

SPOKANE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Covenant of Service

OUR VISION

As people renewed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, we respond as Christ-followers; to share this good news with others, love God and our neighbor, care for the sick and brokenhearted, feed the hungry, work for justice on behalf of the oppressed, seek peace and reconciliation, and be good stewards of all God's creation.ⁱ We acknowledge that selflessly following Jesus Christ in our own strength is impossible; only by the power of the Holy Spirit can we find the strength to follow Christ and live according to his call and example.ⁱⁱ With God's grace, we commit to a ministry of service based on this vision and the goals and guidelines of this profession.

OUR MISSION

To inspire, equip and send forth members of our body to love and serve people in our community in Spokane and world-wide as witnesses to the Kingdom of God.

GOALS

- Encourage an increased passion for sharing the good news of the Gospel and personal involvement in serving others as an outward expression of our faith.
- Integrate service into every area of the life of the church.
- To serve as Christ served, humbly, in relationship with those who are in need and by seeking justice and mercy for oppressed people.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Work to transform our society and culture by being witnesses of Christ's Kingdom.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Evangelism:** In our service, in obedience to God, we seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with one another, our community and the world through word and action, with love and respect.^{iv}
- **Relationships:** We work to develop interdependent relationships with the organizations and individuals we support and serve.^v
- **Servant Leadership:** We raise up servants who are characterized by humility, receptiveness, and accountability to the body of Christ, and an eagerness to affirm the gifts and ideas of others.^{vi}
- **Neighborhood Presence:** We aspire to be a welcoming place for all, a refuge for the poor, the broken and the strangers who come to us, and a people willing to reach out to those in need, usually in partnership with other churches and ministries.^{vii}
- **Call to the City:** We seek to take the love of Christ into the city, nurturing the community life of Spokane by equipping our congregants to engage in the physical, cultural, political, economic and spiritual dimensions of public life, working for peace and reconciliation and encouraging wise stewardship of God's creation.^{viii}
- **Empowering the Body of Christ:** As we journey inwardly as followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to the outward journey of service to others.^{ix} We commit to:
 - Inspire and educate through Biblical teaching about service and provide opportunities to discern individual gifts and God's calling.
 - Value the gifts of each person and provide a wide variety of opportunities to serve.
 - Provide opportunities to serve that challenge us to grow by exposing us to Christ's unique work in different cultures, not only in other parts of the world but locally as well.
 - Celebrate and support those called into long and short-term service through prayer, regular encouragement, and financial resources.
- **Ministry Focus:** We emphasize service opportunities that provide personal involvement. We maintain a commitment to local, regional and global opportunities; recognize our unique call to serve our immediate neighborhood; and, maintain a commitment to both denominational and other Christian ministries.
- **Stewardship:** We seek to be generous and wise stewards in the use of the financial resources of FPC to support service.^x

ⁱ **1 John 4:7-12:** Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Book of Confessions 4.086: Because just as Christ has redeemed us with his blood he also renews us through his Holy Spirit according to his own image, so that with our whole life we may show ourselves grateful to God for his goodness and that he may be glorified through us; and further, so that we ourselves may be assured of our faith by its fruits and by our reverent behavior may win our neighbors to Christ. (Heidelberg Catechism)

ⁱⁱ **Philippians 4:13:** I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Micah 6:8:** ... And what does the Lord require of you; but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

James 1:27: Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Brief Statement of Faith, 10.4: ...the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture...and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

^{iv} **Matthew 5:16:** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 28:19-20: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you....

^v **John 13:35:** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

^{vi} **Mark 10:45:** For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.

^{vii} **Matthew 25:40:** I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me.

1 Peter 4:9-10: Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

^{viii} **Jeremiah 29:7:** But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

^{ix} **1 Corinthians 12:4-6:** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

^x **2 Corinthians 9:12-14:** This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.