

Light of Christ Guiding Principles

- **Grace:** We believe God loves us with an unconditional, undeserved, sacrificial, extravagant love. Everything we are and have is a result of God's grace,
 - *We love because he first loved us. - 1 John 4:19*
 - *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9.*
- **Outreach:** We believe we are the way Jesus draws others into a relationship with Him, the focus of our ministry is to those not yet part of His family,
 - *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. - Acts 1:8,*
 - *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. - 1 Peter 3:15-16.*
- **Discipleship:** We believe God calls us to be more than members, or even believers. His purpose is for us to be on the journey of becoming and making disciples of Jesus,
 - *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. - Matthew 28:18-20.*
- **Sound Doctrine:** We believe God directs us to distinguish between truth and falsehood, by being in His word and holding to His teaching,
 - *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. - John 8:31-32.*
- **Prayer:** We believe prayer connects us to God's heart in our thoughts and words. He has invited us to pray, and has promised to hear and answer us. As we pray, we grow in our relationship with God, and grow spiritually in our journey of becoming disciples,
 - *So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for [a] fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! - Luke 11:9-13.*
- **Family:** We believe Light of Christ is a place where God's love makes us family,
 - *For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. - Romans 12:4-5*
 - *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. - Hebrews 10:24-25.*

- **Active and Engaged:** We believe in order to become disciples of Jesus, it is essential we are active members, engaged in and owning the ministry God has given us, as we use the gifts He has entrusted to each of us,
 - *But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. - I Corinthians 12:24b-27*
 - *The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. - I Peter 4:7-10.*