

Our Calling and Core Values

Our Calling: With profound humility but with boldness given us by the authority of Scripture, we affirm our calling to be a living expression and manifestation of the whole measure of the fullness of Christ in Whittier and the world (Ephesians 4:13).

Our Core Values: What follows is an expression of the Core Values of our congregation, based upon Scriptural principles for our mutual calling in Christ. The purpose of these Core Values is to be a measuring rod against which we test our motives, programs, agendas, and stewardship. We desire that the expression of these values will work both as an inspiration and a corrective force in our pursuit of a shared life in Him. We proclaim them with humility, because it is only by the grace of God and the use of His gifts in our body that we may be able to live them out. We are a weak people and will surely fail in some of these areas, but that does not change our call and our desire to commit ourselves to living these values. Any successes in our calling are opportunities to praise God for His work in our midst, while failures indicate a continued need to be surrendered to his will and guidance. Ultimately, it is Jesus Christ living in our hearts that motivates us as individuals and as a local body to love and serve God, each other, and the world.

We deeply value being a community that is grounded in, and shaped by, God's Living Word. (Matthew 4:4; Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 2:15)

- We desire to establish our teaching and our lives on the solid foundation of God's Word.
- We desire that our commitment to the Word of God will result in our becoming a transformed people of distinctive lifestyle.
- We desire expository preaching and teaching which faithfully, clearly and accurately explains and applies the Scriptures to our lives.
- We desire to exalt and magnify the beauty of Christ and the Glory of God in all of our preaching and teaching
- We desire to encourage and empower many to teach the Word in a variety of contexts (including one-on-one and small groups) according to the Spirit's gifting.

We deeply value our call to whole-heartedly love the Lord and our neighbors as we love ourselves. (Matthew 22:36-39; John 34, 35; Ephesians 3:16, 17; I Corinthians 13, Revelation 2:4)

- We desire to remain in, and never forsake, our first love for Christ.
- We desire to reflect the person of Christ in our lives by being a people characterized by love.
- We desire to be rooted and grounded in the love of Christ as the basis for our life together.

We deeply value pursuing God and all that He has for us – together – in oneness and unity. (John 17:23; Ephesians 2:20-22; 4:1-6)

- We desire to live our lives together in reconciled, united and caring relationships that glorify God.
- We desire to be an active fellowship of believers who are called to journey together vs. individuals who are pursuing their own walks and relationships with God.
- We desire to care for one another through active sharing of our time and material resources in support of one another's needs.

- We desire to actively and lovingly confront sin among us, particularly pride and complacency.
- We desire to humbly pursue reconciliation in our personal relationships.
- We desire to practice all the dynamics of a healthy church in the context of small groups.

We deeply value that the ethnic and social diversity of Whittier be reflected in our church.
(Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:1-6)

- We desire to intentionally embrace and journey with those of any ethnicity, age, gender or economic status.
- In light of this diversity, we desire to be reconciled, unified and blended together, to the glory of Christ.

We deeply value intentional disciple-making. (Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:14-16)

- We desire to establish new believers in the Scriptures and in their relationships with God and to provide an environment in which all believers can continue to grow towards maturity.
- We desire to have an environment in which spiritual mentoring is the norm and, as a result, mature believers are investing their lives in building-up new believers.
- We desire to be intentional in developing and maintaining a spiritual multiplication process which results in spiritual reproduction.
- We desire to actively call people to discipleship as normal in the Christian life.

We deeply value ministering to and caring for children and youth. (Proverbs 22:6; Ps 102:18)

- We desire to teach children to love and worship God and to be disciples of Christ.
- We desire to disciple junior high students, high school students and young adults so that they become the next generation of Christian leaders and servants of God.
- We desire that children and youth be taught and trained to worship and live holy lives.

We deeply value being a “sending church”. (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 10:2; Romans 10:15)

- We desire to create the kind of environment in which releasing each person into their God-ordained and Spirit-directed role and place of service is facilitated.
- We desire to engage in, and be supportive of, social/redemptive ministry in our local community and throughout the world.
- We desire to not only support, but to send missionaries from our community to the world.
- We desire to be committed to missions around the world, particularly within the 10/40 window.
- We desire to support local and national ministries committed to proclaiming the Gospel.

We deeply value serving and worshipping together in complete submission to the Holy Spirit, continually offering ourselves as living sacrifices to the Lord.

(Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-25; 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 5:18-21)

- We desire to be a church that intentionally seeks the direction of the Holy Spirit, corporately.
- We desire to have a vital corporate prayer life – knowing that apart from Christ, we can do nothing.
- We desire to clearly and consistently teach and affirm the essential role of the Holy Spirit in our lives – both personally and corporately.

- We desire that each member of this community be free to exercise their unique gifting and to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in our midst.
- We desire to be faithful stewards of our financial resources and to give sacrificially at the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- We desire to live pure and holy lives – to be set apart for the great purposes of God.

We deeply value our call to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel to those who do not know Christ as their Lord and Savior (Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15).

- We desire to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone in Whittier.
- We desire to live the kinds of lives that bear witness to Christ by our words and actions.
- We desire to equip believers to be able to share their faith as the Lord provides the opportunities to do so.

In order to live out these core values we will endeavor to:

- Use all of the financial resources entrusted to us wisely, in ways that clearly support living out of these values.
- Intentionally and frequently communicate and reinforce these core values.
- Assure that our leadership (Ministry Council) is actively evaluating whether we are faithfully living out these values.
- Maintain our Bylaws and other means of governance so that they reflect, and are subordinate to, our core values.