

VISION

(What are we ultimately aiming to achieve?)

Our highest aim is: *To rightly know, confess, and commune with our triune God; to earnestly submit to Jesus Christ our Prophet, Priest, and King in our thoughts, words, and actions; to daily die to sin and put on Christ; to selflessly love, encourage, and serve one another with our gifts and lives; to faithfully point others to Christ by our godly walk of life; and to prayerfully strive to do this together to God's glory and praise and our deepest comfort and joy.*

MISSION

(How do we plan to achieve our vision?)

Our plan to achieve our highest aim is: *To receive our triune God's grace, strength, and comfort through gospel-centered and Spirit-empowered Word, sacraments, and shepherding ministry.*

CORE VALUES

(What is our identity that shapes our decisions and behaviors?)

The Bible is paramount; being confessional and Reformed is most Biblical and therefore most comforting.

The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God; therefore, the Bible is our ultimate authority for all things necessary for God's glory and our salvation, faith, and life, yet we are honest about interpreting and understanding Scripture through a Reformed framework. Being confessional means we are anchored to the historic Christian faith expressed in the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as well as the Heidelberg Catechism. We also recognize the usefulness and sound doctrine expressed in other Reformed confessions and catechisms which clearly explain the fundamentals of what God reveals to us in His Word. We believe being confessional and Reformed is loving, helpful, and practical, and we also believe it is the most faithful way to understand Scripture, the most comforting for the soul, and what most promotes our flourishing.

God-centered dialogical corporate worship is vital and therefore paramount.

Our triune God and His delight must be our chief concern in corporate worship. Therefore, worship must be done God's way according to God's Word and prioritized over everything else. Worship is a dialogue (dialogical) between God and His covenant people; God speaks to us through His Word and we respond in worship. Through the Word and sacraments in corporate worship, God is pleased to graciously work, sustain, and strengthen faith in us by His Holy Spirit. As marks of a true church, the Word, sacraments, and prayer in Lord's Day worship (morning and evening) are vital and paramount.

Giving and receiving gentle shepherding care is essential and beneficial.

Our Lord provides elder-shepherds in his church to lead, govern, encourage, and defend His people. It is essential for qualified and called elder-shepherds to tenderly care for Christ's sheep by watching over their souls. It is also essential for Christ's sheep (including the elder-shepherds) to ask for, welcome, and receive shepherding care from the elder-shepherds God provides. Every covenant member should treasure spiritual accountability and discipline

for the well-being of their souls. We believe shepherding care is another mark of a true church.

Being an intergenerational covenant family greatly promotes the flourishing of body and soul.

Throughout redemptive history, the visible church has been composed of infants through seniors; every covenant member is integral and has something valuable to offer one another. Everyone is called to encourage one another and to be encouraged by one another (e.g. toward holiness, involvement, marriage, parenting, vocation, etc.). Together, we are *one* church, *one* body, and *one* family united in *one* Lord and *one* faith. We flourish when all covenant members give and receive the precious gifts of presence, love, encouragement, service, and spiritual accountability. We value living out John 13:34-35.

Guilt-grace-gratitude is a way of life.

Our corporate worship is organized around a guilt-grace-gratitude liturgy; this is also a helpful liturgy for life. Our liturgy of life should reflect the liturgy of our corporate worship. Every day, the Ten Commandments reveal to us our sins and need of Jesus and push us toward confession, repentance, and Christ (guilt). Every day, the Apostles' Creed gives us a summary of the gospel for our comfort, strength, and hope in Christ (*grace*). Every day, the Lord's Prayer is an outline of how we ought to pray and respond to God in thankfulness (*gratitude*). The Ten Commandments also show us how to love and obey our heavenly Father in gratitude. Every day we need a rhythm of guilt-grace-gratitude. This living liturgy informs our shepherding, fellowship, and how we forgive one another.