

#winfmc

Community Growth Track

win**101**

vision & values

Understand our vision – where we are headed – and our values – the core ideals that enable us to achieve our vision.

Our Purpose

Our purpose as a church answers the question of **WHY** – why do we exist.

As the Washington Free Methodist Church, we exist to

live and love like Jesus and to help others do the same

Our purpose as a church comes from two very important truths – the two greats - that Jesus left all of His followers with.

The Great Commandment

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:30-31

The Great Commission

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

Our Mission

Our mission as a church answers the question of **HOW** – how do we achieve what God has called us to.

Our mission is to

live, love, and serve like Jesus

Our mission as a church reminds us of our purpose and keeps us focused on our vision and our values.

In win**201** of our Community Growth Track we will explain how we fulfill our mission through our weekly and monthly ministries.

win**201** of our Community Growth Track equips us to become committed and faithful followers of Jesus.

Our Leadership

Denominational Leadership

The Free Methodist Church USA is led by a Board of Bishops who give leadership and direction to the denomination. Our current Bishops are Matthew Whitehead, Keith Cowart, and Linda Adams. Kendall. Our Board of Bishops are elected to four year terms with elections being held at our General Conference every four years.

The Wabash Conference (our regional conference) is led by Superintendent John Lane who gives leadership and direction to the churches in the Wabash Conference; every Free Methodist Church throughout Indiana as well as the Free Methodist Churches in southeastern Illinois. The Wabash Conference includes 65 churches.

Local Church Leadership

Our leadership system is arranged under two general headings.

Word Ministries

Worship, Pastoral Care, Connections, Discipleship, Education, Missions, and Outreach

Our Word Ministries are led by our team of Ministers and Pastors.

Works Ministries

Properties, and Finance

Our Works Ministries are led by our Board of Trustees and Board of Finance and overseen by our Board of Administration.

In win**301** of our Community Growth Track we will invite you to join us in leading and serving.

win**301** of our Community Growth Track offers a guided personality profile assessment and spiritual gift assessment.

win**301** of our Community Growth Track equips us to find our passion and our purpose in life, love, and service.

OUR 2019 LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION

Lead Pastor*

Adam Conder

Administrative Secretary*

Darlene White

Minister of Worship*

Karen Gines

Minister of Connections*

Chris Ramsey

Minister of Pastoral Care*

Michael Traylor

Minister of Discipleship*

Steve Sacksteder

Minister of Outreach*

Susan Spaulding

Student Ministry Director*

Michael Ramsey

Children's Ministry Director*

Bobbie Byrer

CLC Ministry Director

Sandy Traylor

Nursery Ministry Director

Billie Jo Allen

Men's Ministry Directors

Richard Wininger

David Hooten

Prayer Chain Coordinator

Margret Grow

Board of Administration

Adam Conder (Chair)

Jennifer McWilliams (Secretary)

Steve Sacksteder (Delegate)

David Hooten (Delegate)

Sharon Hite (Finance Chair)

Richard Watkins (Lead Trustee)

Emily Fair

Billie Jo Allen

Board of Trustees

Fred Milton (2020)

Jerry Haas (2021)

Jeremy Allen (2022)

Richard Wininger (2020)

Butch White (2021)

Richard Watkins (2022)

Nominating Committee

Bob Igleheart (2020)

Lew Lenti (2020)

Melissa Hooten (2021)

Kay Roach (2021)

Usher Coordinator

Ron Ray

Steve Sacksteder

Transportation Coordinator

John Dosch

Library Manager

Sue Hopkins

Board of Finance

Sharon Hite (Chair)

Charlotte May (Secretary)

Ryan Graber (Treasurer)

Diane McClure (Asst. Treasurer)

Tom Richardson

Trent McWilliams

Tom Sumner

Bob Igleheart

Financial Auditors

Kristi McWilliams

Lisa Hinderliter

Delegates

Steve Sacksteder (Lead)

Karen Gines (1st Reserve)

David Hooten

Bob Igleheart (2nd Reserve)

Fellowship Dinner Coordinator

Chastity Fox

Funeral Dinner Coordinator

Darlene White

Connection Coordinator

Darlene White

Communion Coordinator

Brenda Colvin

Decorating Coordinator

Kris Lenti

Our Vision

Our vision as a church answers the question of **WHERE** – where are we going

As the Washington Free Methodist Church, we seek to become...

A community of committed and faithful followers of Jesus who live, love, and serve with passion and purpose.

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12

Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

1 John 2:6

Our vision as a church is our promised land – the goal to which God has called us to as His church in Washington, Indiana.

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:4-13

Our Values

Our values as a church answers the question of **WHAT** – what tools will we use to help us achieve our vision.

As the Washington Free Methodist Church, we value

Biblical Obedience
Engaged Worship
Servant Ministry
Intentional Discipleship
Authentic Relationships

Our values as a church are the filter through which every ministry is evaluated.

Biblical Obedience – We will not compromise the Scriptures. We will obey the commands and honor the promises of the Bible.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22

Engaged Worship – We believe that worship is what we do as well as what we are. We will offer all that we do and all that we are to God as acts of worship at all times,

But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.

John 4:23-24

I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1

Servant Ministry – We will serve others with humility and love. We will honor the needs of others above ourselves.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:3-5

Jesus called them together and said, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:25-28

Intentional Discipleship – We will be purposeful in our teaching, training, and sending to raise up disciples who raise up disciples.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. "

Luke 9:23

We are Christ's ambassadors, as if God were making his appeal through us.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Authentic Relationships – We will be open, honest, and accountable in our relationships – inside and outside of the church – seeking peace and love.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:2-3

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:34-35

Next Steps

Vision & Values

1. Read Through "What We Believe"
2. Join a Community Group, Class, or Bible Study
3. Complete all three steps of the Community Growth Track

win**101** – vision & values

win**201** – committed & faithful

win**301** – passion & purpose

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT GOD

What We Believe About The Holy Trinity

There is but one living and true God, the maker and preserver of all things. And in the unity of this Godhead there are three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one in eternity, deity, and purpose; everlasting, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness.

What We Believe About The Son's Incarnation

God was himself in Jesus Christ to reconcile people to God. Conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, He joined together the deity of God and the humanity of humankind. Jesus of Nazareth was God in flesh, truly God and truly human. He came to save us. For us the Son of God suffered, was crucified, dead and buried. He poured out His life as a blameless sacrifice for our sin and transgressions. We gratefully acknowledge that He is our Savior, the one perfect mediator between God and us.

What We Believe About The Son's Resurrection and Exaltation

Jesus Christ is risen victorious from the dead. His resurrected body became more glorious, not hindered by ordinary human limitations. Thus He ascended into heaven. There He sits as our exalted Lord at the right hand of God the Father, where He intercedes for us until all His enemies shall be brought into complete subjection. He will return to judge all people. Every knee will bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What We Believe About The Holy Spirit's Person

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. Proceeding from the Father and the Son, He is one with them, the eternal Godhead; equal in deity, majesty, and power. He is God effective in Creation, in life, and in the church. The Incarnation and ministry of Jesus Christ were accomplished by the Holy Spirit. He continues to reveal, interpret, and glorify the Son.

What We Believe About The Holy Spirit's *Work in Salvation*

The Holy Spirit is the administrator of the salvation planned by the Father and provided by the Son's death, Resurrection, and Ascension. He is the effective agent in our conviction, regeneration, sanctification, and glorification. He is our Lord's ever-present self, indwelling, assuring, and enabling the believer.

What We Believe About The Holy Spirit's Relation to the Church

The Holy Spirit is poured out upon the church by the Father and the Son. He is the church's life and witnessing power. He bestows the love of God and makes real the lordship of Jesus Christ in the believer so that both His gifts of words and service may achieve the common good, and build and increase the church. In relation to the world He is the Spirit of truth, and His instrument is the Word of God.

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

What We Believe About The Authority of Scripture

The Bible is God's written Word, uniquely inspired by the Holy Spirit. It bears unerring witness to Jesus Christ, the living Word. As attested by the early church and subsequent councils, it is the trustworthy record of God's revelation, completely truthful in all it affirms. It has been faithfully preserved and proves itself true in human experience. The Scriptures have come to us through human authors who wrote, as God moved them, in the languages and literary forms of their times. God continues, by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, to speak through this Word to each generation and culture. The Bible has authority over all human life. It teaches the truth about God, His creation, His people, His one and only Son, and the destiny of humankind. It also teaches the way of salvation and the life of faith. Whatever is not found in the Bible nor can be proved by it is not to be required as an article of belief or as necessary to salvation.

What We Believe About The Old Testament

The Old Testament is not contrary to the New. Both Testaments bear witness to God's salvation in Christ; both speak of God's will for His people. The ancient laws for ceremonies and rites, and the civil precepts for the nation Israel are not necessarily binding on Christians today. But, on the example of Jesus we are obligated to obey the moral commandments of the Old Testament.

The books of the Old Testament are: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

What We Believe About The New Testament

The New Testament fulfills and interprets the Old Testament. It is the record of the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It is God's final word regarding humankind, sin, and salvation, the world and its destiny.

The books of the New Testament are: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, Revelation.

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT HUMANMANKIND

What We Believe About Free Moral Persons

God created human beings in His own image, innocent, morally free and responsible to choose between good and evil, right and wrong. By the sin of Adam, humans as the offspring of Adam are corrupted in their very nature so that from birth they are inclined to sin. They are unable by their own strength and work to restore themselves in right relationship with God and to merit eternal salvation. God, the Omnipotent, provides all the resources of the Trinity to make it possible for humans to respond to His grace through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. By God's grace and help people are enabled to do good works with a free will.

What We Believe About Law of Life and Love

God's law for all human life, personal and social, is expressed in two divine commands: Love the Lord God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself. These commands reveal what is best for persons in their relationship with God, others, and society. They set forth the principles of human duty in both individual and social action. They recognize God as the only Sovereign. All people as created by Him and in His image have the same inherent rights regardless of sex, race, or color. All should therefore give God absolute obedience in their individual, social, and political acts. They should strive to secure to everyone respect for their person, their rights, and their greatest happiness in the possession and exercise of the right within the moral law.

What We Believe About Good Works

Good works are the fruit of faith in Jesus Christ, but works cannot save us from our sins nor from God's judgment. As expressions of Christian faith and love, our good works performed with reverence and humility are both acceptable and pleasing to God. However, good works do not earn God's grace.

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT SALVATION

What We Believe About Christ's Sacrifice

Christ offered once and for all the one perfect sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. No other satisfaction for sin is necessary; none other can atone.

What We Believe About The New Life in Christ

A new life and a right relationship with God are made possible through the redemptive acts of God in Jesus Christ. God, by His Spirit, acts to impart new life and put people into a relationship with Himself as they repent and their faith responds to His grace. Justification, regeneration, and adoption speak significantly to entrance into and continuance in the new life.

Justification : Justification is a legal term that emphasizes that by a new relationship in Jesus Christ people are in fact accounted righteous, being freed from both the guilt and the penalty of their sins.

Regeneration : Regeneration is a biological term which illustrates that by a new relationship in Christ, one does in fact have a new life and a new spiritual nature capable of faith, love, and obedience to Christ Jesus as Lord. The believer is born again and is a new creation. The old life is past; a new life is begun.

Adoption : Adoption is a filial term full of warmth, love, and acceptance. It denotes that by a new relationship in Christ believers have become His wanted children freed from the mastery of both sin and Satan. Believers have the witness of the Spirit that they are children of God.

What We Believe About Entire Sanctification

Sanctification is that saving work of God beginning with new life in Christ whereby the Holy Spirit renews His people after the likeness of God, changing them through crisis and process, from one degree of glory to another, and conforming them to the image of Christ. As believers surrender to God in faith and die to self through full consecration, the Holy Spirit fills them with love and purifies them from sin. This sanctifying relationship with God remedies the divided mind, redirects the heart to God, and empowers believers to please and serve God in their daily lives. Thus, God sets His people free to love Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love their neighbor as themselves.

What We Believe About Restoration

Christians may be sustained in a growing relationship with Jesus as Savior and Lord. However, they may grieve the Holy Spirit in the relationships of life without returning to the dominion of sin. When they do, they must humbly accept the correction of the Holy Spirit, trust in the advocacy of Jesus, and mend their relationships. Christians can sin willfully and sever their relationship with Christ. Even so by repentance before God, forgiveness is granted and the relationship with Christ restored, for not every sin is the sin against the Holy Spirit and unpardonable. God's grace is sufficient for those who truly repent and, by His enabling, amend their lives. However, forgiveness does not give believers liberty to sin and escape the consequences of sinning. God has given responsibility to the church to restore penitent believers through loving reproof, counsel, and acceptance.

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE CHURCH

What We Believe About The Church

The church is created by God. It is the people of God. Christ Jesus is its Lord and Head. The Holy Spirit is its life and power. It is both divine and human, heavenly and earthly, ideal and imperfect. It is an organism, not an unchanging institution. It exists to fulfill the purposes of God in Christ. It redemptively ministers to persons. Christ loved the church and gave himself for it that it should be holy and without blemish. The church is a fellowship of the redeemed and the redeeming, preaching the Word of God and administering the sacraments according to Christ's instruction. The Free Methodist Church purposes to be representative of what the church of Jesus Christ should be on earth.

What We Believe About The Language of Worship

According to the Word of God and the custom of the early church, public worship and prayer and the administration of the sacraments should be in a language understood by the people. The Reformation applied this principle to provide for the use of the common language of the people. It is likewise clear that the Apostle Paul places the strongest emphasis upon rational and intelligible utterance in worship. We cannot endorse practices which plainly violate these scriptural principles.

What We Believe About The Holy Sacraments

Water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the sacraments of the church commanded by Christ. They are means of grace through faith, tokens of our profession of Christian faith, and signs of God's gracious ministry toward us. By them, He works within us to quicken, strengthen, and confirm our faith.

Baptism: Water baptism is a sacrament of the church, commanded by our Lord, signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ to be administered to believers, as declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. Baptism is a symbol of the new covenant of grace as circumcision was the symbol of the old covenant; and, since infants are recognized as being included in the atonement, they may be baptized upon the request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training. They shall be required to affirm the vow for themselves before being accepted into church membership.

The Lord's Supper: The Lord's Supper is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death. To those who rightly, worthily, and with faith receive it, the bread which we break is a partaking of the body of Christ; and likewise the cup of blessing is a partaking of the blood of Christ. The supper is also a sign of the love and unity that Christians have among themselves. Christ, according to His promise, is really present in the sacrament. But His body is given, taken, and eaten only after a heavenly and spiritual manner. No change is effected in the element; the bread and wine are not literally the body and blood of Christ. Nor is the body and blood of Christ literally present with the elements. The elements are never to be considered objects of worship. The body of Christ is received and eaten in faith.

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT LAST THINGS

What We Believe About The Kingdom of God

The kingdom of God is a prominent Bible theme providing Christians with both their tasks and hope. Jesus announced its presence. The kingdom is realized now as God's reign is established in the hearts and lives of believers. The church, by its prayers, example, and proclamation of the gospel, is the appointed and appropriate instrument of God in building His kingdom. But the kingdom is also future and is related to the return of Christ when judgment will fall upon the present order. The enemies of Christ will be subdued; the reign of God will be established; a total cosmic renewal which is both material and moral shall occur; and the hope of the redeemed will be fully realized.

What We Believe About The Return of Christ

The return of Christ is certain and may occur at any moment, although it is not given us to know the hour. At His return He will fulfill all prophecies concerning His final triumph over all evil. The believer's response is joyous expectation, watchfulness, readiness, and diligence.

What We Believe About Resurrection

There will be a bodily resurrection from the dead of both the just and the unjust, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life; they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation. The resurrected body will be a spiritual body, but the person will be whole and identifiable. The Resurrection of Christ is the guarantee of resurrection unto life to those who are in Him.

What We Believe About Judgment

God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness in accordance with the gospel and our deeds in this life.

What We Believe About Final Destiny

Our eternal destiny is determined by God's grace and our response, not by arbitrary decrees of God. For those who trust Him and obediently follow Jesus as Savior and Lord, there is a heaven of eternal glory and the blessedness of Christ's presence. But for the finally impenitent there is a hell of eternal suffering and of separation from God. The doctrines of the Free Methodist Church are based upon the Holy Scriptures and are derived from their total biblical context. The references below are appropriate passages related to the given articles. They are listed in their biblical sequence and are not intended to be exhaustive.