

Fresh Wind Christian Fellowship

Our Essence

INTRODUCTION

The following document summarizes the essence of Fresh Wind. Each element emerged as our initial core group listened to the Father together. We asked the Lord to lay our foundations, raise up our pillars and cause his glory to rest as a canopy over this church. We have embraced and enacted each point as best we could ever since our beginning ten years ago. We continue to see this as a sort of blueprint of the Spirit to keep us on course.

IDENTITY

- *A Wild Garden*: “A planting of / by the Lord to display his splendor.” Isaiah 61:3
- *A Resting Place* for God’s Spirit: Isaiah 66:1-2
- *A Open Banqueting Table* for the hungry and thirsty: Isaiah 55:1-2

FAITH STATEMENT: THE APOSTLES’ CREED

The Apostles’ Creed is the oldest faith statement of the Christian Church, boiling down “the faith once delivered” as the historic church understood it.

- I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CORE VALUES AND MINISTRIES

1. *Entering God’s Presence*—worship ministries
2. *Hearing God’s Voice*—preaching, teaching, prophetic ministries
3. *Experiencing God’s Grace*—prayer, healing, and deliverance ministries
4. *Becoming God’s Family*—fellowship ministries, small groups, and table times
5. *Advancing God’s Kingdom*—evangelism, mercy and justice ministries

VISION STATEMENT: Isaiah 58:6-12

When asked, “What kind of church are you?” we have found our truest label to be, “an Isaiah 58 church,” which describes God’s vision of His covenant community.

- 6 “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”
- 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
- 8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.
- 9 Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.
“If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
- 10 and if you spend yourselves in 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.
- 11 The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.
- 12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Luke 4:18-20

Jesus said,
“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the
prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to release the oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

OUR TARGET GROUP: GOD Isaiah 66:1-2

This is what the LORD says:
“Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.
Where is the house you will build for me?
Where will my resting place be?”

Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the LORD. “This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.

God is our first target group. More than anything or anyone else, we desire His presence. Our first call is to minister to His heart and become a resting place for Him.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Our leadership team was initially appointed by the board of Fresh Wind Ministries and commissioned by Valley Christian Fellowship. Since then, the leadership team has prayerfully invited members in response to the leading of the Lord and affirmation of the church.

Our foremost calling is to lay down personal agendas and declare Jesus as Lord and Leader of the church. This means listening carefully to the collective, prophetic voice of the congregation. We believe strongly in the priesthood and prophethood of all believers. Then as a team, we enquire of the Lord together and respond to His voice when we have consensus about what that is. This requires deferring to one another in love.

While we have had a team leader to chair the L.T. meetings (Brian West and Brad Jersak), we are very committed to the notion that Jesus is our “Senior Pastor” in a very real way. We do whatever we can to make sure that we are following the voice of the only Good Shepherd.

Re: Accountability -- We have apostolic support from Fresh Wind Ministries (with Brian West and Eric McCooeye as active spiritual fathers) and are members of the Christian Ministers Association, a network of churches and ministries which licenses our staff.

OUR PILLARS:

During our first year, the Lord progressively revealed the four pillars that He was establishing upon the Isaiah 58 foundation (of compassion).

Note well: Our pillars are not our target groups. They are our *mentors in the Kingdom*. The Lord esteems those the world and church have regarded as lowly--Isaiah 57:15:

For this is what the high and lofty One says—
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:
“I live in a high and holy place,
but also with him who is contrite and
lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.

1. People with disabilities:

These special friends remind us of the central issue of the kingdom: “Will you love me? Can I love you?”

2. Children

Jesus taught us that unless we become like children, we cannot even enter the kingdom of heaven.

3. Prodigals coming home

The son / daughter who comes home reminds us that each of us needs fresh mercy every day and that it is always available.

4. The Poor

The poor in body and in spirit teach us about dependence on God and how to be rich in faith.