



The following represents what we believe are God's Vision, Mission, and Core Values for Lake Deaton U.M. Church for the next 2-3 years.

### **Commission**

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

### **Vision - what we will become (future)**

Lake Deaton is a faith family of primarily adults where all are actively engaged in transformation locally and globally for Jesus Christ.

### **Mission - what we will do to achieve the Vision (present)**

A Christ-centered community, worshiping and serving together and apart where....

the welcome is warm,

faith grows,

love becomes action,

and lives are changed.

## **Core Values - how we agree to act and live**

Radical Hospitality  
Passionate Worship  
Intentional Faith Development  
Extravagant Generosity  
Risk-Taking Mission & Service  
Christ-like Integrity

### **Radical Hospitality**

Christian hospitality refers to the active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers, so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the unending richness of life in Christ. Beyond intention, hospitality practices the gracious love of Christ, respects the dignity of others, and expresses God's invitation to others, not our own. Radical provokes practices that exceed expectations, that go the second mile, that take welcoming the stranger to the max.

Radical Hospitality is not merely focused on getting people to come to church. Rather, it focuses with greater intentionality about how we carry hospitality with us into our neighborhoods, work life, and affinity networks. (*Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:8-11*)

### **Passionate Worship**

Worship describes those times we gather deliberately seeking an encounter with God in Christ and with one another as the people of God. God uses worship to transform lives, heal wounded souls, renew hope, shape decisions, provoke change, inspire compassion, and bind people to one another.

Passionate Worship means worship that connects people to God, worship that people enter with expectancy, and with the anticipation that God desires to speak to them and connect to them. Whether traditional, blended, or contemporary, Passionate Worship is authentic, connecting, and sustaining. Passionate worship also extends beyond improving what happens on Sunday morning in the

sanctuary. Worship becomes mobile, portable, on the move, going where people live, and work, and play. (*Psalm 95:6-7*)

### **Intentional Faith Development**

Intentional Faith Development refers to the purposeful learning in community that helps the followers of Jesus mature in faith, such as Bible studies, Sunday school classes, short-term topical studies, and support groups that apply the faith to life challenges.

Learning in community replicates the way Jesus deliberately taught his disciples. People cannot learn grace, forgiveness, patience, kindness, gentleness, or joy, simply by reading about it in a book. These are aspects of spiritual formation that one learns in community, through intentional engagement. The sanctifying presence of God's spirit works through these practices to help us grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God.

Intentional faith development includes more focus on experiential learning, mentoring, spiritual formation, and forming relationships in addition to traditional content-based education in Bible studies and Sunday school classes. (*Acts 2:42-47*)

### **Risk-Taking Mission and Service**

Risk-Taking Mission and Service includes the projects, the efforts, and the work people do to make a positive difference in the lives of others for the purposes of Christ, whether they will ever be part of the community of faith. Some churches have after-school programs for at-risk children, some send work teams across the state or across the world, some offer regular ministries to the incarcerated.

Risk-Taking refers to the service we offer that stretches us out of our comfort zone and has us engaging people and offering ourselves to ministries that we would never have done if not for our desire to follow Christ. It changes the lives of the people who are served as well as the lives of those who serve. Risk-taking mission and service explores relationships more deeply and offers examples of shifting from doing ministry *for*, to less patronizing, more relational models of doing ministry *with* those who suffer hardship or injustice. (*Matthew 25*)

## **Extravagant Generosity**

Extravagant Generosity describes practices of sharing and giving that exceed all expectations and extend to unexpected measures. It describes lavish sharing, sacrifice, and giving in service to God and neighbor. Every scriptural example of giving is extravagant, and churches that practice Extravagant Generosity teach, preach, and practice the tithe. The focus is on the Christian's need to give because of the giving nature of God whom we worship.

Extravagant generosity involves helping people learn to love generosity as a way of life not just a way of supporting the church. This shift of energy, focus, and imagination is life-giving. When the church leaves the building to offer ministries that matter, we view ourselves as part of Christ's mission in a whole new way, as sent into a mission field uniquely prepared by God that uses the talents, gifts, and relationships God has given us. (*Luke 12:32-34*)

## **Christ-like Integrity**

Christ-like Integrity describes the way persons agree to live in their relationship to God and one another. Integrity implies trustworthiness to a degree that one is incapable of being false to a responsibility, trust, or pledge. It requires speaking the truth in love (honesty) that, even when there is disagreement, reflects the desire to "build up the Body of Christ" thus modeling the way of Christ (*Ephesians 4:29*). Honesty refers to a refusal to deceive in any way. Integrity also implies accountability, a willingness to accept responsibility or account for one's actions with God and one another.

This way of living goes beyond what we do in our church life together. It is a commitment we make to God and to one another in how we live every moment of each day, thus becoming a powerful witness for Jesus Christ.