

New Hope Church

“What We Believe”

As we begin the process of searching for our new Senior Pastor it is important that we all understand who we are and what we believe. This is grounded in our mission statement:

“The mission of New Hope Church is to Reach people for Christ, Root people in Christ, and Release people to serve Christ.”

Purpose:

Our purpose at New Hope Church is to, with intentionality, attract those who are not followers of Jesus ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)) and welcome those who are; draw all into a life of worship that is all-encompassing ([Deuteronomy 6:4-5](#)); grow all toward spiritual maturity ([Colossians 2:6-7](#)); promote meaningful spiritual relationships ([1 Corinthians 12:27](#)); and, equip all to serve God with their gifts, time, and substance, to the end that our community and our world is transformed by the unconditional love of God in Christ ([Matthew 22:37-40](#)).

Convictions that inform and sustain our mission and purpose.....

- God reveals Himself preeminently in the person of Jesus Christ and in the Scriptures. The Scriptures are our ultimate authority in all matters of Christian believing and living.
- God is passionate about people, particularly those who do not know Him.
- God accepts us as we are; therefore we are called to accept people as they are. All are welcome here.
- God is not content to leave us as we are; we are called to become a “new creation” in Christ. We invite all to experience and submit to the radical, redeeming, and transforming power of Christ.
- Christ calls us to a life of lifelong growth illumined and sustained by the work of the Holy Spirit.
- The call to life in Christ is a call to discipleship that encompasses every dimension of life.
- God’s primary means of extending His kingdom is through the local congregation.

- The church is a living organism. God calls the church to grow, not for the sake of growth alone, but for the greater purpose of proclaiming the good news of God’s love in Christ to a world that God loves.
- God is worthy of the very best that we have to offer; therefore we will strive for excellence in everything that we do.

What We Believe:

- We believe in biblical teaching and preaching – in our teaching and education we aspire to maintain fidelity to the scriptures carefully, rigorously and relevantly interpreted. We take the Bible seriously although we have not used the Bible as a club to batter or beat people. Neither have we attempted to accommodate the Bible to the “fad of the day.”
- We believe in the importance of theologically trained pastors – because of our commitment to the centrality of the Bible, our pastors are theologically trained. The pastor at New Hope must be able to interpret the scriptures with an understanding of the nuances of biblical Hebrew and Greek. Our pastoral ministry should bring an informed theological response to the questions of faith that many have asked.
- We believe in a Reformed theology, ecclesiology and worldview – we believe that God is sovereign over all of life and that the lordship of Christ extends over all of life. There is no division between sacred and secular; all belongs to Christ. Our Reformed perspective governs our worship, the sacraments we observe and the manner in which we celebrate them.

This perspective also governs the way leadership is exercised in our church through the offices of Minister of Word and Sacrament, Elder and Deacon with parity/equality among the offices. Our commitment to Reformed ecclesiology has led pastors and members to serve the greater church on commissions, boards and agencies of the Reformed Church in America. Our Reformed perspective has informed the way in which we support missionaries and ministries locally and globally.

Finally, our Reformed perspective inspires us to give God the very best in all that we do. We aspire to excellence, even though we do not always reach it, because God is worthy of no less.

- We believe in growth – the church is a living organism that God ordains to grow. Initially, out of necessity, growth in numbers was a priority so that New Hope would become viable and sustainable. Nevertheless, growth continues to remain a priority,

not for the sake of numbers alone, but out of the conviction that God has a heart for people, particularly for those who do not know Him.

- We believe in discipleship – while we are committed to reaching people for Christ, accepting people as Christ accepts them, we also are committed to spiritual growth to the end that we “grow up into Christ.” Our commitment to providing multiple opportunities for spiritual growth demands that we offer as wide a variety as possible.
- We believe God’s covenant promises are not only to believing adults but to their children and children’s children. We are committed to providing our children and youth a solid biblical, faithful foundation from even before they are able to understand what this means for them. As our children mature, we provide opportunities for them to serve Christ by serving others.
- We believe in respect for different worship styles – we have not taken the path of least resistance in planning the worship life of our church. We recognize that people experience God’s presence in multiple ways and therefore we have offered both contemporary and traditional worship.
- We believe in political neutrality in preaching – we have not used the pulpit as a means to interject or advocate for a particular political point of view. While our commitment to Christ as Lord over all is firm and informs our politics, no political party or position *per se* can claim to be anointed by Christ.
- We believe in relationships – we place a very high value on relationships at New Hope Church and work very hard to promote and foster the importance of these.

What is in New Hope’s DNA that should never change?

- From very early in our history, New Hope has gained a reputation as a “church for the community.” This has been made manifest in numerous ways—hosting funerals for persons who had no church, hosting retreats for law enforcement personnel, hosting meetings of community organizations and service organizations among others. This has been principally evident and in large measure of the church’s support of and commitment to the pastor’s/senior pastor’s leadership, service and involvement in the community.
- From very early in our history and particularly in recent years, New Hope has a strong commitment to missional engagement. We believe that Christ calls us to be salt and light in the communities in which we church members and attendees have been placed and this is best exhibited by serving in the name of Christ.

- Our congregation spans a broad spectrum of political persuasions and there is a wide continuum of opinions with regard to important social issues. Our focus has been on that which binds us together—our common identity as followers of Jesus—rather than the many items that conceivably divide us.
- We are a church that believes in and endeavors to embody grace. We believe that the ground is level at the foot of the cross. While not always hitting the target, we do strive to be a church that welcomes all even as Christ welcomes us.

Prayerfully Submitted
Transition Team
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