

## **Ecclesia Clear Lake Church**

*We are an interdenominational church located in the heart of League City, Texas. We are rooted in the historical and global Trinitarian Christian faith. We seek to nurture disciples of Jesus Christ in the context of intentional and authentic community.*

*We believe that **God is making all things new through Jesus Christ**. To help us be able to better see and partake in this reality, we commit ourselves to **Worship & Community, Prayer & Formation, and Compassion & Justice**.*

*The most simple way we express our work is to **EMBODY LOVE** in all that we say and all that we do.*

*Our work is not necessarily unique, but it is particular. We embody the love of Jesus Christ in our bodies, in this place, and at this time.*

*As we pursue God's kingdom here on earth through the power of the Holy Spirit and the work of Jesus Christ, we will see **REDEMPTION, RECONCILIATION, and RESTORATION**.*

### **ABOUT US**

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### **Interdenominational**

We recognize that we come from different starting places. Some of us are just beginning to get curious about following Christ. Others of us have been shaped by a wide variety of Christian faith traditions. That being said, we seek to be united around the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we study scripture, worship, pray, live life, and serve others in the context of a diverse Christian community.

### **League City, Texas**

Location matters. While our calling to be the church is not unique, it is particular. We are disciples of Jesus Christ committed to living out the Gospel in our little corner of the greater Houston area and beyond.

### **Historical and Global Trinitarian Christian Faith**

We recognize that we stand on the shoulders of many women and men who have professed Jesus Christ is Lord for over 2,000 years. We affirm the Nicene Creed (established by the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325) and the Apostles Creed. We also commit ourselves to being

shaped by the Christian witness of the multiethnic, multicultural, international, and multilingual global church.

### **Nurture disciples of Jesus Christ**

Christian discipleship is a life-long journey of being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit into Christ's image. Just like a gardener must be intentional and thoughtful as she cultivates a thriving garden, so must we be intentional and thoughtful as we grow as disciples and invite others to join us on the journey.

### **Intentional and authentic community**

The church was never intended to be an isolated group of individuals who happen to assemble in the same place at the same time. We cannot thrive in our faith or life outside of the context of real community.

### VISION

*God is making all things new through Jesus Christ!*

I cannot imagine a more important theological statement in this time of hopelessness, despair, and division. We literally believe God is making all things new through Jesus Christ! This belief is based on truth revealed by a number of biblical passages.

John 1 tells us that Jesus was God in a body. Jesus was there in the beginning. Through him, all things were made. The Gospels teach us that Jesus lived, taught, died, and rose again, that we might have the fullness of life now and forevermore. 2 Corinthians 5 tells us we are made new in Jesus Christ and through Jesus Christ. The passage also tells us God is reconciling the world to Godself in Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. In Revelation 21, the author describes a vision he sees of God making a new heaven and a new earth. In the vision, Jesus is sitting on his heavenly throne and emphatically proclaims, "Behold, I am making all things new!" We believe this is happening and will continue happening until the kingdom of heaven is fully realized.

### VALUES

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we intentionally weave practices into our lives that help shape us into the image of Christ and that help transform us into new creations. Our values are intended to be discipleship pathways. They are commitments we make that help us better be able to see what God is doing around us and who God is calling us to be as individuals and as a community.

*We commit ourselves to **Worship & Community.***

We were created to worship the Triune God. We are wired in such a way that we need deep and healthy relationships with one another. Though we know God is always present, and we are called to pray without ceasing, there is something powerful and transformational about committing to worshipping the Triune God in community. In Acts 2, the early church passionately gathered daily to pray, worship, eat, share belongings, experience life, and study together. We can learn from their model!

When we gather, we encourage one another and build each other up (Hebrews 10:24-25). When we gather, we carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). When we gather, we are transformed into a new people (Romans 12:1-2). When we worship in the context of a diverse Christian community, we are better able to see the kingdom of God breaking through!

*We commit ourselves to **Prayer & Formation**.*

Christian discipleship is a life-long journey of being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit into Christ's image. Prayer is central to the life of a disciple (Rom. 12:13). There are a number of times Jesus withdrew from the pressure and demands of ministry to center himself in prayer (Matt. 14, Mark 6, and Luke 6). As disciples, we follow this model intentionally (Matt. 6:9-13, Eph. 6:18, Matt. 5:44, James 5:13). As we pray, worship, fellowship, and engage in acts of compassion & justice in the name of Jesus, something powerful happens to us (2 Cor. 3:18, Gal. 2:20, 1 John 1:9). We are formed and transformed!

*We commit ourselves to **Compassion & Justice**.*

This value and commitment must be interpreted through the lens of the biblical concept of shalom. In the Hebrew Bible, shalom is so much more than the absence of war. Shalom is the presence of God's righteousness and justice. Shalom is righting the wrongs. Shalom is the ultimate realization of God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

In James 1:24, the author tells disciples of Jesus that pure religion involves looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world. In Matthew 25, Jesus says that when his disciples feed the hungry, provide water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, and visit prisoners, we are doing those things to him. In the Old Testament, God implores God's people to extend hospitality to immigrants (Lev. 19:33-34), pursue economic justice (Amos 5), and defend the oppressed (Isaiah 1:17). Clearly, God wants disciples of Jesus to pursue compassion (suffering with) and justice (holistic restoration).

There are a few things we intentionally do to help us pursue compassion and justice with a healthy posture. We seek to follow the example set by Jesus, who deliberately pursued

proximity and solidarity with the marginalized and oppressed. We also engage in mutually transformational partnerships with organizations and individuals.

*Future Value: We commit ourselves to **Hospitality & Diversity**.*

## MISSION

### ***Embody Love.***

We believe God is love (1 John 4:8). We believe Jesus was God in a body (John 1:1, 14). We believe the church is the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27). Thus, the most simple way to describe the life of disciples of Jesus Christ is to say that we are people who are committed to embodying love in all that we say and do (1 Corinthians 13). This includes loving God and loving others as we learn to love ourselves (Matt. 22:36-40).

*And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)*

## CURRENT DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAYS

- Sunday Morning Gatherings (weekly)
- Small Groups/Connection Groups (2-4 times a month)
- Church-wide picnics (1st Sunday)
- Church Work Days (1st Saturdays)
- Coffee Hour (Weekly)
- Kids' Connect (Weekly)
- Youth Gatherings

## POSSIBLE FUTURE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAYS

- Compassion & Justice Partnerships
- Baptism Class
- Church-wide Retreats
- Discipleship/Confirmation Class
- Youth Service & Learning Trips
- Contemplative Prayer Nights
- Emotional Health Workshops
- Book Studies
- Faith & Race Class
- etc.