

## **Mission Statement**

Ash Creek Baptist Church glorifies God through Service, Obedience, and Worship.

## **First Draft of Vision Statement 2006**

Being called by God to embody God's Kingdom in Azle, Texas, Ash Creek Baptist Church is an assembly of baptized believers committed to glorifying God by being the presence of Christ in the world. This entails serving people, obeying the teachings of Jesus as revealed in Scripture, and worshiping the Triune God.

We publicly declare that Jesus Christ crucified, risen, and coming again is the reason for our being and is the focus of God's revelation of Himself to humanity. The Holy Spirit continues to perform the work of Christ through God's people at Ash Creek Baptist Church. We understand the Bible to be the authoritative guide for our beliefs and our behavior.

We voluntarily cooperate with other churches in order to advance God's Kingdom on earth, while maintaining our traditional identity within a Baptist heritage. Our major avenue of cooperation is with Baptist entities such as the Tarrant Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Baptist World Alliance, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the Southern Baptist Convention. Also, we happily cooperate with sister Christian churches from other traditions in areas of common interest.

As the presence of Christ in the world we follow the example of Jesus. We uphold God's ethical standards revealed in the Bible as the Divine will, yet respond to those who fail with compassion and grace. We grieve when brothers and sisters fall into sin, and then rejoice when repentance restores our sacred relationships to one another. We celebrate the freedom we have in Christ, yet do not abuse freedom as an opportunity to cause another to stumble. We work together in Christian unity, but recognize that Christian unity does not demand uniformity. We demonstrate love to people regardless of social prominence, racial identity, economic means, legal status, or spiritual development.

We serve people with humility, even when it demands that we sacrifice our own self interests. We engage in compassionate ministries that seek to meet physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of people. We recognize the value of family in God's Kingdom and seek to set a positive example of family life for the world. The church promotes strong family life by providing ministries that support people in every stage of life.

We are determined to be obedient to Christ who commanded us to make disciples by baptizing his followers and teaching them to obey him. We accomplish this with personal and corporate evangelism; comprehensive Christian education with an emphasis on multiplying small group Bible study through a growing Sunday School; and a commitment to missions that includes church starting, direct missions, and financial support with other cooperative Baptists. We trust God to provide the resources that are

necessary to accomplish his will. We use those resources by practicing godly stewardship in our private lives and in our corporate life. We reject the idolatry of materialism valued by our culture believing instead that material resources are tools to be used for the building of God's Kingdom.

We worship God with both enthusiasm and humility. Our enthusiasm is an overflow of gratitude for salvation. Our humility is recognition of our sinfulness when we encounter the holiness of God. Worship is an end unto itself and is directed to God. Worship is expressed in ways appropriate to culture with a focus on God, not us. All of God's people regardless of age, gender, or social status are equal participants in the worship of God and are encouraged to use their gifts accordingly.

Prayer permeates every part of this church providing wisdom, empowerment, and spiritual nourishment for the accomplishment of God's will.

### **Values**

- The Lordship of Jesus Christ
- The authority of the Bible for belief and behavior
- The Salvation of all people
- Missions
- Family relationships
- Baptist Heritage
- The worth of all people
- Corporate and private worship
- Biblical Stewardship of resources
- Servant leaders

### **Priorities**

- Provide family ministries, particularly as they relate to preschoolers, children, and youth
- Develop and implement evangelistic strategies that result in mature Christian disciples.
- Commitment to a growing Sunday School as the primary strategy for Bible Study, outreach, and fellowship
- Develop and implement a strategy for expanding theologically sound, vibrant, culturally appropriate worship
- Participate in caring ministries motivated by compassion for those in need
- Develop and implement a comprehensive missions strategy with world-wide reach
- Develop servant leaders
- Identify, encourage, and equip people for vocational ministry