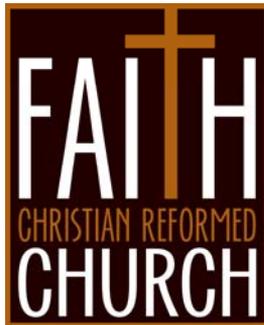


Faith
Christian
Reformed
Church

MISSION STATEMENT



Background and Foundation of Our Purpose and Mission

Christ gave His mission to His followers before He ascended when He gave the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20a: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” This is the church’s mission statement, authorized by the Lord of the church and of all creation, Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:42-47 includes a description of the church doing what Jesus commanded His disciples to do: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer....selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need....praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

While the Great Commission is given to every church, and the activities of the church as described in Acts 2 are also to be going on in every church, groups of believers organize themselves to accomplish God’s mission for them in different ways.

If we don’t know who we are as a church, the tendency will be to be aimless, without a clear sense of purpose, trying this and that, and ineffective in our high calling to be God’s people.

Statement of Our Purpose and Mission

Given the history and heritage of Faith Christian Reformed Church, and given who we are today and who we want to become, this is how we see the Great Commission being accomplished here in our midst.

In all things, we believe God's glory is paramount. To best glorify God here and now as a church, we believe we are being called to:

*Experience God's Word,
Express God's Love,
Equip God's People*

An Overview of the People, Worship, and Ministries of Faith through the Lens of the Mission Statement

Each of the three areas of our mission statement gives focus to the purpose of various areas of the life of Faith Church:

A. Experience God's Word

1. Preaching and Sacraments
2. Teaching and Discipleship Ministries
3. Corporate Worship

B. Express God's Love

1. Outreach and Evangelism
2. Care and Connecting
3. Global Missions

C. Equip God's People

1. Service in the Church
2. Service in all of Life
3. Stewardship

A number of key areas in the church give vital support, in different ways, to all of the above:

1. Prayer
2. Council (Elders and Deacons)
3. Staff
4. Building and Property
5. Finances
6. Technology Ministries

Detailed Explanation of the Mission Statement

We Experience God's Word

1. Biblical and Theological Background

The church carries out the Great Commission when its priority is the preached Word of God. The activities and worship and ministries of the church flow out of God's Word in this way. As Romans 10:14 says, "how, then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

This text shows the priority of preaching for our lives of faith. The Word preached results in changed lives, in a growing and active faith. This also gets at the importance of the word "experiencing." God's truth is not static. God's Word changes lives, changes our hearts, and from there our minds and thoughts and actions. His Word is transforming.

As a Reformed church we are committed to the ecumenical creeds and three forms of unity (the Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession, and Canons of Dort). These confessions accurately articulate how we understand God's Word.

2. Details for Our Church and Its Ministries

a. Preaching and Sacraments at Faith

We believe that God has designed especially preaching and the sacraments as “means of grace” for His people. When sermons are heard and sacraments are celebrated with true faith, God fills us with His grace. This makes preaching and sacraments vitally important to the lives of believers and in the life of the church.

When we speak of preaching, we believe in the priority of expository preaching—that a steady diet of verse by verse preaching is best for a believer’s health in doctrine and in living. We also recognize so-called topical preaching as useful in the life of the church. Examples might be a sermon series on the mission of the church, messages on our core beliefs, or sermons on relevant topics of the day. In topical preaching, as in all preaching, we believe it is vital to allow God’s Word to speak to us and therefore that the sermon must always be grounded there. Our vision is to see Faith as a stronghold of biblical, sound, relevant, and dynamic preaching.

Jesus commanded the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper as signs and seals of His covenant and grace, and so we gladly celebrate them regularly in corporate worship. We celebrate God’s covenant of grace in the baptism of the children of believers, and in the baptism of those who come to faith later in life but who were not baptized as infants. We celebrate the Lord’s Supper or Communion currently eight to ten times a year at Faith, including on Good Friday.

b. Teaching and Discipleship Ministries at Faith

Flowing out of the centrality of preaching we see God's Word taught and changing lives in a variety of ways in our church:

1)Children's Education

Passing the faith on to the next generation is a priority at Faith (Deuteronomy 6:4-7). The following ministries are a vital part of that:

- a)Children's Church (3 year olds – Kindergarteners)
- b)Sunday School (1st grade – 8th grade)
- c)Catechism (high school classes)

2)Adult Education

We want people to continue to grow in the faith and God's Word throughout their lives. We seek to accomplish this in a variety of ways by having:

- a)Regular seminars on a variety of topics to grow in God's Word and the Christian life
- b)Mid-size and small group Bible studies and classes
- c)Membership and Profession of Faith classes

c. Corporate Worship at Faith

The worship of believers happens in all of life, every day, but there is something about corporate worship that God uses in a very special way, making it a vital part of a Christian's life (Hebrews 10:24,25). Corporate worship is to be Spirit-filled and is to flow out of and toward the preached Word. Ultimately, worship in all its parts (singing, prayers,

offerings, testimonies, Scripture readings, sermons) is about an active communication between the Living God and His people, where He speaks to us and we respond to Him in confession, and thanksgiving.

While worship is more than music, music is an important part of God's design for public worship. In an effort to recognize the blessing of worship music throughout all of church history, to not make an idol of any one "style," and to recognize the musical diversity of believers at Faith, we are committed to a blend of styles—selecting the best music throughout the ages. Our blend now is mostly traditional/classical music with some contemporary. The goal of all the music is the Reformed priority of congregational singing to draw us near the living God, and to give Him the praise He deserves.

The following areas of our church fall directly under corporate worship:

- 1) Sunday morning worship
- 2) Sunday evening worship
- 3) Special worship opportunities through the year, including those on the liturgical calendar
- 4) Third Thursdays
- 5) Music Ministries (choir, instrumentalists, vocalists)

We Express God's Love

1. Biblical and Theological Background

The greatest commandment, and summary of the law (Matthew 22:37-40), is love. Ephesians 5:1 tells us to imitate God and “live a life of love, just as Christ loved us.” Love is the heart and soul of Christian living and our response to God’s love for us.

2. Details for Our Church and Its Ministries

a. Outreach and Evangelism

Faith places a priority on reaching people for Christ, both locally and to the ends of the earth, as the ultimate sign of loving them. In loving others we also recognize the biblical priority of caring for the “least of these” (see Matthew 25:31-46).

→ Evangelism Committee, Kid’s Summer Program, Shoebox Ministries, PADS, Crossroad Bible Institute

b. Care and Connecting

We care about people and want to have intentional structures in place so that people will be sure to receive the care of Christ’s body, the church.

1) Small Groups

2) Children & Student Ministries

a) Nurseries (up to age 3)

b) Cadets, GEMS

c) Middle School (6-8th grade) and
High School Ministries

d) Young Adult Ministry

3)Men's and Women's Ministries

Apples of Gold (women's mentoring group), sports ministries, Men's Breakfasts, men's activities group, Men's Prayer Group, Bible Study Fellowship

4)Pastoral Care Ministries

→ elder care, pastors' care, pastoral care teams, Stephen Ministry

5)Fellowship, Hospitality, and Transportation Committees, Ushers, and Greeters

c. Global Missions

Faith is actively engaged in missions beyond our local community through service projects, as well as prayer and financial support for many ministry and missionary partners around the globe. These include especially our Faith Promise missionaries as well as an orphanage in Honduras (Hogar De Ninos) and one in Mexico (Tapestries of Life). The Missions Committee leads the way in our global mission support. Our senior high summer service projects are also opportunities that allow us to serve others in Christ's name, while sharing the good news of the gospel.

We Equip God's People

1. Biblical and Theological Background

The purpose of the leadership (elders, deacons, pastors and staff) is to equip: “He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, *to equip the saints* for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

The biblical idea of “kingdom” speaks to God’s work—and our work—everywhere. We equip people to serve God in the church, their homes, their work, and everywhere, seeing it all as service to the King.

We believe the biblical ideal is a volunteer-run church, not staff-run. This does not mean we do not need a team of staff at Faith—given our size we certainly do, but it does mean we must keep this ideal in mind. The way our Council, committees, and staff work together is so that throughout the church “each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:16).

2. Details for Our Church and Ministries

a. Service in the Church

The volunteer army of the church needs to be equipped for its work and service. This starts with the elders and deacons, and must also include every area of ministry in the church.

b. Service in All of Life

Preaching, Sunday worship, and everything that happens in the church, equips people for service and living before God every day—and in every area—of their lives. We come to church on Sunday to sit at the feet of Jesus to be equipped for service in whatever area of life God has called us.

c. Stewardship

This area is especially delegated to our deacons. They are to inspire and equip us to use our time, talents, and treasure to the service of the Lord. The recently developed Legacy Foundation is just one part of this effort that deals especially with finances.

Support Service

A number of key areas in the church give vital support, in different ways, to all of the above:

1. Prayer
2. Council (Elders and Deacons)
3. Staff
4. Building and Property
5. Finances
6. Technology Ministries

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