

# MEADOW CREEK CHURCH

## IDENTITY AND PURPOSE

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# Meadow Creek Church

## Identity and Purpose

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# Meadow Creek Church Identity and Purpose

## I. ORGANIZATION

1. The name of this congregation shall be Meadow Creek Church. Located at 3037 NW Bunker Lake Blvd., Andover, MN 55304. It is independent in its organization and policy.
2. This church was incorporated on August 4, 1969, under the laws of Minnesota as a non-profit corporation, (Minn. Session Laws 1951, Chapter 550).
3. This church is governed by the believers who compose its membership and is not subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body.

## II. MISSION & VISION STATEMENT

Believing the call of God to make disciples of Jesus Christ is Meadow Creek Church's greatest privilege and responsibility (Matthew 28:18-20), it is our purpose to encourage and enhance the efforts of every believer in our congregation in the task of disciple making.

To accomplish this we as individuals and collectively will seek, by God's grace, and by every appropriate means (1) to evangelize non-believers and (2) to build up believers into disciples in our congregation, community, country and countries around the world (Acts 1:8).

Our Mission Statement is:

To magnify God's name as a house of prayer and worship. To bring people to Jesus and Membership in His family. To disciple believers to Christ-like maturity.

Our Vision Statement is:

Loving God, loving people and maturing people in Jesus.

## III. CHURCH GRACE COVENANT

### Section 1 - Covenant

1. Having heard the gospel of God's salvation by grace and by faith having received Jesus Christ as personal Savior, I covenant to allow the Holy Spirit control of my life so that I may daily be more conformed to the image of God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 4:13)
2. Through the gracious power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, I offer myself for this growth through the wisdom, knowledge and insight provided by a consistent attention to God's Word, prayer and fellowship with other believers. (2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrew 10:24,25)

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3. Through the gracious power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, I submit myself to the teaching of God's Word as final authority with all its privileges and responsibilities of fellowship with this local body of believers. (1 Peter 4:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7)

**Section 2 - Principles for Living**

1. The object of these principles is gracious Christ-centered living for every member of this local church.
2. We recognize that each member of this local church is individually responsible to God for continuing in spiritual growth (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Peter 2:1-3,5,9; Galatians 6:1). Such growth requires attention to all scripture (2 Timothy 2:15).
3. The following are Biblical principles we believe:
  - Make Christ first in all things both spiritual and temporal.
  - Turn from all known sin.
  - Live righteously.
  - Maintain family and personal prayer and devotions.
  - Teach the Bible to children in the home.
  - Seek to win family and friends to Christ.
  - Be honest and faithful in all relationships.
  - Use our energy and knowledge to advance the cause of Christ.
  - Recognizing that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, we encourage one another to abstain from life styles and habits that fail to honor Christ, that hinder our faith or that of others and enslave the will of man. We will seek to perfect holiness in the fear of God doing everything in word and deed to His honor and glory.
4. Following are Biblical principles we believe to be of significant value in the spiritual growth of the membership of this local church as we relate to each other: Live together in Christian love. Strive with this local church for peace and purity. Be faithful in worship participation. Hold to the ordinances, discipline and doctrines. As God's stewards, faithfully contribute time, talent and spiritual grace gifts. Practice Biblical principles in the giving of money through this local church for the advancement of God's work locally and around the world. Give and receive admonition with humility and affection. Pray for each other. Aid fellow believers in sickness and distress. Grow in Christian love, kindness and courtesy toward one another in speech and actions. Be slow to take offense. Always be ready for a quick Biblical reconciliation. Encourage others with the hope of our Lord's return.

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## IV. OUR IDENTITY & OUR PURPOSE

This document was written by members of the Board of Deacons and Ministerial Staff and was affirmed by the membership of Meadow Creek Church at the Annual Business Meeting, Sunday, July 31, 1995. This statement is to identify who Meadow Creek Church is and what we see our purpose before God.

“Our Vision” ... “To be a house of prayer and to introduce northern suburban families and singles to Christ in a loving way, providing them with meaningful relationships in small groups, large group worship, teaching and training for Christ-centered living.

We affirm our Bible based heritage, Church Grace Covenant, and Declaration of Faith.

1. **We Are A Christ and Bible Centered Church**

It is God’s will that all come to know Him through Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:9; Philippians 3:10). It is God’s purpose that we become like Jesus Christ (Romans 8:28-29). The only way we can come to know God and become like Jesus Christ is through the Holy Spirit using His Word, the Bible (John 1:1-14; Romans 10:17). To be centered on Jesus Christ, we must be in His Word (Philippians 3:7-14; 2 Timothy 2:15-16). We put our emphasis on relevant, systematic Bible teaching and preaching to ground our people in sound doctrine, show how we can live our lives in obedience to God’s Word and reach our community for Christ (1 Timothy 4:1-2; Hebrews 4:12). Each believer is under grace and has been given grace gifts (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12). We will use the gifts of our congregation to evangelize, equip and nurture; so each person can be built up and become like Christ (Ephesians 4:7-16). This is the goal of each of our ministries.

2. **We Are A Spirit-Controlled Church**

We submit to teaching and obeying God’s Word concerning spirit-controlled living, which demonstrates itself in spiritual power, blessing and fruit bearing (Galatians 5:22-23). We will encourage one another in our walk with God. We will seek, in a loving way, to hold ourselves accountable to each other (Hebrews 10:24,25; Galatians 6:1-10). We will use our spiritual gifts and talents to serve the Lord (Romans 12:3-21). We will accept, nurture, trust, and care for one another, so that we can experience the love of Christ and unity in our fellowship (Ephesians 4:1-3). We will forgive one another even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven us lest we grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:29-32). We will give sacrificially of our time, talents and money to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ locally and around the world. Tithing and cheerful giving will be taught (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

3. **We Are A Praying Church**

Carrying out our Vision Statement (above) requires the powerful, direct and sustained intervention of the Lord. It is our joyful privilege and act of obedience to interact with Him in prayer. We encourage private prayer as a spiritual discipline. We recognize that prayer is essential in spiritual warfare. We give prayer a prominent place in our public worship. We provide a variety of opportunities through which we can become active participants in prayer. Prayer is foundational to the success of all programs in the church. Without prayer, we cannot expect to experience the abundant blessing of God upon our church (Ephesians 6:10-18).

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**4. We Are A Worshipping Church**

The people of Meadow Creek Church come from diverse backgrounds. In light of that we praise God for the unity that is ours IN Christ (Ephesians 4:3). It is essential that we each choose to recognize our position in Christ and our responsibility to conduct ourselves in a loving way. It is our desire that we be known for our love for one another (John 13:35). We worship God in blended styles including traditional and contemporary. We purpose to glorify God in our congregational singing, our choirs and our vocal ministries. We will use a variety of musical instruments in our worship. We seek to cultivate the musical talent of our people, and desire to make our worship pleasing to God. Our goal is that worship services be joyful, heartfelt and relevant (Psalm 150). In our blended style of corporate worship, we accept varied expressions among our people. Some may say “Amen” as a sign of agreement and praise to God. Some may clap their hands with joy and enthusiasm while singing. Some may lift their hands in devotion to God. Others may sing and worship quietly without actions or gestures. The message of the music will always take precedence over the presentation. We affirm each one’s expression in a spirit of unity and we seek to relate to one another in love and acceptance (Colossians 3:14).

**5. We Are An Evangelistic Church**

Believing the great commission, we affirm our Mission Statement regarding outreach and evangelism. We will continually be looking for a variety of ways to meet the spiritual needs of our community and beyond. The various ministries of our church will consciously seek to present the Gospel and provide opportunities for people to receive Christ (Matthew 28:18-20); Romans 10:9-17). We support LIFE Cells as an effective way of nurturing and supporting believers to Christ and our church in a moving way. We will also equip and encourage our congregation to introduce others to Christ as Lord and Savior.

**6. We Are A Leadership Developing Church**

Staff development is our first priority for a stable ministry. We will consciously seek to develop a unified atmosphere of trust that encourages the building of strong interpersonal relationships between the Senior Pastor, Ministerial Staff, and Support Staff alike so that each may be accountable in areas of personal and spiritual growth. We will also encourage and provide resources for ministry development and enrichment. Professional affiliations are also encouraged. We expect our staff to adhere to the “Expectations / Commitments” statement dated April 20, 1995.

Lay leadership development is our second priority for a stable ministry. We will provide for discipleship in the fundamentals of Christian growth and maturity along with specific training in Spiritual Leadership. And we recognize that continued development of lay leadership occurs as we share Christ with the lost, build up believers in their faith, and send them out to do the same. The central command in the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20 is to make disciples, by going, baptizing and teaching. The central thrust of 2 Timothy 2:2 is to build disciples who build other disciples.

**7. We Are A Family Oriented Church**

We are a family oriented church, serving the needs of all ages with Bible-centered teaching. We are also committed to ministering to the needs of singles, single parents and those with special needs among us. We emphasize the Biblical role of the family. Our teaching will be directed toward strengthening relationship in practical ways. We recognize the Biblical role of fathers as spiritual leaders and parents as role models in the home.

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Adult teaching will be directed at presenting the Bible in a relevant way applicable for everyday living and providing opportunities to learn, grow and teach. We value adults of all ages and are committed to building cross-generational relationships. We will provide youth with Bible-centered teaching and training that encourages evangelism as a part of Christ-centered living. We will provide youth the opportunity to minister to each other, to children, and to other cultures on short-term mission projects. We will provide children's ministries that give them the opportunity to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and to grow in that relationship. We will provide opportunities for parents to strengthen parenting skills through seminars and classes.

Documents referred to in this paper are available from the Church Office. We encourage Christians who identify with these purposes to also become members of Meadow Creek Church.

## V. DECLARATION OF FAITH

1. **The Word of God:** We believe the Bible is the Word of God (Luke 24:44,45), fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts (2 Timothy 3:16,17), written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21), and it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct (Isaiah 8:20).
2. **The Trinity:** We believe there is one living and true God—and only one—eternally existing in three persons (Isaiah 48:16), Father (Genesis 1:1), Son (John 1:1-14), and Holy Spirit (John 14:26); and they are equal in every divine perfection (Matthew 3:16,17; 2 Corinthians 13:14); and they execute distinct, harmonious offices in the work of creation (Genesis 1:26), providence (John 14:13) and redemption (Titus 3:4).
3. **God the Father:** We believe in God the Father, an infinite personal Spirit (John 4:24); perfect in holiness (Isaiah 6:3), wisdom (James 1:5), power (Jeremiah 32:17), and love (1 John 4:5,16). We believe He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of people (2 Corinthians 1:3,4). He hears and answers prayer (Jeremiah 33:3), and He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 7:25).
4. **Jesus Christ, God the Son:** We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten son (John 3:16) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20). We believe in His existence, His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23), His sinless life (1 Peter 2:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 3:2); His miracles and teachings (John 3:2); His bodily resurrection (Luke 24:46); His ascension into heaven (Luke 24:51); His perpetual intercession for His people (Hebrews 7:25); His return in the air to meet His raptured saints and His personal visible return to earth (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Hebrews 9:26; 1 John 3:33).
5. **The Holy Spirit, God the Spirit:** We believe in the eternally existent Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8); and to regenerate (John 3:5,6), sanctify (2 Thessalonians 2:13), and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8). We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ (Romans 8:11), and He is an abiding helper (Romans 8:26), teacher (John 14:26), and guide (John 16:23).

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6. **Regeneration:** We believe all people are sinners by nature (Romans 3:23) and choice and are therefore under condemnation (John 3:19). We believe those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). The human means by which this result is secured is repentance and faith (Acts 20:21), whereby we turn to God in sincere contrition and accept Jesus Christ as an all-sufficient Savior (Hebrews 7:25).
  
7. **The Church:** We believe the spiritual Church to be a living body of which Christ is the head (Colossians 1:18) and all regenerated persons are members (Ephesians 2:19,21). We believe the local church consists of a company of professing believers in Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27), baptized on a credible profession of faith (Romans 10:9,10), and associated for worship (John 4:24), work (Acts 1:8), and fellowship (Philippians 1:4,5). We believe God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world (Matthew 28:18-20).
  
8. **The Ordinances:** We believe the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church - Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17) and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-29).  
  
 We believe Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water (Acts 8:36-39) into the name of the Triune God (Matthew 28:19,20) and symbolizes the fact of regeneration (Romans 6:3,4).  
  
 We believe the Lord's Supper was initiated by Christ for commemoration of and reflection upon His death in our behalf and symbolizes that the believer is spiritually fed and nourished in Christ (Luke 22:17-20; John 6:53-56).  
  
 We believe these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 11:23-29).
  
9. **The Last Things:** We believe in the rapture of the saints to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth (Acts 1:11) and the establishment of His kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:24-28). We believe in the resurrection of the body (1 Corinthians 15:15,52). We believe in the judgment of the saints before the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10), the final Great White Throne Judgment of the unbelieving dead (Revelation 20:11-15), the eternal joy of the righteous (John 14:1-3), and the endless suffering of the wicked (Mark 9:44,46,48).
  
10. **Christian Conduct:** We believe Christians should live for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31) and for the well-being of fellow Christians (Ephesians 4:32), their conduct should be blameless before the world (Philippians 2:13-15), they should be faithful stewards of their possessions (1 Peter 4:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7), and should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ (Ephesians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 6:17,18).
  
11. **Religious Liberty:** We believe every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith (John 3:36); each church should be independent and must be free from interference by ecclesiastical or political authority (Acts 5:29); the Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other (Matthew 22:21). Civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human

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society (Romans 13:1-7). Civil leaders are to be prayed for (1 Timothy 2:1,2), conscientiously honored and obeyed (1 Peter 2:13-17), except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 4:18-20).

12. **The Lords Day in the church:** New Testament study shows the first day of the week is to be observed as a day of praise, worship (Acts 20:7) and stewardship in the church (1 Corinthians 16:1,2). An obligation is placed upon believers in regard to the faithful assembling of themselves together on this day (Hebrews 10:25). When met for worship on the Lord's Day, believers may also exercise the privilege of Christian stewardship (Malachi 3:10). The Lord's Day is primarily a day of joyous worship and praise in commemoration of the resurrection triumph of our Savior (Mark 16:9).
  
13. **Eternal Salvation:** Nothing can separate true believers from the love of God (Romans 8:35-39), but they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation (1 Peter 1:5), the sure proof (Ephesians 1:13,14; Philippians 1:6) of this being their patient continuance and progress in righteousness (1 John 2:28,29) and true holiness (1 Peter 1:15,16).

The foundation of this church is the Lord Jesus Christ. Its code of guidance in all its affairs is the Word of God. This church affirms its belief that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of Almighty God.

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