



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KINGWOOD

Statement of Values of First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood

(Approved by Session February 28, 2011)

John 12:26

Our Shared Values

The history of FPCK is relatively brief as compared to many, but its traditions are rooted in many generations of Reformed Christian congregations, and it is to these traditions that we look for a statement of "values."

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are God's uniquely revealed and written Word, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and are the church's first and final authority in all areas of faith and life. The Bible speaks to us with the authority of God Himself and bears true and faithful witness to Jesus Christ.

FPCK believes in one God, the sovereign Creator of all things, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All action that impacts the creature from God begins with the Father, is made actual by the Son, and is perfected through the Holy Spirit. In life and in death, we belong to God.

Jesus Christ, the living Word, became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. In the incarnation, He who is true God became true man united in one Person forever. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day He arose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven where He is now our High Priest and Mediator.

The Holy Spirit has come to glorify Christ, to convict us of sin, to draw us to the Savior, and to indwell our hearts. He gives new life and empowers and imparts gifts to us for service. He instructs and guides us into all truth by pointing to and revealing the redemptive power and love of Jesus. He seals us for the day of redemption.

Our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight. Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God.

The true Church is composed of those who have faith in Jesus Christ, and who through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit are united with him in the body of Christ. The Church is located in congregations where the Word of God is preached in its purity and the sacraments are administered in their integrity, where scriptural standards of righteousness and discipline are maintained, and where loving fellowship is practiced.

The Lord Jesus Christ commands all believers to proclaim the gospel to all the world and to make disciples of all nations. He calls us to a life of self-denying love and service. Jesus Christ will come again to the earth personally and bodily to judge the living and the dead and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

These values control and guide all that we do as individuals and as a congregation.

Our Shared Mission and Witness

We are unreservedly Reformed in our theology, believing that the doctrines summarized by the "five solas" - Sola Gratia (by Grace alone), Sola Fide (by Faith alone), Sola Scriptura (by Scripture alone), Solo Christo (through Christ alone), and Soli Deo Gloria (glory to God alone) - and the Creeds and Confessions in the current Book of Confessions are wholly sufficient to guide our worldly deliberations and undertakings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We commend to all our members the verity of our shared values and theology and ask of our leadership an affirmation and commitment to these shared values and theology.

We are wholeheartedly Presbyterian, believing that governance by lay and clergy through a connectional, confessional form of government is essential to holding and embodying the true faith in our worldly undertakings.

We strive to be ecumenical in our community, recognizing that we are but one part of the universal catholic Church. We welcome into the membership of our congregation all those who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We encourage all our members to listen and respond in obedience to the counsel of Scripture which encourages us not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1-2) so that God's values become our values and God's standards our standards. In accord with Scripture, we do not permit any person who refuses to repent of any self-acknowledged behavior the Scriptures or the Confessions call sin to be ordained to the office of deacon, elder, or minister of word and sacrament. We encourage all to share their gifts within our congregation and out in our community at large, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our faith and these values compel us to ministry, mission, and witness in our local community, Kingwood, and beyond. Within our congregation we minister to and nurture the faithful in our many church functions - worship, Christian discipleship, church life, and many interpersonal ministries. Within our community, Kingwood and the Houston area, we support many social, educational, spiritual and relief organizations financially and with volunteers. Beyond our community, we take mission and witness in the name of Jesus Christ to the world where our resources and skills enable us to be credible missionaries and make the world better in His name.

Thus we take as our mission statement:

First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood is a family of faith where people sense the presence of Christ, respond with passionate worship, embrace the power of personal discipleship, and partner in God's mission to the world.