

A. MISSION STATEMENT

1. The Purpose of a Mission Statement

A mission statement defines and describes what every component in a group is working toward. It is the driving force that impacts everything. A mission statement instructs us what to do—a vision statement is more about how we believe God is leading us to fulfill our mission given our uniqueness.

2. Discovery's Mission Statement

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 28:18-20)

B. VISION STATEMENT

1. The Purpose of a Vision Statement



A vision statement is a picture of our taste of heaven hitting earth. While vision statements tend to be lofty, they inspire commitment and action. A vision statement is the reason why God created us to bring this future about. It is a picture given from the mind of God of what He desires our church to be and do.

2. The Nature of a Mission Statement

Discovery's vision statement is continuous in nature to illustrate the idea that we are in a process of spiritual and church growth that does not end, a process that is necessary to having a vital ministry, and a process that began with Christ and perpetuates itself through His followers.

3. Discovery's Vision Statement



Reaching the lost, reproducing disciples, and bringing restoration to all.

a. Reaching the Lost

God gave to His community a parting command to bring the good news of the salvation of Jesus to all the world (Matthew 28:18-20). To have Jesus is to have life in abundance now and eternal life in the future. We are called to share this new life in Jesus with the whole world—with those near us and with those who are far away.

The community of Jesus is on mission with God to reach this world. Every disciple is a missionary. Every ministry must include the mission to seek and to save that which is lost. God's work and the mission He calls us to imply movement and action. We strive to reach the lost by supporting domestic and international missions, encouraging members for short-term and long-term missions, serving our local community with acts of love and grace, building bridges with households and individuals in our local community, providing a verbal witness of the good news of salvation and Jesus, and by living as a community that lives out the plan of God to a watching world.

b. Reproducing Disciples

Jesus is the Son of God in the flesh, the perfect example of what God the Father is like in the historical context of the rabbinic tradition. As part of God's community, we strive to be like Jesus. A disciple is one who follows with their heart and soul and might. A disciple strives to bring every thought, every action, and every attitude under the image of Jesus, the ultimate example of how to live a life of gratitude. He is whom we imitate.

Following Jesus means change. God longs for transformation in His followers. Spiritual growth, like physical growth, requires change. When a plant stops changing and growing, it dies. When a Jesus follower stops changing, one starts to die spiritually. God longs for us to grow in Jesus' image and passion and to help others in this spiritual transformation of their entire being.

c. Restoring Hope

Hope has to do with a journey, an incredible journey with Jesus. Hope has to do with becoming the person God wants me to be. Hope sustains those who are being shaped and chiseled into the disciple of Jesus that the Father longs for. Our hope is not just that we will make it to heaven. Hope is that, but it is so much more. Our hope has to do with who we are becoming in the power of the Spirit and to whom we belong. We belong to Jesus, our Savior and King.

As agents of God, we strive to restore hope in this world by being used by God to bring restoration from brokenness. We seek the use of prayer to bring healing and restoration to individual lives. We seek to take steps of action to bring redemption to spheres of power and influence in this world. We take seriously that

this world belongs to God and that His power can bring change and hope to people, groups, and institutions.

C. CORE VALUES

1. The Purpose of Core Values

While a vision statement gives a picture of a God's instilled future, core values are those values that you live and die for. They form the criteria for measuring and determining all that you do. They keep in line with vision and mission, but they are more obtainable and down to earth. It is much easier to judge if one is achieving a ministry's core values.

2. Discovery's Core Values

a. Simple Worship

The most natural response of Jesus' community is to give Him glory for who He is and what He has done for us. We worship not for the purpose of mission, but because God is worthy of our praise. In worship we offer our whole being—with all of our body, mind, and soul—to God in an expression of praise and thanksgiving. We gather with others to give and receive encouragement in the journey ahead. We center on the Word of God, which is the power of God to mold, chisel, and shape us.

Corporate worship happens when the body comes together, in large or small groups. Personal worship happens moment by moment each day. We are to strive to focus our whole day on God. We continually thank Him for all He has done and for all He will do.

b. Transformational Open-mindedness

As God moves in our midst, His Spirit leads us to new expressions of worship and venues for spiritual transformation. Though God never changes, He changes us (sanctification). Change brings growth which often brings new and fresh expressions of praise, service, and structures for ministry. We will be open to how God's Spirit moves in our midst so that we can most effectively minister and worship within the Body and for the community.

Our world and culture are constantly changing. To be relevant to reaching our community and world, we will not only accept change but be agents of change.

c. Growing Youth

A primary responsibility of God's people is to train their children into the faith of Jesus. Obedience to the Great Commission starts with ourselves and our families. Children are not only gifts to individual households but to the community of faith. As such, we will provide programs to allow children to be fully involved in the life of the church and to grow in their faith development. We will model our beliefs and our commitment to serving God to our youth. We will provide avenues for all

children to be a part of focused youth ministries and the whole life of the church. We will seek to be inter-generational in helping to train our youth as disciples of Jesus.

d. Unconditional Acceptance



God's community needs to be real and genuine. We need to be real about who we are—we were lost and broken people who have responded to Jesus' invitation to be our Savior and Healer. We need to be real in our worship—to be genuine in our expression and leading of worship. We want people to feel comfortable when they enter our building and when they participate in our ministries. We accept everyone who visits our church regardless of past actions.

Jesus says, "Come just as you are," and we need to practice this truth for the people God leads us to. We accept people as they are and provide love and care for them. God always sees more than what other people see and He promises to bring His transformation to them. We will meet and serve those who feel like they don't measure up spiritually or by other standards. Jesus calls them, through His Word, Spirit, and church, to come just as they are, and we ask God to do His changing work in them.

e. Reproducing Leadership

God gifts and leads His people by providing leaders to direct the way towards our God-given mission. As go the leaders, so goes the level of spiritual maturity and growth within the Body. Leaders are servants who use the gifts of wisdom and discernment, who practice the skill of administration and service, to direct large and small groups into a greater experience of God. Because we desire that most of Discovery's leaders rise up from within, we are committed to mentoring and guiding current and future leaders to develop their leadership abilities within the church and her ministries.