

Messiah Christian Church Stakes in the Ground

What are the things we hold most dear?

It should be noted that what you will read here was written by our Ministry Leadership team when responding to a question from the Senior Pastor, "What is most dear to you about Messiah? And what do you want to see stay the same in this next phase of ministry?" They called it their "Stakes in the Ground".

- ***We are a Bible believing church:*** Our core beliefs about the Bible, the Trinity, salvation, and the Christian life are very important to us and are at the center of all we do and who we are.
- ***We seek and value the presence of the Holy Spirit:*** This means that prayer and genuine worship are central to our community. In particular, it is critical for those in ministry or positions of leadership within the church to pray and practice other spiritual disciplines such as Bible study and meditation, personal worship, mutual accountability, etc. and we teach people how to hear the Holy Spirit.
- ***We are unified and we are welcoming of others:*** While we are a close community of believers, there are no cliques or feelings of exclusivity. We are welcoming to all who genuinely want to be a part of the community, regardless of background, place in life, or socio-economic status. We welcome those who are with us physically and those who join us from a distance via online platforms. Welcoming others into Messiah is not to be viewed as a job or assignment but an opportunity to create a new relationship. We would like the new pastor to be someone who likes people and relationships, who is hospitable, personable, and willing to share their home with others.
- ***We believe that personal spiritual growth is important:*** Our discipleship model is core to our vision to create and deploy loving, mature and equipped followers of Jesus. We believe that it is crucial to meet people where they are in their spiritual journey and walk alongside them. This means offering small groups, studies and discipleship for people at various stages of the spiritual journey. We believe it is important to continue to develop a ministry that bridges the gap between seekers/new believers and the discipleship ministry. As we grow as a church, we want to be sure we are ready to welcome newcomers not only to the body of Christ, but into a ministry that will support them in their spiritual walk. We meet people where they are but always with intentions of moving them towards further spiritual growth. We don't want people to stay where they are but mature in their spiritual walk with Jesus and develop well-worn tracks of intimacy with Jesus
- ***We value humility, love and service in our leaders and community members:*** We are thankful for the personal, loving investment of our church leaders in our lives, and we seek to show that same love to each other and the greater community, as a reflection of the love of God. We encourage all members of our church to be part of the church through service, in a way that reflects their gifts and the needs of the church. We believe that all acts of service are done for the glory of God, and should therefore, be done with our whole heart and with a commitment to quality. This quality is also manifest in our stewardship of our financial resources, and in our commitment to safety and security.
- ***We believe in showing God's love to the community around us:*** We do this through outreach and through service. The outreach events and service offerings of the church should be adaptive and responsive to the needs of the community. This means they may change over time, though always with

the goal of loving and serving those around us. We believe it is imperative that our next pastor have a servant's heart and God's heart of compassion for the unchurched.

What does the history of our church tell us about who we are today?

- Looking at the history of the church, we see that God is always working in new ways. God never changes and His love never changes, but the particular means of showing his love may change over the years to reflect the needs of a hurting world.
- God has always been faithful to us, and we believe that He will continue to be faithful in the future if we continue to follow and seek Him.
- The God-led gradual expansion of the land owned by the church over the years tells us that God has plans for this land in the future; it will be up to the church to remain in prayer and communion with the Holy Spirit to understand what these plans are, in His timing.
- We believe that as the second generation of leadership steps forward at Messiah, we will receive the generational blessings that come from being the spiritual children of the first generation of leaders, who walked with God through their ministry.
- Reading the history of the church, the theme of love runs through the years; God has called us to love the people of the community and all that we do must reflect that.