

# The Vision Statement of the Nature and Mission of the Local Church

We aim as members of the body of Christ in .....

1. To be wholeheartedly committed to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord (John 20:31; Rom. 10:9).
2. To be baptised in water and regular at communion (Acts 19:5-6; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).
3. To seek and encourage others to seek the release of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and daily filling with the Spirit (Acts 2:17, 38-39).
4. To read the Bible regularly, accepting its authority and acting on it by the power of the Holy Spirit so that the church may become more biblical under the Lordship of Christ (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
5. To support the church as it engages in spiritual warfare, enabling Christians to recognise and resist the enemy; bringing deliverance to people from bondage to sin, weakness, habit and Satan (Matt. 16:18-19, 28:18-20, Mark 16:17-18, Amos 3:7-8; Ezek. 3:16-18; Rev. 1:3).
6. To live adventurously by faith, seeking security in God, not in our own understanding, efforts, other people, material things, circumstances, or traditional patterns (Prov. 28:26; Jer. 17:5-8; 1 Tim. 6:17).
7. To seek that spiritual "brokenness" before God, so that our wills are submitted to his and his will is all that matters (Matt. 7:21-23). To aim at holiness of life based on the fruit of the Spirit, and to seek for forgiveness or for healing as necessary, so that there are no barriers to spiritual progress (Psa. 118:6-9, Matt. 6:25-34).
8. To learn to intercede for others and to listen in prayer for God's specific guidance (Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 6:18; Isa. 30:15, 18, 21).
9. To join regularly in worship and to encourage the building of a worshipping community which will know what it is to adore God, being "lost in wonder, love and praise" and to express this worship fully (Psa. 100).
10. To be committed to each other in unity and love: loyal to and trusting each other including the leaders, encouraging each other, open to loving correction on biblical issues; sharing needs and possessions.
  - To be deeply committed personally and to encourage others to be deeply committed to the church as a community, not each "doing his or her own thing" in the rebellious spirit of the age, but aiming to achieve a unity of heart and mind in which the church moves enthusiastically as one in obedience to God, so that the world may believe. (Eph. 5:21; John 17:21-23)
  - To accept the authority of the overall leaders and other leaders in their spheres of office, respecting them, trusting their leadership in matters which affect the church, in accordance with biblical teaching. (1 Thess. 5:12-13, Heb. 13-17).
  - To be completely loyal to one another - keeping confidences, defending one another against negative criticism, not being judgmental or gossiping about each other. (Gal. 5:13-15, Col. 3:12-15).
  - To be open and honest with one another including giving and receiving prayerful encouragement and correction. (Matt. 18:15-17; Gal. 6:1-2; Eph. 4:15; Titus 3:1-2, 10-11; James 5:19-20)
  - To encourage the sharing of important personal issues with others (particularly with leaders) confidentially, for prayer and advice. (Prov. 12:15; 1 Pet. 5:5)
  - To aim to give at least a tenth of income to God, especially for the work of the church, and to ensure a fellow member is not left in serious financial or material need. (Lev. 27:30; Mal. 3:8-10; Matt. 5:42; 2 Cor. 8:13-15; 9:6-8; 1 John 3:17)
  - To encourage the church to become more caring by accepting pastoral responsibility being given to the many rather than the few, so that the church may become a truly loving community and a place where God's healing

power will be at work. (Gal. 6:2; Eph. 4:16)

- To base family life, and to encourage others to base their family life on the biblical principles of love, fellowship, mutual submission and discipline, and to see that single members are given their rightful place. (Eph. 5:22-6:4).
- To be involved regularly in one of the fellowship groups organised by the church. (Acts 2:42, 46, 47; Heb. 10:24-25).

11. To seek the church's guidance to find our gifts and use them. To encourage the discovery of every member's spiritual gifts and ministries so that all the gifts of the Spirit will operate in the church; that people will only be fulfilling the role which the leaders in the church have helped them to recognise or confirmed that God has called them to and gifted them for. (Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Cor. 12).
12. To support the church in evangelism and social concern by love, word and power, as it stresses the urgency of the church's mission to the world according to Acts 1:8, in the light of the return of Christ. To work with fellowships who share this Vision and encouraging other churches into the Vision. (Acts 10:42; 1 Tim. 4:1-2, Heb. 10:24-25).