

Excerpts from the BGCT Mission Statement_100404

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Excerpts from the BGCT Mission Statement

The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board overwhelmingly approved a set of mission, vision, values and priority statements to guide the convention's work in coming decades. Here are some excerpts.

Values

Bible-God's written word. We value the Bible as the divinely inspired record of God's revelation of himself to us. It serves as the authoritative guide for life and ministry.

- ♦ **Transformational churches.** We value the church as the body God has called to carry out his purposes according to his will. We make every effort to develop transformational churches that help believers become Christlike and prepare them to engage culture and advance the kingdom of God. We value being on mission with God in our communities and in reaching a lost world.

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◆ **Spiritual formation-discipleship.** We value intimacy with God that forms the image of Christ in us. We submit our lives to be shaped by God through feeding on his word, praying continually, sharing Christ and living in community with other believers.

◆ **Servant leadership.** We value servant leadership that models the ministry of Jesus as he called people to become his disciples and to serve all the interests of his kingdom. We are committed to the ongoing nurture and development of courageous servant leadership in our churches.

◆ **Worth of all persons.** We value every person, for all are created in God's image. We commit ourselves to love others as Christ loves us and to serve others in his name.

- ◆ **Baptist distinctives.** We value those biblical truths that shape Baptist life and history, including the soul's competency before God, the priesthood of the believer, the autonomy of the local church and a free church in a free state.
- ◆ **Integrity.** We value integrity in our lives and in our churches, demonstrated by Christlike attitudes and actions that are consistent and evident in all we think and do. Integrity is the foundation for the mutual trust, accountability, excellence in ministry and teamwork that marks our work together.
- ◆ **Inclusiveness.** We value including all persons redeemed by his grace and called to his service in the missions and ministries of this body. We embrace the mosaic of God's family, grateful for the richness of gifts, backgrounds and experiences.

Vision

- ◆ We are a fellowship of transformational churches sacrificially giving ourselves to God's redemptive purpose. Continually being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit into the likeness of Christ, we join together to transform our communities and the world. Engaging culture, we reach people where they are for an encounter with Jesus Christ.
- ◆ We are on mission with God to continue Jesus' ministry of teaching, sharing the good news and meeting human needs through our churches, institutions and organizations. Our ministries reflect the heart of Jesus.
- ◆ We share a vision of the world's peoples coming to know Jesus Christ and becoming transformed in his image. As a fellowship of diverse churches, we advance the kingdom in ways that individual churches cannot do alone. We belong to the larger body of Christ's church, his presence in

the world.

- ◆ We accomplish our work through individuals with diverse backgrounds who love Jesus Christ and his church. Lives, families, communities and nations are transformed as ordinary Christians take extraordinary steps of faith in obedience to God.

Priorities

Unto the glory of God, we commit ourselves to:

- ◆ Starting, developing and strengthening transformational churches.
- ◆ Meeting human needs.
- ◆ Identifying and developing transformational leadership for churches and affiliated ministries.
- ◆ Providing a comprehensive strategy that enables churches and individuals to support missions financially and be on mission in their communities and the world.
- ◆ Conducting research and development for cutting-edge ministries, methods and processes and for understanding multiple cultures.
- ◆ Being a truly multicultural organization.

—from the BGCT's set of guiding principles approved by the Executive Board.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.