

**Cobblestone's Vision, Mission and Core Values**  
**FINAL**  
JANUARY 10, 2021

**OUR VISION**

*(Our destination)*

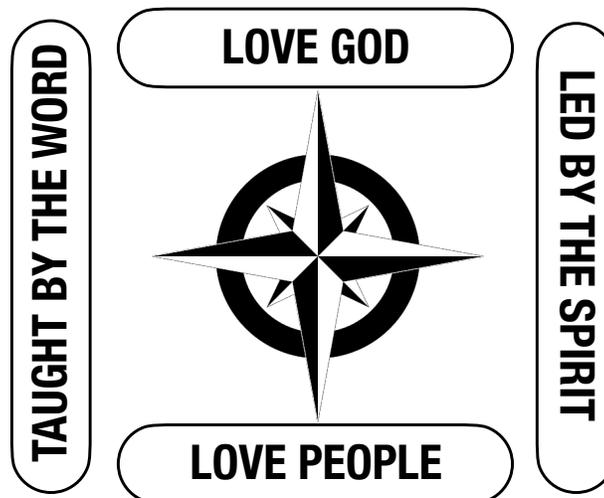
***Lovers of God, loving others into life-changing encounters with Him.***

As a diverse spiritual family united by the Gospel, we long for God's presence and power in every dimension of our lives. By His grace, we will grow deeper in our relationship with Christ and go further with Him on mission. Our dedication to both God's Word and His Spirit will result in commissioned disciples with heartfelt love for God and one another – glorifying God through passionate worship, miraculous ministry, rightful understanding and submission to the Word, and joyful satisfaction in the fullness of His presence.

**OUR MISSION**

*(The road we are on)*

**The Great Commandment – love God and love people (Mark 12:30-31) – is Cobblestone's North Star. God's Spirit and His Word are the guardrails that will keep us on track.**



**God has called this body of believers to:**

- Exist for God's glory and be known for this pursuit over all others.*
- Exalt Christ by making disciples in families and generations.*
- Exemplify the life of faith, taught by the Word and led by the Spirit.*

## The question(s) we keep asking?

### 1. WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

We must ask ourselves, “What would the incarnate Son of God do?” We will continually ask where the Lord is leading – according to His Word and by His Spirit – and then respond in obedience.

### 2. IS HE PLEASED?

We will regularly evaluate what we are doing by asking, “Is God pleased with this?” By checking everything in light of this question, we will submit to the Lord as the head over this body. Our highest priority will remain God's glory and pleasure.

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## CORE VALUES

*(The guardrails that keep us on the right path)*

### (FOCUSED ON OUR FIRST LOVE)

**1. We will be a people who respond to God’s love and continually re-center our hearts on Jesus, who is our First Love.**

*“And you shall love the Lord your God  
with all your heart and with all your soul  
and with all your mind and with all your strength.  
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”  
~Mark 12:30-31*

*“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be given to you as well.”  
~Matthew 6:33*

*“But I have this against you,  
that you have abandoned the love you had at first.”  
~Revelation 2:4*

Because God first loved us, we commit to love Him with all we are – heart, soul, mind, and strength. This commitment will be evident in our priorities and worship. In all things, we will choose to set our affections on Him.

## **(FOCUSED ON OUR PURSUIT OF THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT)**

### **2. We will be a people who are both taught by the Word and led by the Spirit.**

*“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips;  
meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything  
written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”  
~Joshua 1:8*

*“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes,  
He will guide you into all the truth.”  
~John 16:13*

*“So I say, walk by the Spirit... Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”  
~Galatians 5:16a, 25*

God has given believers both the Bible and the Spirit to guide them in their faith journey. We will actively fight the trend of elevating one over the other. We will be led by the truth of the Scripture and the ministry of the Spirit, for they are never in opposition to each other. (See Appendix A.)

## **(FOCUSED ON OUR PURSUIT OF THE LORD)**

### **3. We will be a people who hunger and thirst for the Lord.**

*“You make known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”  
~Psalm 16:11*

*“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,  
set your hearts on things above, where Christ is,  
seated at the right hand of God.”  
~Colossians 3:1*

*“Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life.  
Whoever comes to me will never go hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”  
~John 6:35*

The presence of God sets us apart from the world. Our highest pursuit will be knowing and worshiping Him. We will not seek God for the gifts He gives nor knowledge we gain, but because He alone is our greatest satisfaction. We will not be satisfied by the world or the things in it; instead, we will pour out our lives in worship and praise to His name.

#### **(FOCUSED ON MAKING DISCIPLES)**

#### **4. We will be a people focused on making and equipping disciples of Jesus Christ.**

*“And Jesus came and said to them,  
'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.  
And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”*  
~Matthew 28:18-20

*“So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,  
the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service,  
so that the body of Christ may be built up.”*  
~Ephesians 4:11-12

Jesus commissions His followers to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey His teachings. Our ministries and leaders will focus on discipleship, equipping the body for works of ministry. Matthew 28:18-20 is the filter we use to determine what receives priority and attention.

#### **(FOCUSED ON DISCIPLING THE GENERATIONS)**

#### **5. We will be a people focused on discipling families.**

*“Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely  
so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen  
or let them fade from your heart as long as you live.  
Teach them to your children and to their children after them.”*  
~Deuteronomy 4:9

*“We will not hide them from their children,  
but tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might,  
and the wonders that He has done.”*  
~Psalm 78:4

*“Assemble the people—men, women and children,  
and the foreigners residing in your towns—  
so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God  
and follow carefully all the words of this law. Their children,  
who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God.”*  
~Deuteronomy 31:12-13

God has called our church to disciple families. This multiplies our gospel impact on the world, because as we walk alongside each generation, they grow in their biblical understanding, their

practice of prayer, and their lifestyle of worship. We will be a church that equips, encourages, and influences the generations.

### **(FOCUSED ON STEWARDSHIP)**

#### **6. We will be a people who honor the Lord by stewarding all He has given us.**

*“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,  
as good stewards of God's varied grace:  
whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God;  
whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies  
—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.  
To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”  
~1 Peter 4:10-11*

*“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”  
~2 Corinthians 9:7*

*“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded;  
and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”  
~Luke 12:48b*

We believe that “the earth is the Lord's and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1a). We will glorify God and love people as we steward the money, time, resources, and spiritual gifts He gives us. In all we have and all we do we commit to open-handed living that brings honor to the Lord.

### **(FOCUSED ON SERVING)**

#### **7. We will be a people committed to serving, locally and globally.**

*“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,  
and whoever wants to be first must be your slave  
— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served,  
but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”  
~Matthew 20:26-28*

*“When He had finished washing their feet, He put on his clothes and returned to his place.  
“Do you understand what I have done for you?” He asked them.  
“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am.  
Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also  
should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example  
that you should do as I have done for you.”  
~John 13:12-14*

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations,  
and then the end will come.*

*~ Matthew 24:14*

*As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.*

*John 20:21*

Jesus told us to follow His example in the way we serve. This will impact the way we participate in church activities – with a desire to bless and minister to others – and how we serve, send, and support local and global missionaries.

### **(FOCUSED ON HONOR AND UNITY)**

#### **8. We will be a people who love and honor one another, with spiritual unity as our goal.**

*“A new commandment I give to you,  
that you love one another: just as I have loved you,  
you also are to love one another. By this, all people will know  
that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

*~John 13:34-35*

*“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.  
Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”*

*~Romans 12:9-10*

*“I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy  
of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness,  
with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity  
of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

*~Ephesians 4:1-3*

*“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*

*~Philippians 2:4*

As a diverse spiritual family, we are committed to honoring and encouraging one another in love, service, and humility. We will exhort each other to resist evil and pursue good as we strive to maintain the unity of the Spirit. We commit to the work of peacemaking and reconciliation wherever it is needed.

#### **How will we know we are abiding by these values?**

- Making disciples: Salvations, testimonies, baptisms
- Unity: The fruit of Mission
- Local & Global Missions: Meeting needs outside of the building

## **APPENDIX A:**

Word and Spirit

Taught by the Word, Led by the Spirit

**FIRST DRAFT NOVEMBER 4, 2020**

**SECOND DRAFT DECEMBER 5, 2020**

**Third Draft, December 13, 2020**

As we consider being taught by the Word and led by the Spirit, it is helpful to look at two articles in the Cobblestone Statement of Faith. The first article is what we believe about the inspiration and authority of the Bible, and the second is what we believe about the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

1. We believe that the Bible, comprising the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God. It is without error in the original writings and is the final authority for faith and life (Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
2. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is present in the world to reveal and glorify Christ, to make men and women aware of their sins, and to impart new life to all who place their faith in Christ alone. He indwells believers from the moment of spiritual birth, instructs them, and empowers them to live lives that are pleasing to God. He also imparts a spiritual gift or gifts to every believer (John 16:5-13; Romans 8:9; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

We are passionate about knowing and submitting to the written Word of God. We teach it, preach it, and live under its authority. Its principles govern our lives, both individually and as a church body.

Likewise, we are passionate about following the prompting of the Holy Spirit. In John 16:7, Jesus said, "It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you." If Jesus believed the Spirit's presence IN us was going to be more beneficial than God the Son BESIDE us, then we do too. We eagerly expect and look for Him to convict sin, illuminate truth, and actively work in and around us.

Some expect us to move in the direction of one of these two emphases and exclude the other. They say emphasis on the Bible will quench the Holy Spirit, or openness to the supernatural will lure us away from God's Word into sensationalism and subjectivity. Many believe a Christ-follower cannot be wholly committed to both the Word and the Spirit.

In response, we ask: Has God given us the option of choosing one over the other? Does His Word ever teach or even suggest that Christians should think being grounded in Scripture quenches the Spirit, or being open to the Spirit undermines the authority of the Bible?

In John 16:12-15, Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." We believe the Spirit's coming was not for the comfort of the Apostles only, or solely for the purpose

of conveying what would become the balance of the canon in their time. We believe the Spirit has been given to every Christian in this present age, and the illumination He gives, in perfect agreement with Scripture, is essential to every aspect of the life of faith.

Cobblestone is fully committed to being taught by the Word and led by the Spirit, as a way of life and ministry. Our aim in all that we do – whether corporate assembly, community group gatherings, discipleship, or missional outreach – is to serve in accordance with the Word through the power of the Holy Spirit.