

## WHY we exist & WHO we are: **Vision, Mission & Values**

*...you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, [20] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. - Ephesians 2:19–22*

“Do we sense the possibilities of embodied and enfleshed Christian community in a time of disembodied isolation? ...In a time of social fracturing and cultural polarization, do we understand the powerful place that exists at the communion table?” – Mark Sayers, *Reappearing Church*

**VISION:** We exist to ***glorify God as a gospel-centered community on a gospel-centered mission.***

*...I delivered to you as of first importance... that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures... - 1 Cor 15.3–4*

**MISSION:** We seek to ***make & grow disciples of Jesus in our church, city, and world.***

*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. - Matt 28.19–20<sup>1</sup>*

**VALUES:** We define ourselves by these values and priorities:

- > **God's Glory:** we value God-centered liturgy and God-centered soteriology (doctrine of salvation)
- > **God's Word:** we value expository preaching of and fellowship around God's transforming Word
- > **God's Spirit:** we value prayerful reliance on the ministry and empowering of the Holy Spirit
- > **God's People:** we value every-member ministry, as well as member-to-member ministry
- > **God's Mission:** we value relational evangelism, ministries of mercy, and international missions

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<sup>1</sup> That Great Commission combined with the Great Commandments (loving God and neighbor, Matt 22.37-40) nicely depict what discipleship entails: *knowing, loving, and obeying our God through Christ - and encouraging others to do the same.*

# HOW we do what we do: **Ministry “Funnel”**

“There is no source of power for God’s people—for preaching or teaching or anything else—except Christ Himself. Apart from Christ, anything which seems to be spiritual power is actually the power of the flesh.” – Francis Schaeffer, *No Little People*

We firmly believe that all transformational ministry is accomplished by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and not by our own strength or ability to organize. However, we must intentionally organize our discipleship ministry to faithfully pursue our vision and mission.

Our general ministry rhythm could be summarized as: *gather for worship, gather for community, and scatter for mission*. More specifically, the intention and direction of our discipleship ministry can be depicted as a ministry “funnel” of sorts:

> **GATHERED WORSHIP: *Sunday Services*** – our most important ministry context where we gather to exalt God, encounter God, and be edified by God. We do so as we sing, pray, read and preach the Bible in our services, as well as “see” the Bible’s promises in the sacraments.

> **MEMBERSHIP: *Discovering Grace Church*** – our context for exploring our purpose and practice as a church, that individuals might identify with this body.

> **FELLOWSHIP: *Home Groups*** – our primary context for biblical fellowship by means of building relationships, experiencing care, and spurring each other on in our discipleship. Additional fellowship contexts include *Men’s & Women’s Ministry, College-age Ministry, and Youth Ministry*.

> **MINISTRY / OUTREACH: *Evangelism, Ministry Teams & Partners*** – our outreach is centered on and fueled by the personal outreach of each of our members. Our ministry teams and ministry partners also help members serve others, share the good news, and grow as disciples.<sup>2</sup>

> **FOCUSED GROWTH: *Discipleship Groups & Courses*** – supplemental contexts for the purposes of theological development and practical equipping.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> **Our ministry partners** include: College Area Pregnancy Services (CAPS), International Christian Fellowship (ICF), and Bridge of Hope. We also sponsor missionaries to remote Mexico and Tokyo, Japan, and a chaplain in the U.S. Navy.

<sup>3</sup> We are forming **two discipleship groups** in this ministry year: one related to cultural equipping (particularly focused around issues of gender and sexuality) and the other focused on equipping for how one might best teach the Bible.