

STATEMENT OF MISSION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BATON ROUGE

Our mission is summarized in the following commitments, which may be divided into three sections:

OUR COMMITMENTS TO GOD THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY GHOST:

We are a church committed to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We believe that nothing matters more in life than to know him, love him, trust him, serve him. He is the Son of God from heaven, the only Savior of the world, and the Lord of the Church. (John 3:16, 17:3; I Peter 1:8 & 9; Revelation 3:20 & 21)

We are a church committed to the Bible as the Word of God and to the conviction that the truth about Jesus Christ whom we serve is plainly and authoritatively set forth there. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be "the only infallible rule of faith and practice." We want everything we are and do as individuals and as a people to be grounded in the Scripture. (I Timothy 6:3, II Timothy 3:14-17)

We are a church committed to prayer and to the conviction that it is only by the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit that God's work is done. (Acts 4:23-31; I Corinthians 3:6 & 7; Ephesians 6:18; I Timothy 2:8)

We are a church committed to worship and to the conviction that "the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." In particular we desire the Sunday morning services to be the high point of our life together as a people of God, filled with praise and prayer and joy and thanksgiving, sharing in the celebration of the sacraments together and in the proclamation of the Word. (Acts 2:42, 46 & 47; Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16)

OUR COMMITMENTS TO THE BODY OF CHRIST:

We are a church committed to fellowship and to the conviction that we are called to love and support one another within the fellowship of the church, as adults and children, married and single, male and female. We are to bear one another's burdens, encourage each other, pray for each other, serve each other, correct and teach each other, and care for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ who have a special family responsibility for each other. (John 13:34 & 35; Acts 2:44-46; Galatians 6:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-16; I Thessalonians 4:9 & 10)

We are a church committed to discipleship from childhood to adulthood and to the conviction that every Christian has a life-long calling to be a pupil ("disciple") of Jesus Christ and a student of His Word. Serious study of the Bible will always be one of the central activities of our church. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 17:11)

We are a church committed to small groups and to the conviction that the "house-church" is a form of fellowship intended for all time. We believe that fellowship together in small groups for Bible Study, prayer, fellowship, worship and mission is an important means of our growing into the measure of the stature

of the fullness of Christ. (Acts 2:46, 20:20; Romans 16:3-5; Ephesians 4:116; I Corinthians 14:26-33)

We are a church committed to the priesthood of all believers and to the conviction that we are each given gifts of ministry for building up the body of Christ. We believe that our life as a church is the sum of our various God-given ministries as individuals and that those ministries are given and exercised by and through the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:4-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; I Peter 2:9 & 10)

OUR COMMITMENTS TO THE WORLD WHICH GOD SO LOVES:

We are a church committed to evangelism and to the conviction that the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is the primary task we have been given by our Lord to carry out in the world. We believe that, as that Commission was given not just to the apostles but to all believers, we all have a responsibility to share the gospel with others within the community in which we live and among our friends, neighbors, and co-workers. (Luke 15:3-7; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:14-21; I Peter 3:15)

We are a church committed to growth and to the conviction that God has not only given to us a responsibility to witness to others, but that he longs to add to his church "day by day those who are being saved." (Acts 2:47, 9:31)

We are a church committed to service and to the conviction that we, like Jesus, are called not to be served but to serve in this world, to love and help those in need as he did, to care about justice and freedom for those about us, and to be the salt of the earth in our community, our nation, and our world. Furthermore, we believe that every kind of employment should be understood as a vocation, a calling to serve others in Jesus' Name. (Matthew 5:13-16; Mark 10:45; Galatians 6:7-10; Colossians 3:17; Ephesians 6:5-9)

We are a church committed to the world-wide mission of Jesus Christ and to the spread of the gospel of his love and redemption throughout the world. We believe that we must be "world Christians" in the sense that we must be concerned not only for the spread of the gospel in our "Jerusalem," but "to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8; Genesis 12:3)