

SESSION 2: A COMMON COMMITMENT

CORE VALUES

ST. JOHNS' VISION STATEMENT: *CONNECT WITH CHRIST, CHURCH & COMMUNITY*

CONNECT WITH CHRIST

- **Biblically-Based** – We believe the Bible is God's Word and the final authority for all matters of faith and practice. We strive to understand it and stand under it in all aspects of our lives. (*2 Timothy 3:16-17; Mark 12:29-30; John 14:21*)
- **Devotion** – We believe that the pursuit of full devotion to Christ and His cause is normal for every believer. (*Philippians 2:3-5; 2 Corinthians 8:7; Philippians 3:12-14*)
- **Prayer** – We believe in the importance of prayer as provision God gives us for knowing Him and participating in the work of His kingdom. (*1 John 5:14-15; John 15:7*)

CONNECT WITH CHRIST THROUGH THE CHURCH

- **Excellence** - We believe that excellence honors God and blesses people. (*Colossians 3:17; Malachi 1:13-14; Jeremiah 48; 10*)
- **Biblical, Spirit-led Teaching** - We believe that biblical, Spirit-led teaching is a primary catalyst for changing lives. (*2 Timothy 2:16-17; James 1:25*)
- **Distinguished by Love** – We believe Christians are to be distinguished by our love, endeavoring to guard the sanctity of every human life and to love one another as Christ loves us. (*Mark 12:31; John 13:34-35; Exodus 20:13*)
- **Small Groups** - We believe that significant life change happens in the context of biblically-based small groups. (*Luke 6:13; 2 Timothy 2:2; Philippians 4:9*)

CONNECT WITH CHRIST THROUGH MINISTRY TO THE COMMUNITY

- **Every Member a Minister** – We believe that God gifts and prepares every believer for ministry, and expects every believer to serve Him. (*1 Corinthians 12:27; Romans 12:4-6a; Joel 2:28-29; Acts 13:1*)
- **A Healing Station** - We believe our church is to be a catalyst for bringing healing in our broken society. (*James 1:27; Matthew 25:35-40*)
- **Unity** – We believe our church should actively seek to bring unity in Christ across racial, denominational and cultural boundaries while remaining biblically faithful. (*John 17:20-21*)

- **Transformation of the Culture** – We believe our church and every believer must strive to understand our times and uncompromisingly strive to establish Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in all aspects of life. (*1 Chronicles 12:32; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22; 10: 31; Colossians 3:17, 23; Proverbs 21:3*)
- **Evangelism** – We believe that lost people matter to God. Therefore, we believe the responsibility of every Christian is to reach the people God has placed within that Christian's sphere of influence. (*Luke 5:30-32; Matthew 18:12-24*)