Healthy Church Culture:

Alignment of Values

Families share the same DNA. For churches and families of churches, this DNA is a set of agreed core values. Paul urged Timothy to ‘hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me’ (2 Tim. 1:13). How important is it to establish alignment to a set of agreed core values? How is such alignment to be maintained?

**Stef Liston** along with his family and a small team, planted Revelation Church London in 2006, and he now serves as an elder there. Stef helps to lead the Relational Mission family of churches and carries specific responsibility for training and church planting. When it comes to serving the Lord, he loves, more than anything else, to preach God’s word. He is married to Davina and they have three teenage children. As a family they love living in London - walking, cycling and driving around the city and enjoying its history and diversity. Stef loves reading, walking, music, longboarding and watching good films. Stef has written a book on prayer called ‘Just Like Us’, a book about the Lord called ‘He Was and Is and Is to Come’ and a book about marriage called ‘When Two Become One’.

1. Biblical framework for church as family
	1. Church is a family, not a business or an organisation
	2. Church is family on mission
	3. Family involves time
2. What are church values?
	1. Embodied Values
	2. ‘Our Ways’
	3. Enduring Values
3. Timeless and timely values
	1. Timeless values
		1. Doctrinal agreement remains fundamentally the same
		2. Each church has a particular contribution
		3. Leads to different emphases
	2. Timely values
		1. Can overlap with timeless values
		2. Dependent on the context and season
4. Maintaining alignment of values
	1. Communicating values
	2. Co-Labouring

***Suggested Readings:***

*Relational Mission: A Way of Life*, Betts, Mike, (2016) Relational Mission,

*No Well-Worn Paths*, Virgo, Terry, (2008) Newfrontiers-USA

*The Spirit-Filled Church: Finding Your Purpose in God’s Purpose*, Virgo, Terry (2011) Monarch Books