

First Baptist Church Statement of Identity

This church is a fellowship of Christians whose purpose is to worship God as revealed in Jesus Christ, study the Word of God as revealed in the Scriptures, and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people. Our mission is to be a servant community of faith, making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Based on our understanding of God's vision for our congregation and our commitment to follow Christ, we hold the following to be central to who we are as a church:

Worship

Worship is the core of church life each week as we anchor all that we are and do to our primary relationship with God. Our liturgy and sacred music add to the purpose of our worship, just as our historic setting provides a place of reverence. Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the observance of the significant seasons of the Church calendar enhance our worship and remind us of the life of Christ and the faith we share.

Community

As a church family, we nurture our relationships with each other and consistently support, care and pray for one another. We offer compassion for seekers, strugglers and believers. As a welcoming, inclusive community, we strive to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God."

Independence

We guarantee the freedom of thought and action of each individual believer, consistent with the Scriptures and teachings of Jesus Christ, which leads to a diversity of opinion that is a strength of our congregation. We value the independence of our church, so that we answer only to God and ourselves while voluntarily cooperating with larger Baptist, Christian, and other faith communities to achieve greater goals in missions.

Missions and Service

Intentionally located on a strategic corner in downtown Raleigh, we work to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the Raleigh community and to offer a ministry of outreach and hospitality to all our neighbors. We cooperate with others to extend our impact across the city, the nation and the world. We use this location as a launching point to send members and other resources to those in need.

Education

We strive to nurture faith in an environment where everyone is both teacher and learner and the difficult question is more important than the easy answer. We provide a life-long, Bible-based education for each individual, encouraging their growth in the knowledge of Scripture and in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Heritage

For more than two centuries, we have answered God's call to Christian witness and service. We are reminded of this heritage by our worship traditions, historic sanctuary and our long-standing affirmation of women in ministry. It is this rich history which provides a ballast, allowing us to respond faithfully to today's rapidly changing world without losing our faith identity.

Through these shared values, we, the congregation of First Baptist Church Raleigh, are bound together as family in a covenant of love and grace.