

MISSION, VISION, & VALUES

MISSION

Yosemite Christian Center exists to “*Celebrate*” the love of God in Jesus Christ, to “*Connect*” people in authentic relationships, and to “*Contribute*” to God’s mission in the world.

VISION

- We see ourselves becoming a thriving church with a multi-site outreach.
- We will develop an attractive main campus that will be appreciated as a ‘neighborhood center.’
- We will impact the surroundings with a cheerful, servant-hearted witness.
- We will add value to our community through serving projects, through vocational training, and by investing resources.
- We will make strategic use of our new building by serving single moms, children, teens, and families.
- In ten years YCC will be recognized as a church that has improved the quality of life in Madera.

CORE VALUES

1. We believe that every person, Christian and non-Christian alike, is valuable to God and to His Kingdom.
2. We believe the most effective form of evangelism is through people inviting people.
3. We believe that genuine love and caring relationships are the key to the life of every endeavor.
4. We believe that consistent generosity and wise stewardship honors God, and inspires people.
5. We believe the Holy Spirit is God's empowering presence therefore we are seek to His gifts and graces.
6. We believe that team ministry is God's design for effective ministry.
7. We believe that every member should commit to a lifestyle of spiritual growth and honest accountability.
8. We believe that every member is a minister who has been given gifts to be discovered, developed, and deployed.
9. We believe that genuine worship will exalt Jesus Christ, engage the whole person, and energize the church in its mission.
10. We believe in identifying, training, and releasing leadership at every level.
11. We believe in influencing our community through love and good works.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

WATER BAPTISM & COMMUNION

- These are called “ordinances” of the Church
- Jesus did not ask us to remember his birth, only his death
- Both are a ‘means’ of spiritual growth

1. WATER BAPTISM – *‘Entrance into the Christian life...’*

1. Jesus _____ it. (Matt.28:19-20)
2. Water baptism marks our entrance into the Christian life, and our incorporation into the Church. (Acts 2:41; 1 Cor.12.13)
3. It illustrates Christ’s death and resurrection.
4. It illustrates ‘new life.’ (Romans 6.4)

DYNAMIC TRUTHS:

- *Water baptism is a celebration!*
- *Water Baptism signifies your agreement with God!*
- *Water Baptism pictures ‘death’ to your old life, and ‘resurrection’ to your new life!*
- *Water Baptism is the opportunity for you to experience a ‘mighty deliverance’!*

2. COMMUNION – *“Strength for the Journey”*

“Do this as often...” (1 Cor.11:24-26)

What is Communion?

1. It is a simple meal *“...he took bread”* (v.23)
2. It is a remembrance *“...do this in remembrance”* (v.24)
3. It is a covenant *“...this cup is the new covenant”* (v.25)
4. It is a proclamation *“...you proclaim the Lord’s death”* (v.26)

DYNAMIC TRUTHS:

- *We can experience ‘present victory’ through Jesus blood and our testimony* (Rev.12.11)
- *We become aware of the ‘Lord’s soon return!’*
- *We recognize our ‘dependence’ on God’s grace.*
- *We can receive ‘healing’ at the Lord’s Table.*
- *We can confess, recommit, restore, and offer thanks at the Table*

OUR MISSION

- *CELEBRATE* the love of God in Jesus Christ
- *CONNECT* believers in authentic relationships
- *CONTRIBUTE* our time, talent, and treasure, to God's mission in the world

I. "CELEBRATE" – WORSHIP

"The Father seeks worshippers...and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and truth." John 4:23-24

"...I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind." 1 Cor.14.15

1. Definition of worship: _____.

2. Expressions of worship

- Lifting of hands – Ps.63.4
- Shouting – Ps.47.1
- Clapping – Ps.47.1
- Singing – Ps.47.6
- Singing 'spiritual songs' – 1 Cor.14.15, Eph.5.19; Col.3.16
- Dancing – Ps.149.3
- Kneeling – Ps.95.6
- Instruments – Ps.46.10
- Tongues – 1 Cor.14.14
- Prophecy – 1 Cor.14.3
- Silence – Ps.46.10
- Praying – Ps.95.6
- Giving – 1 Cor.16.2
- Communion/Water Baptism – 1 Cor.11.23-26; Matt.28:19

3. Purpose of worship: _____ and _____

"...how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace...reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ." Romans 5.17

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image...and let them rule over the fish of the sea...the birds of the air...over all the earth.” Genesis 1:26

4. What does ‘praise’ do?

- Praise invites God’s presence (Ps.22.3)
- Praise unleashes God’s power (Acts 16:25,26)

5. What is our ‘worship style’?

- *Spirit-Filled* - 1 Cor.14.15
- *Celebrative* – Ps.122.1
- *Inspirational* - 1 Peter 2:9,10
- *Participatory* – 1 Cor.14.26

CORE VALUES

We believe the Holy Spirit is God’s empowering presence, and we are open to His gifts and graces.

We believe that genuine worship will exalt Jesus Christ, engage the whole person, and energize the Church in its mission

II. “CONNECT” – IN HONEST RELATIONSHIPS

How do we build the Church?

1. By challenging every member to grow toward spiritual maturity (Heb.6.1,2)
2. By requiring every member to accept ministry responsibility (1 Peter 4:10,11)
3. By helping believers connect in honest relationships (Rom.16.17)
4. By doing ministry, and sharing life, together (Ecclesiastes 4.9-12)

CORE VALUES

We believe that every member should commit to a lifestyle of spiritual growth and honest accountability.

We believe that every member is a minister who has been given gifts to be discovered, developed, and deployed.

We believe the caring genuine love and caring relationships are the key to the 'life' of every endeavor

III. "CONTRIBUTE" – TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

"Deep Down, Everyone Wants to Make a Difference"

How can we contribute toward God's mission in the world?

1. We can 'contribute' our treasures – Tithe & Offering

What is the difference between a "Tithe" and an "Offering?"

- A "tithe" is giving _____ of my income
- An "offering" is anything I give _____ my tithe.

8 Reasons from God's Word Why I Should Tithe

1. Because God 'commands' it (Lev.27.10)
2. Because Jesus 'commended' it (Matt.23.23)
3. Tithing 'demonstrates' that God has first place in my life (Deut.12.23)
4. Tithing 'reminds me' that everything was given to me by God (Deut.8.18).
5. Tithing 'expresses' my gratitude. (Ps.116.12)
6. God says that 'refusing to tithe' is stealing from Him! (Mal.3.8-10)
7. Tithing gives God a chance to 'prove' He exists. (Mal.3.8-10)
8. Tithing 'proves' that I really love God. (John 14.15)

2. We can contribute time and resource toward reaching the lost and the needy.

- By inviting our unchurched friends to church (John 1.41)
- By learning how to share our 'personal story' (John 9)
- By serving our community through our vocational skills and our life experience
- By contributing finances to missionaries around the world
- By going on a short-term missions trip ourselves

STRUCTURE

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE

1. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship..."
-- Acts 2.42

A top priority in a fellowship is _____ and _____.

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace"
-- Ephesians 4:3

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

1 Cor.1:10; 2 Tim.2.14; Prov.17.14; 2 Cor.13.11; Phil.1.27, 2.1-3; Col.2.2; Phil.4.2; 1 Peter 3.8; 1 Cor.14.33; John 13.34; 2 Tim.2.23; Rom.15.5-6, 12.16-18; Col.3.13=14; Psalm 133.1

A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS _____.

"Voting" tends to _____.

At YCC we only vote on:

- Purchase of land or building
- Election of deacons
- Calling of the Senior Pastor
- Changes in Constitution & By Laws

II. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

"You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender and warm hearts." 1 Peter 3.8

WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF _____ NOT _____.

III. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

1 Cor.12:27; Eph.1:22-23; Col.1:18, 2:19

We are the Body—not a business! We are an organism—not an organization!

THEREFORE WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF _____ NOT
_____.

"We each have different gifts according to the grace given us" --Rom.12:6

In an organization, "maintenance" is the focus

In an organism, "ministry" is the focus

IV. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

This is Jesus' favorite description of the Church
(John 10:1-30, Matthew 26:31)

THEREFORE IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY _____.

OUR AFFILIATION

- We are a Protestant Denomination
- We are the largest Pentecostal Fellowship in the world
- We are a Sovereign Church

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING PART OF THE “ASSEMBLIES OF GOD?”

1. We are able to participate in *one of the largest missionary organizations in the world.*
2. We are able to identify with over *800 million Spirit-filled believers worldwide!*

OUR GOVERNMENT

1. We have a Board made up of seven individuals who constitute the legal and spiritual covering for YCC.
2. Board members are servant-leaders who fulfill the biblical role of deacon and elder.
3. Board members are elected from the Body. They must be members in good standing for 1 year. They serve 3-year terms.
4. The Pastor is elected by congregational vote.
5. The Pastor hires his staff, and conducts the ministry of the Church.
6. The Pastor/Board relationship is based on mutual trust, and commitment to a common vision.

EXPECTATIONS

“Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth.

--1 Timothy 3:14,15

1 TIMOTHY 3:14,15

1. The Church is described as a “_____.”

2. A healthy family will balance _____ with _____.

Q: Why have membership guidelines?

A: To protect the _____ of the gospel

WHAT YOUR PASTORS WILL DO FOR YOU?

1. We will pray for you and your family.
2. We will teach you the Word of God.
3. We will provide opportunities for you to connect with other believers
4. We will equip you for ministry and for life
5. We will support you during times of crisis.
6. We will manage your financial contributions with excellence and accountability.
7. We will provide opportunity for you to impact our community and the world through mission and evangelism.
8. We will challenge you toward Spiritual Growth.

FOUR MEMBERSHIP COVENANTS

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH BY...

- Acting in love toward other members
- Refusing to gossip
- Following the leaders

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and the growth of our fellowship together."
--Romans 15:19

2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILIITY OFMY CHURCH BY...

- Praying for its growth
- inviting the unchurched to attend
- Warmly welcoming those who visit

"To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly."
--1 Thess. 1:2

3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH BY....

- Discovering my gifts and talents
- Being equipped to serve by my pastors
- Developing a servant's heart

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given you..."
--1 Peter 4:10

4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH BY...

- Attending faithfully
- Living a godly life
- Giving tithes and offerings regularly

Signed _____ Date _____