

Zion Baptist Church

A Vision for Ministry

&

A Philosophy of Church Ministry

“Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law.”

Deuteronomy 31:12

Zion Baptist Church

A Vision for Ministry

Our Vision for ministry:

Scripture exhorts believers to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). Our concern is to understand, internalize, and work out this faith in our daily activity so that we can pass it down to our children and outward to new Christians. This concern outweighs every other interest, including the numerical success of the church.

It is our privilege and duty as children of God to worship our Lord in Spirit and in truth each Lord’s Day in the manner he has commanded us. We desire to see others join us in the fellowship of Christ’s sufferings and glory as we worship and serve him.

To this end, we preach the hidden wisdom of the cross, which is foolishness to those who are perishing but to those who are being saved it is the power of God unto salvation. We do not rely on programs or techniques, but live lives consistent with our profession, testifying to our friends, family, and acquaintances at work, at school, and in the neighborhood of the life-changing power of the gospel.

Every area of our ministry must remain consistent with the overall mission and purpose of the church if it is to have a marked impact on the body and on the community. Our vision, therefore, must be defined by our mission and be directed by our purpose.

Our vision for Zion Baptist Church may be summed up in one sentence:

The vision of Zion Baptist Church is to reconcile sinners to God the Father through His Son and to establish them in their faith and discipleship through the ministry of the Word and the regular observance of the church’s ordinances, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

To this end, we must be unified in our purpose regarding worship and ministry, dynamic in Christian service and spiritually-minded in this world, all for the glory of God.

The mission of Zion Baptist Church is to glorify God through the preaching of the Word and the administration of the church ordinances, to be involved actively and faithfully in the task of evangelism, and to involve believers for a life-long pattern of spiritual growth and service.

To accomplish this mission we purpose to do the following:

I. Evangelize people so they may Know the Lord

Our church must:

1. Present the gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ alone.
2. Administer baptism as a sign and seal of the covenant of grace.
3. Faithfully guard the church's ordinances so that they do not lose their meaning and validity.

II. Edify people so they may Mature in the Lord

Our church must:

1. Remind people of the benefits and responsibilities of church membership while faithful completely the church's responsibility to that individual while they remain under the care and authority of this local church.
2. Encourage and cultivate an individual's personal study of the Word and personal prayer life as means of maturing in the Lord and communing with him.
3. Provide times of fellowship and enjoyment away from organized worship so that people may develop friendships that will yield further friendship and opportunities for service.

III. Equip people so they may Serve the Lord

Our church must:

1. Encourage each member to realize their calling in the marketplace and consecrate that work to the Lord.
2. Encourage each member to serve in the church, following the spiritual leadership set in place.
3. Provide opportunities for service so that members may be rich in good works.
4. Help each member realize the necessity of giving back to the Lord of their money, time, and talents out of gratitude and not guilt.

IV. Encourage people so they may Share the Lord

Our church must:

1. Maintain high standards for its leaders.
2. Equip its members to be prepared to give to everyone an answer for the hope that we have.
3. Encourage each member in their zeal to see that our non-Christian friends, families and neighbors hear the message of Christ crucified.
4. Remain faithful to the support of missionaries in fields both foreign and domestic, and must seek to increase its support of missions and its missionary base.

Zion Baptist Church

Philosophy of Ministry

Why do we need a Philosophy of Ministry?

1. To function properly so that the church can grow spiritually and numerically
2. To address key questions: Who are we? Why do we exist? Where are we going?
3. To provide a blueprint for continued ministry within a Biblical framework
4. To provide the congregation and prospective members with a clear understanding of the church's practices
5. To help members who are not involved in leadership to understand the overall direction of the church's leadership
6. To help members understand why a church's leaders do what they do
7. To unite the congregation with one central goal and direction
8. To establish a vision of what that church will become physically
9. To provide the church with an acceptable and biblical standard of success in ministry

NOTE: This Philosophy of Ministry is not intended to be an exhaustive explanation of the church's ministry, nor is it to be a manual that explains in detail the measures the church will take in accomplishing its purposes. The church's flexibility in method is as important as its steadfastness in doctrine and purpose.

I. The Church must understand its basic reasons for existence:

1. The Church exists to Celebrate God's Presence through Worship.
2. The Church exists to Educate God's People through Teaching.
3. The Church exists to Communicate God's Message through Evangelism.
4. The Church exists to Demonstrate God's Love through Christian Service.

II. The Church must be balanced with clearly defined functions:

The following functions are the principal actions mandated in Scripture to be practiced by the local church.

Worship

1. Worship is honor and adoration directed toward God because of His mighty power, His marvelous works, and His gracious salvation
2. Worship is accomplished through the giving of praise and thanksgiving and the singing of hymns and songs to glorify the Lord

Preaching

1. Singing and other aspects of worship must not overshadow the preaching of the Word

2. Preaching cannot be minimized if the church is to worship properly
3. Preaching should be Christ-centered
4. Preaching should exhort believers to deepen their commitment to Christ
5. Preaching should exhort believers to demonstrate Christ-like values in their daily lives

Prayer

1. Prayer is a means of communion with God
2. In prayer we thank and praise him, meditate on His person and goodness, and request the necessary grace and supply for our lives
3. Prayer must involve both corporate and individual confessions of sin
4. Prayer must involve adoration of God's attributes and mighty acts of redemption and deliverance
5. The church must be faithful to intercede for the lost and for others (including but not limited to: families, the nation and its leaders, and the ministry of the church)

Evangelism

1. Evangelism is sharing the message of the gospel with the unredeemed world
2. Evangelism is the responsibility of every believer
3. Evangelism must be directed toward those in the believer's circle of relationships who are without Christ
4. Successful evangelism is proclamation of the message of the gospel (the objective content of the Gospel)
5. Evangelism is the affirmation of the truth of the gospel by modeling and demonstrating the message of Christianity through a godly lifestyle (the modeling of the Gospel)

Edification

1. Edification is the "building up" of a believer as well as the church body
2. Edification is what tends to the process of Christian growth and maturity
3. Edification is accomplished through faithful teaching of the Word in small group settings (Sunday school and Adult Education classes, Bible Studies, etc.) and large group Settings (Midweek Bible Study, etc.)
4. Edification also involves the vital function of discipleship and mentoring of new converts

Service

1. Christian service is the use of our gifts, talents, abilities, and time for the cause Christ
2. Christian service is a spiritual labor that is carried out both publicly and privately
3. Christian service must be carried out through the ministries of the local church

Missions

1. The support of missions demonstrates the commitment of a local church to take seriously Christ's command to make disciples throughout the world

2. Biblical missions is the spreading of the gospel and the training and maturing of believers to spread the gospel
3. Biblical missions must occur both in our own country and abroad
4. Biblical missions includes church planting, personal evangelism, and discipleship
5. Biblical mission means the church must be committed to supporting missionaries through prayer and giving
6. Biblical missions means developing missionaries from within the church's own congregation

Fellowship

1. Fellowship is the sharing of the common life of believers in Jesus Christ
2. Fellowship is spiritual partnership with other believers
3. Fellowship is practical communion with brothers and sisters in Christ.
4. Fellowship involves encouraging other believers in the practical areas of the Christian life.
5. Fellowship involves disciplining those whose behavior would divert the church from her true calling and purpose.
6. Fellowship involves sharing and giving to sacrificially meet the needs of the church's ministries and the needs of others through words, deeds, and gifts of love
7. Fellowship involves laboring as a team under the church's leadership and serving in unity
8. Fellowship involves helping one another by caring for one another without regard to the other's stature in the church or in society

How do we measure the success of the church?

False Standards of Measurement

1. Bodies, bucks, and buildings
2. Names, numbers, and noses
3. Action, activities, and agendas

True Standards of Measurement

1. The basic question is not how many people are present, but how Christ-like are the people?
2. How much are they allowing the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to impact their lives?
3. How well are they fulfilling the great purposes of Scripture?
4. Are the people growing in the Word and in their relationship with Christ?
5. What kind of families does it have?
6. What kind of values, priorities, and pursuits are controlling the lives of its people?
7. Are they honest in business, trained to share their faith, involved in ministry and penetrating society?¹

¹ Keathly, "A Biblical Philosophy of Ministry".

III. The Church's Pastor must be Godly in Character and Biblical in Function:

Biblical Information

Scriptural Titles:

1. "Pastors" (Ephesians 4:11; also Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2; 1 Timothy 3:2),
2. "Elders" (Acts 20:17; 1 Timothy 5:17),
3. "Bishops" or "Overseers" (Acts 20:28; Philippians 1:1)

Scriptural Functions:

1. "Rulers" (Romans 12:8)
2. "Leaders" (1 Thessalonians 5:12)

Scriptural Qualifications:

1. Each term describes a different aspect of church leadership
2. These terms are used interchangeably to refer to the same office
3. The pastor's agenda is to be ordered by the Word of God, not the cultural expectations set by the traditions of men
4. The pastor, to serve in this office, must meet and uphold all the biblical qualifications of the office of Pastor / Elder / Bishop as listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9
5. In Acts 6 the Apostles, upon being confronted with how best to meet the needs of the church, sought to establish priorities
6. The Pastor must determine the biblical priorities that define his role in order for him to determine his responsibilities

Personal Priorities

1. The central priority is, of course, God. Everything else flows from this central priority like the spokes on a wheel (Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 12:34-35; 23:6)

Other personal responsibilities include:

2. Maintaining a strong marriage relationship
3. Training and disciplining one's children
4. Serving the church in his pastoral responsibilities
5. Modeling the character of Christ; Modeling the Great Commission.

NOTE: Pastoral responsibility is not first on the list. This is because too many have placed this as first on the list rather than as one of many responsibilities and thus have ruined their marriages, lost their families, or suffered burnout. The Lord is wiser than men and He sets the priorities in a manner that is beneficial not just to the Pastor, but in a way that will benefit the entire body.

Pastoral Priorities:

Primary Priorities:

- A. *The Pastor must be a man of prayer (Acts 6:4).*
 1. Faithful to persevere in prayer for the members of his congregation
 2. Seek to lead the congregation in meaningful times of prayer and, if necessary, fasting
 3. Less responsibility, initiative, and activity since these stifle the biblical understanding of pastoral ministry
 4. More secure protected and protracted periods of time alone for meditation, study, and personal prayer
- B. *The Pastor must be a man of the Word (Acts 6:4).*
 1. Constant involvement in in-depth Bible study and spiritual preparation for teaching and preaching
 2. A life bathed in the Word and in Prayer
 3. Faithful in his reading and study of the Word (2 Timothy 2:15)
 4. Faithful and fearless in his preaching and teaching of the Word (2 Timothy 4:2-4; Titus 2:15)
- C. *The Pastor must have a ministry that is characterized by leading and not driving his flock (1 Peter 5:1-3).*
 1. The pastor is not a CEO or a manager and instead must follow the pattern of the Savior
 2. Lead by serving while not surrendering the authority of the pastoral office
 3. Lead people to submit to the authority of the Word and establish obedience to the Word in life and worship
 4. Lead the people to be rich in good works and diligent in preparing for the return of the Lord
 5. Seek to involve members in service through the local church
 6. Encourage the active participation of members in the church's outreach and ministry of care.
- D. *The Pastor must be constantly teaching his people.*
 1. Grounding them in both theology and understanding of the Scriptures
 2. Providing answers for questions unbelievers have about Christianity
 3. Training believers to share their faith with others

Secondary Priorities:

1. The private ministry of the Word:
 - a. Ministering to the flock one-on-one through biblical pastoral counseling and regular encounters with the congregation and visitors
 - b. The private ministry of the Word should not interfere with the Pastor's public ministry of preaching the Word

- c. The private ministry should supplement the public proclamation by seeking to see the Word applied and displayed in the lives of the flock
2. Various administrative tasks, such as planning, organizing, etc.
 - None of these functions must be allowed to distract the Pastor from his primary tasks and functions of prayer and preaching

Summary

These two functions, prayer and the ministry of the Word, are the primary, and indeed, the only functions of the Pastor. The Pastor is not a CEO, a therapist, a personnel manager, a church secretary, a janitor, or anything else. The gospel ministry is not to be performance-based, or results-oriented. The man of God is measured not by numerical growth, building programs, offerings, or activities and programs, but by his faithfulness to these two essential functions. The Pastor is to be a man of prayer and a man of the Word. Everything else is secondary in importance to these two things.

The false expectations of our day have caused pastors to stray from the path the Lord has set for his office. This often occurs because the Pastor lets other people set the agenda for them rather than the Lord and they end up serving the people, but not Christ.

Christ and the priorities of Scripture must set the agenda for a pastor's ministry just as our Lord allowed the Father's will to set His agenda regardless of the pressure of people (Mark 1:35-39). When the pastor serves people, he serves their vested interest and expectations. When he serves the Lord, he serves their best interest. Only when we serve Christ can the best interests of God's people be served.

When this is not the case, the pastor will suffer from burnout and frustration. This is the only resulting of his trying to satisfy the whims, expectations, and desires of the flock which often vary from person to person.

IV. The Church's Membership must be involved in Service:

The Church's Unreasonable Expectations for the Pastor

1. The church is not a one-man team with the professional minister doing all the work
2. The pastor is not and should not be the church's corporate executive, therapist, personnel manager, church secretary, janitor, or whatever else the church can get him to do in return for his paycheck
3. The pastor is not solely responsible for other aspects of caring for the flock such as hospital visitation, home visitation, counseling, conducting funerals, officiating at weddings, attendance at all committee meetings, Sunday school parties, socials, and so on
4. The pastor must establish biblical priorities (Mark 1:35-39)
5. The pastor's commitment to preaching and teaching the Word and training people is be a greater display of love and compassion because these ultimately meet the greater need (Acts 6:2-5).
6. Even legitimate expectations are legitimate must often be shared by other members of the church, first by other pastors who may be on staff, then the deacons, and also the whole church body.
7. If the pastor is primarily involved with all of the functions listed above, then he will have little time to pray and to study the Word for the benefit of the entire flock.

The Christian's Necessary Involvement in Service

1. Every Christian is to minister (serve)
2. God has gifted His children with spiritual gifts to be used in service and ministry (1 Corinthians 12:11; 1 Peter 4:10)
 - a. Spiritual gifts help individual Christians make their lives more fruitful for God (1 Corinthians 12:14-22)
 - b. The use of spiritual gifts helps the church as a whole (Ephesians 4:13-16)
 - c. The use of spiritual gifts glorifies God (1 Peter 4:11)
3. Every believer has personal stewardships given by God: time, talents (spiritual and otherwise), truth, the believer's body as God's temple, and treasures and each believer has personal responsibilities to be faithful to these trusts from God
4. The church grows and the church's ministries are developed through the exercise of these stewardships (Ephesians 4:12)
5. Christian service is a team ministry with both pastor and congregation working together in the service of Christ
6. The "building up" of edification is both spiritual (qualitative) and physical (quantitative)
7. Pastoral leadership and the rest of the flock must serve and strive together for the faith of the gospel (Philippians 1:27)

Involving the Saints in Service

1. The church must develop devoted and faithful laymen to serve in positions of leadership over the various areas of ministry of the local church

- a. The primary means of finding workers is prayer (Luke 10:2)
- b. The primary means of developing workers is the proper preaching and teaching from the pulpit
2. The church must also provide special training sessions as needed, including, but not limited to, Sunday School clinics, teacher training, Deacon's training programs, and discipleship seminars
 - a. Workers must be taught the importance and value of faithfulness in service including, but not limited to, submission to leadership, faithful attendance at worship, and diligent carrying out of their responsibilities
 - b. The church must emphasize that personal spiritual growth is essential to carrying out the responsibilities of Christian service especially with regard to such responsibilities as teaching, discipleship, and evangelism
3. The church must also provide opportunities for members to serve
4. As new believers are added in number, more opportunities for service will open up as new needs are realized as a result of the church's growth in number.²

² Some of the information in this section is adapted from Keathly, "A Biblical Philosophy for Ministry."

V. The Church must be willing to employ Gifted and Qualified Personnel to serve as Church Staff

Basic Qualifications of Church Staff

The basic qualifications of a staff member in any position are readily apparent:

All staff must be saved, baptized, and a member of this local church.

All staff must have a deep love for God, strong desire to serve, and obvious loyalty to the Pastor.

All staff must live a life of spiritual piety as described by God's Word.

Performance and Ministry of Church Staff

Staff members will function according to the job description written by the Pastor.

Staff members will answer to the Pastor or to a supervisor under the Pastor's authority.

Why a Church Staff is necessary

The church staff assists the Pastor in ministry needs and functions by performing tasks that free the Pastor to perform the true work of ministry: prayer and the ministry of the Word.

The church staff assists the Pastor in directing selected programs and ministries of the church.

The church staff assists the Pastor in developing the gifts and talents within the congregation to make ministry and service more effective.

The church staff assists the Pastor by handling the many administrative and executive duties which churches must of necessity be involved in.

The church staff assists the church as a whole by enabling it to carry out its Philosophy of Ministry.

VI. The Church must follow God's Word regarding Biblical Church Discipline

Purpose of Discipline

1. Church discipline has as its purpose to produce righteousness in the members of the body which brings peace not simply to each member, but to the body as a whole.³
2. Members of this local church who err in doctrine or conduct shall be subject to discipline and/or dismissal in accordance with Scriptural teaching.
3. Excluded members may be restored to membership on confession of their error after giving evidence of repentance.

Manner of Discipline

1. The church must take a stand in opposition to sin, false teaching, and divisions
2. The church must discipline members in a spirit of meekness (Matthew 7:5; 1 Corinthians 10:12; Galatians 6:1)
3. The church must discipline out of love for the offending brother or sister (2 Thessalonians 3:14-15)
4. The church must be eager to forgive those who demonstrate genuine sorrow and repentance and confess their sins (Luke 17:3-4; Ephesians 4:32).

Basis for Discipline

Church discipline is mandated on the basis of:

1. Obedience to Scripture which is clear about the matter of church discipline.
2. A commitment to maintain purity in the church and remove the defilement of sin (1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Galatians 5:9; Ephesians 5:27).
3. A concern to reclaim sinful offenders (Matthew 18:15; Galatians 6:1).
4. A desire to deter others from sin (1 Timothy 5:20).

Reasons for Discipline

Three biblical reasons for refusing the fellowship of the church and the ordinances:

1. Unrepentant immorality (1 Corinthians 5). All such moral judgments are to be based on God's revealed Word, not on cultural distinctives or public opinion.
2. Persistent doctrinal heresy (1 Timothy 1:19-20; Titus 3:10). Doctrinal standards, however, are to be based on the clear teaching of Scripture. A church cannot legislate on matters about which the Bible is silent.
3. Maintaining a divisive spirit which results in rebellion to God's Word and / or God-ordained authority within the church or which promotes trouble-making, strife, or division within the church (Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 7, 11).

³ Jay E. Adams, *Handbook of Church Discipline* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986], 14.

VII. The Church must Develop and Cultivate a Family Foundation

A church that desires to practice church growth in a New Testament way must focus on families as their pattern of ministry. To this end, the church must work at establishing ministries that focus on the select needs of families:

Nursery:

A competent nursery is essential to ministering to families. The nursery should be staffed with competent workers (women only) and must be established in expectation of families who may arrive.

Children's Ministries:

An organized Sunday school, Children's Church, and / or Bible Club (AWANA, Master Club, Pioneer Club, Released-Time Class, etc. are some examples) demonstrate that the church is concerned about ministering spiritually to the needs of the children who attend.

Teachers and leaders should be competent, loving, and loyal to the ministry and the leaders, and most of all, spiritual in their walk and Christ-centered in their teaching.

Youth Programs:

Youth and Teen programs should be balanced, incorporating and integrating Bible teaching and Christ-centered evangelism. Activities and numerical growth should not be the focus; spiritual growth, evangelism, and establishing spiritually strong and mature teens to contribute to the life of the church must be the proper focus and direction of any Children's or Youth ministry.

Youth and Teen programs should be preventative rather than remedial in focus and direction. The emphasis should be on living the Christ-life amid the Christ-less culture in a way that is honoring to our Creator and Redeemer.

Children should be groomed to become integral parts of the future Youth ministry and teens should be groomed to become integral parts of the Church body as a whole. The focus should be to minister to teens within the family structure and to seek to reach the whole family, not just the children or teens.

Singles Ministry:

While adult ministries should not be compartmentalized or exclusive in nature, adequate opportunities should exist for Single Adults to mingle with and to minister to one another. Such opportunities in ministry provide an alternative to the attractions of the world and provide Christian singles to develop lasting relationships that lead to life-long friendships and marriage.

Great care should be taken to prevent Singles' Ministry to become event-oriented or activity-oriented. Singles ministry should have as its focus, evangelism, discipleship, and the maturing of believers to contribute to the body as a whole.

Adult Ministry:

Adult ministry is to be centered around the teaching and preaching of God's Word and maturing the believers that make up the largest portion of the church. The Sunday school ministry should provide opportunities, both through individual classes and church-wide, for believers to gather for fellowship and camaraderie away from class.

VIII. The Church must conduct Worship Services which are Balanced in Scope and Nature

Worship services have become entertainment-driven and personality-driven. Churches have turned Worship into entertainment, preaching into cheerleading and therapy, believing into technique, being good into feeling good about ourselves, and faithfulness into being successful. As a result, worship services have largely ceased to possess the God-honoring and Christ-exalting purposes for which they are supposed to exist.

Other churches have sought to alter the structure and content of their worship services in order to attract those in the world who may seek an experience with the local church. Such “seeker-sensitive” churches fail to understand that the true seeker is the Lord, who came “to seek and to save those who are lost” and thus any worship service that is centered on making the visitor or guest feel comfortable has its focus in the wrong direction. God is to be the focus of worship, not the satisfaction of our own personal needs and desires or the desires of those in the world who would seek to share an experience with us which can only be experienced in spirit and in truth by those who are in Christ.

These failures are largely due to negligence on the part of pastors who have surrendered oversight of the Church’s worship and have delegated it to well-meaning but often misguided laypersons. Pastors who are man-pleasers and who are concerned about the approval of men will willingly divorce themselves from the responsibility of leading the church in God-centered worship.

The Pastor, as the spiritual head of the local body, has the responsibility to oversee the worship services, including the doctrinal content of the music, to ensure that the songs sung, the Scriptures read, the announcements made, and the Word preached adheres to the one unified purpose of exalting Christ and feeding the flock.⁴

Sunday Morning:

Key Word: Christ

Basic Aim: Exaltation

Style: Traditional-Mixed, Formal

Music: Objective explanations of the gospel through classic hymns and some modern worship and praise songs

Ministry of the Word: Preaching that is expository; faithful to the elements of the text or passage; and Redemptive-Historical

Sunday Evening:

Key Word: Christian

Basic Aim: Edification

Style: Traditional-Mixed, less Formal

⁴ These paragraphs rely heavily on Michael Horton, *A Better Way*, Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002, and *Reforming Pastoral Ministry*, ed. John H. Armstrong, Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2000. For a more detailed discussion of biblical worship and the role of the pastor in corporate worship, see these sources, both of which have contributed to this pastor’s understanding in this area and have served as guides for the writing of this section.

Music: Objective explanations of and limited subjective testimonies to the power of the gospel and the blessings of the Christian life

Ministry of the Word: Preaching that is expository; faithful to the elements of the text or passage; and Redemptive-Historical

Midweek:

Key Word: Christianity

Basic Aim: Education

Style: Very Informal

Music: very limited, hymns emphasizing major truths or themes found in Scripture

Ministry of the Word: emphasis on teaching and instructing Christians about the Bible, Christian theology, and / or the Christian life or the life of the Church

IX. The Church must minister using Biblical Guidelines for Music

Much of the music used by the church in worship today falls far short of the biblical standard for worship. Many of the hymns in average hymnbooks are self-centered, subjective, and emotionally-driven and are preoccupied with feelings, reactions, desires, hopes, and longings of individuals. Many of the hymns written during the 19th and early 20th century (e.g. Stamps-Baxter) do not honor Christ but instead exalt the Christian.

The church should determine that it will embrace and sing songs that testify objectively to God's glory in salvation, not to an individual's response, emotional or otherwise, to God's glory and grace. Thus hymns should emphasize the attributes of God: his majesty, his power, his mercy, his goodness, his love, etc.

Reasons why music is important during worship:

1. Music is a means of worship and praise (Psalm 150; Revelation 5:8-12).
2. Music is a means of theological instruction (Colossians 3:16).
3. Music is evidence of Spiritual life (Ephesians 5:18-19).
4. Music is a vehicle of Christian service (Psalm 100:1-2).
5. Music is an appropriate way to testify and express faith in Christ (Acts 16:25-30; 1 Peter 2:9).
6. Music is an indication of joyfulness (James 5:13).
7. Music is a source of comfort and encouragement (1 Samuel 16:23).

Specific purposes of Church music:

1. Provides an opportunity for Christians to worship the Lord.
2. Provides encouragement for Christians.
3. Prepares the congregation to receive the Preached Word.
4. Prepares the Preacher to stand proclaiming God's Word.

Guidelines for music selection and use:

Words:

What does the song say? What is its message? Is it Christ-centered / God-centered or is it "me-centered"? Songs should reflect an objective presentation of the gospel or the nature and character of God. No emotionally driven, self-centered songs should be sung in any worship service.

Appropriateness:

If possible, songs should be selected that accord with the theme of the service's message and with the purpose of the particular worship service as stated in the church's Philosophy of Ministry.

Singers:

The church should look to its own membership to serve in this capacity. Singers should be faithful members of this local church and should live lives commensurate with the testimony they present during their singing.

The church should also remember that worship services are not entertainment hours and so the primary emphasis is not on performance of musical numbers, but the exaltation of God in Christ culminating in the Preached Word.

Congregation:

The singing portion of the worship service is not for spectators, but for participants. Everyone who professes faith in Jesus Christ should sing with their whole heart in praise and adoration to our King.

The song service allows the Christian to express love and praise to God in words that are not his or her own but which accurately reflect the internal response to God's presence in their lives through Jesus Christ. The song service should be a vital part of the Christian's corporate worship experience.

X. The Church Facility must serve as a positive testimony to the Church's commitment to the work of ministry

1. While the building is not the church, it should display the heart and attitude of the people who worship and serve there.
 - The building should be clean, orderly, attractive, functional, and well-maintained.
2. While the building is not the church, it should be treated with dignity and respect as it serves as the main worship center for the people of God who belong there.
 - a. Each member should treat the church property, its buildings and equipment more carefully than he or she would treat their own.
 - b. Each family should teach their children to respect God's property and acknowledge the sacrifice of money and time which has made it possible.