

*Build Disciples.
Grow in Faith.
Share Christ with All.*

Passion in Purpose:

A Study of the Mission Statement
of Hawfields Presbyterian Church

A Good Compass

Always Points North

One of the great things about having a compass is that, where ever you are, you always have a point of reference. That way, no matter how lost you may feel, you can still have a sense of direction: you can still know where to go.

As a church, Hawfields is always writing and rewriting its history. We can look at our past and know a lot about it and understand much of it, but our past can only lend us but so much direction. We can look at the changing world around us and look to change with it, but that can only lend us but so much direction. We can try to be the church of any era p a s t , present or future, but in the end, whether we have followed

God's path is not defined simply by time. Knowing we are on God's path takes sustained intention, copious prayer and a sense of God's call on us as a congregation.

The mission statement is intended to give us this sense of direction. It is a way to understand our purpose in a history that may be difficult to access fully (and with sobriety) and a future that perpetually elusive. It is a way to understand God's will for us in our particular place, our particular time, with what we have in particular.



“Build Disciples.”

Read:

Colossians 3:1-11
Philippians 4:4-13
Luke 12:13-21
Matthew 28:16-20

Consider:

Building disciples means we value education. It means we recognize that we are always learning and that God ever has something new to teach us. It also means we recognize that God has surrounded us with opportunities to build on our knowledge, our strength, our hopes, our love for God and love for each other.

“Grow in Faith.”

Read:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Galatians 5:16-26
Luke 12:32-40

Consider:

It is inherent in all living things to grow. Having a living faith means it is a growing faith. This means we must not have the same faith with which we began. Certainly we will learn and try things unfamiliar. Those around us should be able to take nourishment from our fruit. We should be able to recognize the ways in which our faith has matured.

“Share Christ with All.”

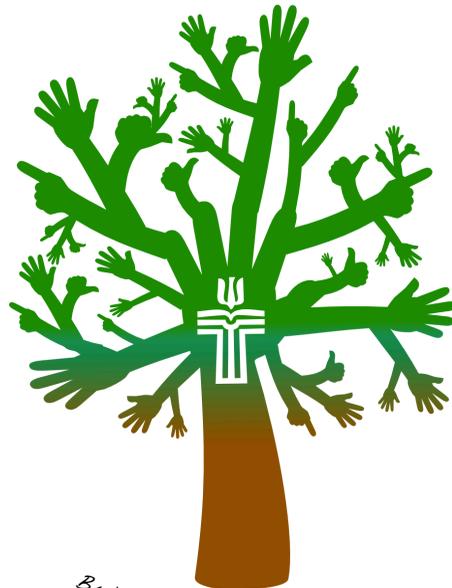
Read:

Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

Consider:

The story we tell is as old as Creation and new like the sunrise, especially to those who haven't heard. Like any basic sign, all that we do and say and believe should point to the one who has saved us for a greater purpose than collecting blessings: actually **being** blessings.





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About the Images

The Three Hands

Borrowing from the metaphor of the Trinity, this image tries to encapsulate the spirit of the mission statement. The first is raised signaling our readiness to learn and to answer the call of God. The second emphasizes our "green thumb": our willingness to see that our faith and the faith of others grow. The third hand is outstretched, pointing the to a way not of our making but of God's. Better than telling people what to do, we are called to point always to Christ.

The Mission Tree

We bear an incredible legacy being a part of this church. Borrowing on the three hand images, the tree reminds us of our goal to grow as a congregation. But it also reminds us that each of us is at a different stage in our faith. At all times some of us will be building, some of us will be growing, some of us will be sharing. The branches of the tree itself is in a modified triangle in order to acknowledge that our purpose as a congregation is shaped by God: Our Creator, Our Savior, God's own Spirit within us.