

What Is the Philosophy of Corporate Worship that Unites Us?

· God-centeredness: The highest priority will always be placed on the vertical focus of our Sunday morning gatherings. Knowing that HE is the source of our satisfaction, our goal is to experience God in such a way that he is glorified in our affections. (Romans 11:36, Psalm 96)

· Bible based and Bible saturated:

The content of our singing, praying, welcoming, preaching and artistic communication will always conform to the truth of Scripture. The truth of God's Word will be woven through all we do in worship and will be the foundation of all appeal to authority. (Psalm 119:49-56; Rev 22:18-19, Hebrews 4:12)

· Head and heart:

Our worship will appeal to clear thinking about spiritual things based on knowable truths about God. We desire worship that aims at kindling deep, strong, and real emotions toward God. (Mark 12:30, John 4:23)

· Expecting the powerful presence of God:

We do not just direct ourselves toward HIM. We earnestly seek him to draw near according to the promise of James 4:8. We believe that in worship God draws near to us in power, and makes Himself known and tangibly felt for our good and for the salvation of unbelievers in our midst.

· The manifestation of God and the common good:

We expect, hope and pray (according to 1 Corinthians 12:7) that our focus on the manifest presence of God is good for people. Therefore, a spirit of love for each other is necessary to authentic worship.

· Earnestness and intensity:

We will avoid a trite, flippant, superficial, frivolous atmosphere, and set an example of reverence, passion and wonder. (Isaiah 6:1-5)

· Undistracting excellence:

We will try to sing and play and pray and preach in such a way that people's attention will not be diverted from God-centeredness or from the substance of worship by shoddy ministry, nor by excessive finesse, elegance or refinement. Natural, undistracting excellence will let the truth and beauty of God shine through. (1 Corinthians 14:24-26 & 40)

· Honest Communication:

We renounce all sham, deceit, hypocrisy, pretense, artificiality and posturing. We do not want an atmosphere of performance but an atmosphere of a community that has had a radical and personal encounter with the Almighty God. (Ephesians 4:14-16)

· The blending of historic and contemporary music:

If a song is scriptural in its content, and singable in nature, it does not matter if it is 500 years old or was written yesterday. We will also seek to be creative, using our musical gifts and talents to write new songs, creating new expressions for the declaration of the glory of God. (Mathew 13:52)