

“Lifting Our Vision”

*Most gracious God, we offer this vision of a Great Commission, Great Commandment synod to you in obedience and thanksgiving. We lift our eyes and behold your majesty enthroned on the cross, calling us to deeper discipleship. Thank you for this life. Empower us by this gratitude and lead us in proclamation and service to see the Kingdom of God coming among us. AMEN*

We are a church on the road together (Gk: synodus) encountering life and eager to respond to God's love. God is calling us to be a Great Commission and a Great Commandment ministry in response to the Good News we have received (Matt 22:37-40, Matt 25:31-46, Matt 28:18-20).

Lifting our eyes we see the stunning natural beauty where we live. We see as well a cussed independence and parched spirit in this place. Many are afraid. God has told us we need not be afraid for death is conquered. Our new life is in following Jesus as disciples.

We are a church that is neither hierarchical nor congregational. We see congregations and leaders bound together for mission and sharing the unique gifts of each on behalf of the whole. We are this Body of Christ, as individual believers and as congregations of great diversity; one church, many gifts.

Jesus!

Our effort is all about Jesus. In him we have been drawn to the deepest trust of our lives. We want to follow him, in word and service. This “man for others” calls us to be “the church for others.”

Gratitude, Gratitude

Our power source is gratitude for the life we have been given and regiven in Jesus. We are servants of this gratitude; servants to all. This is the way the Holy Spirit gives us breath, hope, and calm when it all spins so fast. We pray to remember how to breathe, for God's inspiration and to calm our hearts.

No fear! Transformation!

Many are afraid because the world is changing so fast. We are not afraid because Jesus and his life anchor us in confidence. Together we seek the transformation that is God's constant will (Romans 12:2). Our anchor holds true in Jesus and we wonder where he is leading us.

Miracles of Hope

We confess we have lost or forgotten our capacity for hope in miracles. We have forgotten that God invites us to personal transformation. We pray God will open our eyes, lift our vision, restore our hope! Rekindle in us the power to move mountains! Remove our lesser loyalties and our fears. We will be people of miraculous expectation and personal transformation!

Yes! Everyone Come!

Ours is a geography in transition, racially, economically, and culturally. Maintenance of our ministries has led us to dig in and try to hide from these challenges. Our vision is One Body, One church in many languages and colors, gifted by all. We will be the church of Pentecost!

Come Lord Jesus!

Finally, it is not our effort; it is not our vision. It is God calling to us to enact and incarnate the Kingdom of God now. We are all ministers of this vision! It is our calling and vocation. This vision shapes our courage. We are not afraid to fail in this trust. Come, Lord Jesus!