

## **OUR VISION**

We aspire to be a loving, joyous, welcoming, and Spirit-led community, embracing humanity's differences and working together to heal relationships, care for God's creation, and advance the cause of justice and peace.

## **OUR MISSION**

Transformed by the gospel, we endeavor to follow Jesus' command to love our neighbor by showing compassion, serving others, seeking justice, and building the beloved community.

## **OUR CORE VALUES**

As a "reformed and always being reformed" congregation blessed by and responding to God's love and Jesus' example, we value and commit to honest relationships, radical hospitality, diversity and inclusion, collaborative community, joyful worship and intentional faith development, faithful social witness and action, and engaged congregational leadership and ministry.

## Living our Mission

As a congregation we seek to:

- nurture a vital connection between faith and life, supporting ministries in the home, workplace, community, and public life, as well as the church
- become a more mission-oriented and confessing congregation, a community for others called by Christ to responsible action in the world
- deepen our involvement with peacemaking, racial mindfulness, social justice, LGBTQ rights and concerns, reconciliation, and critical steps to protect the earth
- be a more diverse, inclusive, intentional, and affirming community, one that values our faith tradition and learns from and integrates other traditions
- praise God through creative and joyous worship
- enhance our congregational ministry for all ages, from children through the elderly
- strengthen our stewardship of time, talents, and resources
- encourage enlightened and collaborative leadership that embraces change
- maintain and enhance our buildings and share them with others who embrace our values
- affirm the unity of humanity by responding to those seeking comfort and refuge

## Living Our Core Values

### ***Valuing honest relationships, we commit to:***

- Communicating directly, respectfully, and openly
- Actively listening to each other
- Welcoming new ideas and civil discourse on differences
- Embracing constructive discomfort
- Acting with transparency, accountability and integrity
- At all times, having several members or friends trained in mediation

### ***Valuing a stance of radical hospitality, we commit to:***

- Actively inviting diverse seekers wherever they are on their faith journey
- Engaging in outreach to friends and neighbors
- Being welcoming, affirming, and friendly
- Embracing the full array of human differences and experiences
- Standing with those at the margins of society

### ***Valuing diversity and inclusion, we commit to:***

- Honoring all peoples and valuing the unique complexity of each person
- Using inclusive language
- Practicing committed racial mindfulness <sup>i</sup>
- Being an active More Light congregation <sup>ii</sup>

### ***Valuing collaborative community, we commit to:***

- Tending to our health and wellbeing, individually and as a community
- Sharing a sense of belonging and equipping each person to make a meaningful contribution to our common mission
- Generously and joyfully sharing our time, talents, and resources

### ***Valuing joyful worship and intentional faith development, we commit to:***

- Creating and experiencing worship that is joyful, diverse, passionate, and transformative
- Integrating a ministry of music and the arts that is inspiring and that reflects the diversity of our congregation
- Nurturing and supporting our individual and collective spiritual journeys
- Actively pursuing Bible study, lifelong learning, and discipleship accountability
- Offering education that is exploratory, challenging, and transformative so we may be shaped and changed by God

***Valuing faithful social witness and action, we commit to:***

- Speaking our truths and beliefs and taking action to challenge injustice
- Serving those in need beyond our walls
- Undertaking mission and outreach together, locally and globally
- Actively seeking peace, justice, and the stewardship of God’s creation, including racial equity and the climate crisis

***Valuing engaged congregational leadership and ministry, we commit to:***

- Claiming our identity as a priesthood of all believers, engaging the entire congregation, and fostering strong leadership, guided by the democratic principles of Presbyterian governance
- Affirming the central importance of “equipping the saints for the work of ministry” (*Ephesians 4:12*) to our mission as a congregation
- Nurturing and guiding one another to be ministers of Christ in our families, in our work, and in the world, witnessing in word and deed to the transforming power of God’s love

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<sup>i</sup> As part of our Racial Mindfulness commitment, we pledge to promote ‘racial re-formation learning’ by “*raising our knowledge and understanding of the patterns, processes, practices, and effects of racism in our lives, institutions, communities and society*” and to heighten “*our commitment and capabilities to counter racism in its multiple forms in our lives, our congregations, our communities and our society.*” (from [TPPC’s Committed Racial Mindfulness Resolution, 2015](#))

<sup>ii</sup> As part of our More Light commitment, we pledge to welcome “*all people into the fellowship of the Holy Spirit regardless of gender, race, age, country of origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ethnic heritage, abilities or disabilities, educational status, marital status, economic, cultural or religious background, or any other human condition*” and to be “*in communion with LGBTQ people in our church and in our community...*” (from [TPPC’s More Light Statement, 2014/1992](#))