

Essentials: Our Purpose

Our purpose as a church is the purpose of the church as described in the New Testament; the same purpose Jesus had: to call *followers*. All of us are followers. The question is, "Who are we following?" Jesus came to turn us around and take us in the right direction: God's direction. So we express our purpose and personal commitment to Jesus' leadership this way: we're about...

calling followers and following His call

In Scripture calling followers for Jesus Christ is also described as 'making disciples' (Matthew 28:18-20). In some sense, calling followers (or making disciples) is an ongoing process in someone's life, that is, we are continually calling each person to become more and more like Jesus. And when we call men and women, boys and girls, to follow Jesus, we are following His call to obedience, and those responding are following His call.

We believe our purpose includes four important elements:

We **invite** all people to **One Lord**: the way of grace on which we follow Jesus begins with us becoming **servants** of Christ through the transforming forgiveness of the Cross.

We **integrate** followers into **One Body**: those who belong to Jesus are united by God's Spirit and walking in His love as **siblings**, as brothers and sisters under one Father.

We **instruct** followers of Jesus Christ in **One Truth**: we follow after Jesus according to the word of God, growing as **students** of God's will as revealed in Scripture.

We **involve** each follower in **One Mission**: followers of Jesus are always **sent ones** for Christ, declaring and demonstrating His love in every place God has placed them.

Through our **Sunday morning Gathering** and our **home groups**, we seek to carry out this work of calling followers as we follow His call. Please see the reverse side for more about our beliefs.



way of grace
CHURCH



We believe in...

One Lord, who is God the Father, the Maker of all things, the all-powerful King over all creation, and the only one worthy of our undivided love and adoration.

Psalms 95:6; 115:1-3; Isaiah 44:24; Jeremiah 10:6, 7; Matthew 22:34-38; Ephesians 4:6; Revelation 4:11

One Lord, against whose loving reign all human beings have inwardly and outwardly rebelled, and consequently stand under God's eternal judgment, unable and unwilling to submit.

Genesis 3:1-19; Psalm 130:3; 143:2; Romans 3:9-14, 23; 5:12; 8:7, 8; Ephesians 2:1-3

One Lord, Jesus Christ, who being both fully man and fully God, the eternal Son of God born in human flesh, has made, through His substitutionary death and bodily resurrection, a way of grace by which human beings can be reconciled to God and know everlasting life.

Luke 19:10; John 1:1-4, 14, 16, 17; Romans 5:6-11; Ephesians 2:4-9; Colossians 1:13-22; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Peter 2:24

One Lord, who calls men and women to respond, with faith, to His invitation to forgiveness and a new life in the loving service of God, by turning from their defiance and following Him through the gift of a new heart from, and in the power of, God the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 11:28-30; Mark 1:14, 15; 8:34, 35; John 20:30, 31; Acts 2:37-39; Romans 1:16, 17; 10:9; 11 Corinthians 5:17

One body, which is that community of Christ's followers called the church (being manifested by local churches), and which is both the primary means through which God works in this world and the necessary means by which its members can grow according to Jesus' likeness.

John 13:34, 35; 17:20-23; Ephesians 3:8-11; 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:14, 15; 11 Peter 1:20, 21

One truth, which is faithfully preserved in the sacred writings of the Old and New Testaments, and which represents the authoritative voice of the living God.

Deuteronomy 26:16, 17; Jeremiah 25:4; Luke 24:44, 45; 11 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 1:1, 2

One truth, by which followers of Jesus Christ are nurtured in their loving service to God, since through these writings, they can accurately learn of God and His desires for every area of life.

Psalms 119:103-106; Romans 15:4; 11 Thessalonians 2:15; 11 Timothy 3:14-17; 1 Peter 2:1-3; 11 Peter 3:1, 2, 14-16

One mission, which calls each follower of Jesus Christ to be, through both speech and lifestyle, His representatives in the circles in which God has uniquely placed them.

Matthew 5:13-16; Ephesians 2:10; 5:15, 16; Colossians 4:2-6; 1 Peter 2:9; 3:15, 16.

One mission, which until Jesus returns to our world, calls every church to make disciples of Christ as they declare His Good News, demonstrate His love, and help establish new communities of disciples who will do the same among all the peoples of the earth.

Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:44-48; Acts 1:6-8; 3:18-21; 13:1-3; 14:21-28; Colossians 1:25-29

Essentials: Our Beliefs

Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (11 Timothy 1:13)

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