

# First United Church of Christ - Green Bay: Core Concepts

## Vision Statement

(What's a vision statement? A vision statement is aspirational and describes the desired future state of the organization. Think of it as the guiding light—the fulfillment of the organization's purpose.)

*Jesus calls us to become a church known in the community for our open arms culture through acts of love, spirit-led worship, commitment to grow faith-filled leaders, and service beyond our walls.*

## Mission Statement

(What's a mission statement? A mission statement focuses on the purpose of the organization and describes its current state while providing a basis for outlining actionable steps that will advance the mission. Think of it as the backbone of all planning efforts.)

*We strive to be a diverse faith community that invites all people to walk together on an intentional faith journey, equips them to use their faith in everyday life, and encourages them to serve the world in Jesus' name.*

## Tagline

(What's a tagline? A tagline is a short, memorable description used to identify the organization's purpose. Think of it as the elevator speech that you use to convey the church to others.)

*We're an open arms community and we welcome, love, serve, and share our faith with everyone.*

# First United Church of Christ - Green Bay: Core Concepts

## Guiding Principles/Values

The ministry of First Church is all about the “One Thing” – the most important thing in life: *A growing relationship with Jesus.*

Our vision is not to make members, but to lead people toward becoming followers of Jesus Christ. We pray that when someone walks through the doors of First Church, they will begin a journey into Christian discipleship and experience the “One Thing.”

## The Five ‘Gs’

At First Church, we promote the five ‘Gs’ associated with becoming a follower: Grace, Growth, Groups, Gifts and Good Stewardship. (This concept comes from the Willow Creek Community Church and is used with permission.) Our Core Values guide each part of the journey toward a deeper relationship with Jesus.

- 1) Grace . . . is being “bowled over” by the unconditional love of God.
  - ❖ Worship – We value God’s extravagant love and respond by providing relevant, passionate, and life-changing worship opportunities.
  - ❖ Welcome – We value an environment that is welcoming to all people. All people matter to God and also matter to us.
  - ❖ Love & Unity – We value living lives that reflect the love of Jesus Christ. We choose to be a community that accepts people wherever they are on their faith journey. Respect, dignity, belonging, and caring are signs of love and unity.

### The Five 'Gs' (continued)

2) Growth . . . is a vital part of Christian discipleship. When a person makes a commitment to be a disciple, we pray that they expect to continually grow in faith.

- ❖ Spiritual Growth – We value an environment where people learn about and experience a closer relationship with God. Like any relationship, this happens when we intentionally strive to learn about ourselves, others, and God.
- ❖ Prayer – We value prayer as a way to connect with God and the power of the Holy Spirit. We are committed to surrounding everything we do in prayer, putting God first in every part of our ministry.
- ❖ Innovation – We value demonstrating the relevance of Jesus Christ in creative and innovative ways. We believe that all areas of ministry should strive for a type of excellence which honors God.

3) Groups . . . are an important way to experience growth. Groups provide an opportunity to gather with other Christians in a more personal and supportive setting as well as a way to practice discipleship by reaching out to those who may not yet have a relationship with Jesus.

- ❖ Small Groups – We value small groups as a place for life-changing experiences of God's love. We are committed to modeling small group life in all aspects of church life. Here are a few current examples of small groups: Youth Group, Bible and Brew, Men's Group, Women's Fellowship.
- ❖ Ministry Teams – We value ministry teams as working small groups whose focus is serving others in ways that draw people to God's love. Here are a few current examples of ministry teams: Praise Band, Membership Committee, Friends Who Care, Mission Teams.

### The Five 'Gs' (continued)

4) Gifts . . . are God-given and each of us is called to use them to give glory to the name of Jesus.

- ❖ Time and Talents Ministry – We value the volunteer time and creative gifts of all members and friends. We are committed to helping people unwrap and share their God-given gifts in the church and in the world.
- ❖ Financial Support – We value the privilege of the financial blessings God bestows on us. God calls on us to share our blessings by investing in the church and helping to support its mission and vision. The church needs a solid financial footing to do its work well!

5) Good Stewardship . . . is how we manage and take care of everything in our lives and our church that God has given us.

- ❖ Stewardship – We value opportunities to care for God's creation. The Holy Spirit uses all areas of a person's life to make a difference in our homes, our church, our community, and the world.
- ❖ Evangelism – We value sharing our faith with people outside the church so they too may discover the good news of God's love and saving grace.
- ❖ Servant Leadership – We value the concept of service to others above self. In all efforts, we are mindful of God's call to serve others by investing in their development and well-being for the benefit of the common good.