

# Mission Statement

A sense of mission is essential for the well-being of a church. In general a mission statement provides a focus to what the church does. It is a short statement of “the business we are in.” A mission statement should be something easily remembered and central to what the church believes is involved in obedience to God. According to A. Malphurs, a noted church planner, mission affects a church in many different ways:

- It sets the ministry’s direction - Where are we going?
- It formulates the ministry’s function - What are we supposed to be doing?
- It informs the church’s future - What should we strive to become?
- It acts as a guideline for decision-making - Which are the important things we should do now?
- It promotes unity - We can agree on what we are to do together.
- It shapes our strategy - How will we get there?
- It helps us evaluate - How are we doing? Are we doing the right things?

## Mission Statement

Heritage Christian Reformed Church  
A Community of Christ Followers  
Serving Him, His People & His World

Our study of scripture finds five basic purposes for the church. These are:

- **Worship**
- **Fellowship**
- **Discipleship**
- **Outreach**
- **Service**

We are a Christian body dedicated to each other's common interests, and a commitment to follow Jesus Christ. We care, support and love each other. We worship Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We subordinate ourselves to Him. We demonstrate our love of Christ by obeying his commands. We strive to become Christ like and grow in the maturity of Christ. We do this not in our own strength, but by the strength of the Holy Spirit. We hold Jesus as the supreme example of the obedient servant.

**Philippians 2:1-11 NIV**- *If you have an encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like minded, having the same love, being in one spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but to the interests of others.*

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking on the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on the cross!*

*Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

To serve incorporates all of the basic purposes of the church. To serve Him, His People and His World involves: worship, outreach, fellowship, discipleship and of course service/ministry. Service is love in action. It requires commitment, submission, servant hood and deliberate acts. You show love by serving. Service is the required response of the Christian (and corporately the church) to God's love. It fits our Calvinist theology of Sin, Salvation & Service. We uphold Christ as the ultimate model of the humble servant.

**Mark 10:45 NIV** - *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

This short mission statement of 11 words uses the name of Christ and the pronoun referring to Christ three times. This is deliberate. It underscores a basic belief of Heritage that the church is all about God and not about us. We gather together not to be served, but rather to serve.

We serve Him. Our worship is centered on honoring and glorifying God. We disciple our children, ourselves and our community in response to the great commission **Matthew 28:19** and great Command **Matthew 22:37-39**.

We serve His People. All people are God's people. All persons are created in God's image. **Genesis 1:27 NIV** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* Being created in God's image means in part that each person's soul is eternal just as God is eternal. While God creates and loves all people, not all will be saved. We can provide no greater service to our fellow man than to introduce them to the saving grace of our Lord and Savior. We do this best by serving them and demonstrating Christ's love.

**Matthew 25:31-40** - *When the Son of Man (Jesus) comes in his glory, and his angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on the left.*

*Then the King will say to those on his right, come you who are blessed by the Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I*

*was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.*

*Then the righteous will answer him, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?*

*The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*

We serve His World declares God as the creator. This is typically the most basic reference that all people refer to God. It again reinforces that all people are his people and further more this world is his. We are charged with social justice and environmental stewardship. **Genesis 1:26 NIV** *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.*

To serve calls and challenges us to not just know their faith, but to act on it. It brings to mind the concept of putting others first, a concept that can only contribute to a healthy church.