



### pursuant

we are a church where people can have theological questions, and struggle with the seemingly paradoxical perspectives of the bible. in a non-judgmental way we encourage conversations about the vastness of god, while affirming the role of moral authority that he plays in our lives.

*we do not define our beliefs by non-essential issues outside of the person of jesus. we will not be divided by matters of practice and conscience. we are not a community where our love for each other, or our willingness to worship together is diminished because of differing views.*

### trusting

we will teach people dependence on god, not dependence on the church. we trust in the power of the holy spirit to directly influence each of our lives. we encourage each person to develop relationships with god and others, so that their lives are lived to the fullest outside of the walls of the church. we believe the role of the church is to invite people to develop necessary relationships with god and others that can meet their needs far better than the church organization.

*we will not replace the holy spirit's role in the spiritual growth of the people of our community. we will not look to the church organization to be the sole provider of our relational and spiritual connections.*

### focused

we believe that proximity plays an important role in facilitating community. we believe in a neighborhood model of ministry, that each area of the city has a unique expression of relationship with god, and that the resources of our church can be best used to infuse the love of jesus into our own neighborhood. we are intentional about being a neighborhood church, reflective of the people within our neighborhood. we believe that god has called us to this specific area of chicago, and we will continue to develop and plant other neighborhood churches to facilitate the same access to life changing community in other parts of the city.

*we will not compromise our neighborhood focus for the sake of growing numbers and greater size, and we will not grow to the point that we are unable to know others and be known by others. we will not dilute our effectiveness in our neighborhood for the sake of expanding our ministry to other areas*

### authentic

we believe that only through authenticity can we experience true forgiveness and healing. we are a church that accepts brokenness and broken people, and is lead by broken people in the pursuit of wholeness. We encourage each persons unique individual expression, within the greater community expression, of our simple worship to god.

*we will not tolerate judgmental attitudes of elitism. We do not have unwritten, or non-biblical rules and expectations for people as they enter into the community and individual worship. we will not communicate god's truth in words only understood within christian subculture, or use such words to highlight false spirituality.*

### safe

we will seek to protect our community in all of our relational interactions; including business dealings, dating relationships, friendships, and fund raising endeavors. our church is a safe place, free from relational pressures to be involved in unsolicited activities or interactions. each ministry within the church is most focused on the greater good of the community.

*our community will not be used to solicit personal gain, at the cost of the community. we will not expose the community to potential harm or foster an environment where the church community and leadership are not trustworthy or safe.*