

MISSION *(What we are about)*

Introducing people to Jesus and the redeemed life He offers

VISION *(What we want to become)*

To see God redeem and transform us into a community of grace, seeking to be like Jesus and multiplying disciples in the Upstate and beyond.

CORE VALUES *(What it looks like in practice)*

- **Gospel Driven** – Furthering God’s mission and agenda for the world by announcing and applying what he has done for us in Jesus. As the Church, we are to partner with God to preach the good news of the Kingdom to ourselves, each other, those who don’t know Jesus, and those who never heard about the life and salvation available in him (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; I Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 4:11-13; Rom. 1:16; Col. 1:28-29; II Tim. 4:1-2; Phil. 1:27; Titus 2:11-14).
- **Grace Centered** - God's grace is ground zero. It must be the primary motivation for growing as a disciple of Christ. This means we will make a big deal of the undeserved love, kindness, and compassion of God, especially in what he has done through Jesus (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 2:11-12; II Cor. 12:9; Rom. 5:1-2; Col. 3:12-13; John 1:16-17; I Peter 4:10; Acts 4:33; II Tim. 2:1).
- **Spirit Led** - Attempting to listen for and be sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This kind of dependence on the Spirit that Jesus modeled might be reflected in faithful prayer, spiritual gift(s), fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control), helping other Christians in their struggle with sin, listening for what he may be speaking to our heart, and even singing with other believers (Acts 1:8; Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:16-18, 22-25; John 16:13; Acts 13:2-4; Acts 15:28; II Cor. 3:17-18; Jude 20-21; Rev. 2:7).
- **Enjoying God** - seeking our highest happiness in him alone in and through all things. Short-lived pleasure in temporal gifts is not how God intended our happiness to work. He hardwired us to value him first, regardless of our circumstances. The more we express gratitude for his love, willingly participate in worship, regularly spend time with him, and cling to his hope in hard times, the more we can find eternal joy (Psalm 16:11; Psalm 37:4; Psalm 100:1-2; Isaiah 61:10; Phil. 4:4; Neh. 8:10; Psalm 73:25-26; I Peter 1:8; Psalm 34:8; Romans 5:11; Rev. 19:6-7; Hab. 3:17-18).

- **Loving Others** - caring for people with no expectation of return by putting their needs above ours. If we are freely committed to living in a community where others' needs are more important than our own, we will truly taste of Christ's unconditional love (John 13:34-35; I Cor. 13:4-7; I John 4:7-8; Matt. 22:37-39; Gal. 5:13-14; Eph. 4:2-3; I John 3:16-18; Romans 12:9-10; Col. 3:12-14; Heb. 10:24-25; Matt. 5:43-44; James 2:8; John 15:12-13; I Pet. 4:8).

DISTINCTIVES (*How it happens*)

- **Expositional vs. Topical Teaching** - Our typical approach is the walk through a book of the Bible seeking to hear what God might be saying to us. We teach expositionally (explaining the meaning) to help us understand and apply the Bible to our lives.
- **Team Oriented vs. Hierarchical Leadership** - Because we do not think God entrusts any church to a single person, we do not operate with a “senior pastor” model of leadership. A team of elders guides us – men gifted by God to oversee the church and affirmed by our members as those who meet the biblical standards. A directional team of staff members leads the ministry’s strategic operations.
- **Equipping vs. Event Emphasis** - We are committed to teaching and training our people to pursue life and mission with Jesus through serving, rather than simply offering events to keep us busy.
- **Participatory vs. Spectator Worship** - We invite everyone to be present and respond, celebrating who God is and what He has done and currently doing through Jesus Christ.
- **Pneumatic vs. Pragmatic Ministry** - Through much prayer, our leaders seek to know the leading of the Spirit in every decision shaping our life together as a church.

ENVIRONMENTS: (*Where it happens*)

- Life with God – Worship & Daily Walk in God’s Word
- Life in Community – Doing life at close range with others
- Life on Mission – Engaging neighbors and nations with the Gospel

INITIATIVES: (*What is our focus over the next three years?*)

Establish our church culture by articulating, aligning, and advancing our mission and vision through Worship, Community and Mission.

EVALUATION: (*How are we accomplishing the above?*)

- Regular Evaluation of our Plan
- Regular Evaluation of our Strengths
- Regular Evaluation of our Challenges

