

# **Mission Statement**

## **First Presbyterian Church of Evanston**

### **SHARING CHRIST**

**We seek to become a Church in which the Good News of Jesus Christ as set forth in the Scriptures is proclaimed and lived faithfully and courageously.**

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. . . . And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. (Colossians 1:15-20)*

1. We, people of God, are called, according to our gifts, to preach, teach, and, by word and deed, share Jesus Christ with people of every race and nation, both within our community and around the world.
2. We rejoice that we are placed in this diverse community, at this time, and given the opportunity to share the Gospel with our neighbors from Evanston and the North Shore, and with the University community.
3. We stand firm on the authority of Scripture in our lives, all of which is inspired by God and useful for teaching, challenging, correcting and promoting right relationships and moral action.
4. We place Jesus Christ at the center of our worship experience which includes traditional hymns, contemporary praise music, classical anthems and other diverse elements, all within a Reformed liturgy.
5. We recognize our call to speak the truth of Scripture in love, among ourselves and to a culture that is not always ready to hear it, whether on issues of personal morality or rampant materialism.

(1 Corinthians 1:20-25; 2 Timothy 3:16-4:5; Ephesians 6:10-18)

### **Making Disciples**

**We seek to become a Church in which every member is being transformed into the image of Christ.**

*Go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20)*

1. We each acknowledge our sinfulness and our need for repentance, forgiveness by grace, through faith, and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. We understand that we, and those we bring to confess Christ as Savior and Lord, are called to be transformed into His likeness in a covenant community through prayer, teaching, study, fellowship, caring for and listening to one another, and joining together in mission.
3. We strive to live lives worthy of the calling we have received and in obedience to the Lord's plan for our lives in accordance with the Scriptures.
4. We delight that we are each given unique and valuable spiritual gifts to prepare us for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up and we all reach unity and maturity in the faith.
5. We take joy in the varied expressions of our faith within the Reformed tradition, and in conformance with Scripture and the historic creeds of the Church, including the Gifts of the Spirit, personal devotional practice, and joyful service.

(Ephesians 4:1-5:2)

## **Serving God's World**

**We seek to become a Church through which God's love is offered to each other, to our neighbors, and to the ends of the earth.**

*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and He will say: Here am I. (Isaiah 58:6-9)*

1. We affirm that faith without works is dead, and that we are called to show the Father's love for all people by fighting injustice, working for freedom from tyranny and oppression, and helping those in need and the weakest and most vulnerable among us.
2. We understand that the Lord calls upon us to roll up our own sleeves, and reach into our own wallets, to do His work in the world.

3. We commit ourselves to mission for the sake of the Gospel here and around the world, and to give freely of our time, talents and finances to accomplish that mission.
4. We recognize that we must not turn away from those in need within our own community of faith, and that we must heal and care for each other in order to build up that faith community.
5. We trust in the Lord's promise that if we engage in the true worship of serving others, we will experience healing, the light of First Presbyterian will shine forth in our community like a beacon, and, when we call upon the Lord, He will answer.

(Micah 6:8; Luke 4:18-19; James 2:14-26; Matthew 25:37-40)

### **By the Power of the Holy Spirit**

**We acknowledge that we are powerless to accomplish any of these things without the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**

*You know him, for He lives with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17)*

1. We know that the work, and the vision, which has been set before us, cannot be accomplished by our own efforts, and that we rely upon the presence of the Holy Spirit within us and around us.
2. We are comforted and transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
3. We trust in the leading of the Holy Spirit, promised to all who trust in Jesus Christ and acting through the Church, the Body of Christ, which comes together to find and represent the will of God.

(Isaiah 61:1-2; Acts 1:8)