

## **The Core Values of Highlands Church**

### **Elders and Deacons 2003**

#### *Worship*

God being the only focus of our worship and our greatest satisfaction, and our worship being our highest calling and eternal destiny, we strive to worship corporately in a biblical, God-centered, relevant, and Spirit-led manner which reflects our love for God and each other and trains us to worship in all of life.

John 4:24

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Mark 12:33

And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

Matthew 5:23-24

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24] leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

#### *Authentic Community*

Recognizing the world will know we are his disciples by how we love one another, living as a real spiritual family we strive for intentional, transparent, warm, interdependent body life, welcoming newcomers into a community of grace in the context of mutual accountability.

John 13:35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

#### *The Word of God*

The Bible being the self revelation of the Triune God and uniquely sufficient for knowing and following him, we proclaim God's Word, sharing Christ's gospel with the lost and hurting and teaching his people to love and obey all that he has commanded.

2 Tim. 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

#### *Prayer*

Believing that God is glorified as we come to him in prayer, and that as our gracious father he provides what we need, we delight in pursuing God in prayer, believing that God continues to act directly in this world in response to the prayers of faith of God's people and encourage his children by provoking them to personal prayer so that they will grow in intimacy with their heavenly father.

### *Families*

Covenant families being the God-ordained fundamental structure of God's people and reflection of his nature, we strive to grow in compassionate reconciliation as we live as biblically distinctive families, minister as families, reach out to entire families, heal broken families and integrate spiritual orphans and those without families into our church family by inviting them into our individual families, in order that we may reflect the adopting love of God to a lost and hurting world.

### *Intercultural Vision*

Since God is calling people from every nation, tongue, and tribe into his church, we will strive to reach and love the entire spectrum of our unreached local community across racial, ethnic, language, age, and socio-economic lines to bring them to saving faith and integrate them into the whole life of our church.

### *Missions*

Believing that every member is called to support cross-cultural missions abroad and in our own community, we finance, pray for, and participate in Gospel missions as we live in fellowship and partnership with the church around the world.

### *Member Ministry*

We believe that all members of the church, men, women and children, are ministers and the task of the officers is to equip members to identify and use their gifts for the advancement of the Kingdom.

Ephes. 4:11-16

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

### *Mercy Ministry*

We believe that the Gospel demands that the whole church minister in love to the physical and emotional needs of members of the church and the community at large, and therefore we minister diaconally to first those within and then those in the surrounding community.

James 1:27

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

### *Financial Stewardship*

We steward God's resources in a way which reflects honesty, transparency, and Kingdom priorities and encourage and train every member to faithfully steward and give from the resources with which God has entrusted them.

*Evangelistic Urgency*

Since our God is a missionary God, and since the treasure of our salvation cannot be contained, we, out of an overflow of joy strive to share our faith and lead people to Christ both as individual members and as a church corporate.

*Spiritual Warfare*

We strive to act as Christ's representative in battling evil out of the already-won victory of Christ on the cross over sin, death, and the devil by acting as Christ's representative in battling the spiritual forces of evil and resisting injustice in the world, particularly in context of the weakest members of our society, the poor, orphans, widows, and unborn.