



GCI *Buzz*

Healthy Church: Vision, Mission & Core Values



Mission Statement

Noun

Definition: a concise statement that articulates the fundamental purpose, goals, and values of the church. It communicates why the church exists, who it serves, and what it seeks to achieve in alignment with its beliefs and principles.

- Provides direction and focus for decision-making and goal setting.
- Encapsulates the core identity and calling of the church, guiding its actions, decisions, and priorities in fulfilling its mission in the world.

Vision Statement

Noun

Definition: a clear and inspiring declaration of the church's aspirations for the future. It describes the desired long-term goals, outcomes, or state of being that the church aims to achieve.

- Paints a picture of the desired future state, hopes, or long-term goals of the congregation.

Inspires and motivates members of the church community to work together towards a shared vision of transformation and impact.

Core Values

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Noun

Definition: the fundamental beliefs, principles, and ideals that guide its identity, behavior, and decision-making processes. They represent the deeply held convictions and priorities that shape the culture and character of the church community.

- Reflect what the church stands for, its priorities, and its commitments to God, each other, and the world.
- Serve as a foundation for organizational culture and decision-making.
- Integral to the church's mission and vision, providing a foundation for unity, integrity, and purposeful ministry.

While mission and vision statements serve distinct purposes, they complement each other in shaping the identity and direction of the church.

A mission statement defines the church's purpose and primary objectives, while a vision statement articulates its future aspirations. Together, they provide guidance and inspiration for the church community to fulfill its calling and make a meaningful impact in the world.

Example mission Statement:

- To invite people to follow Jesus by loving God, loving people, and serving others.

Example Vision Statement:

- To join Jesus to make an everlasting impact in the lives of our neighbors, city, and beyond.

Example Core Values:

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Value	Definition	Scripture
Belonging	Human beings belong to God, and in Christ, we belong to each other. We will make every effort to ensure that the people we encounter feel seen, valued, and like there is a place for them. We will make space for people to discover, practice, and use their gifts to serve others.	<i>Psalm 139:1-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Isaiah 43:1; Isaiah 49:15-16; Rom. 7:4; Rom. 12:5</i>
Truth	Jesus revealed himself as the truth, and the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, guides the church into all truth. The God revealed in Jesus frees us to participate in this work by being honest, transparent, and operate with integrity. We will also endeavor to be Spirit-led in all we do, which is the only way to walk in truth.	<i>John 14:6; 16:13; Eph. 5:8-11</i>
Unity	It is the desire of the Father for humanity to be unified, and through Christ's incarnation, we are united into one common humanity. Therefore, the Lord entrusted the church, of which Christ is the head, with the ministry of reconciliation — the work of healing all disunity. We strive to live as a loving family across man-made divisions. We intentionally build relationships with people as a way to be fully human and experience the kingdom of God.	<i>John 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 12:13; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; Eph. 3:1-10</i>
Celebration	Jesus marks the beginning of the end of all suffering and pain. He ushers in the Jubilee, which will last for all time. As his followers, we are invited to celebrate Jesus now, enjoying our time with God and each other. Even in difficult times, we will rejoice in him as a form of worship. We also celebrate Jesus by remembering his story through the keeping of the Christian calendar and observing special days.	<i>Luke 4:16-21; Phil. 2:17-18; 4:4</i>
Justice	God is a just God, and his justice is restorative. He does not ignore sin, but his goal is to refresh the image of God in the one who stumbles and make his child whole. Likewise, when a member of our community stumbles, we will seek personal, interpersonal, and systemic justice in a way that affirms the dignity of that person's humanity. Led by the Holy Spirit, we will also seek restorative justice for those in our neighborhood who experience injustice.	<i>Is. 1:17; Jer. 21:12; Luke 4:18-19</i>



Biblical Connection:

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In Scripture, we find numerous examples of mission, vision, and core values guiding God's people in their journey of faith. Jesus articulated a mission for his followers when he commissioned them to *“go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)*. This mission statement, often referred to as the Great Commission, embodies the essence of our call to share the love and message of Christ with the world.

Similarly, throughout the Bible, we encounter visions of hope, purpose, and transformation. From Isaiah's vision of a new heaven and earth (*Isaiah 65:17*) to John's vision of the new Jerusalem (*Revelation 21*), these glimpses of the future inspire us to pursue God's kingdom with anticipation and expectation.

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Conclusion

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Crafting mission, vision, and core values statements is not merely an administrative task but a profound exercise in clarifying the purpose, aspirations, and guiding principles of our church community. By embracing these foundational elements, we set a clear direction for our collective journey, inspiring unity, purposeful action, and transformative impact in the world.