

GRACE CHURCH

PRINCIPLE VALUES:

- ❖ We follow Jesus' example of indiscriminant love, undying compassion and extravagant welcome.
- ❖ No matter who a person is or where they are on life's journey they are welcome here
- ❖ We embrace the diversity of each person's culture and spiritual journey

VALUES IN WORSHIP:

- We have valued roles for children in all aspects of the life of the church.
- We incorporate diverse music and arts in our worship and other efforts.
- We are open and affirming.

VALUES IN COUNCIL:

- We promote a learning culture within our organization.
- We are guided by our congregation and actively solicit input.
- We act in an open and transparency manner.
- We operate efficiently and effectively.

VALUES IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- We serve as a catalyst for positive change in our community.
- We act in the interest of social justice at all levels.
- We actively seek out community partnerships and collaborative efforts.

CHURCH COUNCIL OPERATING AGREEMENT:

- We start and end meetings on time.
- We have a clear decision making protocol.
- Our meetings are structured to maximize efficiency, effectiveness and input.

OUR VALUES: What we believe..

- We are peacemakers.
- We live our lives as Jesus taught.
- We stand up for those in need.
- We include everyone.
- All are welcome.
- We dream of love and happiness for
- We treat others how we want to be treated.



- faith journeys/respect ~~★★★★~~ ^{Safe}
- non literal
- compassionate/caring/gentle/Kind ~~★★★★~~ ^{Grace/Jesus}
- congregational
- promote peace
- learning culture / challenge individuals ^(empower) - Children ★
- faith in God ~~★★★★~~ (Christian)
- love one another ~~★★★★~~ ^{over breakfast}
- progressive ★★
- INTEGRITY (fearless)
- not material
- FLEXIBLE
- do church without distraction
- inclusive ★
- Active / collaborative ~~★★★★~~
- comfortable
- social justice ★★
- community presence ★★

- weekly communion

Maybe not every
Sunday
Guilt-free (SAFE)

- small groups
- grateful
-
-
-

8/6-8/13
O.C., US
Don et al

Used to do better :

→ visibility

→ community engagement

→ collaborative

→ NOTHING... all good.

→ security about future...

→ celebrate all we do... more appreciation ☆

→ to see more fully what we do & can do

→ be more fearless... more grateful

→ understand & realize congregational identity

God VALUES *Loving

Caring

Kindness

*Social Justice

Welcoming

Sharing

Transparency

Bit Hope

Healing

Acceptance

Collaboration

Christ-Centered *

A place where

- the Love of Christ
- shown to each on their journey to faith.

GOAL (S)

Balmce?

We Are

Respect
for journey

GRACE

Theological Center
United Church of Christ

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Values:

- 1- We are loving, accepting, and inclusive.
- 2- We are Christian and progressive yet limited by our space.
- 3- We are congregational, yet are overly pastor driven, pastor administrative, pastor led.
- 4- We have a lot to offer for those who want to get involved.
- 5- We need more lay involvement, leadership, and a commitment of time (realistic?) if more is wanted. We need more gratitude and understanding of our limits.

- + I value the time the men of this church spend together at the Men's Breakfast sharing joy, fear, and the latest joke.
- + I value Wednesday Evening Bible Study where we're working through the Bible chapter by chapter and verse by verse. Sometimes it's like slogging through deep wet snow and other times the lights flash on and my entire understandings of immanence and grace are transformed in an instant. We've been at it since January of 2008 and we're just about to start the Book of Jeremiah.
- + I value the constancy and immediacy of weekly Communion and wish everyone understood how uncommon and theologically important it is.
- + I value the ways in which Grace UCC seeks to move beyond its rented walls and join with its constituent communities to expose social inequities and raise awareness of their effect on our moral lives.
- It fear that we fail to fully acknowledge how many important tasks Grace UCC has done, continues to do, and fully understands it has yet to do. "It will be what it will be," is not a muted cry despairing of our progress; but is rather in full comprehension of the nature of emergence in a diverse and polity-driven congregation.

- public announcement of our stances & beliefs.

Four things that characterize us are that we have strong faith in God, we love one another openly, we are progressive, and we are unburdened by material assets such as a building, vehicle, organ, silver and other insurables. These are good things. What's missing (and we are working on this I think) is active collaboration with other progressive congregations and a more apparent community presence.

Grace is a non-judgmental place where I can take my time exploring Christianity and my relation to Jesus. If courage is a state of mind, then Grace lets me take the leap to learn.

Grace allows me to teach my family about Jesus without organizationally-imposed boundaries.

I believe in “walking the walk” and through Grace’s Mission and actions, I am confident that I belong to a church community that strives to do that every day.

I strongly believe in empowering people to achieve their goals and challenge their potential and Grace does that, whether it is spiritually, physically, mentally or communally.

WHAT’S MISSING.....Security about the future – future worship space, future membership growth?

1) Grace UCC keeps me centered on what is important in life. The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi speaks to this.

2) Grace UCC helps strengthen my spiritual foundation and reassures me that no matter what I am experiencing in life, there is always hope that everything will be all right.

3) Grace UCC is a place where I can go and know that I am surrounded by people who will listen when needed and can be called upon when needed. It is where I can go and open myself up to God.

I have nothing negative to contribute. At this point in my life Grace UCC provides me with what I need for my Spiritual Journey and health.

- 1. We respect each other's faith journeys.**
- 2. We take the bible seriously but not always literally.**
- 3. We are a compassionate and caring community.**
- 4. We are a church rooted in promoting peace.**
- 5. We are gentle and kind.**