

Discerning Core Values/Guiding Principles

A GROUP PROCESS

Defining Core Values or Guiding Principles

1. *Core Values are constant.*
2. *Core Values are passionate.*
3. *Core Values are biblical.*
4. *Core Values are core beliefs.*

The Importance of Guiding Principles/Core Values

1. *Values drive the ministry.*
2. *Values communicate what's important.*
3. *Values affect the church's overall behavior.*
4. *Values inspire people to action.*
5. *Values help people embrace positive change.*
6. *Values contribute to ministry success.*

David Daubert in *Living Lutheran*

Guiding Principles are directly related to the biblical values of Jesus and of God's vision for the church in mission. They articulate the things we need to remember and be accountable for in living out our purpose. They will be clear enough and few enough to be helpful in making decisions on the journey.

Step 1: Prayerfully consider: What is God's will for your congregation? Consider what God might want for your congregation, not what you want.

Step 2: Working individually, rate EACH of the Guiding Principles/Core Values on page two from 1 to 5, with 1 being the least important and 5 the most important.

Then:

Step 3: *Star the top five Guiding Principles/Core Values.

10 mins for Steps 2 & 3

Form small groups of 4-5 per table

Step 4: Share the top five Core Values (stars) with others at your table. Then:

Step 5: Come to consensus on the top five Core Values at your table.

20 mins for Steps 4 & 5

Return to your seats for the full group if you have moved.

Step 6: Each table share the top five Core Values with the large group.

Step 7: Come to consensus about your congregation's five Core Values. Prioritize them as desired.

25 mins for Steps 6 & 7

Core Values/Guiding Principles

Rate each of the Guiding Principles/Core Values below from 1 to 5, with 1 being the least important and 5 the most important.

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|---|--|
| 1. Bible-centered preaching/teaching | 14. Strong Christ-centered families |
| 2. Every member engaged in ministry | 15. Keep up with cultural changes |
| 3. Weekly worship | 16. Love for our neighbors |
| 4. Care for the poor | 17. Friendly fellowship |
| 5. Creative, innovative new ministries | 18. Working for peace and justice |
| 6. Global missions | 19. Faithful service in church and community |
| 7. Evangelism | 20. Giving/tithing |
| 8. Healing ministries-health and wholeness | 21. Inviting others to know and love Jesus |
| 9. Daily prayer | 22. Children's ministry |
| 10. A well-kept facility | 23. Baptism & Holy Communion |
| 11. Regular Bible study-growing adult disciples | 24. Everyone is welcome |
| 12. Care of creation; stewardship of the earth | 25. Financial stability |
| 13. Community outreach | 26. Maintaining traditions |

From "Re-Rooting in God's Mission" resource, Eastern North Dakota and Northwestern Minnesota Synods