

Desiring God Community Church : Draft Vision, Values, and Mission Statements

Mission Statement: *We exist to spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples.*

Our Core Values:

God-centered: We value putting God at the center of all that we do. We put His glory and His honor first, asking in every decision, "Will this bring the greatest glory and praise to our God?"

Bible-saturated: We value being saturated with the Scriptures, which are God's reliable, authoritative, and sufficient revelation. We value a growing love for the Word, as well as a deepening understanding of it, in each person within the church, whether old or young.

Expository Exultation: We value "expository exultation," as the Spirit-anointed preacher delights in bringing forth from Scripture the teaching that God has revealed for our good and His glory. Over time this leads to the preacher proclaiming the whole counsel of the Word of God, whether it is popular or not. We value having our cultural assumptions challenged by the Word, for we know that this leads to our greatest joy.

Christ-exalting: The essence of worship is valuing Christ more than all the world has to offer. Thus, we value corporate worship that honors Him and helps us to cherish Him more and more highly through touching both the mind and the heart. Singing, praying, reading the Word, and preaching are all vital parts of such worship

Prayer-powered: We value prayer as our amazing privilege of speaking with the King of the Universe, expressing and developing our intimate family relationship with Him. We value prayer as the source of power and the visible engine for all our efforts.

Diversity-loving: We value the diversity that God created among mankind; even more, we value the unity in diversity that God creates in His church – a unity that manifests itself not only in smiles on Sunday mornings, but in an authentic community showing love, care, and concern throughout the week as we share our lives with each other.

Missions-mobilizing: We value missions and evangelism, the privilege God has given all of us of being His ambassadors, accomplishing His goal of spreading the knowledge of His glory to all the nations. We value spreading a passion for His supremacy to all peoples: those within our culture and those without, those who live nearby and those who live on other continents. Locally, we value reaching and welcoming the new members of our community, especially the internationals among them.

Family-strengthening: We value building up strong marriages and families, where God's Word is taught and lived out, where husbands love their wives as Christ loved the church, where wives respect their husbands, where the hearts of the parents are turned toward their children, and the hearts of the children toward their parents.

Disciple-producing: We value growth in Christlikeness in every believer, as all of us become the disciples God

intends us to be. We value the way God uses the ministries and services of the church in that growth.

Joy-pursuing: The pursuit of joy in God is not wrong; indeed, it is God's command. For God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him. "In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11.

In sum, we are a *God-centered, Christ-exalting, Bible-saturated, prayer-powered, diversity-loving, missions-mobilizing, family-strengthening, disciple-producing, joy-pursuing church.*

"We are NOT": Seven Defining Negative Statements

1. We are not timid. We value a strong confidence in God's sovereignty, freeing us to take risks for Him in joyously giving of self, time, and money.
2. We are not unemotional. We value broken, sorrowful hearts on account of our remaining sinfulness, and joyful hearts on account of God's free grace.
3. We are not isolationist. We value standing together and partnering with likeminded believers in Charlotte and around the world.
4. We are not spectators. We value an atmosphere in which our elders and staff equip us for ministry, with each person being encouraged to expect great things from God and to attempt great things for God, as He develops the gifts He gives to each believer.
5. We are not withdrawn from our society. We value pursuing justice, compassion, and mercy for the weak and the powerless.
6. We are not tied to any political party. We value speaking biblical truth to the issues that confront our society, regardless of what parties might be made uncomfortable by the proclamation of that truth.
7. Our leaders are not lords. We value leaders who are servants, who are transparent, who are accountable, who are humble, who live a modest lifestyle, and who have a team approach to ministry.

Vision of a church that flows from these values:

1. Desiring God Community Church will include members *of the nations* here in Charlotte, with an active ministry *to the nations*, both those we find in our local community and those around the world. Within this church, we will be made up of a diversity of ethnic groups, ages, and races united by God's love. We will live out true Christian community, so that the world might know that God has worked among us.
2. We will raise up men and women who will serve the people groups both here and abroad, in long-term commitments to cross-cultural ministry as well as short term commitments. We will raise the vision of

our entire congregation to God's perspective through the prominence of missions in our teaching, in concentrated periods of study such as the Perspectives course, in our cooperation with mission agencies headquartered locally such as JAARS and SIM, and even in the visible display of our missionary partners in our building. From the beginning, we will devote at least thirty percent of our local contributions to missions.

3. We will reach out with love, care, and evangelism to our neighbors and colleagues, focusing particularly on those who move into communities near us, aiming to contact every new individual or family who moves within a defined radius of the church, providing practical help and an opportunity to hear the gospel. Those who have moved from another country, such as international students at UNCC, will receive our special attention.
4. Our teaching at all levels will be Bible-saturated, from sermons to small groups to youth ministries to children's ministries. We will have a church-wide plan of Scripture memorization, and regularly reinforce the lessons of those verses.
5. We will practice expository exultation from the pulpit, and will train up men who are gifted and able to preach. At an appropriate point in the life of our church, we will begin to host regional pastors conferences to encourage other pastors to become what God intends them to be.
6. We will provide solid teaching on worship, so that our people understand that worship is valuing Christ more than everything in this world as we find our greatest joy in Him. Every element in our worship service will aim at exalting Christ, and enabling our people to delight in Him more and more fully. Thus, the essence of worship will be much more important to us than the form. Our worship forms will include new and old music from a variety of cultures – whatever will bring the greatest praise to God from our diverse body.
7. Our worship service will be a unity, with songs, readings, and preaching all working together to communicate the truths of God's Word to our minds, leading to an appropriate emotional response from our hearts.
8. We will help our members to grow in grace and to fight the lifelong fight of faith: the fight to see Christ as their greatest joy every minute of every day. Each member will be part of a small group or discipling relationship where he can serve and be served, with

all working together to encourage each other so that not one of us becomes hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

9. Acknowledging the remaining sinfulness in each of us, all of us - including leaders – will ask others to hold us accountable. When, despite this support and these accountability structures, a member falls into persistent sin, we will practice appropriate and loving church discipline, aiming to restore the member to fellowship, but being willing to separate for the good of the individual and the good of the church when necessary.
10. Within the small group context, we will help believers to identify their spiritual gifts and to put them into practice, so that the body of Christ might grow and be built up in love as each member works properly.
11. We will encourage our members to dream about what God might accomplish through them, and so to trust God that they are willing to step out in faith and take risks to fulfill those dreams.
12. We will be led by a plurality of elders, some in full-time service and others not, all meeting the qualifications for elders found in Titus and 1 Timothy, and thus setting an example for all through their lives. With few exceptions, the elders will make decisions by consensus, with congregational affirmation of major decisions. The elders will be active in discipling men, helping to train them in order to raise up more qualified elders.
13. We will provide several opportunities for corporate prayer each week, as well as extended periods of prayer and focused teaching on prayer for the entire congregation. We will partner with others in the area in praying for Charlotte through the Metrolina Prayer Network.
14. We will aid parents to bring up their children by biblical principles, empowering parents to be the main source of spiritual instruction for their children.
15. We aim to become the regional hub of a movement of God-centered, Christ-exalting, Bible-saturated, prayer-powered, diversity-loving, missions-mobilizing, family-strengthening, disciple-producing, joy-pursuing churches, planting such churches, assisting others in planting such churches, serving as a resource for churches trying to transition into such a church, and encouraging and training church leaders who serve in such churches.