

**VISION CASTING:**

We believe that the Church is not the building, but a church is the people of God on a mission together. We desire to be a part of a community of people who will place a major emphasis on equipping and training people for ministry as the Bible teaches.

*"It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." - - Ephesians 4:11-12*

We will be a church that will place a high value upon community. In fact, without community we would cease to be a church. The word used for "church" in the New Testament literally means a "called out assembly." The very word "church" when defined means a community of people called by God, called from the world, and called to reach the world. The Scriptures teach that the church is not a building or location, but rather the church is the people of God on a mission. We believe the people of God are those who profess faith in Jesus the Messiah and seek to demonstrate their beliefs in daily life. We believe the mission of God is to represent the ways, words, and life of Jesus in the world He loves. As followers of Jesus, we define our community by our relationship to Jesus and our attempts to live out His teachings. Therefore, as a church body, we are not just a community but specifically a Christian community on a mission.

We desire all people would experience all the benefits and challenges of Christian community. Things like acceptance, accountability, belonging, care, vulnerability, connection, commitment, challenge, friendship, prayer, learning, support and growth all occur in the context of community. It is very difficult to participate in a real community without being stretched. Relationships serve as mirrors into our own lives and challenge us to grow. *We believe Christian community is the primary means by which God transforms our lives.*

My wife and I desire to be a part of an authentic New Testament community of believers. Our goal is to help Centerpoint develop a church model that will be effective in reaching "un-churched" people with the life changing message and love of Jesus Christ. We also hope to be a part of a Church that reproduces to multiple churches in the Northeast and beyond. We hope to see Calvary Temple become a ministry training center which will help to coach and mentor others who also feel called into ministry. We understand the importance of "*Sharing in the work of the ministry.*" **Relationships** are vital in reaching people with the message of Christ. Another term we will focus on in this ministry is "*connection.*" The foundation to helping people encounter Christ's Love is to *connect* with other people who also Love God.

To build on the foundations already established to develop a healthy, vibrant, and balanced New Testament Pentecostal Church, *which becomes a training center for reproducing and sending disciples into the harvest field.*

***"Centerpoint Community Church Exists to be a Biblical Community.  
Experiencing and Expressing the Love of God."***

*The Great Commandment and the Great Commission will be the foundation of all we are and all we do!*

The Great Commandment: “Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37)

The Great Commission: “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)

Summarized in eight simple words... “**Love God - Love Others**”, and “**Go and Make disciples**”.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**LOVINGLY GUIDE PEOPLE INTO A LIFE-GIVING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.**

*By fulfilling our mission, we will become a strategic training center for the Gospel of Jesus Christ by making disciples who have a heart for God, are committed to Family and the Church and who care deeply for people in their community and beyond.*

#### **What We Believe:**

**We believe** that God desires an intimate relationship with every person on the face of the earth. God deeply loves people and cares about each person as an individual. He sent his only son Jesus Christ to demonstrate His love for you. He did this by giving Himself as a sacrifice by dying on the cross to pay in full the penalty that our sins demand. If you will accept His gift of salvation, by your faith and not by your works, you can enter that relationship and have the assurance of living with God forever in heaven. Not only will you have assurance for your future, but you will also receive HOPE for today. God is real and living and desires to be an intricate part of your daily life to help you through every situation and circumstance that comes your way.

We hold onto these truths through the teaching of God’s Word, the Bible. Our desire is that we would see the people in this community, and even beyond, know the truth of the Gospel and the historic and authentic claims of Christ. We believe we are called to know Him and place our faith in Him and His unfailing love. To do this, we aim to present God in a creative/relevant yet accurate and uncompromising fashion. We would like to see Christ and the reality of His Word transform us, this community, and radically impact our view of life.

**We believe** that God has a very specific plan purpose and destiny for this specific church body. We fully understand that unless God builds the house, we labor in vain that build. Therefore, we subject all our goals, plans, and dreams to the Lord for alteration. The scripture says there is ONE thing that God will build, and that is HIS CHURCH. We are honored that He has allowed us to partner with Him and be a part of an eternal mission. We believe that the Lord desires to do a new work in the Northeast. We believe that His church will look very different than the typical traditional church we are accustomed to. We will never stray from the message of the Gospel truth of Jesus Christ. However, we believe that the methods by which we will connect with and meet the needs of people in this new millennium will be very different than what the church at large is currently doing to reach lost people.

**We believe** that there is only ONE power that can change the human heart, and that is the power of Jesus Christ through the working of the Holy Spirit. We believe that through RELATIONSHIPS, we will become the highway over which the Holy Spirit will travel to change lives. As we align ourselves with the divine purpose and plan of God, He will use us as a catalyst to ignite an enduring spiritual revolution in the Northeast and beyond. We truly believe the foundation of this all is LOVE; the **Love of God is extravagant and will be the drawing force that brings life change/ (TRANSFORMATION) to needy and hurting people.**

### **GENERAL PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY:**

**Thessalonians 2:8** *“So affectionately longing for you, we were pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but our very lives because you had become dear to us.”* My wife and I believe that successful ministry begins by investing in people. Growing People is a phrase that will summarize our approach to and philosophy of ministry.

- a. **Growing people** through the principles of God’s word established in their lives and church.
- b. **Growing people** through relational discipleship (people touching people).
- c. **Growing people** through a balanced, relevant, and authentic worship experience.
- d. **Growing people** through embracing the great commission and great commandment.
- e. **Growing people** through effective, practical and multi-generational ministries.

### **CORE VALUES:**

Our strategy will be to implement the Principles of God’s Word. The following foundational principle is based on Jesus’ parable of the growing seed in Mark 4:26-29, where Jesus says,

*“He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. as soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”* **Mark 4:26-29**

**This principle says that anything healthy will grow.** Therefore, we should be spending more time removing obstacles to growth. Our vision and mission reflect these 12 basic core values and distinctive priorities that define the kind of church we believe that God wants us to be a part of.

***As a family friendly and multi-generational church, we will be committed to...*** (Acts 17:16-34)

#### **1. THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE:**

- We believe the Bible is true, that it is authoritative and applicable to every part of our lives.
- We are committed to being thoroughly biblical and doctrinally pure in all we do.
- Our church will exhibit a commitment to the primacy of creatively preaching, teaching and communicating the truths of God’s Word.
- Our values, lifestyles and worship experience as Spirit-filled believers will be founded upon the word of God.

- As Lead Pastor, I will make preaching and the development of leaders a very high priority.
- We will be a full gospel Pentecostal body of believers learning to explore the truths and principals of God's Word and put them into practical application into our everyday lives.
- John 17:14-17; Eph.6:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Heb. 4:12.

## 2. PRAYERFUL DEPENDENCE

- We believe that we are completely dependent on God for all that we are and all that we have.
- We believe that individual and corporate prayer is key to both remembering and acknowledging this vital truth.
- We believe that God desires His people to come to Him directly and persistently in prayer to pour out their hearts, hurts, gratitude, and their requests.
- We will be committed to keeping prayer in the center of our church life, in our activities and all our decisions.
- Lk. 11:1-13, I Thess. 5:17-18; Eph. 6:18

## 3. EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP: (Team Based Ministry)

- Not "empowered," but empowering leadership.
- *This means that there is not "one" ingenious, multi-gifted leader with great vision who simply needs volunteers to help him turn his vision into reality.*
- We will concentrate on empowering other Christians for ministry.
- We will give considerable time to develop, equip, support, motivate and mentor individuals to become all that God wants them to be.
- We believe God never intended church or ministry to be a spectator sport but that He gives vital spiritual gifts to every believer.
- **The discovery, development, and exercise of these gifts are the primary instrument of Christ to minister to His body.**
- The role of the Pastors and church leaders is to equip, instruct, and encourage the believers in this process.
- We will be committed to helping people serve each other according to their spiritual gifts, so that all might become mature in Christ. (Rom 12:3-8; Eph. 4:1-16; I Peter 4:8-11)

## 4. GIFT ORIENTED MINISTRY:

- We will be diligent in helping members identify their gifts and integrating them into ministries that match those gifts. We will not start by saying, "here is our need, will you serve." Rather, "Let's find your gifts so we can know where you can best serve."
- **We believe that no factor influences the sense of joy and happiness in living out the Christian life more than serving in accordance with your spiritual gifts.**
- **When Christians serve in an area of giftedness, they function less in their own strength and more in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

- No other factor more influences the contentedness of Christians more than whether they are utilizing their gifts or not.
- **We want to help the members of this body discover and develop their ministry gifts so that everyone is a healthy functioning part of the body.**
- 80% of Christians are not able to identify their gifts; with God's help we will defy these odds.

## 5. PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY:

- We desire to be a body of believers that **live out with commitment, fire and enthusiasm in what we say we believe!**
- *We will be a church on fire!* We will practice our **faith with commitment, joy and enthusiasm!**
- We believe that **prayer** is an inspiring experience.
- We will be a body of believers that have a contagious enthusiasm about our church and share it with others.
- **Spiritual passion** is a gas that runs many different engines of spirituality.

## 6. INSPIRING WORSHIP SERVICES

- Our prayer and desire are for our corporate Sunday morning worship service to be an inspiring experience for all that attend! We hope that your experience with us will be synonymous with fun, enjoyable and inspirational.
- **LOVING RELATIONSHIPS within HOLISTIC SMALL GROUPS:**
- We are developing a system of small groups where individual Christians can find intimate community, practical help and practical application of biblical insights.
- Because we recognize that discipleship most naturally and effectively occurs in the context of caring relationships, we will be a church that embraces the continuous multiplication of small groups and ongoing development of leaders.
- They are holistic in that they go beyond discussing Bible passages and help individuals to find practical application in daily life.
- The small groups are expected and planned to multiply in groups and leadership.
- We are committed to developing an expanding network of small groups led by people with shepherds' hearts, which when joined together, form a purposeful loving community. (Acts 2:42-47; Gal 6:1-2; Heb 10:24-25)
- We believe that the larger the church becomes, the more decisive the small group principle will be in determining future growth.
- **We believe that all 12 of our core values are vital; however, if we had to identify one as "most important," we would likely choose the multiplication of small groups.**
- **We believe that "Life Groups" or (small groups) are the very essence of the true life of the church of Jesus Christ.**

### LOVING RELATIONSHIPS:

- As a growing church we will manifest a measurably higher "love quotient" than stagnant or declining churches. The following questions must be re-evaluated on a regular basis.
  - How much time do you spend with other members outside of official church times?

- How often do you invite one another over for meals or a cup of coffee?
- How generous is the church in dealing out compliments?
- To what extent is the pastor aware of problems of the lay leaders in the church?
- How much laughter is there in the church?

**Surprisingly, these factors turned out to be more significant than many of the traditional methods of church growth found in books, tapes and seminars.**

- Research found a correlation between laughter in the church and growth.

*We believe that we will “love more people into the Kingdom than we will preach into the Kingdom.”*

## **8. NEED ORIENTED EVANGELISM:**

- We will focus not simply on evangelistic events as much as we do on the culture of meeting the needs and answering the questions of faith and life of non-Christians.
- Through research we have discovered that only 10% of all Christians have the gift of evangelism.
- We do not expect every Christian to have the gift of evangelism. However, we do encourage believers to activate their gift in the task of evangelizing the community.
- We will be a church that helps our members use their gifts to serve non-Christians whom they have relationships. We encourage our members to use existing relationships as contacts for evangelism.
- We will be a church that focuses our evangelistic efforts on the questions and needs of non-Christians. (Need oriented evangelism).
- “Pushy” manipulative methods represent the exact opposite of the practice we learn from growing churches. ***The secret is the way we share the gospel; a way that meets the questions and needs of non-Christians.***
- **We will be a church that SERVES the needs of the community.**
- We will be dedicated to expanding our outreach – personally, within the community, and the world. (Matt. 28:18-19; I Cor. 9 – 19-23)

## **9. GLOBAL VISION:**

- In obedience to the Great Commission, we will remain deeply committed to involvement in evangelism and reaching the unreached and unevangelized peoples of the world. Together, we will partner with our missionaries and affiliate ministries in world evangelism.
- We will give of our time, talents, and treasures, to reach hurting and needy nations.

#### **10. CULTURAL RELEVANCY:**

- We believe God wants to reach people in ways that are meaningful to them. We want to use the clearest most effective means possible to communicate God's message.
- We will be committed to presenting the truths of Christianity in a creative and relevant manner without compromising the gospel in any way. We will strive to provide ministries that are multi-generational.
- Recognizing that we live in a very diverse society, we will provide ministries that are pertinent to singles, widows, divorced families, mixed families, and the like. No individual will ever be made to feel that they are "less-than" due to a troubled past.

#### **11. EXCELLENCE WITH INTEGRITY:**

- We believe that the work of God demands our very best; anything less does not honor God and conveys an inaccurate message to the world.
- We will have regular evaluation and review as a part of everything we do; we will remain committed to being good stewards of the resources of time, money, and abilities that God has given us. (Prov. 27:17, Colossians 3:17, Ps. 78:72)

#### **12. MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY:**

- We believe that marriage is God's plan and the foundation for building families in which children are to be raised in the nurture and teaching of the Lord.
- We believe that marriage is the union of a man and a woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime.
- We believe that the Marriage Union is God's gift to reveal the union between Christ and his Church which provides for the man and the woman the framework for intimate companionship, the channel for sexual expression, delight in one another and the means for the procreation of the human race.
- ***Healthy families are crucial for the well being of society and the church.***

- This church commits to be a “family-friendly” church in all we do.

The Core values stated above will be the foundation upon which we partner with the Lord to see HIM build HIS church. We would ask you, the partners of this body, to pray with us (the church leadership) as we seek the Lord for His divine direction for the ministries of Centerpoint. Without YOU, none of the above stated strategy would be possible. It will take all of us partnering together to see His plan fulfilled. Thank you for your interest and concern as pertaining to the direction of this body. As your pastor, I humbly and solemnly request your prayers and support regarding the future of this wonderful church.

... *“It’s not by might, nor by Power, but by my SPIRIT, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS” Zechariah 4:6*