

Church Principles: The Way Ahead

Mission Statement:

Doing together what we could never do alone.

The Vision:

We wish to develop a practical theology of compassion.

Christ Centered: First of all, Church is not about us. It's about Jesus.

- [Colossians 1:15-18 HCSB](#) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation; (16) because by Him everything was created, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him. (17) He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together. (18) He is also the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything.

Humbly Serving: Jesus Christ is the Head of the church and its only owner. Let no member think that long service or large gifts impart tenure in an office or control over any part of the ministry.

- [1 Corinthians 1:26-29 HCSB](#) (26) Brothers, consider your calling: not many are wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. (27) Instead, God has chosen the world's foolish things to shame the wise, and God has chosen the world's weak things to shame the strong. (28) God has chosen the world's insignificant and despised things--the things viewed as nothing--so He might bring to nothing the things that are viewed as something, (29) so that no one can boast in His presence.
- [1 Corinthians 3:4 HCSB](#) For whenever someone says, "I'm with Paul," and another, "I'm with Apollos," are you not *typical* men?
- [Ephesians 1:22-23 HCSB](#) And **He put everything under His feet** and appointed Him as head over everything for the church, (23) which is His body, the fullness of the One who fills all things in every way.
- [1 Peter 5:2-4 HCSB](#) shepherd God's flock among you, not overseeing out of compulsion but freely, according to God's *will*; not for the money but eagerly; (3) not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (4) And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

For example:

- **Distributed leadership:** We seek leadership that empowers others rather than organization that is dependent on a single key person or a select few. This is reflected in our:
 - **Empowerment of women** – Satan has tried to cut off half of the church's strength by convincing us that women have no role in the church beyond cooking, cleaning and possible caring for small children. We reclaim the equality of women boldly stated by Paul:
 - [Galatians 3:28 HCSB](#) There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
 - **Open membership** – We are not an exclusive club for the spiritually elite. If you (1) have professed faith in Christ, (2) attend our church for the majority of Sundays for six months, (3) if you contribute in some way to the family (even if it's just handing out bulletins), (4) if you are sixteen or older - you get to vote.

- **Team building** – In our ongoing pursuit of the development of our people’s spiritual gifts we develop teams that allow them to safely pursue their gifts in the most appropriate manner. While building in accountability, we give them responsibility and the appropriate authority to go along with it. We choose our leaders and then let them lead.
- **Servant leadership** – We believe that in order to lead we must be willing to serve. The needs and desires of the leaders become subordinate to the needs and desires of those led. We follow the Apostle’s Peter’s lead in this:
 - **1 Peter 5:3 HCSB** not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

We do not “lord it over the people” assigned to our care.

 - **Philippians 2:3-4 HCSB** Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. (4) Everyone should look out not *only* for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

We want to be humble, thinking of others as better than ourselves. We don’t want to think only about our own affairs, but to be interested in others, too, and what they are doing. This also means that though we strive to meet everyone’s needs, we know that that is not always possible. When those needs conflict, the needs of the most must supercede the needs of the few (Romans 12:10b; 14:19).

 - **Romans 12:10 HCSB** Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honor.
 - **Romans 14:19 HCSB** So then, we must pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another.

Worshipful: Worship involves both joyful celebration and reverent contemplation. We will do both with the focus on Jesus Christ.

- **Psalms 47:1 HCSB** For the choir director. A psalm of the sons of Korah. Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a jubilant cry.
- **Psalms 63:5 HCSB** You satisfy me as with rich food; my mouth will praise You with joyful lips.
- **Psalms 66:1 HCSB** For the choir director. A song. A psalm. Shout joyfully to God, all the earth!
- **Psalms 100:1-2 HCSB** A psalm of thanksgiving. Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth. (2) Serve the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.
- **Matthew 28:9 HCSB** Just then Jesus met them and said, "Good morning!" They came up, took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him.
- **Revelation 5:8 HCSB** When He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
- **Revelation 7:11 HCSB** All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

Bible Believing: While cultures, techniques and traditions may change, God’s Word is eternal and absolutely reliable in all that it affirms. Therefore, the Bible shall have the final say in all that the church believes, teaches, and does.

- **Psalms 119:160 HCSB** The entirety of Your word is truth, and all Your righteous judgments endure forever.
- **Isaiah 40:8 HCSB** The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever."

- **Matthew 24:35 HCSB** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.
- **1 Corinthians 9:20-23 HCSB** (20) To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win Jews; to those under the law, like one under the law--though I myself am not under the law--to win those under the law. (21) To those who are outside the law, like one outside the law--not being outside God's law, but under the law of Christ--to win those outside the law. (22) To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some. (23) Now I do all this because of the gospel, that I may become a partner in its benefits.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 HCSB** All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, (17) so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Saint Training: God's Word is God's tool in maturing disciples. We purpose to teach believers from the Bible in practical terms how to live the Christian life. We will train them in Biblical doctrine and for Christian service.

- **Matthew 28:19-20 HCSB** Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
- **1 Peter 2:2 HCSB** Like newborn infants, desire the unadulterated spiritual milk, so that you may grow by it in *your* salvation,
- **Acts 20:32 HCSB** "And now I commit you to God and to the message of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all who are sanctified.
- **2 Timothy 2:2 HCSB** And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 HCSB** All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, (17) so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
- **2 Timothy 4:2 HCSB** proclaim the message; persist in it whether convenient or not; rebuke, correct, and encourage with great patience and teaching.

For example: We desire to possess grace balanced with knowledge – We want to follow the middle way. We do not want to emphasize grace to the point that we forego sound doctrine and truth telling. But we do not want to so emphasize orthodoxy that we begin imposing false standards and become spiritual bigots.

Empowering: The church is the body of Christ. The whole church is the body, not just the pastor and staff. Thus, we commit ourselves to helping members discover their spiritual gifts and mobilizing every member in service to Jesus Christ. We view the pastor and staff like coaches who equip the church for the work of ministry.

- **Ephesians 4:11-12 HCSB** And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, (12) for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ,
- **Romans 12:6-8 HCSB** According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the standard of faith; (7) if service, in service; if teaching, in teaching; (8) if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.
- **1 Corinthians 12:4-7 HCSB** (4) Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. (5) There are different ministries, but the same Lord. (6) And there are different activities, but

the same God is active in everyone and everything. (7) A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person to produce what is beneficial:

- **1 Peter 4:10-11 HCSB** Based on the gift they have received, everyone should use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God. (11) If anyone speaks, *his speech should be* like the oracles of God; if anyone serves, *his service should be* from the strength God provides, so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Appropriately Ministering: We want our volunteers following their own God-given spiritual gifts and callings. We don't want to simply throw "warm bodies" at a ministry. We want to make sure that each person's individual blend of gifts is considered and carefully matched to the appropriate ministry. (Romans 12:6-9)

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Mutually Accountable: We see ourselves, in part, as a support group for recovering sinners. We purpose to nurture each others' spiritual growth by encouraging one another to greater works and holding each other accountable in his walk with Christ.

- **Hebrews 3:12-13 HCSB** Watch out, brothers, so that there won't be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that departs from the living God. (13) But encourage each other daily, while it is still called **today**, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception.
- **Hebrews 10:23-24 HCSB** Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. (24) And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works,
- **Proverbs 27:17 HCSB** Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.
- **Galatians 6:1 HCSB** Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so you won't be tempted also.
- **Matthew 18:15-18 HCSB** "If your brother sins against you, go and rebuke him in private. If he listens to you, you have won your brother. (16) But if he won't listen, take one or two more with you, so that **by the testimony of two or three witnesses every fact may be established.** (17) If he pays no attention to them, tell the church. But if he doesn't pay attention even to the church, let him be like an unbeliever and a tax collector to you. (18) I assure you: **Whatever you bind on earth is already bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth is already loosed in heaven.**
- **Romans 12:9 HCSB** Love must be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good.
- **Proverbs 27:5-6 HCSB** Better an open reprimand than concealed love. (6) The wounds of a friend are trustworthy, but the kisses of an enemy are excessive.

Disciplined: The Christian life is a quest for holiness. We desire to align our actions, words, attitudes, and affections with the nature of God. We will "feed" our inner life to be

made strong in the Lord, refraining from anything that weakens our resolve for righteousness, such as pornography or the abuse of drugs or alcohol.

- **2 Corinthians 7:1 HCSB** Therefore dear friends, since we have such promises, we should wash ourselves clean from every impurity of the flesh and spirit, making our sanctification complete in the fear of God.
- **Ephesians 4:24 HCSB** you put on the new man, the one created according to God's *likeness* in righteousness and purity of the truth.
- **Hebrews 12:14 HCSB** Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness--without it no one will see the Lord.
- **1 Peter 1:13-16 HCSB** Therefore, get your minds ready for action, being self-disciplined, and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (14) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance (15) but, as the One who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; (16) for it is written, **Be holy, because I am holy.**
- **2 Peter 3:11 HCSB** Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, *it is clear* what sort of people you should be in holy conduct and godliness
- **Romans 13:14 HCSB** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no plans to satisfy the fleshly desires.
- **Ephesians 5:18 HCSB** And don't get drunk with wine, which *leads to* reckless actions, but be filled with the Spirit:
- **Galatians 5:16 HCSB** I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Holy Spirit Focused: In the planning process, our priority shall be to pray and make decisions at the leading of the Holy Spirit, instead of making our plans and then asking God to bless them.

- **Romans 8:14 HCSB** All those led by God's Spirit are God's sons.
- **Acts 10:19-20 HCSB** While Peter was thinking about the vision, the Spirit told him, "Three men are here looking for you. (20) Get up, go downstairs, and accompany them with no doubts at all, because I have sent them."
- **Acts 13:2 HCSB** As they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work that I have called them to."
- **Acts 16:6 HCSB** They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia and were prevented by the Holy Spirit from speaking the message in the province of Asia.

Devotional: Christianity is a relationship with Jesus Christ. Thus, we want to be close to Him. We will nurture this relationship each day by spending time alone with God in prayer and in His Word.

- **1 Chronicles 16:11 HCSB** Search for the LORD and for His strength; seek His face always.
- **Psalms 5:3 HCSB** At daybreak, LORD, You hear my voice; at daybreak I plead my case to You and watch expectantly.
- **Psalms 55:17 HCSB** I complain and groan morning, noon, and night, and He hears my voice.
- **Psalms 119:9 HCSB** How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping Your word.
- **John 5:39-40 HCSB** **You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, yet they testify about Me. (40) And you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.**

- **John 17:3 HCSB** This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent--Jesus Christ.
- **John 17:17 HCSB** Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.
- **Acts 17:11 HCSB** The people here were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, since they welcomed the message with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.
- **Galatians 4:9 HCSB** But now, since you know God, or rather have become known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and bankrupt elemental forces? Do you want to be enslaved to them all over again?

Prayerful: No church rises above its prayer life; we will emphasize the practice of prayer.

- **Matthew 7:7 HCSB** "Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you.
- **Luke 18:1 HCSB** He then told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not become discouraged:
- **Ephesians 6:18 HCSB** With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and stay alert in this, with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.
- **1 Timothy 2:1-2 HCSB** First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, (2) for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.
- **1 Timothy 2:8 HCSB** Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument.

Evangelistic: Evangelism is the main work of the whole church until Christ returns. We commit ourselves to intentionally and winsomely sharing the gospel. We emphasize evangelizing those outside the church as well as our own. We are here to reach the Mercer County area for Jesus Christ.

- **Matthew 28:18-20 HCSB** Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
- **Acts 1:8 HCSB** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- **2 Corinthians 13:5-6 HCSB** (5) Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Examine yourselves. Or do you not recognize for yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless you fail the test. (6) And I hope you will recognize that we are not failing the test.

For example:

Cultural relevance within the Church

Language use – We try to not use Christian “jargon” (sanctification, justification etc.) without explicitly or implicitly defining the terms.

Presentation: As much as we may decry it, reality TV is here to stay because it connects with people. They no longer want to passively watch the show. They no longer want to simply watch stars being born. They want to have a part in voting for them. It’s even scriptural when applied to the church! After all doesn’t 1 Corinthians 14:26 say “How is it then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, *another* language, or an interpretation. All things must be done for edification.”

This cultural desire to participate leads us to:

1. Have as many people as possible participating in the worship service as possible. To do this we have used greeters, ushers, special music, offertory prayers, children's sermons, scripture readers etc.
2. Leave the pulpit and "work" the aisles
3. Give "voice" to the people and encourage them to speak out in the service.
4. Encourage the audience to finish the speaker's sentences
5. Exegete metaphors, which by nature are participatory.

Application – We don't assume everyone in the congregation can make the leap from the verse to the application. Many of our people may have, until recently, been unchurched and may not have the exegetical background to know how. Some of those listening might be unsaved and thus don't have the Holy Spirit to explain things to them yet. So we spell it out.

Environmental

1. **Worship Styles:** We have said that we want to reach the younger generation. We know that they appreciate a more laid back atmosphere, contemporary music, multimedia, and a coffee house style conversational style. We try to include some of these things so that we can attract them to Christ.
2. **Accessibility:** We value the handicapped and the elderly. We show this by giving them access through the front door. We do not want to give the message "Oh you're handicapped – then you must enter the back door." We know that some in our church struggle with spelling or with following an outline. We show our appreciation for their presence and attention by presenting the outline on the media screen to help them spell names like Hezekiah, Pharaoh or Malachite. We make sure that we respect the larger members of our family by providing strong, arm-free chairs. We help families attend by providing nursery care.
3. **Professionalism:** We know and love each other and thus can forgive much in the way of performance. The unchurched do not have that relationship with us and can be turned off by what we view as "cute" or "special". We do not want to distract them from the message by our lack of professionalism. So we do our best to represent Christ adequately while not allowing our principle focus to become the professionalism.

Inspiring worship services – We want to make sure that no one leaves our services unmoved. The Scriptures tell us that we are to encourage one another to greater works; that we are to speak the truth in love; that we are to sing hymns and psalms and spiritual songs; that we are to submit to one another; put our various spiritual gifts to use for the betterment of each other – what an exciting experience!

Cultural relevance outside the Church

Home-based cell groups – we have discussed having small groups meet in homes throughout the county during the week. Materials and training are available to anyone who feels the need. We'd like to see a group in Seaton, in Reynolds, in Joy, in Viola...each town that we can. It would give you a midweek boost, an opportunity to stretch your wings and put your spiritual gifts into practice. It also gives you a great opportunity to invite people who might never think of coming to a church but would come to your house for coffee and conversation!

Christian coalitions

1. **Temporary** – We are willing to form temporary coalitions on issues that are not doctrinally driven but of interest because we are human. i.e cooperating with the Catholic church on abortion or presenting the movie "The Passion of the Christ."
2. **Permanent** – We think that anyone who confesses Christ as their Savior and holds to the essentials of the gospel is a brother or sister in Christ regardless of their denominational affiliation or worship style. We believe that all the churches in the world that share these common beliefs with us are part of the universal body of

Christ. We should not therefore engage in “turf wars” with them. We cooperate and develop lines of communication with other like-minded churches in order to more efficiently further the kingdom of Christ. We’d like to have one service per year with another church so that we can meet other brothers and sisters and encourage them to be faithful in their labors.

Community service – If our church vanished, would our community care? Would anyone notice? We want to be an externally focused church. Our Evangelism should be conducted like Jesus’. First He healed and fed them. Then He spoke to their hearts’ needs. Our evangelism should thus be geared to the actual needs of those served. This is why we participate in ministries like:

1. **The ACT fund**
2. **ALANON or NARCANON:** We want to make our facilities available to such groups so that they start associating the church with answers to life problems.
3. **Garden Ministry:** We’d like to develop a garden ministry designed to help with the needy.
4. **Blood Drives**
5. **Food Drives**

Positive First contact – We like to create opportunities for our people to meet face to face with those of the community. We want positive first contact experiences with those who may not have had good experiences with religion in the past. So we try to make sure that that first encounter with us is positive and uplifting. We give out free stamps on tax day to express our appreciation for their faithfulness. We offer free car washes as a demonstration of our servant heart. We are willing to try anything that will make their first experience with Christians attractive and interesting.

Grace Imparting: As Christians, we are recipients of God's grace. Grace is when God gives us that which we do not deserve. His grace provides forgiveness, transforms us, sustains us, and enables our service. We are so dependant upon God's grace that we have no room to look down on others. Rather, we are to minister grace to others. We want our church to be a haven of grace.

- **2 Timothy 1:9 HCSB** who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.
- **Ephesians 1:7 HCSB** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
- **Ephesians 2:5-8 HCSB** made us alive with the Messiah even though we were dead in trespasses. By grace you are saved! (6) He also raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavens, in Christ Jesus, (7) so that in the coming ages He might display the immeasurable riches of His grace in *His* kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift--
- **2 Corinthians 9:8 HCSB** And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.
- **Titus 2:11-12 HCSB** For the grace of God has appeared, with salvation for all people, (12) instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age,
- **2 Corinthians 12:9 HCSB** But He said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.**" Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me.

- **Ephesians 3:7-8 HCSB** I was made a servant of this *gospel* by the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of His power. (8) This grace was given to me--the least of all the saints!--to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of the Messiah,

For example: We have sought to develop an atmosphere of love and caring within the congregation by:

- **Elder care** – As God has blessed our church with continued numerical growth it has become more and more difficult for the pastor to call on everyone. We have divided the load up between the elders to make sure that everyone gets contacted at least once a month. We want to make sure no one falls through the cracks.
- **Home visitation** – The pastor has been to many of your homes and is glad to visit anyone who asks. He has made a practice of inviting families into his home for supper and conversation and the vast majority of you have been in his home. But we need to extend beyond just the pastor visiting everyone. We need to build real relationships with each other and with the new families. Why not consider hospitality as a genuine and vital ministry?
- **Cards and notes** – We try to make sure that we remember your special days and celebrate them with you.
- **Hospital visitation** – We try to visit those who have been hospitalized. Sometimes this one is more difficult because the communication is slow and the hospitals try to get you in and out so quickly!
- **Potluck meals** – We gather together regularly to eat as a family. Many of us eat together every Sunday!
- **ACT fund** – We want to show our care and concern for the poor – whether or not they attend our church. So we pool our benevolence resources with other churches to care for the poor of our community.
- **Caregivers** – With the burning desire to be sure that no one falls through the cracks or gets left behind I would like to see us have one member for every ten that is assigned to be a caregiver for those nine. He or she would help us notice when they are absent, send them cards.
- **Tolerance** - We recognize that members can be passionately devoted to their spirituality and faith, though this may be expressed in different ways.

People Sensitive: Because people are most effectively reached for Christ together with others of like interests, we shall identify and concentrate on reaching out to "people groups" within our community.

- **Acts 6:7 HCSB** So the preaching about God flourished, the number of the disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.
- **Acts 10:45 HCSB** The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.
- **Acts 17:10-12 HCSB** As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas off to Berea. On arrival, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. (11) The people here were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, since they welcomed the message with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. (12) Consequently, many of them believed, including a number of the prominent Greek women as well as men.

For example: We are developing supportive small groups among congregational members – We would like to increase our specialized small groups to extend beyond Sunday school. Age-based groupings are wonderful, but there are other ways that we can support each other: Support groups for the addicted, for single mothers, for latch-key kids etc.

Missions Oriented: Missions is evangelism which crosses geographical and/or cultural boundaries. Our commitment to world evangelization includes participating in missions and supporting those who give their lives to this work.

- **Psalms 96:3 HCSB** Declare His glory among the nations, His wonderful works among all peoples.
- **Acts 1:8 HCSB** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- **Matthew 28:18-20 HCSB** Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
- **3 John 1:5-8 HCSB** Dear friend, you are showing your faith by whatever you do for the brothers, and this *you are doing* for strangers; (6) they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God, (7) since they set out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from pagans. (8) Therefore, we ought to support such men, so that we can be co-workers with the truth.

Flexible: Change and flexibility being essential to church growth, we will regularly evaluate church ministries and programs. We commit ourselves to excellence in the Lord's work. It is better to do a few things well than many things poorly. Excellence is worth the price of time, money, and energy.

- **Ecclesiastes 3:1 HCSB** There is an occasion for everything, and a time for every activity under heaven:
- **Ecclesiastes 3:6 HCSB** a time to search and a time to count as lost; a time to keep and a time to throw away;
- **Ecclesiastes 9:10 HCSB** Whatever your hands find to do, do with *all* your strength, because there is no work, planning, knowledge, or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.
- **Romans 12:11 HCSB** Do not lack diligence; be fervent in spirit; serve the Lord.
- **Matthew 9:17 HCSB** And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. But they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved."
- **Proverbs 18:15 HCSB** The mind of the discerning acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks it.

For example: We wish to maintain administrative structures that work - As our church continues to grow and ministries rise and fall by the way side, we must continue to be flexible in our approach to administration. We should be characterized by doctrinal orthodoxy but also by a broad social conscience. Interpreting how one should lead to the other in a fast-paced changing culture is very challenging. What used to be a wonderful strategy may no longer work. What may be useful now may not in the future. It will take considerable effort to not get caught in the trap of inflexibility but with the leading of the Holy Spirit and the wise counsel of many we can do it.

Loyal: It is every member's responsibility to promote the mission, protect the reputation, and ensure the success of the church.

- **Luke 4:16 HCSB** He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. As usual, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read.

- **Ephesians 4:16 HCSB** From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part.
- **2 Corinthians 12:20-21 HCSB (20)** For I fear that perhaps when I come I will not find you to be what I want, and I may not be found by you to be what you want; there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorder. **(21)** I fear that when I come my God will again humiliate me in your presence, and I will grieve for many who sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, sexual immorality, and promiscuity they practiced.
- **Hebrews 10:25 HCSB** not staying away from our meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Unified: In its normal state, the church exists in a unity produced by the Holy Spirit. Disunity results from our own selfish motives and actions. We purpose to preserve this unity by refraining from gossip, a critical spirit, and divisive behavior.

- **Ephesians 4:3-6 HCSB** diligently keeping the unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds us. **(4)** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope at your calling; **(5)** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **(6)** one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.
- **John 17:20-21 HCSB** I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their message. **(21)** May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent Me.
- **Proverbs 22:10 HCSB** Drive out a mocker, and conflict goes too; then lawsuits and dishonor will cease.
- **Proverbs 26:20-21 HCSB** Without wood, fire goes out; without a gossip, conflict dies down. **(21)** As charcoal for embers and wood for fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.
- **James 3:13-18 HCSB** Who is wise and understanding among you? He should show his works by good conduct with wisdom's gentleness. **(14)** But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, don't brag and lie in defiance of the truth. **(15)** Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. **(16)** For where envy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every kind of evil. **(17)** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without favoritism and hypocrisy. **(18)** And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Family Supportive: We purpose to support and uphold the ideal of the Christian home. A Christian marriage involves a man and woman, both believers, living according to Biblical principles, committed to each other exclusively for life, and seeking to rear godly children.

One Man – One Woman.

- **Genesis 1:27 HCSB** So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.
- **Genesis 2:18 HCSB** Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is like him."
- **Genesis 2:21-24 HCSB** So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. **(22)** Then the LORD God made the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. **(23)** And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh;

this one will be called woman, for she was taken from man. (24) This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

- **1 Timothy 3:2 HCSB** An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an able teacher,

Not matched with unbelievers.

- **Nehemiah 13:23-27 HCSB** In those days I also saw Jews who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. (24) Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod or of one of the other peoples but could not speak Hebrew. (25) I rebuked them, cursed them, beat some of their men, and pulled out their hair. I forced them to take an oath before God and said: "You must not give your daughters in marriage to their sons or take their daughters as wives for your sons or yourselves! (26) Didn't King Solomon of Israel sin in matters like this? There was not a king like him among many nations. He was loved by his God and God made him king over all Israel, yet foreign women drew him into sin. (27) Why then should we hear about you doing all this terrible evil and acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign women?"
- **2 Corinthians 6:14-17 HCSB** (14) Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? (15) What agreement does Christ have with Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? (16) And what agreement does God's sanctuary have with idols? For we are the sanctuary of the living God, as God said: **I will dwell among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people.** (17) **Therefore, come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord; do not touch any unclean thing, and I will welcome you.**

Married for life.

- **1 Corinthians 7:39 HCSB** (39) A wife is bound as long as her husband is living. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to anyone she wants--only in the Lord.
- **Malachi 2:14-16 HCSB** Yet you ask, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have acted treacherously against her, though she was your marriage partner and your wife by covenant. (15) Didn't the one God make *us* with a remnant of His life-breath? And what does the One seek? A godly offspring. So watch yourselves carefully, and do not act treacherously against the wife of your youth. (16) "If he hates and divorces *his wife*," says the LORD God of Israel, "he covers his garment with injustice," says the LORD of Hosts. Therefore, watch yourselves carefully, and do not act treacherously.
- **Matthew 19:3-9 HCSB** Some Pharisees approached Him to test Him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife on any grounds?" (4) **"Haven't you read,"** He replied, **"that He who created them in the beginning made them male and female, (5) and He also said: For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh? (6) So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, man must not separate." (7) "Why then,"** they asked Him, **"did Moses command *us* to give divorce papers and to send her away?" (8) He told them, **"Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because of the hardness of your hearts. But it was not like that from the beginning. (9) And I tell you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."****

Raising a godly household.

- **Deuteronomy 6:6-9 HCSB** These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. (7) Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (8) Bind them as a

sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. (9) Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- **Deuteronomy 11:18-20 HCSB (18)** "Impress these words of Mine on your hearts and souls, bind them as a sign on your hands, and let them be a symbol on your foreheads. (19) Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (20) Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates,
- **Ephesians 6:4 HCSB** And fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
- **1 Timothy 3:4-5 HCSB** one who manages his own household competently, having his children under control with all dignity. (5) (If anyone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of God's church?)

Generous: The Bible teaches that everything in our lives - time, abilities, and finances - belongs to the Lord and that we are to manage His resources in His way. As God has entrusted His message to us, believers are stewards of the gospel. In regard to financial giving, the tithe is the starting place. We owe God a tithe; offerings are expressions of worship above the tithe. We believe in "storehouse tithing," giving the first ten percent through the general church budget.

- **1 Corinthians 6:20 HCSB (20)** for you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body.
- **Psalms 24:1 HCSB** A Davidic psalm. The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the LORD;
- **1 Corinthians 4:1 HCSB** A person should consider us in this way: as servants of Christ and managers of God's mysteries.
- **1 Peter 4:10 HCSB** Based on the gift they have received, everyone should use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God.
- **Deuteronomy 8:17-18 HCSB (17)** You may say to yourself, 'My power and my own ability have gained this wealth for me,' (18) but remember that the LORD your God gives you the power to gain wealth, in order to confirm His covenant He swore to your fathers, as it is today.
- **Leviticus 27:30 HCSB** "Every tenth of the land's produce, grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.
- **Malachi 3:8-10 HCSB** "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me!" You ask: "How do we rob You?" "*By not making the payments* of 10 percent and the contributions. (9) You are suffering under a curse, yet you--the whole nation--are *still* robbing Me. (10) Bring the full 10 percent into the storehouse so that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this way," says the LORD of Hosts. "See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.
- **Matthew 6:19-20 HCSB** "Don't collect for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. (20) But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal.

Thus we believe the way to fulfill Hashem's vision and mission for our church is to be:

1. Christ Centered
2. Humbly Serving
3. Worshipful
4. Bible Believing

5. Saint Training
6. Empowering
7. Appropriately Ministering
8. Mutually Accountable
9. Disciplined
10. Holy Spirit Focused
11. Devotional
12. Prayerful
13. Evangelistic
14. Grace Imparting
15. People Sensitive
16. Missions Oriented
17. Flexible
18. Loyal
19. Unified
20. Family Supportive
21. Generous

Theology of Compassion

Social Compassion

Social Action (mind/spirit)
Preventative

Political, social and institutional change

***Bringing out those which are bound
with chains***
Ps. 68:5-6

political interest groups
prophetic pronouncements
educational programs
 -sensitivity raising
 -action provoking
writing letters
picketing
organizing to oust a politician
organizing to oust a government

Social Service (body)
Remedial

*direct, concrete ministry to existing social,
physical and emotional needs*

Cup of cold water, naked, in jail
Matt. 25:35-40

Relief
prison ministries
food banks
shelters
soup kitchens
disaster relief
hospitals
dispensaries
medical/dental clinics
empowerment
 tools, pumps,
 seed, buildings,
 transport

Development
educational programs
 agricultural
 hygienic
 vocational
 academic

Spiritual Compassion

Evangelism (soul) **Exhortation** (soul)
Pre-Christian Post-Christian

*preaching the gospel
missionary activity*

*Encouraging the saints
to greater works
(1 Thess. 5:11)*

Go unto all the world ***truly God is among you***
Matt. 28:18-20 ***1 Co.14:25***

Preaching
Personal witnessing
Radio
Television
Youth camps
Marriage retreats
Elderly/ Shut-in services
Fine arts
 Music
 Literature
 Movies
 Drama
 Dance
Discipleship program