

## The Vision Statement of Fork Union Baptist Church

(Affirmed on October 16, 2005)

- ❖ It is our purpose to glorify God by developing Kingdom-focused disciples in our area who have an intimate loving relationship with God and one another, who are growing in their knowledge of Him, and who are actively serving Christ in our community and throughout the world.
  1. Humanity's highest purpose is "to glorify God."
    - **1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)** "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
  2. "Developing" implies a progressive process from less mature to more mature. It is synonymous with "making" in the Great Commission.
    - **Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)** "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."
  3. Being "Kingdom-focused" is commanded by God. The Kingdom of God is our top priority.
    - **Matthew 6:33 (NIV)** "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
  4. A "disciple" is a follower, an imitator, a learner, a student of God.
    - **Ephesians 5:1 (NIV)** "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children."
    - **Matthew 28:19-20.**
  5. "In our area" gives our vision a specific, local, geographic focus.
    - **Acts 1:8 (NIV)** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
  6. The basic vision/purpose is "developing Kingdom-focused disciples in our area." The rest of the vision statement paints a picture of healthy mature followers of Christ, which is the intended outcome of the developing process.
  7. "Who have an intimate loving relationship with God and one another" is the first characteristic of a Kingdom-focused disciple. The key action of a disciple in this clause is LOVING. It defines our vertical relationship with God and our horizontal relationship with our Christian brothers and sisters. "Intimate" and "loving" mean that these relationships are supposed to be ongoing, warm, close, personal, and trusting.
    - **Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

- **John 13:35 (NIV)** “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
  - **Romans 12:10 (NIV)** “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”
8. “Who are growing in their knowledge of Him” is the second characteristic of a Kingdom-focused disciple. The key action of a disciple in this clause is GROWING. The Bible calls us to grow spiritually into the likeness of Christ.
- **2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)** “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”
  - **Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV)** “...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ...we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”
9. “Who are actively serving Christ in our community and throughout the world” is the third characteristic of a Kingdom-focused disciple. The key action of a disciple in this clause is SERVING. The purpose of our relationship with God as disciples is Christian service, that is why God created us. True faith results in action and good works done in Christ’s name. Faith and love both require action. “Our community” and “the world” define our mission field.
- **Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)** “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
  - **James 2:14-18 (NIV)** “What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.”
  - **1 Peter 2:12 (NIV)** “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”
  - **Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8.**
10. You could summarize our vision statement as “Developing Kingdom-focused disciples in our area who are loving, growing, and serving.”