

# MGEFC CORE TENETS (Foundational Principles)

Church Vision

8/31/08; 11/05/08; 12/02/08

## 1. WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE WORD OF GOD

### ○ AS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH

#### 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

<sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

<sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

#### 1 Peter 1:22-25 (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. <sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup> For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, <sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

### ○ AS THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN OUR LIVES

#### 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#### Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

<sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

#### 1 John 5:3 (NIV)

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

*John 14:23-24 (NIV)*

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup> He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

## ○ AS THE SOURCE OF GOD'S INERRANT TRUTH

*2 Samuel 22:31 (NIV)*

"As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.

*Deuteronomy 8:3 (NIV)*

<sup>3</sup> He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

*Psalms 119:137-140 (NIV)*

Righteous are you, O LORD, and your laws are right. <sup>138</sup> The statutes you have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy. <sup>139</sup> My zeal wears me out, for my enemies ignore your words. <sup>140</sup> Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them.

## 2. WE ARE CENTERED ON JESUS CHRIST

### ○ WE EXIST FOR HIS GLORY

*Philippians 1:9-11 (NIV)*

<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

*John 15:7-8 (NIV)*

<sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

*Colossians 3:17 (NIV)*

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### ○ WE ARE REDEEMED BY HIS SACRIFICE

*Acts 20:28 (NIV)*

<sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

*1 Corinthians 15:3-5 (NIV)*

<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ...  
v. 11 this is what we preach and this is what you believed.

## ○ WE ARE UNDER HIS AUTHORITY

### *Colossians 1:15-18 (NIV)*

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

### *1 Cor 3:9-11 (NKJV)*

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. <sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

### *Matthew 16:18 (NIV)*

<sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

## ○ WE ARE EMPOWERED BY HIS LIFE

### *John 15:4-5 (NIV)*

<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

### *Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)*

<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness

## ○ WE ARE AWAITING HIS RETURN

### *1 Corinthians 1:7 (NIV)*

<sup>7</sup> Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

### *Titus 2:11-13 (NIV)*

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

## 3. WE TEACH THE HOLY SCRIPTURES WITHOUT APOLOGY

### ○ TO FULFILL OUR RESPONSIBILITY

#### *2 Timothy 4:1-4 (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

## ○ TO BUILD UP THE BODY

*Acts 20:32 (NIV)*

*"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

*1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV)*

*<sup>13</sup> And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.*

*Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)*

*<sup>11</sup> It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

## ○ TO CORRECT FALSE DOCTRINE

*Romans 16:17 (NIV) <sup>17</sup>*

*I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.*

*Acts 20:27 (NIV)*

*<sup>27</sup> For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.*

*Titus 2:1 (NIV)*

*<sup>1</sup> You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.*

*Galatians 1:6-12 (NIV)*

*<sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-- <sup>7</sup> which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! <sup>9</sup> As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! <sup>10</sup> Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. <sup>11</sup> I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. <sup>12</sup> I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.*

## 4. WE INTENTIONALLY SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

### ○ THROUGH PUBLIC PROCLAMATION

*1 Corinthians 15:1 (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup> Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

*Acts 6:7 (NIV)*

<sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

*1 Thess. 1:5-7 (NKJV)*

<sup>5</sup> For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe

### ○ IN PERSONAL CONVERSATION

*1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)*

<sup>15</sup> But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

<sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

*Acts 8:34-35 (NIV)*

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

*Philemon 1:6 (NIV)*

<sup>6</sup> I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

## 5. WE SEEK TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

### ○ WHO FOLLOW AND OBEY HIS COMMANDS

*Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)*

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

### ○ WHO EXHIBIT A JOYFUL AND FRUITFUL LIFE.

*Colossians 2:6-9 (NIV)*

<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

### Acts 2:46-47 (NIV)

<sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## ○ WHO REACH AND DISCIPLE OTHERS

### 2 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

### 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia--your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it,

### Matthew 9:35-10:1 (NIV)

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." <sup>1</sup> He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

## 6. WE PRACTICE THE MINISTRY OF BELIEVING PRAYER

### ○ TO EMPOWER THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL

#### Acts 4:29-31 (ESV)

<sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness. <sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." <sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

#### Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

<sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

### ○ TO MEET THE PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF OTHERS

### Colossians 1:9-10 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. <sup>10</sup> And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

### Acts 12:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

### James 5:13-15 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

## ○ TO SHOW OUR DEPENDENCE ON GOD

### Philippians 4:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

### John 15:5-7 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

## ○ TO RECEIVE GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION FROM GOD

### Acts 13:2-3 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." <sup>3</sup> So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

### Acts 14:23 (NIV)

<sup>23</sup> Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

## 7. WE ACTIVELY WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR LIVES

### ○ IT REMINDS US WE ARE BELIEVERS

### Philippians 3:3 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

### John 4:23-24 (NIV)

<sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

○ **IT EXPRESSES PRAISE FOR HIS GOODNESS AND GRACE**

*Romans 12:1 (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

*Hebrews 12:28 (NIV)*

<sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

*Hebrews 13:15 (NIV)*

<sup>15</sup> Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name.

○ **IT RELEASES THE SPIRIT'S MINISTRY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST**

*Ephesians 5:18-20 (NIV)*

<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*1 Corinthians 14:26 (NIV)*

<sup>26</sup> What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

( 1 Cor. 11-14 are basically Paul's instructions on how that church needed to bring order and vitality to the corporate meetings together for worship- we may not understand all that is in view, but it should highlight the necessity, practice and value of corporate worship in the NT church)

○ **IT IS THE PRIMARY ACTIVITY OF HEAVEN, THE CHURCH'S TRUE HOME.**

*Revelation 7:9-10 (NIV)*

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."