

Helping Your Church Understand the Need for Core Values

Core values are those enduring things that a congregation holds dearly and deeply, and are at the heart and core of the church's identity. These values strongly influence every decision made, action taken and dollar spent by the church. Core values remain fixed in a congregation while everything around them can be in a constant state of change. If they are removed, the people would feel as if it were not the same church.

Below is a list of some core values which have been divided into 6 sections. Place a "1" beside the TWO CORE VALUES you deem primary in each section. Place a "2" beside the one core value you consider secondary. *This is not an exhaustive list of core values and therefore you may wish to add others.* Remember, all of the items reflect common and/or Biblical values, but only a few are apt to be the driving values in your church's ministry.

CONCERNING LEADERSHIP

- ___ Leadership which demonstrates godly character
- ___ Sense of responsibility to keep church property attractive and in good repair
- ___ Belief that the status quo takes second place to "Spirit-led" change
- ___ Excellence as the standard for all of the ministries and leadership
- ___ Commitment as the key to the Christian leadership and lifestyle
- ___ An attitude of optimism which generates confidence in the future
- ___ Deacons who have an awareness of all aspects of the ministry
- ___ Biblical Preaching and Teaching

CONCERNING MINISTRY

- ___ Members and adherents trained and mobilized to serve Christ
- ___ Responsible financial stewardship on the part of the church
- ___ Prayer as the mainstay of the church and all its ministries
- ___ Ministries sustained by tithing and giving of congregation members
- ___ Christian counseling in its many forms seen as a vital ministry
- ___ A recognition that every activity of the church comes under the lordship of Christ
- ___ A high priority placed on youth ministry
- ___ Today's technology seen as a valued tool for ministry

CONCERNING RELATIONSHIPS

- ___ Sensitivity to people in their joys and their sorrows
- ___ A strong sense of belonging to a loving church family
- ___ A strong emphasis on family life and parenting
- ___ Living a life which enjoys and demonstrates God's grace
- ___ Compassion as the heart-felt response to the needs of all people
- ___ Loyalty to the Lord, His church and His people
- ___ An enthusiasm which is evidence that God is at work in our midst
- ___ Teamwork seen as an essential component to effectiveness of ministry

CONCERNING OUTREACH

- ___ Ministry that takes a special account of the poor and disenfranchised
- ___ Desire to have as many people as possible involved in foreign missions
- ___ Constant evaluation in an effort to make all aspects of the Church's ministry relevant to the culture it is attempting to reach (i.e. laboratory churches)
- ___ Reaching all people by all means for Jesus Christ
- ___ A church that speaks to the issues of social justice, civil rights, and equal rights
- ___ Growth in numbers and maturity as indicators of effective ministry
- ___ A strong responsibility to community service on the part of the church

CONCERNING WORSHIP

- ___ Preaching and teaching developed on a Biblical foundation
- ___ Openness to creativity and innovation in worship with total lay involvement
- ___ Concerted effort to make visitors to the church feel we welcomed and eager to return to your church
- ___ Openness to a variety of worship styles where God's presence is felt
- ___ Communion and baptism given special attention as celebrations
- ___ Use of Contemporary worship music, multi-media, arts, drama

CONCERNING THE PASTOR

A pastor whose age is between:

- ___ 20 and 30
- ___ 30 and 40
- ___ 40 and 50

- _____ 50 and 60
- _____ over 60
- _____ The congregation's wholehearted cooperation with the pastor
- _____ A Pastor who leads through a team ministry approach
- _____ A pastor who is a strong visionary leader
- _____ A pastor who is skilled in conflict resolution skills
- _____ A pastor whose years of ministry experience are:
 - _____ up to 10
 - _____ 10 to 20
 - _____ 20 to 30
 - _____ 30 to 40