

## A Vision for Word and Spirit Discipleship at Third

1. **Third Church is a Word and Spirit community that believes the Holy Spirit and Holy Scriptures are foundational to our discipleship and mission.**
  - **We believe that we cannot separate the Word and the Spirit** and we are a Church that is focusing on the two together. We believe this is the most dynamic and biblical way for us to live as Christians.
  - We deeply value the Word of God and believe it is infallible.
  - We deeply value both the fruits and the full expression of the gifts of the Spirit and desire to walk in the fullness that Christ intended for the church
  - We want to learn about and exercise spiritual gifts with love and humility in a way that connects with our Third Church context and culture.
  - We are not intending to be a clone of any other church or movement
  
2. **Third Church intends to mature in Christ as we are guided specifically by our core values of intimacy, identity, belonging and purpose.**
  - Intimacy: Created for deep connection with God
  - Identity: We know who and whose we are
  - Belonging: Created for deep connection with others
  - Purpose: Sent with significance for Kingdom impact
  
3. **Third Church welcomes the opportunity to learn and discern from other Christian groups** as we realize we “only see in part” out of our Reformed tradition. Christian orthodoxy (proper apprehension of God’s truth) is connected to Christian orthopraxy (faithful practices). We realize we do not have an absolute understanding of both which is why we choose to be reformed and ever reforming according to the Word of God which therefore includes the practicing of spiritual gifts.
  
4. **We want to humbly welcome perspectives on ministry from other Christian streams as we consider what it looks like to bring the Kingdom “on earth as it is in heaven.”** Our Reformed traditions must be acknowledged as traditions and compared to what we see in Scripture as we seek to faithfully live out our lives under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. There are six traditional streams in the Christian church from which we are seeking to learn:
  - a. Prayer-Filled Life: Our heart’s steady attention on God
  - b. Virtuous Life: Responding with integrity
  - c. Spirit-Empowered Life: Fueling our lives from the presence and power of God
  - d. Compassionate Life: Extending compassion in every sphere of life
  - e. Word-Centered Life: Living the life-giving message
  - f. Sacramental Life: Encountering the invisible God in the visible world
  
5. **Finally, we are a church who is seeking to maturely hold Biblical tensions:**
  - a. **Victory and Suffering** – we believe in a God who can do “immeasurably more than we could ever ask or imagine” yet we know how to “weep with those who weep.”
  - b. The **Cross** and **Resurrection** began a new Kingdom rule for us on the earth that will not be fully established until Christ comes again – the Kingdom has come and is coming.
  - c. **Mystery** and **Strategy** – we believe that there is much about how and when God operates that we are not designed to fully understand in our humanity, yet we also believe as a body of believers it is wise to listen and plan out of our albeit limited understanding.
  - d. We believe in a good Father who is **sovereign** but that we have also been given **authority** as believers in Christ empowered by Holy Spirit to pray for things to be on earth as they are in heaven.