

SPRING HILL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – WHO WE ARE

Our Mission Statement

Building abundant lives by sharing the love of Jesus.

Our Vision Statement

We strive to transform lives through our commitment to Mission and Justice both locally and globally.

SHUCC'S Core Values

Introduction: These statements are an attempt to put into words who we are as Christ's Church. Woven through them is the common thread of our life as a faith community.

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." –
United Church of Christ Welcome Statement

Theology:

We are a progressive Christian congregation, *Open and Affirming*, welcoming of all. We strive to live the life that Jesus calls us to live. We have diverse, evolving theological perspectives. We are conventional Christians, questioning skeptics, believers, agnostics, and seekers. We welcome questions and a searching spirit. As part of our evolving theological curiosity, we value the ongoing education of all ages. We believe that God is still being revealed to us, thus we "never put a period where God has placed a comma."

Worship:

We are called to worship God as an enthusiastic community with all people of all ages fully participating in their own way. We endeavor that all who gather in worship have a meaningful encounter with God.

We gather as a community of faith to explore our understandings of God. We affirm God's all-embracing nature by striving to use inclusive language and to be intergenerational in worship. We are creative and informal in our worship but not unstructured. Services normally follow the *Revised Common Lectionary*, although other appropriate writings may be included. Lay participation is important to the congregation. Music is integral to each service, with music and hymns chosen to support and enhance the worship experience. The weekly message, children's time, the sharing of prayer concerns and celebrations, and the closing benediction are essential to the worship experience. We believe our gathered worship underpins and informs all other ministries and the ways we take our faith into the world.

"Our worship may be over, but our service has just begun."

Covenant:

Your voice matters.

Our denomination, The United Church of Christ, is a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church to join faith and action. As such, the governing body of this church is the membership assembled in congregational meetings. Our members do the work of the church and make the decisions. We strive to reach consensus; we work hard to make sure that all voices are heard as we determine the direction, mission priorities, and future of our church. As followers of Jesus, we seek to do God's will in all matters.

Diversity:

Jesus said, "Love God, love your neighbors, love yourself." And we do.

We each have our own unique story. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey; no matter your race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, abilities, or beliefs, you are recognized as one of God's magnificent creations. Recognizing that this is Christ's church, we welcome you with abundant love and invite you to participate in all aspects of church, community life, and ministries.

Mission and Social Justice:

We seek to do justice and make peace in the world.

Joining our efforts with other partners, we aim to put our heart, education, money, and time toward the fulfillment of these goals (including but not limited to):

- Abolition of poverty, homelessness and hunger
- Assurance of human rights and challenge of systems of exploitation
- Elimination of all discrimination due to race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity and/or physical, spiritual, or mental abilities
- Stewardship and healing of our environment
- Promotion of education and literacy for all

We strive to be aware of other issues that threaten equality and acceptance in our communities, our nation, and our world.

Approved and adopted by Council

March 20,2018