed attempt to communicate more effectively with churches, prospective students and others the website will be launched next year and will offer more information about NBC in a more accessible format. It will also help our community and our friends to engage with the college. Watch this space.

The new vision, values and strategy is part of our attempt to be clear about the ministry to which we believe God is calling us. This isn't the place to share the whole of the document but you might be interested in the headlines. Over the page you will find a statement of our vision, our values and our distinctive characteristics. We hope they capture something of the heart of NBC and give an indication of an emerging sense of where God is leading us in the next phase of our life together.

As always we welcome comments on the changes outlined in this letter. Such dialogue helps us discern the way ahead. Please let us know what you think. You can email Glen or Clare, you can comment on our Facebook page, you can even speak to governors, staff or students in person! We won't be able to reply to every single comment but we will certainly listen.

Throughout its history NBC has developed and adapted in response to changing opportunities, new challenges and, we believe, in response to the prompting of God's Spirit. Our own times offer new opportunities and present fresh challenges. We pray that as we seek to serve the churches of our region, playing our part in the mission of God, we will be faithful to our heritage and responsive to the leading of Christ.

Clare McBeath
Co-Principal

Glen Marshall
Co-Principal

David Warrington
Chair of Governors

What are we all about? (Our Vision)

Everybody has a vision statement these days. Ours tries to say what we are about in just ten words.

Equipping leaders for a changing church and a changing world

What matters to us? (Our Values)

We want to develop leaders who are faithful to God and creative in the service of God. Therefore we long for NBC to be a community where people learn to be:

- Mission focused
 - Engaging with the world, not hiding in the church.
- Relationally committed
 - Collaborating with others instinctively, not going it alone.
- Theologically savvy
 - Rooted in the biblical story, not just doing whatever seems to “work.”
- Servant hearted
 - Knowing that leadership is about loving people, not building empires.
- Community oriented
 - Seeking justice for all, not settling for anything less
- Lifelong learners
 - Embracing growth and development, not stuck in their ways.

What marks us out? (Our Distinctives)

We know we can't do it all and we are glad that others are also equipping Christian leaders. Nonetheless we believe we have something special to offer.

In all that we do we seek to be:

- Radically Contextual
 - God took on flesh in a particular place, at a particular time. Seeing the good news take shape in every corner of God's world is in our bloodstream.
- Intentionally Relational
 - People, people, people. That's what it's about. Not institutions for institutions' sake. Not servicing systems. People. People in relationship.
- Dynamically Responsive
 - To live is to grow, to adapt, to move. We resist activism, but recognise the need to be light on our feet, following Christ as The Spirit leads.
- Resolutely Inclusive
 - God loves us all in our wonderful diversity. We delight in difference and celebrate variety.
- Distinctively Baptist
 - Not in a wave-the-denomination's-flag sort of way, but in an our-bit-of-the-church-has-something-good-to-offer sort of way.