

CORE VALUES

Core values are principles we consider important to help us fulfill our primary purpose – Jesus Christ’s mission for the church. These core values are the foundation upon which all our Church’s activities must be based. Our core values are:



1. **Jesus Christ** – we are a Christian church. Jesus Christ is central to all we do and through him we have a relationship with God (*Matthew 28:18-20; John 3:16; 14:6; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:5-11*).
2. **The Bible** – we are a Bible-based church. We are committed to the Bible as the Word of God and our final authority for rule and practice (*Psalms 1:1-2; 119; Acts 17:10-11; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:22-25; 2 Peter 1:19-21*).
3. **Prayer** – we are a praying church. We are committed to communicating with and seeking God through prayer. Through prayer we praise him, confess our sins, thank him and seek him for guidance, help and answers, since it is God who grows the church (*Jeremiah 32:16-25; Matthew 6:9-13; 9:35-38; 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:5-7; Ephesians 5:19-20; Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 2:18-19; 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17*).
4. **Fasting** – we are a fasting church. We are committed to humbling ourselves before God, seeking him for guidance, help and answers through prayer and fasting (*Ezra 8:21-23; Psalm 35:13; Jonah 3:1-10; Matthew 6:16-18; 9:14-15; Acts 13:2-3; 14:23*).
5. **The Ministry of the Holy Spirit** – we are a Spirit-filled church. We believe that the Holy Spirit guides Christians into all truth, and that each Christian should display the fruit of the Spirit and use the gifts of the Spirit for the benefit of others (*John 14:15-17, 25-26; 16:13-15; Acts 2:16-18; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12; 13; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 2:4; 1 Peter 4:10-11*).
6. **Church Government** – we are an Elder-led church. The senior leadership of the church is found in the mutually submissive operation of a plurality of Biblically qualified and spiritually gifted male Elders (also known as overseers, pastors or shepherds) in an autonomous local church. Their main responsibilities are to govern, lead, shepherd, oversee all affairs of, and care for, the church. They are the church’s primary teachers and preachers (*Acts 11:29-30; 14:23; 15:1-35; 16:4-5; 20:17-35; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1-5*).
7. **A church of small groups** – we are a cell church. Small groups (cell groups) and celebration services are the two core ministries of this Church (*Acts 2:46-47; 3:1; 5:12-25, 42; 12:12; 20:17-20; Romans 16:3-5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15*). The major elements of a church of small groups are:
 - (a) The **small home based group** (small groups/cell groups) – small enough to care. The small group’s primary functions include:
 - Prayer and worship, which may involve singing and music.
 - Bible study
 - Fellowship, assimilation & pastoral care.
 - Evangelism.
 - Discipleship.
 - Leadership development.
 - (b) The **large celebration service** – large enough to celebrate. The celebration service’s primary functions include:
 - Celebration, praise & worship involving singing, music, the arts etc.
 - Preaching and teaching.
 - Fellowship.
 - Baptisms, the Lord’s Supper, offering etc.
 - Large-scale evangelistic events.
 - (c) **Decentralization** of most church ministries to the small group infrastructure.
 - (d) **Leadership development** in all areas of ministry. Developing and multiplying leaders is essential to the church’s growth (*Matthew 9:35-38; 2 Timothy 2:2*).
 - (e) **Small group multiplication** for actual and/or anticipated growth.

- (f) A church that **channels people** into small groups and the celebration service, from whatever other **programs** it may be running (if those programs are needed).
 - (g) Since the small group is the basic building block of the church community, and the celebration service complements it, then **other programs do not compete** with them.
 - (h) The small group and celebration service infrastructure is applied to the entire church community – **adults, youth and children**.
8. **Evangelism** – we are an evangelistic church. We are committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ from all nations through personal evangelism, evangelistic events, small group multiplication, missions and church planting (*Matthew 9:35-38; 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 1:8; 10:42-43; Romans 10:14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20*).
 9. **Discipleship** – we are a maturing church. We are committed to helping people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ (*Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:15; 15:1-11; Acts 14:21-22; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 2:6-7*).
 10. **Worship** – we are a worshipping church. We will express our worship of God by complete obedience to him and through joyful and intimate praise (*2 Chronicles 5:2-14; Psalm 150; John 4:19-24; Romans 12:1; Ephesians 5:18-21*).
 11. **Loving Relationships** – we are a loving church. We will love and care for everybody as Jesus Christ has commanded (*Matthew 5:43-48; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:25-37; John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13; Galatians 6:7-10; 1 Peter 4:8*).
 12. **Relevance** – we are a contemporary church. We will present the message of Jesus Christ in a way that is meaningful to our congregation and understandable to outsiders, without compromising the message of Jesus Christ's gospel (*1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 10:31-33; 14:6-12*).
 13. **Diversity** – we are a diverse church. We will bridge cultural and generational gaps so as to create a community where all people can relate together in a spirit of love and unity (*Acts 2:37-47; 4:32-37; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 3:11*).
 14. **Excellence** – we are a quality church. We will pursue excellence in all aspects of church life in order to bring glory to God (*Psalm 33:3; Malachi 1:6-14; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 15:58; 2 Corinthians 8:7; 1 Timothy 4:14-15; 2 Timothy 1:6-7*).
 15. **Evaluation** – we are a reviewing church. We will evaluate and test all ministries on a regular basis so that nothing will hinder God's will for this Church (*1 Corinthians 10:23; 2 Corinthians 6:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; Hebrews 12:1*).
 16. **Co-operation with other churches** – we are a partnering church. We will work with other churches, and para-church organisations, with similar values and beliefs as ours in order to carry out Jesus Christ's mission together (*Acts 11:27-30; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 4:7-18; 1 Peter 4:10-11*).



Moreland City Church
 PO Box 254
 Pascoe Vale South 3044
 Victoria, AUSTRALIA

www.morelandcitychurch.org.au

Reg. No. A0047027Y
 A.B.N. 90047077909