

OUR PURPOSE:

Make Reproducing Disciples of Jesus Christ.

OUR VISION:

Our vision is to be a church that creates environments where outreach, worship, growth, biblical community, and service take place resulting in the making of reproducing disciples of Jesus Christ who reflect Christ, fellowship with believers, worship daily, serve others, give sacrificially, live biblically, and share their faith.

OUR CORE VALUES:

Practical Bible Teaching where Scripture is the ultimate authority on all matters.

Culturally Relevant Worship that focuses on bringing pleasure to God and celebrating God's presence in our lives.

Relational Evangelism where every follower of Christ carries out the responsibility of the great commission in their sphere of influence.

Authentic and Passionate Lifestyles are contagious and should characterize the life of a follower of Christ.

A Global Perspective where people are equipped for and committed to cross-cultural outreach.

Authentic Biblical Community where caring relationships provide a meaningful place of belonging, encouragement, and accountability.

Quality Children's and Student Ministries where the church partners with parents as they fulfill their God-given roles.

Solid Marriages and Strong Families are important to God and important to us.

Strategic Service where every follower of Christ utilizes their God-given SHAPE (Spiritual Gifts, Heart/Passion, Abilities, Personality, Experiences) in a ministry that maximizes their influence, and fulfills their part in the "Body of Christ."

Intimacy with God through the exercise of personal and corporate spiritual disciplines including prayer, Bible study, and worship.

Excellence honors God and inspires people when done with humility and authenticity.

Church Health results in church growth and church growth involves change in methods (not doctrine) to remain culturally relevant.

Servant Leadership where spiritually gifted leaders are equipped to lead the church with humility and empower others for ministry.

Visitor Sensitivity and Ministry Balance where people of all ages and at different places in their spiritual journey are welcomed, loved, and helped to move forward in their spiritual journey.

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH & DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS

ABOUT GOD...

We believe that God exists eternally in three persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that He created this world and sustains it by His power. We believe that God the Father sent His Son, Jesus, to save sinners by His atoning death.

ABOUT JESUS CHRIST...

We believe that Jesus was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life. While on earth, He was fully God and fully man. Through the power of His teaching and His miracles, He proved Himself to be God.

We believe that Jesus was crucified, that he died, was buried and arose from the dead on the third day. We believe He ascended into heaven where He intercedes for believers before God the Father. We believe He is coming again to take His Church to be with Him.

ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT...

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and resides in the heart of every person who has made a commitment to Jesus Christ. We believe the Holy Spirit indwells a person at the moment he commits his life to Jesus Christ.

ABOUT THE CHURCH...

We believe the Church (all Christians) was established for followers of Christ to worship, fellowship, study, pray together, and be a vehicle for being a witness in this world for Jesus Christ. We believe that all followers of Christ should be actively involved in a church.

ABOUT THE BIBLE...

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, written without error, and preserved for our instruction. We believe that it is authoritative, accurate and relevant and is the guide for all of life.

ABOUT SALVATION...

We believe that man was meant to have a perfect communion with God but sin ruined that relationship. The only way for a person to be restored to that right relationship is through the saving power of Jesus Christ. Without this, a person will be eternally separated from God and spend eternity in Hell.

We believe that salvation is based on Christ's work and not on man's effort. Everyone must personally accept this gift of grace through confession, repentance, and commitment to Christ as Savior.

ABOUT BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER...

We believe the Bible clearly teaches the need for followers of Christ to be baptized by water as a symbolic act of their commitment to Christ. We believe the symbolic nature of baptism allows for it to be done by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion. We believe infants can be publicly presented to the Lord by their parents and should wait to be baptized when they are able to make a decision of their own to follow Christ.

We believe the Lord's Supper (communion) should be practiced regularly by followers of Christ. We believe the bread symbolizes the body of Christ and the juice symbolizes the blood of Christ.

We believe that both the Lord's Supper and baptism are acts of obedience and expressions of love for Christ. In no way does either of these acts provide any special grace to those who participate or assure one of a proper relationship with Jesus Christ.

ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY AND FREE WILL...

We believe God made mankind to have a free will to follow God and receive Jesus as their Savior or to reject God and follow their own desires. God plays an important role in bringing a person to a relationship with Jesus Christ, but the ultimate decision to follow is left to man and not determined by God.

We believe a person can rest assured in his faith in Christ and not “fear” he may lose his salvation with every sin he commits after becoming a follower of Christ. Obedience to God’s Word and a desire to please God ought to characterize the life of every Christian. Any person whose life does not characterize what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ ought to examine his life to determine the sincerity of his initial commitment to Christ.

ABOUT JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION...

We believe that when a person receives the gift of Jesus Christ in his life and turns over control of his life to Jesus, God sees him differently. He sees him “as though he has no sin” and as righteous and pure and worthy to spend his eternity in heaven in the presence of God. This is called Justification and the Bible clearly states that we are justified through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

From a human perspective, a person still sins after committing his life to Christ. The goal of every believer should be to become conformed to the image of Christ. This act of becoming more and more conformed to Jesus is called Sanctification and is a life-long process of obedience and growth. The goal of every believer should be to sin less and less as he matures in his faith.

ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS...

We believe God gives every believer at least one spiritual gift at the time of his conversion to be used for ministry to others. We believe every spiritual gift outlined in the Bible is to be used for the purpose of exalting Christ, building up others, and unifying the church for its purpose of evangelism and outreach. At Otterbein, we do not teach or practice “supernatural or charismatic” gifts in our worship or public gatherings.

We also believe that spiritual gifts are just one component of a person’s life that God gives to help a person be effective in ministry. Other components include one’s experiences, personality, passion, and natural abilities. All of these, along with a person’s spiritual gift(s), allow for followers of Christ to effectively serve others in the body (church) and share the message of Jesus in our communities and world.

ABOUT TITHING AND GIVING...

We believe tithing is primarily an Old Testament principle. We believe giving sacrificially of our time and money is essential in the life of every believer and a matter of obedience to God. Principles throughout the Old and New Testaments suggest that how we spend our money demonstrates to God where our heart is, the priority we give God and our relationship with Jesus Christ in contrast to the world.

Hence we suggest as a foundation, a person should give “10 percent plus other gifts” to God as God blesses him to do so.

ABOUT SOCIAL ISSUES...

We believe the Bible clearly addresses many of the social issues and ills of our contemporary society including abortion, divorce, remarriage, illicit sexual relationships, homosexuality, murder, and drunkenness. We believe God’s plan and His spoken Word as recorded in the Bible are for all times and all generations and, thus, do not allow persons to excuse their behavior.

For those issues not clearly outlined in the Bible, we believe God allows for principles of Scripture, the wisdom of mature and godly leaders within the church, and the work of the Holy Spirit within a believer’s life to guide a believer toward making decisions that are appropriate for his life. It should be noted that the Bible does allow for differing views on issues not clearly outlined in the Bible. Believers are admonished to be cautious in their attitudes and view of such issues when participating in them.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Following is an overview of our current organizational structure.

- We believe the pastors and the staff are the equippers and encouragers and the people of the church are the ministers (Ephesians 4:11-13).
- All positions of ministry in the church are filled by appointment—not church elections. Our reason for this decision is 1) because we believe ministry should be according to giftedness and ability—not popularity; 2) because our size makes it impossible for people to know names on a ballot; and 3) because we believe appointments are the biblical way to choose leaders within the church (Acts 6:1-6).
- Decisions concerning the direction of the church are made by those entrusted with leadership positions. We do not have congregational votes.
- Decisions are always made at the lowest level possible in the organizational structure.
- The Management Oversight Team and the Board of Elders work together to provide oversight and direction for the ministry of the church.
- The Elders are the highest governing authority in the church regarding spiritual accountability and care of the congregation. They are also responsible for the affirmation or appointment of all ministry positions in the church.
- The Management Oversight Team is the highest governing authority in the church regarding the business affairs of the church including finance, personnel, and property. They are also responsible for appointing the Elder Selection Committee which selects persons to serve as Elders in the church.
- The Staff is responsible for the day-to-day ministry oversight and for equipping and supporting persons doing ministry.
- All ministry positions in the church have a one-year term of office with the exception of the Elders who have a two-year term of office. Ministries that recruit during the summer (children, youth, etc.) for service beginning in September have a term of September–August. All other ministries, ministry leaders, and the Management Oversight Team have January-December terms of office.
- Lay Ministry Leaders are appointed by the Board of Elders. They in turn are responsible to recruit and appoint other persons to work alongside them in carrying out their responsibilities. The Elders affirm those appointments made by the Lay Ministry Leaders.