

The Mission of First Baptist Church

(Accepted by the Congregation – April 10, 2003)

“A church with a passion for God and a love for all people”

Our Mission: to reproduce disciples of Jesus Christ in Olds and around the world who have a passion for God and a love for all people.

Our mission flows from two central teachings of Jesus traditionally referred to as the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. First, Matthew 28:19-20 directs us to the ministry of disciple making and multiplication. “Disciples” are followers of Jesus whose lives mirror His priorities and follow His commands. His priorities and commands are found in the second teaching of Jesus in Mark 12:29-31 in which Jesus declares that God’s commands are summed up in two things: love God with everything you have (i.e. passion) and love your “neighbour” (i.e. all people without distinction) as yourself.

The Great Commission: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

The Great Commandment: “‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31)

In obedience to and dependence upon Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to the mission of reproducing disciples in Olds and around the world who have a passion for God and a love for all people by focusing on the Biblical priorities of inspiring worship, systematic teaching, caring fellowship, need-oriented service and worldwide evangelism.

1. Inspiring Worship (We worship):

- “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)
- “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23-24)

Declaring the praises of God is the first priority of the church. Biblical worship is more than just a one hour service on Sunday, it is the service we give to God “24-7” as His people. When God’s people join together for worship we are

gathering to both express and receive: to express praise to God and to receive grace from God. We go from corporate worship on Sunday empowered to and directed to worship God as families and as individuals in our day-to-day expression of our love for Him in our workplaces, our schools and our neighbourhoods.

As disciples of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves to continual growth in our expression of our love for God in worship.

We will, the Lord helping us:

- Make our corporate worship inspiring by faithfully praying for and depending upon God's Spirit to move among us so that people come away with the sense that they have met with God.
- Commit ourselves to offering God our best in every area of worship: in music and song; in the public reading and preaching of God's Word; in corporate prayer and the offering of our gifts and tithes; in the celebration of the Lord's Table and the ordinance of believers baptism; in our audio visual presentation and ushering; in drama and art.
- Make our corporate worship a testimony to God and to our community of our love for one another and our unity in Christ by choosing music and other worship expressions that seek to embrace the whole congregation.
- Passionately preach the Word of God giving practical application to life and calling people to commitment to live out its truth.
- Dedicate ourselves to fulfilling our role as "a royal priesthood" by faithfully praying for our world and its needs.
- Employ the musical gifts and talents of our people to declare God's praise to encourage believers in the faith and to share the faith with unbelievers.

2. Systematic Teaching (We learn):

- "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—" (Philippians 2:14-16)
- "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching..." (Acts 2:42)

We express our love for God by keeping His commandments. (John 14:15) The Word of God is the word of life and our desire is that we learn to handle it with skill and reverence, recognizing that it is the instrument that God's Spirit uses to transform us to be like Jesus Christ. (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 2:15; Romans 12:2) In our day and age when so many are confused and deceived by spiritual counterfeits, we need to offer the true bread of God (Matthew 4:4) calling all people to "taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34:8)

As disciples of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves to continual growth in our love for, our understanding of and our obedience to the Word of God.

We will, the Lord helping us:

- Make Biblical education a priority for all age groups:
 - By supporting our teachers and workers with excellent curriculum resources.
 - By the ongoing recruitment, training and encouragement of teachers and workers.
 - By providing excellent classroom facilities & teaching tools.
 - By active promotion of the benefits of Biblical education for the whole family.
- Encourage and facilitate Biblical study as a core activity for small groups.
- Equip people with a Biblical worldview to enable them to respond to contemporary moral and spiritual challenges posed to the Christian faith.
- Facilitate the development of a Biblical spirituality by providing training in the disciplines of the Christian life (For example: Prayer, Bible study, meditation, fasting.)
- Consistently provide seeker-oriented Bible studies that will clearly explain how someone can have a faith relationship with Jesus Christ.

3. Caring Fellowship (We love):

- "...And to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (Acts 2:42)
- "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

The Christian faith is to be lived out together with other believers in Jesus. When we become followers of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit joins us with other believers into a fellowship which is able to express the presence of the living Jesus in a way that no one person ever could. Although people cannot see God, when they see the love of Jesus Christ expressed by believers towards one another, they are able to see God made real. (1 John 4:12) For God's love to be seen, it must be expressed in actions, not just in words. (Romans 5:8)

As disciples of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves to continual growth in our practical caring expression of God's love for all people.

We will, the Lord helping us:

- Cultivate a welcoming environment at First Baptist Church.
- Encourage the development of caring relationships through involvement in care groups and a variety of small group experiences.
- Train small group leaders to give effective group leadership.

- Challenge all believers to actively utilize the Spiritual gifts and abilities they possess for the purpose of enriching the fellowship of the church.
- Train caregivers to provide specialized caring ministry.
- Provide ongoing support and training to develop healthy, Biblical lifestyles in all the stages of life from birth to death.

4. Need-oriented Service (We serve):

- “For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)
- “Serve one another in love.” (Galatians 5:13)
- “You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13, 14-16)

God does good things for those who love Him and those who don't (Matthew 5:44-45) and He calls us to acts of love that express His goodness to all people. Acts of love both express God's love for His whole created world and also act as signposts pointing people to the God who loves them and wants them to come into a love relationship with Him.

As disciples of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves to practical expression of God's goodness to all people by acts of service in our church, community and world.

We will, the Lord helping us:

- Encourage and train our congregation to employ their talents and spiritual gifts in ministry.
- Challenge our congregation to live out their Christian faith with integrity in their daily lives.
- Encourage and support our congregation to prayerfully seek out ways to serve our community and world through acts of kindness.

5. Worldwide Evangelism (We proclaim):

- “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

- “I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.” (Ephesians 3:7-12)

To make disciples of all nations, to be witnesses for Jesus at home and around the world, to proclaim the good news of the “unsearchable riches of Christ” – to be used by God to bring people to approach him “with freedom and confidence” through faith in Jesus Christ is one of God's stated goals for the church. We give witness to the “riches” we have found in Christ when we express to people, in words and deeds, what Jesus means to us. God uses this witness to bring people to see that through Christ they too can have a relationship with Him that frees them from fear and guilt and welcomes them into His family forever.

As disciples of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves to continual growth in our expression to the surrounding world of the good news that through faith in Jesus Christ all people can know and experience the love of God.

We will, the Lord helping us:

- Encourage and train people to share their faith in Christ.
- Ensure that opportunities are regularly given through our worship services for people to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
- Plan special evangelistic events that present the Gospel.
- Actively promote and support mission in Olds, in Canada and around the world, by challenging our people to give, to pray and to go so that disciples can be made in all nations.