

ASPIRATIONS & ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE

PURPOSE AND MISSION

Lord willing, and by His grace, Christ Covenant will move into the future steadfastly holding to a set of core beliefs and principles that have been the basis of our ministry since the church was founded. They are consistent with, indeed born of, the Scriptures, our historic statements of faith, and our congregational distinctives.

Christ Covenant's beliefs and principles are timeless; however, the context of our ministry is not. It has changed and will continue to change in the years to come. For that reason, to fulfill our mission of "making disciples who worship God, grow in community, love others, and serve the world", we intend to adapt, as needed, our strategies and practices to reach all people. Recently, Christ Covenant's leaders and a large cross section of the congregation met to align on issues we believe will need to be addressed for the future. Doing so allows us to keep reaching our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth with a call to come, see, and follow our Lord Jesus Christ. This document, framed by our Core Values, highlights those issues and our aspirations.

GOSPEL-DRIVEN

Christ Covenant is characterized by Reformed Theology, the Regulative Principle of Worship, and a lifestyle of outreach.

Transcendent Principles

We will continue to view worship as the centerpiece of our church life. God delights in true worshipers who do so in spirit and in truth. Worship of the Living God is our highest calling and greatest privilege. Corporate worship is the one opportunity for our entire congregation and new visitors to be together, hear the Word together, and respond together. Morning and evening corporate worship will begin and end each Lord's Day at Christ Covenant.

Ways in Which Our Context Will Change

- **Local Culture** – Philip said to Nathanael, "Come and see" (John 1:46). We aspire to engage our community and the surrounding areas with the Gospel. The culture continues to move further away from Judeo-Christian values into a post-modern, non-Christian society. Nevertheless, we intend to engage and love our neighbors in word and deed while being uncompromising to the life-giving truth of the Scripture. We will go to them as well as invite them in so they might "come and see."
- **Diversity** - We aspire to better reflect the economic, racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity of our region. We want our worship services, outreach, leadership, and staff to reflect this diversity as well. We will be intentional in being a local congregation that is motivated to minister to all people and to be inviting to a diverse audience.
- **Leveraging Technology** - We aspire to make productive use of technological tools that can be used to advance the Gospel. Christ Covenant has many gifted preachers and teachers

who have messages that can evangelize and equip many more people through the use of technology. We intend to grow our capabilities to take greater advantage of technology in order to be gospel-driven, culture-engaging, disciple-makers.

DISCIPLE-MAKING

Christ Covenant is characterized by the employment of personal and corporate spiritual disciplines that bring glory to God alone.

Transcendent Principles

Christ Covenant is a large church that, on the one hand, expects to grow through proclaiming the Gospel while, on the other hand, expects to provide greater intimacy by providing effective ways for members and visitors to connect with each other in smaller settings. We want all of our members to feel like they belong to our community of believers and each of them has a place in service and ministry at Christ Covenant.

Ways in Which Our Context Will Change

- **Societal Issues** - We aspire to bring the love of Christ and truth of God's Word to bear on the challenges of our time. Some of those challenges are violence, racial equality, mental health, poverty, aging, education, marriage, and sexuality. By being biblically knowledgeable and spiritually equipped for these challenges, we will be more effective in making a difference in our community and the world.
- **Reaching Each Member** - We aspire to reach those who believe themselves unwelcome in our midst, to lovingly share the Gospel and enfold new believers in ministries that encourage them in a new way of life.
- **Defending Beliefs** – We believe adversity, persecution, and discrimination toward Christians will continue to increase. We aspire to equip Christ-followers (youth and adults) to be able to stand firm in the face of such resistance and to courageously share the love of Christ and His gospel.
- **Involvement in Government** – We aspire to equip and mobilize our people to be more involved in local, state, and federal issues in order to discuss and advocate for policies, practices, and ethics that are pleasing to God and good for society.
- **Outreach**- We aspire to be able to winsomely build and cross bridges between our Christian culture and the culture around us. In doing so, we aspire to engage unbelievers with the Gospel.
- **Generational Changes** - We aspire to continue our unwavering commitment to sound doctrine in preaching and teaching while reaching and resonating with all generations.
- **Education** - We aspire to take responsibility for educating our children with a biblical world and life view; to position our school to be more accessible and affordable for our families; and to be a resource to our families regardless of the means by which they choose to educate.

- **Enhance Ministries** – We aspire to further invest in all of our generational ministries and to enhance the strategies we are using for our men’s, women’s, young professional, and college-age ministries to equip them to effectively engage the world as ambassadors for Christ.

FAITH-INTEGRATING

Christ Covenant is characterized by a God-centered worldview, a Christ-centered calling, and Spirit-filled families and relationships.

Transcendent Principles

Christ Covenant Church offers a multi-faceted ministry of discipleship and community. We work at connecting members and visitors to the church body through corporate worship and an array of ministries that equip and apply our spiritual gifts and our call to serve. To experience the fullest extent of discipleship, we encourage all members to invest in life-stage Congregational Communities and a “home” in one of our various small group formats. It is in those settings where members can witness the mission of the church in action: “developing disciples of Christ by helping people move toward spiritual maturity.”

Ways in Which Our Context Will Change

- **Family Values** – We aspire to create strategies, programs, and focused instruction that help families biblically address the increased challenges they face. Some of those issues are divorce, fractured and blended families, singleness, elder care, sexuality, pornography, technology, attention disorders and learning disabilities to name a few.
- **Generational Needs** – At the extremes of the generational continuum are our “fathers and mothers,” and our youth (1John 2:12-14). As the former age, we aspire to give them honor and assistance. As the latter grow, we aspire to prepare them for adulthood with a biblical mindset and the armor of God to stand firm and bring light to others in our society.

CULTURE-ENGAGING

Christ Covenant is characterized by a passion for the Justice of God, the Mercy of Jesus Christ, and the Truth of the Spirit.

Transcendent Principles

Being involved in local, domestic, and international missions, we will continue to engage our members in the advancement of the Kingdom of God by sharing the Gospel and by reflecting Christ to others.

Ways in Which Our Context Will Change

- **Apologetics for a Post-Christian Society** – We aspire to equip the congregation and call them to go share the Gospel with others winsomely in a society that will be less culturally sympathetic toward Christianity. We aspire to be outgoing and outreach oriented in both word and deed.

- **Minister to Other Cultures in our Area** – We aspire to develop new ways to reach and minister to other cultures in our area. A few illustrations are vocational training, parenting classes, and ESL.
- **Global Outreach and Missions** – We aspire to remain active and deeply invested in international missions by being attuned to methods that are being effective in evangelizing, planting churches, and equipping believers in their respective countries.
- **“Global” Evangelism** - We aspire to position our church to be inviting to and build relationships with the influx of internationals who are moving to our region. We intend to embrace opportunities for international evangelism and outreach right in our own city.
 - We aspire to train our congregation to share and defend their faith; to provide welcoming discipleship opportunities for new believers who come from other religious traditions; and meet the needs of children and youth, as well as adults.
 - We aspire to engage our society in the public arena without fear or anger, sharing God’s truth with humility, confidence, and love.
- **Get Off Our Donkey** - In 2014, we led a series titled “Get Off Our Donkey” (or G.O.O.D), which focused on seven areas of need in Charlotte: Homelessness, High School Dropouts, Human Trafficking, Refugees, Prisoners, Elderly, and Abortion. We aspire to continue to engage the community and minister to its needs by significantly expanding the work that currently falls under Get Off Our Donkey (G.O.O.D). We will not only identify new needs within the community but learn about them and follow up by going out into the community to serve. We will find ways to involve non-Christian friends and reflect Christ in our ministry to others.
- **Local Missions** - We aspire to regularly review the local missions we support, continue conversations with their leadership, and make sure that what we do as a church is fulfilling the needs that the missions have.
- **Disaster Response** – We aspire to be the hands and feet of Christ when disasters occur. We want to mature and scale this relatively new ministry with organization and training so that when a disaster occurs, we are responsive and work as a team to help others.
- **SOAR Sports** – We aspire to increase the numbers of youth and children participating in and exposed to the gospel through sports. In doing so, we aspire to ever more effectively minister to participants and their families. We aspire to see some of the fruit of this ministry include unbelievers coming to faith in Christ and joining the church, and “veterans” passing it on by inviting and ministering to others.
- **Loving the People in our Community** – We aspire to see growth in the way the surrounding community views us - as a loving, sacrificial, merciful people.