

STATEMENT OF VISION AND COMMITMENT

1. Jesus says his disciples will be known by their love for each other. We want this to be a reality in our congregation and we welcome input from other faithful Christians on how we can do this better.
2. We believe that God resists the proud and that pride is an abomination to the Lord. Therefore, one of the most important characteristics of Christians is a humble heart.
3. Jesus' ministry here on earth was characterized by his servant heart. This way of living should characterize His followers no matter what occupation they have or whatever position they hold in the church. No one in the body of Christ has the right to be a lord over God's heritage.
4. We desire to cultivate and nurture a high respect for the Word of God. We attempt to make practical application to all the teachings of the New Testament.
5. We strive to maintain a deep sense of dependence on God's Holy Spirit both individually and as a congregation. We actively seek His presence and His guidance within the parameters established by the Word of God.
6. We believe God wants His people to be a praying people. We are committed to praying personally and corporately. We value the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples.
7. We believe it is our responsibility to help carry out Christ's "Great Commission." As we have opportunity, we seek to make disciples of Jesus locally as well as in other places around the world. Our focus is on reaching the lost and the unchurched with the Gospel. We not focus on forming communities of like-minded people but rather reaching out in love to those who do not know the Gospel of the Kingdom. We want the Lord to add to the church such as should be saved - whoever that may be.
8. We are committed to ordering our priorities in ways that help to build and nurture a community spirit.
9. We are committed to sharing our resources with the household of faith and also with those not yet committed to Christ.
10. We seek to minimize age and race segregation by intentionally nurturing cross-generational and cross-cultural relationships.
11. As members together of the body of Christ, we do not believe that freedom in Christ means we may do as we please. We are submitted and accountable to

each other in our finances, vocations, investments, attire, ministries, child training, and much more.

12. We believe that Christ is not divided and we especially seek to live at peace with followers of Jesus in our geographic area. We also treasure opportunities to build relationships with followers of Jesus outside our geographic area. In our interactions with other kingdom Christian churches, we purpose to relate and communicate in such a way that other churches will not view us as being competitive or view us as “sheep stealers”. If someone is looking for a different kind of church fellowship, our first goal is to see what can be done to help their church provide the greener grass the person desires.
13. We intentionally align ourselves with other Christians who follow Jesus, obey his teachings, and seek to embrace His kingdom now. We have cast our lot with: - Christians who have embraced the stranger and pilgrim way of life -Christians who are separating themselves from the world and are becoming separated unto God -Christians who are committed to returning good for evil
14. We seek to raise our families in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We are committed to choosing environments and influences for our children that will encourage faith in God and obedience to His will.
15. We are committed to identifying wholesome recreation that truly recreates the body, soul, and spirit.
16. We are committed to identifying and removing unnecessary barriers that hinder people from experiencing the blessings of Christian fellowship and communion.
17. We seek to deny ourselves in all areas of life and give ourselves to those things that will nourish the “inner man”. This typically results in an avoidance of worldly values expressed in fashion, sports, materialistic pursuits, and anything else that is geared towards gaining the approval of people and nurturing the desires of the flesh.
18. If we are slack or deficient in any of the above matters, we welcome other faithful Christians to show us our lacks in a spirit of brotherly love and hold us accountable.

This paper provides an outline of a vision a congregation may purpose to live. It is an example of a statement a congregation may want to give to seekers/inquirers. It is something a congregation may want to give to other congregations to whom they wish to be accountable.

This is a work in progress. Updated October 19, 2018. Please send suggested revisions and additions to ernest.eby@gmail.com.