



# Our Church Values

*During our initial work in developing the Mission Action Plan (MAP), the Mission Assessment Team (MAT) has distilled the following values from our current ministries, survey responses from and ongoing dialogues with the congregation, and review of our congregational history and records.*

## Central Principle: Love

While there is much we do not know, we know God's Love is all-encompassing and we move forward in each moment with a purpose to grow and share that love. We come to this time and place with a history we honor, cherish, study, and critique. From our purpose and history springs forth spiritual and intellectual curiosity, an open heart to welcome and embrace all God's people, an understanding of our need for forgiveness and grace, and a desire to be active participants in sharing God's Love with our members, our neighbors, our community, and our world.

## Our Church Values:

1. **Continuous discernment, experimentation, and reflection** as ways to hear the Spirit of God and to practice our faith, with an invitation to all to be in Christ, be loved, and be of use.
2. **Inclusive theology** that is informed by, and cognizant of: our diversity; the ambiguities and complexities of current social, cultural, and scientific realities; and the importance of both being (our state of existence and presence in the moment) and becoming (our state of transformation and possibility for the future).
3. **Respect and openness** for liturgical traditions and willingness to adapt or include new ones; embracing creativity in worship, with strong roots and commitment to quality music and artistic expression in worship and gatherings.
4. **Education and curiosity** with Church as a learning environment/community, underpinned by a hopeful expectation that God speaks to us through scripture, story, art, shared experience, and collective wisdom.
5. **Service to our neighbors**, especially in areas of basic needs (food, water, shelter, and education), understanding we engage the divine in the hungry, the stranger, and the sick.
6. **Support of our congregational members** who sustain us and enable us to serve others, including our church staff and leadership.
7. **Warm and nurturing relationships** with all whom we encounter, guided by healthy and skilled leadership that is intentional, respected, and consensus driven.
8. **Openness and radical hospitality** understanding the Church belongs to many: our congregation, our neighborhood, those we serve, those who use our facilities, and the many community partners and friends without whom we could not fulfill our mission.
9. **Environmental consciousness** grounded in gratitude for the life-giving natural world, responsibility to ensure its sustainability and flourishing, and understanding that it provides fruitful ground for spiritual practice, growth, and sabbath.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ ? \_\_\_\_\_ (see next page)



## Our Church Values

Our church values will be the framework for how the Mission Assessment Team shapes and defines our vision, mission, congregation and ministries in the Mission Action Plan. In turn, the Mission Action Plan will be used by the Pastor Nominating Committee to help guide the call process for a new pastor.

We need your help in reviewing these values.

1. Did we miss a value of our Church that is central for you? If so, what is that value?
2. Is there an aspect, activity or ministry of our Church you do not see encompassed by the values?
3. Are each of these values evidenced by concrete actions or examples you can think of in our congregational life? If not, which value needs more clarity or explanation, or how would you restate one or more of the values?
4. As you read these values, is there any personal reflection, response or insight you would like to share?

*If you want to share an insight about who we are called to be at this time and place, you can find previous survey forms and a box to turn them on the table in reception, or find them on the website at <https://fpcsb.net/mission-assessment>. Please turn in all surveys by 12/31/2023. Or just chat with, or drop an email to, any MAT member. - Jim, Mary, Brent, John-Paul, Nancy, Irene, & Marilyn*