

# SOUL CITY CHURCH

Thank you so much for your willingness to **BE PRAYERFUL** about the possibility of joining the story of Soul City Church. We hope that this experience in prayer, Bible reflection, and contemplation will serve as a catalyst in your unique story of transformation. We long for you to be all of who God created you to be and we are hopeful that Soul City Church may be a part of that story.

Whatever your next steps may be we pray that it will move you closer to joining God in his transformational love of the soul, the city, and the world. We are humbled by your openness and we are committed to praying for you and with you as you engage with God.

Blessings,

Jarrett & Jeanne Stevens

## FAITH

“God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.

1 John 4:17 - 18 (message)

***Spend some time reflecting on the above verse. Is there anything that stuck out to you?***

***The Bible says that well formed love banishes fear. Is there anything in your life right now that is causing you to have unhealthy fear?***

***What are some of your fears around joining the story of Soul City Church?***

***How might God want to turn your fear into Faith?***

## TRUST

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best.

Proverbs 3:5 - 10 (message)

***Spend some time reflecting on the above verse. Is there anything that stuck out to you?***

***The Bible says to trust God from the bottom of your heart. Is there anything in your life right now that is causing you to try to hang on to control?***

***How could Soul City Church increase your trust in God and decrease your need for control in life?***

***Confess it to God and ask him how he might want to replace that Control with a deeper level of trust.***

## SACRIFICE

“So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”

Romans 12:1 - 2 (message)

***Spend some time reflecting on the above passage. Is there anything that stuck out to you?***

***The Bible says to offer every aspect of your life over to God as an offering. The enemy of sacrifice is comfort - is there anything in your life that is causing you to settle for comfort instead of courageously sacrificing who you are and what God has given you for him.***

***What might God be asking you to sacrifice to be a part of Soul City Church?***

***Confess it to God and ask him how he might want to replace that comfort with a deeper commitment to sacrifice.***

## MANTRA // VALUES // BELIEFS

Read through the attached mantra, values, and beliefs of Soul City Church.

***Where does your heart leap with excitement?***

## YOUR STORY

Think about your unique story.

***Have you ever been a part of starting something from the very beginning? If so - what was that experience like?***

***Write down the top three things that you sense the Spirit of God wants to do through your life?***

***How might God be intersecting your story with the story of Soul City Church?***

## NEXT STEPS

Spend a few moments writing down what you sense God might be telling you to do next.

*If you sense that God is prompting you to join the story of Soul City Church. Please send us an e-mail to let us know what is in your heart so that we can set up a time to continue to engage in the journey together.*

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## SOUL CITY'S MANTRA

**Joining God in his transformational love of the soul, in the city, to change the world.**

## SOUL CITY'S VISION

*While our values are what make us unique and distinct, they are not our own. They are pulled from the pages of scripture and we believe they are a picture of the Kingdom of God.*

*We hope to live them out more than we have to talk about them. When we do talk about them, it's because we are compelled to let our values ring through everything we say and do.*

*We invite you to explore our values and see where they resonate with what you long to be true of your life...the life you were created by God to live.*

### **Personal Transformation that leads to Community Transformation**

At Soul City church everyone is accepted, but everyone is expected. We believe that God created us to transform and through the power of the gospel God changes every element of our lives from the inside out. We believe that as we are transformed into our true identity we experience freedom that liberates us to love our community in a way that promotes peace and health that can bring transformation to our neighborhoods, city, and the world.

*"You must display a new nature because you are a new person,  
created in God's likeness-righteous, holy and true."  
Ephesians 4:24*

### **7 > 1**

We believe that 7 days of the week have more potential than just one. Far too many people describe church as a service they attend or a building that they visit. We long for the church to have an incarnational impact on our community every day of the week. Our hope is that the city rejoices over our presence and partnership in bringing renewal and restoration.

*The whole city celebrates when the godly succeed  
Proverbs 11:10*

*Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed.  
Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.  
Isaiah 1:17*

## **Moments that lead to Movement**

We believe that something unique and transcendent happens when people gather together in one place seeking God. We do all we can to create moments that are not only memorable, but transformational. Moments that move us forward together. We are committed to creating excellent environments where people can encounter God and take steps in their relationship with Him.

*If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.*

*1 Corinthians 13:1-3*

*So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.*

*James 2:17*

## **Acceptance & Expectance (grace and growth are intimately connected)**

We are compelled by the audacious grace of the gospel that accepts all people and we are committed to the never-ending work of the gospel that challenges us to expect that we will never stop growing.

*"You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you.*

*John 15:16 (Message Version)*

## **Equality**

We believe that the Bible teaches the full equality of men and women in Creation, Redemption and spiritual gifting and we are called to treat one another regardless of race, gender, or belief with esteeming respect and care.

*(Gen 1:26-28, 2:23, 5:1-2; 1Cor 11:11-12; Gal 3:13, 28, 5:1).*

## **Excellence**

Excellence simply put is doing the very best with what you've been given. This both raises the bar and takes the pressure off. Meaning, we strive to offer our very best...of what God entrusts us with.

Whether it be Spiritual Gifts, Resources, Facilities, Ministries, or the Moments we have together. We believe this kind of excellence quite simple and powerfully honors God and inspires other.

*And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.*

*Colossians 3:17*

## **Generosity & Good Stewardship (Low imprint = High Impact)**

We believe that WHAT we do and HOW we do it are intricately connected and equally important. That is why we strive to be grateful, wise, innovative, and responsible with the resources God has entrusted to us. We seek the deepest and highest return on every one of our investments, whatever they may be. This is how we honor God and remind ourselves that all this stuff is not ours, but rather on loan.

*"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

*Matthew 25:21*

## **Creativity / Innovation**

We believe that our Creator God is a Creative God who has created us in his image to be Creative. We seek to be Creative and Innovative in every thing that we do and in every way that we do it. The cement will always be somewhat wet around Soul City and we're ok with that.

*So God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."*

*Genesis 1:27*

## **Community**

We believe that all people are created from community, (Father, Son, Spirit) for the purpose of community. We believe that we were designed to live deeply with one another, praying for and confessing our sins to each other, bearing burdens, sharing possessions, celebrating and mourning, reflecting truth, and righting the wrongs of the world as we walk through life together.

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."*

*Acts 2:42 - 47*

## **Leadership Development**

We believe that the people of soul city have the leadership potential to make a profound impact in the city and around the world. We are compelled to help people learn how to engage and shape culture, be distinctive in their vocation, serve their families and friends with excellence, and lead with the heart of a servant. We are committed to developing emotionally healthy leaders that lead with humble authority and holy ambition.

*You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.*

*2 Timothy 2:2*

*We preach Christ, warning people not to add to the Message. We teach in a spirit of profound common sense so that we can bring each person to maturity. To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less. That's what I'm working so hard at day after day, year after year, doing my best with the energy God so generously gives me.*

*Colossians 1:28-29*

## **Do // Justice // Love // Mercy**

There are few things more clear in scripture than God's love for the oppressed, overlooked, and under resourced. When it comes to our neighbors in need, God has not wavered in Justice, Mercy, and Compassion...why should we. Soul City s strives to be Good Neighbors and Active Advocates by generously sharing our time, resources, and privileges with those who little, less, or none. We believe that this is our clearest and most compelling apologetic to a hungry, hurting, and skeptical world.

*And if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.*

*Isaiah 58:10*

## **SOUL CITY'S BELIEFS**

In the essentials we need unity, in the non-essentials we need freedom;  
but in all things we need love.

### **Rupertus Meldenius**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,  
and was buried. He descended to the dead.

The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.