

Our Mission

To be to the glory of God in the Body of Christ
through Spirit empowered mercy and truth

Guiding Principles

- ◆ **The glory of God** is to be the first objective of all our endeavors. (1Corinth.10:31)
- ◆ A biblical balance of **mercy & truth**, as manifestations of God's love & holiness reconciled to us in Christ, shall set the tone of our fellowship. (Psalm 85:10)
- ◆ The **mercy and grace** that God has afforded us in Christ Jesus must be **lovingly exercised** in all our personal relationships, guarding against self-righteous or judgmental attitudes. (2Tim.2:24-26; James 3:13-18)
- ◆ We reject any pretense of self-worthiness for our standing before God, **depending only on the grace** given to us through Christ's active obedience and atoning death. (Rom.3:21-22; Gal.2:21; Phil.3:9)
- ◆ We believe that it is God's will that all Christians become more and more like Christ (**sanctification**), and that this **transformation is effectually accomplished by the Spirit of Christ within applying Word of God to our hearts in an atmosphere of grace and the knowledge of the Lord**. (2Pet.3:18; 2Cor.3:18^{kjv/nkjv}) It cannot be accomplished by zealously trying to conform ourselves to His Law, or any other list of rules. (Rom.10:1-4; Galatians 2:19-20)
- ◆ We endeavor not to lean upon our own wisdom and devices, but to seek the **equipping, empowering and leading of God's Holy Spirit**- the indwelling Presence of Christ- without Whom we can do nothing! (John 15:1-5; Gal.2:20)
- ◆ The **Bible, as the exclusive, God-breathed Word**, must be the sole authority for faith and practice, overriding tradition, church dogma, personal viewpoints, or modern humanistic philosophies. (2 Tim.3:16-4:4)
- ◆ We believe that **any** portion of the Bible may be applied **legalistically** by the natural "religious" man, or **graciously** in the Spirit through the new and living way provided by Christ in the New Covenant. Applied legalistically, the letter kills, always bringing condemnation and death. Applied graciously, the **Spirit gives life, bringing us to salvation and a closer intimacy with Christ through His Inspired Word**. (2 Cor.3:3-18; Heb.10:16-20)
- ◆ While cherishing the truth that all believers are united in the spiritual Body of Christ, often called the Universal Church, we believe the overwhelming emphasis in the New Testament is upon **the church as a local assembly of believers** having appointed (ordained) leadership, practicing the ordinances of Christ (Baptism & the Lord's Supper), and actively engaged in carrying out the Great Commission. (Matt.18:17; 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42; 14:23; 20:17,28; 1 Tim. 3)
- ◆ We believe that **true faith** is given by God's grace, is wrought by the Holy Spirit, is **focused on Christ**, and **proceeds from, and rests upon the inspired scriptures** (the Bible.) It does not proceed from, nor is it dependent upon, natural enticements, excessive pressuring of the will, nor the presence or absence of miraculous signs, wonders and gifts. (Eph.2:8-9; Rom.10:17; 2Cor.5:7; 2 Tim.3:15-4:4; Rom.15:4; see also Job.13:15; Hab.3:17-18; Mat.16:14; 24:24; 2 Thes.2:9)
- ◆ While any style (genre) of music may be used for good or evil, we reject the teaching that certain genre are inherently evil. **We believe that it is the great blessing of the church to have such a rich and varied heritage of musical expression with which to praise & worship our awesome God.**