

A black and white photograph of a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a suit, speaking at a podium in a church. He is gesturing with his right hand. The background shows rows of empty pews and a microphone on a stand. A purple banner is overlaid on the image, containing the text "MISSION AND VALUES".

MISSION AND VALUES

Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 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 everything I have commanded you. And remember. I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20



OUR MISSION

"We exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ"

OUR VALUES

Gospel Transformation

We are a church family that focuses on heart transformation and character growth by applying the gospel to all of life.

Loving Community

We are a church family that loves one another in a way that reflects the power of the gospel.

Missional Living

We are a church family that defines our lives by mission in all that we do both here and worldwide.

OUR MINISTRY ANCHORS

1. We will pray for faithfulness and fruitfulness.
2. We want every member on mission.
3. We will equip every disciple to be a disciple-maker.
4. We will commit to maturing leaders in order to multiply and minister to more people.
5. We will allow disciple-making to drive our decision making.
6. We will measure our success by our sending capacity, not our seating capacity.
7. We will protect our unity even when there is not uniformity.

OUR MISSION, VALUES, AND MINISTRY ANCHORS

Without a clear vision or established values guiding the ministry, we will end up like Israel without a King, "...everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25).

Without a mission or values, the church can find her self pulled in different directions trying to figure out what she must be about. It is possible to have a lot of good things going on, but the lack of focus can have negative implications on scheduling, planning, and coordination of church life.

Therefore, a church mission statement helps align everything with a desired end goal. In other words, the vision of the helps guide our decisions, priorities, and actions towards the desired long-term effect of the churches work.

Moreover, the churches values reflect the celebrated principles or standards that support the overall vision of the church. These values help align everything the church does with guiding vision.

First, mission and values helps us answer the question, why are we doing this? Does this effort or ministry help our church accomplish our biblical vision? Does this effort or ministry align with the biblical core values of our church?

Second, the mission and values help us answer the question, how are we going to do this? As a church, it is important to prioritize ministry efforts in order to ensure wise use of our time and energy.

OUR MISSION

"We exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ."

This mission statement is prescriptive from Matthew 28:18-20.

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 (ESV)

Discipleship is the on-going ministry of the church that is centered on presenting and applying the truths of the gospel with the aim of transforming hearts and lives. In this passage we see several things that provide us confidence in pursuing this vision. First, it is the vision Jesus gave to the disciples before he ascended to the Father.

The great commission consists of clear commands from our Lord.

- We are called to make disciples of all nations. In other words, we are called to go proclaim the gospel, and call for a response from all people without distinction. The gospel is the power to save all who believe.
- We are called to baptize those who have believed. Baptism is the public profession of faith. Not only is visible it a sign that God has brought them into the family; it is also a sign that the believer desires to enter the fellowship of the Church.
- We are also called to teach and observe all that Christ has commanded. This means that we are not only called to live according to His teaching, but also pass on the faith to others. All disciples are called to make disciples.

We find great confidence in the fact that Jesus is the sovereign authority over heaven and earth (28:18). At the same time, we find great comfort that Jesus is present with us at always, to the end of the age (28:20b).

OUR CORE VALUES

Our values of Gospel Transformation, Loving Community, and Missional Living are descriptive of the church in Acts 2:42-47.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. - Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION

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This is a reference to the body of material considered authoritative because it was the message of Jesus proclaimed and accredited by the Apostles, namely, the entirety of the Bible. Therefore, the Christian community finds its sense of center in the good news of the word of God. And this, Luke tells us, was predominantly the reason for existence and the focus of the early Christian community. The church should be devoted to the apostles teaching.

Though the Apostles are gone, their voice is still heard in the text. It is often noted that disciple means "learner". The church is a fellowship of disciples that focuses on heart transformation and character growth by applying the gospel to all of life. It has often been said that growth in the Christian life rarely happens in isolation from other believers.

Therefore, it is central that Christians seek gospel transformation in fellowship with one another through the study of God's word, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer.

LOVING COMMUNITY

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And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, – Acts 2:44–46

The church has a distinctive form of loving community as compared to the outside world. According to the text this fellowship is marked by sharing all things in common and regularly breaking bread with one another. The sense of unity of these early Christians is expressed in their communal living. There was a voluntary generosity in sharing possessions, which is commendable.

The language of breaking bread is often used of ordinary meals, along with referring to the Lord's Supper. The Christian community is a place where hearts are warmed by devotion, an occasion for joy, love, and praise connected to Jesus. Christian community also included a commitment to worshiping together as a gathered church, and sharing life together in groups scattered throughout the city with gladness and sincerity of heart.

MISSIONAL LIVING

We are a church family that defines our lives by mission in all that we do both here and worldwide.

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There is something about the message, quality of life, and unity of the church on mission that draws others to Christ. The Christian community, though far from perfect is sufficiently different and impressive to attract notice, to invite curiosity, and to inspire discipleship. The gospel message is the foundation and reason for such missional living.

We are called to praise God, and find favor among all people. This is the foundation for missional living – both here and abroad. We scatter out into the world praising God and calling people to Him. In the text, it is noticeable that as the church is faithful in these things, God brings to fruitfulness as He adds to their number through salvations.

OUR VIEW ON COVENANT MEMBERSHIP

A DISCIPLESHIP TOOL TO HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE BIBLICAL EXPECTATIONS OF GENUINE CHRISTIANS

A church covenant simply attempts to summarize the 1,050 New Testament commands for the Christian life. In a culture where local churches interpret the Bible in various ways, membership covenants attempt to clarify the biblical expectations of Christians according to the understanding of a particular autonomous local church. Our church has a "statement of faith" that articulates a summary of our theological beliefs according to Scripture, a church membership covenant functions to articulate Christian behavior as commanded in Scripture. The church covenant serves as an effective discipleship tool in the pursuit of sanctification. It can also be an effective tool to qualify members who, by virtue of their membership, will vote on the church affairs, potentially teach, and eventually rise into leadership positions. It is a commitment that we make to one another as members of this local autonomous church family.

A DISCIPLESHIP TOOL TO HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL AUTONOMOUS BAPTIST CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Baptist congregations have been using covenants since the 1600's, when the protestant church broke off from the Catholic tradition. Baptist churches have historically established themselves and how they will function by documents such as a constitution and bylaws, statement of faith, and membership covenant. As the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 (our statement of faith) states "a New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel." In our culture, such documents are needed, especially when many Christians do not understand the importance of church membership and many churches no longer practice membership. Therefore, a membership covenant is helpful in that it provides a church family with a tool for explaining and teaching potential (and current) members the expectations of those who desire to join the church. In the Bible it is clear that there are ongoing responsibilities and expectations of those who claim to follow Christ, which have implications on how we live together in unity a church family.

A DISCIPLESHIP TOOL TO HELP GUARD AND PROTECT THE LOCAL AUTONOMOUS BAPTIST CHURCH

A church membership covenant clearly defines the boundary lines of belief and behavior in a particular local autonomous church. In order to protect the church, such a document would help discourage people who refuse to agree with the Biblical standards that it outlines. In this sense, a covenant functions a filter for church membership. So, this requirement might discourage people from joining who should not join, which is a good thing for the unity and health of the church. Finally, it might actually be the case that for a good number of Christians, requiring that new members agree to a membership covenant will attract people to the church because they will see that we take following Christ and the commitment to one another seriously in order to maintain the health of our local church family. Moreover, the church covenant can function as a tool in discipleship to teach new believers what the Bible expects of all Christians and thus help in their Bible guided, Spirit empowered sanctification.

OUR MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ according to the will of the Father, and having been baptized as believers in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we desire to be obedient to God's Word, and therefore, with the gracious aid of God, commit to:

GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION

- Pray for and seek the salvation of others through the proclamation of the gospel;
- Fight against sin in the pursuit of sanctification through personal and group discipleship;
- Confess, believe, and defend biblical doctrine as summarized in our statement of faith;
- Speak the truth in love to one another in a way that is edifying and receive admonishment as occasion may require; and
- Be slow to take offense and always ready to reconcile and to offer forgiveness freely to one another.

LOVING COMMUNITY

- Pray for the church as a whole, for her members, and for our mission partners;
- Participate in worship gatherings, the ordinances, Life Groups, and members' meetings regularly and faithfully;
- Pursue our church's mission in a spirit of loving cooperation, submitting to the leaders who have been granted authority by the congregation;
- Protect the unity of the church by walking together in Christian love; and
- Serve one another as members of one body, using our spiritual gifts, natural abilities, and resources.

MISSIONAL LIVING

- Pray for boldness and opportunities to share the gospel with gentleness and respect, always ready to give the reason for the hope that is within us;
- Be zealous in our efforts to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ, submitting our preferences and comforts to the mission of making disciples;
- Commit to equip, send, and support one another for international, national, and local missions efforts;
- Give of our finances generously, sacrificially, and regularly in support of the ministries of the church and our mission partners; and
- Be faithful kingdom witnesses in all areas of life by walking in the fruit of the Spirit and aiding those in need.

Now to Him who is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority before all time and now and forevermore.

Amen.

OUR VIEW ON BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

WHY THESE TWO ORDINANCES?

Biblically speaking there are two criteria by which Baptists have limited the ordinances to baptism and the Lord's Supper. First, these two ordinances are directly instituted by Jesus (Baptism in Matthew 28:19, and The Lord's Supper in Matthew 26:17-30). Second, they symbolically depict the realities of the gospel of Jesus Christ and our union with him (Baptism in Romans 6:2-5; Colossians 2:12, and the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 5:7; Luke 22:20).

HOW WE UNDERSTAND THEM?

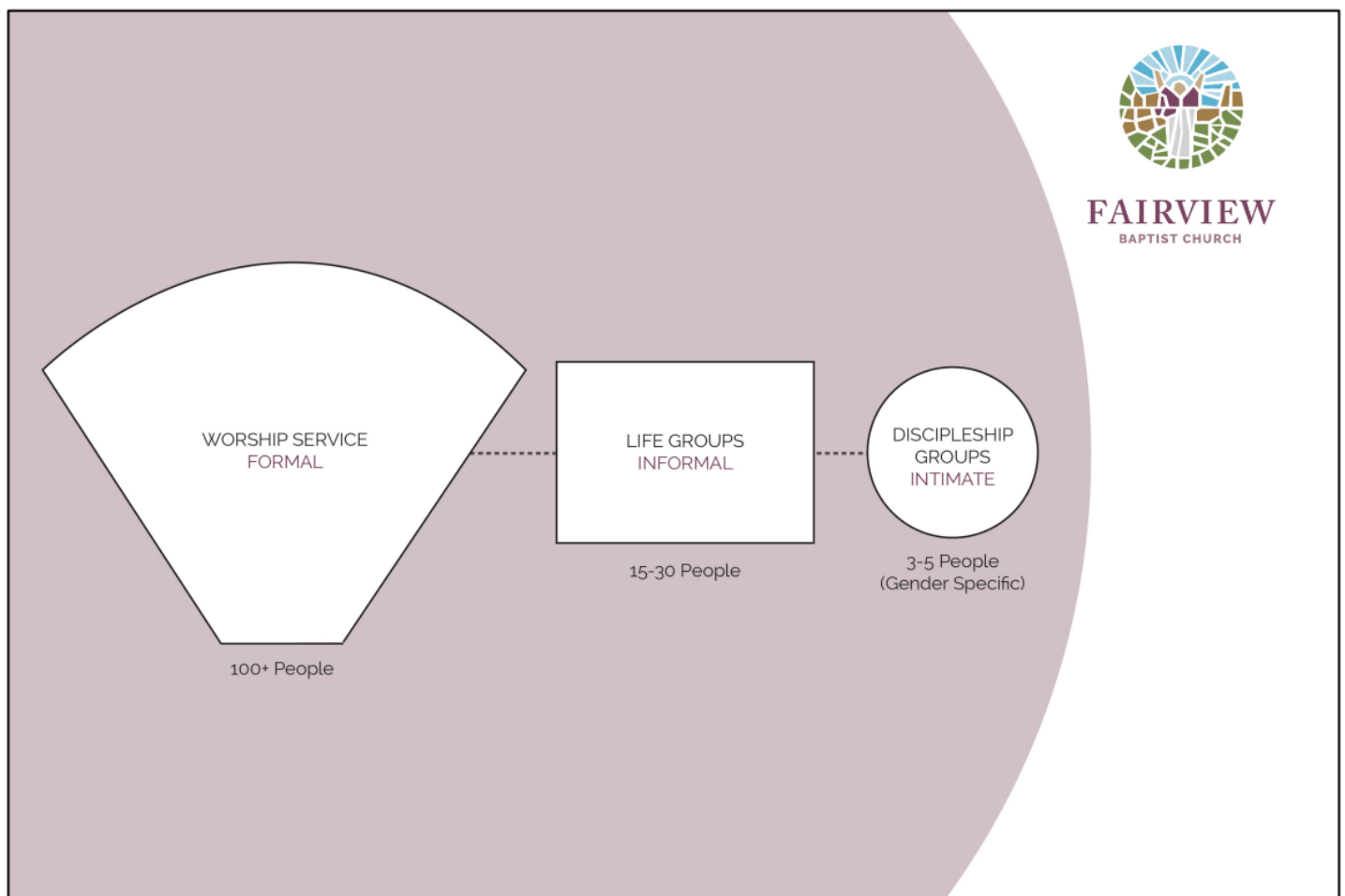
Traditionally Baptist's have understood the ordinances as acts of obedience and powerful symbols of the gospel message. The ordinances are understood as symbols because they graphically depict the truth of the gospel and the inward change that comes with ones faith in Christ. The ordinances should be practiced with an understanding of the symbolism and the reality portrayed, as dramatic retellings of the gospel, where the Word is spoken and made visible.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper both symbolize the gospel message but in different ways. Baptism symbolizes the transformation effected by the gospel; it is thus the profession of faith to ones new birth and justification through Christ. The Lord's Supper proclaims the gospel message of Christ's death as the continuing sustenance of the Christian life. The very elements of bread and wine depict nourishment and refreshment.



OUR DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGY

As a church family, our focus will be on people over programs. Sending over seating. For this reason, all of our primary discipleship focus points will be centered on cultivating gospel-transformation, loving community, and missional living in three primary venues.



CORPORATE WORSHIP

Our corporate worship service is the most formal discipleship gathering we have. In other words, there is one-way communication from the stage to the audience. We follow the New Testament descriptions of corporate worship. According to the Bible, very specific things took place as the church gathered.

- Reading and instruction from God's Word (1 Tim. 4:14)
- Congregational Singing (Eph. 5:18-19, Col 3:16).
- Prayer (1 Tim 2:1-2, 8).
- The ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Matt 28:19, 1 Cor. 11:17-26).
- Giving (Acts 2, 4; Phil. 4:10-20; 2 Cor. 8, 9).

In planning our worship services we are very specific with how we shape these gatherings. The form of the service is important, just like the content of the service is important. For this reason, our worship services are planned with a specific framework that is outlined in many Biblical instances where people encounter God (Leviticus 9; Deuteronomy 5:4-33; 2 Chronicles 5-7; Isaiah 6:1-13; Revelation 4-22).

1. Call to Worship
2. Adoration: Acknowledgment of the holiness and grandeur of God
3. Confession: Awareness of sin before a holy God
4. Assurance: Promise of grace provided by God himself
5. Thanksgiving: A response of thankfulness
6. Instruction and Invitation: An instruction for obedience
7. Sending: A promise of blessing, and call to live on mission.

Again, this is a framework. There is freedom within the framework for creative use of different worship elements, but the overall movement of the service will reflect how one encounters God. When the pattern of the service itself is shaped by the gospel, it honors Christ as Savior and King, who makes worship to the triune God possible.

LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups are central to our ministry as a church family. God has designed us for community and fellowship. The church is to be a learning-and-teaching fellowship in which the passing on of what we learn becomes a regular part of the service we render to one another.

Life Groups are a more informal but structured time of discipleship, usually consisting of 10-30 people. In general, our Life Groups open up with a time of fellowship and prayer requests. Then, the majority of the time in a Life Group will center studying and discussing God's word with an aim to applying it to the heart and living it out in life.

In Colossians 3:16 Paul tells us that we are to "teach and admonish one another." It's hard to do this when we're not regularly together with other members of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12). For this reason, in biblical times God's Word was almost always studied in the context of community (Deuteronomy 31:12; Nehemiah 8:1; Luke 4:16-21; Acts 13:44).

Christian sanctification is as much a group project as it is an individual pursuit. In community study, we also benefit from the insight, wisdom, and perspective of others. We're able to hear from those who are at different life stages, enabling us to see through the rich prism of the experience of others.

In fact, a recent study, published in the book *Transformational Groups*, found that 42 percent of Protestant churchgoers who are actively involved in a small group say they also regularly study and reflect on God's Word on their own throughout the week. That drops to 10 percent for those who aren't part of a small group.

The majority of Life Groups meet on campus on Sunday mornings. However, there are several off-campus Life Groups. One of the question that we should constantly ask ourselves is, are we just meeting or are we on mission?

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Discipleship groups are more intimate gatherings where a small group of believers challenge one another, pray for one another, and study God's word together. These groups are gender-specific groups usually of 3-4 believers that meet weekly for 12-18 months with the intent to grow more spiritually mature.

As they meet, they regularly practice such disciplines as,

- Scripture Memory
- Bible Reading
- Journaling
- Accountability
- Prayer

They do this with the hope of growing in the MARCS of a disciple.

- Missional
- Accountable
- Reproducible
- Communal
- Scriptural

HOW TO JOIN A GROUP

First, pray for 2-4 people that you can invest in over the next 12-18 months and see who God puts on your heart. Often times, Life Groups are a great place to look for these people. Once you have someone in mind, pursue that person.

Ultimately, if you are struggling to find people for a group, ask one of the pastors and we would love to help get you connected.

MISSIONS

We exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ

At Fairview, "missions" is defined as the sending of active Fairview Baptist members and resourcing strategic partners to/in our city, our nation, and the world for the ultimate purpose of evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and local church strengthening.

Members of Fairview Baptist Church should be involved in the mission of God to make disciples by participating as the Spirit leads in the following ways:

- Praying - regularly interceding for those on mission, particularly Fairview's members and strategic partners.
- Giving - contributing financially to strategic partners and teams sent out by Fairview
- Going - making an effort to go on a short-term missions trip whether local, national, or international; and/or becoming a career missionary sent from Fairview.

Our missions strategy

Our mission strategy will focus on 1) long-term missions partnerships and 2) outreach ministries. The goal is to make disciples (Matt. 28:18-20) through evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and local church strengthening based on the geographical precedent of Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

1. Long-term missions partnerships will be with churches, missionaries, mission-sending agencies, Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entities, theological training institutions, and parachurch organizations on the city, state, national, and international level. These partnerships will be prioritized in order to wisely and efficiently accomplish the goal and to prevent misdirection.
2. Fairview Baptist Church will also have strategic outreach ministries from within our church that focus on evangelism to the lost, whether to individuals or to secular organizations, for the purpose of making disciples.

FAIRVIEW
BAPTIST CHURCH



www.fairviewchurch.org