

CORE VALUES

ACCEPTANCE

We are committed to reaching out to all people with the love and grace of Jesus Christ because we believe that each person is created in the image of God and is loved by God. Our passion is to develop an "acceptance" culture within our NorthStar churches.

SERVICE

We are committed to enthusiastically giving our lives to meet the needs of those around us and around the world for the sake of the Gospel. Our passion is to develop a "servanthood" culture within our NorthStar churches.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

We are committed to the truth that spiritual transformation is a lifelong process that occurs best while in Christian community and while engaging with God's Word and boldly living out our faith on a daily basis. Our passion is to develop a "discipleship" culture within our NorthStar churches.

INNOVATION

We are committed to sharing the Gospel by following the leadership of God's Spirit while being open and willing to creatively utilize new and different methodologies to share Jesus with a changing world.

MISSION STATEMENT

NorthStar's purpose is to inspire, energize and resource our diverse churches to carry out their God-given mission.

NORTHSTAR CHURCH NETWORK

FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS

NorthStar Church Network is a diverse family of autonomous congregations committed to practicing Baptist distinctives and living out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

- 1** We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. It is our primary authority for discerning and putting into practice God's Will. The Bible is a perfect revelation from God which points us to the Living Word, Jesus Christ. God's Word is the truth, which leads men and women to salvation. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Psalm 119:105)
- 2** We believe that there is one living and true God who is revealed to us in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This triune nature comprises one Supreme Being who is omnipotent, eternal, holy, and infinitely loving. To God we owe our highest obedience, reverence, and love. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Ephesians 4:4-6; Genesis 1:1, 26-27; Psalm 90:1-2; 2 Corinthians 13:14)
- 3** We believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the incarnation of Almighty God. The Bible says that "the Word became human and made his home among us" (John 1:14 NLT). Jesus is completely God and completely man, miraculously born of a virgin. Jesus came to reveal God to humanity and to offer himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world when he died on a cross. God raised him from the dead on the third day victorious over sin, death and hell. After forty days, the risen Christ ascended into heaven, and the Bible says that he will come again in power and glory in order to bring this world to a triumphant conclusion. (John 1:1-5; Matthew 1:20-23; Matthew 28:1-10; John 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; Acts 1:9-11; John 3:16)
- 4** We believe that the Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son of God. The Holy Spirit is present in the world to make people aware

of their need for salvation. The Holy Spirit brings about conviction of sin and regeneration, or a new birth. The Spirit also lives within every Christian from the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit empowers the Christian to live out his/her faith, provides assurance of salvation for the believer, and bestows upon every believer spiritual gifts for use in God's ministry. (2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; Ephesians 1:13-14; Galatians 5:22-25; John 14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 3:16)

- 5** We believe that every person is created in the image of God, and therefore, human life is sacred. Thus, we are created as spiritual beings with a soul and the opportunity to have a personal relationship with Almighty God. Therefore, every person deserves respect and love. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life. (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 3:1-19; Psalm 8:3-6; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2)
- 6** We believe that sin separates us from God and there is no way that we can get rid of the sin in our lives. There is nothing that we can do in order to overcome this terrible plight. Fortunately, God loves us, and sent Jesus into the world in order to solve our sin problem for us. Because of God's love for us, Jesus died on a cross as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. The Bible tells how Jesus took our sin upon himself; he took the punishment for our sins. Therefore, salvation (forgiveness of sin and a personal relationship with God) is a gift provided for everyone by God. However, we must receive this gift by placing our faith in Christ and surrendering to Jesus as the Lord of our life. Salvation is purely a gift of God's grace, which we receive by faith. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:16; John 1:12-13; Romans 5:1; Titus 3:4-5; John 20:30-31)
- 7** We believe that the New Testament church is a local body of believers in Christ who gather together in order to carry out the mission of Christ on earth. The purpose of the church is to build up the believers in their faith through worship, Bible study, and fellowship, and then to spread the Good News of Jesus and the love of Christ around the world through evangelism, ministry, and missions. Every Christian is a

minister, and every Christian has spiritual gifts to be used in the ministry of the church. The Biblical ordinances of the church are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Matthew 16:15-19; Mark 14:22-26; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; Ephesians 1:19-23; Ephesians 4:11-12; Hebrews 10:23-25)

- 8** We believe that marriage is a sacred union between one man and one woman committed to each other as partners for life. God ordained marriage as the very first human institution from the beginning of creation by bringing Adam and Eve together as husband and wife. Jesus himself affirmed this sacred union of a man and a woman in marriage, and the Apostle Paul emphasized that the sacred union of marriage between a man and a woman is a powerful illustration of the relationship between Christ and His church. (Genesis 2:21-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:31-33)
- 9** We believe that every believer in Jesus Christ has direct access to Almighty God through Jesus with no mediator other than Christ himself. Each and every believer also has the privilege of reading and interpreting the Scriptures through the guidance and power of God's Holy Spirit. This means that every believer has equal access to God and equal responsibility before God as a minister of Jesus Christ. This is referred to as the priesthood of all believers. (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:16; Hebrews 9:12-28; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 1:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21)
- 10** We believe in religious liberty and the separation of church and state. Government shall in no way seek to exercise control over the teachings and practices of the church. Rather, the church shall be free to carry out its mission without interference from the state. In the same way, the church shall not seek to gain power or preferential treatment with the state. (Matthew 22:15-22; Acts 4:16-19; Romans 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 2:11-17; 1 Peter 4:12-19)