

## **Proclaims Christ**

A vital congregation has a focused, shared and centralized theological understanding of whom Jesus Christ is and the Good News of His redemptive plan for the Church and world. This proclamation is heard from the pulpit, taught in discipleship training, evidenced in relations and permeates all that the Church does. Vital congregations intentionally look at what they communicate about Christ in the formal and informal structures in which the Church lives.

### ***Suggested Scripture***

Psalm 68:11

Matthew 16:16; 28:18

John 1:14; 8:58; 10:30; 12:45; 14:6

Acts 2:36; 4:10-12

Colossians 1:18

## **Expresses Authentic Worship**

A vital congregation is committed to growing in its worship life. Worship begins with individual praise and adoration of God and culminates in corporate, congregational worship. The focus is towards God and is reverent and expectant in nature. Authentic worship acknowledges the wonder and presence of God. It invites a meaningful encounter with God through prayer, the Word, music and fellowship.

### ***Suggested Scripture***

Deuteronomy 26:10

I Chronicles 16:29

Psalm 29:2; 95:6

Luke 24:52-53

John 4:24

I Corinthians 14:26

Ephesians 5:19-21

Hebrews 10:24-25

## **Makes Disciples**

Jesus spoke to individuals claiming all authority in heaven and on earth given to him by the Father. He was deeply involved in instructing the disciples as followers of the Kingdom of God. Part of the instruction was for them to go on the basis of that authority to make disciples, by proclaiming the truth concerning Jesus. Matthew 28:19-20, “the great commission,” leaves little doubt concerning the principles of MAKING DISCIPLES.

### ***Suggested Scripture***

Isaiah 2:3

Matthew 9:4; 10:1, 32-39; 20:17; 28:19-20

Luke 10:1; 14:26; 27, 33

John 21:15-19

Acts 9:26; 11:26; 14:20; 21:4

Galatians 4:11-12

Ephesians 4:11-12

James 1:22-25

## **Prays Fervently**

The life and ministry of Jesus, certainly, sets an example for us. His prayer in the garden challenges us as to the fervency of prayer. The disciples were challenged by the prayer life of their Master which is evident by their request: "teach us to pray." The Apostle Paul also offers us a depth of prayer that is needed to be evident in us individually, but also a prayerful concern for all the saints.

### ***Suggested Scripture***

I Chronicles 16:11  
Proverbs 15:29  
Matthew 7:7-8  
Luke 11:9

Ephesians 6:18  
Philippians 1:3-6; 4:4-6  
Colossians 4:2  
I Thessalonians 5:17-18

## **Models Servant-Leadership**

A vital congregation acknowledges a sense of call to be God's servant people. The servant-leadership style begins with the pastor and formal leaders of the congregation. It is in the act of being a servant that leadership is expressed and renewal happens. This truth is most fully fleshed out when Jesus knelt down and humbly washed the disciples' feet. Servant leaders see the gifts in others and call them forth for ministry.

### ***Suggested Scripture***

Matthew 20:26-28  
John 10:11-18; 13:1-17  
Acts 20:28  
2 Corinthians 12:9; 4:7

Galatians 5:13; 6:10  
I Peter 5:1-4  
Revelation 7:17

## **Fellowships In Love**

A vital, (spiritually) growing congregation will fellowship together in love every day by lifting each other up in prayer and sharing a Christian love with each other.

### ***Suggested Scripture***

Psalms 133:1  
Matthew 18:20  
Luke 24:15  
John 13:35; 15:5

Romans 12:10; 15:7  
I Corinthians 13:11  
Galatians 5:13  
Ephesians 4:3

Colossians 3:13  
I Thessalonians 5:11  
I Peter 3:8  
I John 1:3; 3:11

## *Serves Others*

A vital, (spiritually) growing congregation will serve others by being there for each other and by helping any way they can. Just as Christ came to serve, we all need to take on the servant role and follow the example Christ has set for us.

### *Suggested Scripture*

Deuteronomy 16:17                      John 13:1-17, 34-35  
Matthew 20:26-28                      Hebrews 13:15-16

### *“One Anothering” Scriptures*

Romans 12:10a                      Galatians 6:2  
Romans 12:10b                      Ephesians 5:21  
Romans 15:5                      Colossians 3:13  
Romans 15:7                      I Thessalonians 5:11  
Galatians 5:13                      I Peter 4:9

## *Seeks God’s Vision*

The seeking and discerning of God’s vision for a congregation comes through fervent prayer, in depth Bible Study and serious reflection. Vision and the church’s mission are not the same. Vision is the “what?” – the picture of the future that transcends present ministry. The Mission is the “why?” – the purpose for existence. When the vision is owned by the congregation, it has the power to transform and re-energize the body of believers.

### *Suggested Scripture*

Proverbs 29:18                      Romans 8:14-17; 12:2  
Habakkuk 2:2-3                      I Corinthians 2:12-13  
Acts 6:1-10; 15:37-41; 26:14-20