

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Strategic Core Convictions/Values

A. Our Identity

St. Paul's United Methodist Church is a local congregation of followers of Jesus Christ called to be His witnesses. (Acts 1:8)

B. Our Purpose

The purpose of St. Paul's United Methodist Church is to proclaim God's redemption and forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all persons (1 Peter 2:9-10).

C. Our Mission

The mission of St. Paul's United Methodist Church is to equip persons for ministries which help others find, live and share the love of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20).

D. Our Core Values and Convictions

- 1. Scripture:** We affirm that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and therefore completely reliable as the source of our faith and totally authoritative in matters of doctrine and conduct (2 Timothy 3:16).
- 2. Doctrine:** We affirm the truth and authority of apostolic teaching as recorded in Scripture (Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Jude 1:3) and expressed in the historic orthodox creeds of the Christian Church.
- 3. The Church:** We affirm that the church, as the "body of Christ," is an organic fellowship of Christian believers, who are indwelt by the presence of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, and are characterized primarily by their allegiance and obedience to Jesus as Lord and by their love for, and mutual ministry to, one another (John 13:34-35; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:18).
- 4. Membership:** It is our conviction that the primary obligation of each member of the church to "*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" (2 Peter 3:18), and It is therefore our expectation that each member will participate in opportunities for transformational spiritual growth, with the goal of being empowered and equipped for a life of fruitful discipleship (John 15:8).
- 5. Ministry:** As United Methodists and heirs of the Wesleyan evangelical tradition, we are committed to the pursuit of John Wesley's call to "serve the present age" through ministries of evangelism, hospitality and compassion, with special attention to the poor and marginalized (Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 9:36-38).
- 6. Evangelism:** We affirm the value of each person without distinction as the object of God's love and seek to invite all persons into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and into the fellowship of His body, the church (John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9; Galatians 3:26-29).
- 7. The Coming Kingdom:** We anticipate the return of Jesus Christ in glory, at which time He will be universally acknowledged as Lord and inaugurate the reign of God (Philippians 2:9-11). This anticipation is the both source of our hope and the motive for faithful Christian living (Titus 2:11-14), providing urgency to our purpose and mission.