

Mission - Vision - Values (DRAFT)

Mission

Servants of Christ, formed by God's Word, led by His Spirit and engaged in bringing our world to Christ.

Vision

Love - Grow - Serve

Values

Transforming Walk with God (Isaiah 40:8; Romans 12:2)

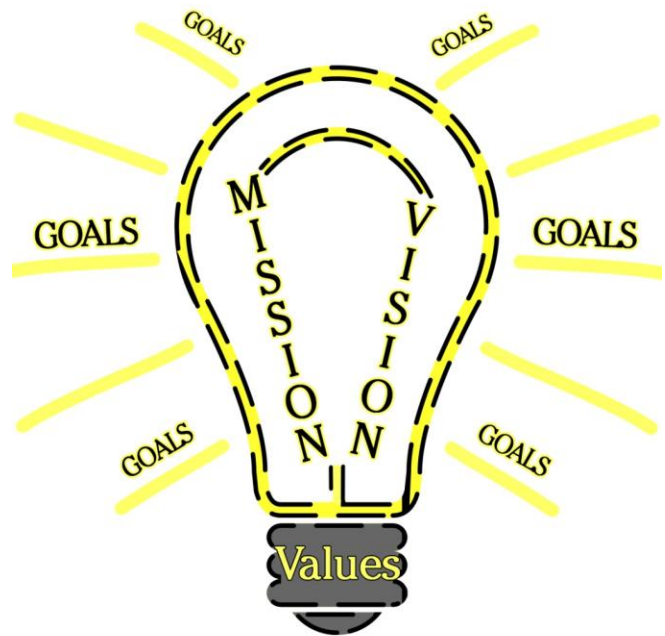
A transforming walk with God begins with making a personal commitment to know and follow Jesus Christ. That commitment is not limited to a single moment in time, but is multiplied by the fruit of a life that is transformed by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. We consciously rely on the Holy Spirit to inspire and alter us through corporate and individual prayer. The Holy Spirit also gives us insight and understanding into the Word of God and the God of the Word. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God and is the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine and conduct. We look to the Bible to inform and ground our understanding of who God is and how he invites us to participate in his efforts to heal our broken lives and world. We extend grace and support to one another knowing we are all in process of being renewed and transformed by God. Therefore, we are committed to creating space for spiritual formation for all ages including heart-felt worship, Biblical and challenging preaching, Sunday School, Wednesday night ministries, prayer groups and small group Bible studies.

Life-Giving Partnerships (Eph. 2:1-10, Philippians 2:1-8)

We believe we live in a world in need of God's restoration and healing, and that God has chosen the Body of Christ to be His partners in mission to bring salvation to the world in the name of Jesus Christ. We are willing to set aside our differences in order to accomplish God's mission. We seek unity in purpose because it strengthens our impact and cultivates the endurance required to complete the restorative process. We actively seek partnerships that extend beyond denominations, politics, class, race, age, or gender. Diversity deepens our understanding of ourselves and others. This is why we engage in partnerships with other churches and Christian organizations such as Pilgrim Baptist Church, One Body Collaborative and our denomination, the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC).

Sacrificial Generosity (2 Samuel 24:23-25; Acts 2:42-47)

We give sacrificially of our time, talents and treasure for God's glory and neighbor's good. Sacrificial generosity can take many forms, and so we also seek generosity in our listening, our desire to understand one another and in our forgiveness for one another. We desire to see people as God sees them and to understand and respond to spiritual, physical and emotional needs. We strive to be warm and welcoming and practice sincere hospitality. The reach of our gifts doesn't just stay within the boundaries of our brick and mortar church, we reach out into our community both locally and globally. We support foreign and local missions. We partner with global ministries in India and Bethlehem, churches in Ukraine and Mexico and local organizations like Carpenter's Place, Rockford Reachout Jail Ministries and the River Bluff nursing home.



Visionary Courage (1 Chronicles 12:32; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21)

We are a risk-taking church. Living a life of faith by following God's promptings may lead us into unfamiliar territory. As a church, we embrace innovation for the sake of fulfilling God's desires for our world. We recognize that in order to be innovative, we need to get comfortable with making mistakes. It is part of the process of transformation. By consciously relying on God as our source of strength, discernment and inspiration, we find the courage to set our sights on restoration, reconciliation and revitalization for our world. Therefore, we seek out intergenerational and multicultural relationships with one another. We invest heavily into our children and youth ministries and offer an innovative summer park ministry for children in our community. We extend grace and support to one another through our congregational care committee. We engage our community in challenging conversations about Human Trafficking through the Abolitionist Society.