

## **Pastor's Point**

Even in the time of COVID, CCC's leadership is taking steps toward discerning God's dreams for us as a congregation. What kind of ministry were we called to in the past? What kind of ministry are we called to in the future? How do we get over our own agendas and preferences in order to really encounter the Holy Spirit? How can we let go of who we thought we were in order to embrace who we might be? These are all big questions and lately they seem more than a little overwhelming. And while there are any number of entry points, the Board of Elders started with the following question:

*Centennial Christian Church's two bedrock values are...*

Not surprisingly they came up with several different answers and were you to weigh in, I can imagine that there would be many more possibilities. However, the ones we came up with are below:

- *Building relationships/caring for each other*
- *Fellowship and Compassion*
- *Seek to determine and do God's will by study, prayer, leadership and community and seeking to spread the good news of Jesus Christ*
- *Friendliness and centrality of Christ*
- *Love, acceptance and the power of prayer*
- *Family and Unity*
- *Friendliness and communion*

*Everyone is welcome at the table and as we follow the teachings of the Bible we understand that is not black and white and that there is an interpretation that has to take place which means everyone may not interpret the same way. One belief we do not compromise on is the Jesus is the Christ and the son of the living God.*

Friends, God has dreams for this congregation, the Holy Spirit is present among us, and there is so much room at Christ's table. But the discernment process demands more than a wistful sigh about how we need more young families. God's dreams are bigger than "church as usual" or "the way we've always done it." Inviting the Holy Spirit into our hearts as a congregation can be scary; for sure, we are not going to end up anywhere familiar. In fact, God has a habit of leading faithful folks into places they didn't even know existed. New places might mean new practices, new ideas, and, whether we like it or not, new values. I wonder if you will spend time in prayer this week with your heart radically open to God's dreams for the Body of Christ here on Grove Street. I wonder if you will spend time considering what CCC's bedrock values are and how God might use us. And, as always, let me (or your leadership) know what you hear God saying.

Blessings,

Pastor Heather