

NCNC Values

Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, we value...

Love God through:

1. **His Word:** We want each member of NCNC to know God through the study his divinely revealed word; to meditate upon it (Ps. 1, 119), pray with it and through it (Eph. 6:18), and to disciple others in it (Mt. 28:19-20). We value oral Bible-storying, personal and family devotions, and group Bible study as helpful means toward a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and sanctification in the truth (Jn. 17:3, 17).
2. **Prayer:** Praying “Without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17); taking up “the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, *praying* at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication (Eph. 6:17-18). Spontaneous, scheduled, Spirit-empowered, and biblically-informed prayers – individually and corporately.
3. **Multi-ethnic Christian Community (Local, Global, and Historical):** We believe God intended the church to be ethnically diverse (1 Pet. 2:9-10), reflecting our eternal dwelling (Rev. 21:22). Therefore, we aim to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit, individually apportioned as he willed, for the building up of an ethnically diverse church (1 Cor. 12:7). We will seek to live in such harmony with one another that together with one multi-ethnic voice we will glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 15:7). Our Lord Jesus continues to build his church (Matt. 16:18), and we aim to acknowledge God’s global redemptive work throughout history, seeing ourselves as part of the global/ historical body of Christ.

Love One Another:

1. **Missional:** Every member a minister (Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Pet. 4:10), employing their spiritual gifts for the building up of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:4-7), and every member a cross-cultural minister (Matt. 28:18-20). We aim to be a people of peoples, proclaiming the excellencies of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 2:9-10; Rev. 5:9), and making disciples of all peoples among, around, and beyond us (globally).
2. **Humble:** Seeking to imitate Christ in denying ourselves (preferences, demands), preferring others above ourselves (Phil. 2:3-4), and being known for who we really are (Rom. 12:9-10). Welcoming one another as God, in Christ, welcomed us (Rom. 15:6-7). No one person or ethnicity is to be ignored or treated as inferior and none should be treated as superior. Each person is seen in the Image of God and for who they are in Christ.

3. **Loving:** It is only as beloved children of God, saved by grace not through our works (Eph. 2:8-10), that we are able to joyfully obey his word and respond to others with the same love and grace that we received (John 15:9-12; Col. 3:12-14; 1 John 4:7-12). We aim to resist our natural tendencies toward legalism (Gal. 2:22- 3:1) and liberalism (Gal. 5:1), which are not based in God's love. We also aim to show love through our possessions in joyful generosity, promoting the Joy of Giving, not the Law of Tithing (Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 8:1-5; 9:6-12). But we will also exercise tough and disciplined love for boundaryless/unrepentant people, seeking to protect the vulnerable from abusive persons (1 Cor. 5:11-13).
4. **Peacemakers: (Conflict Mediation/Transformation)** Not denying, avoiding, or just managing conflict, but learning how to transform conflict into an opportunity to glorify God, get logs out of our own eyes, and grow in Christ-like sanctification (Eph. 4:25; Phil. 4:2-9). By God's grace, we will seek to steward conflict to God's glory on three levels: *Interpersonal, Cross-cultural, and Spiritual.*

Bless All Peoples:

1. **Asset-Based Community Development:** We want to look for the best of what God has done, is doing, and may do in people and their environments – ultimately pointing to Christ as the ultimate source of peace, hope, and joy for themselves, their community, and the world. This would include the development of strong marriages and families in Christ, where God's Word is taught and lived out, where husbands love their wives as Christ loved the church, where wives respect their husbands, and children obey their parents in the Lord (Eph. 5 – 6:4), and where youth are empowered in Christ to be world changers to the glory of God.
2. **Missional Multiplication:** Being doers of the Word, not just hearers (James 1:22-25), means not just relegating Christ's great commission to the work of a few professional missionaries from our church, but to develop a missionary church. Every NCNC church member will learn how to make disciples of all nations (Mt. 28:19-20) in their neighborhoods, workplace, and schools. Some of our members will also be sent to make disciples in distant lands where Christ is lesser known (Acts 13:1-3). Therefore, we will train, send, and support our members to redemptively engage all peoples among us, around us, and beyond us. We aim to grow by multiplying leadership, small missional communities, and separate churches.
3. **Language/Culture Appreciation:** Glorifying God through each group's heart language via language-specific small groups, multilingual worship, and translation to/from English (when possible), acknowledging that English will be the most common language of communication in the Twin Cities.