

# Hamilton Baptist

## Our Vision

"To become a Church experiencing the New Testament ideal of Church life in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century context" (Rev 21:2)

We recognise that to achieve this as a Church we need to grow in our passion.

### 1. In our **PASSION** for Jesus

...We recognise that passion both results from, and is an indicator of, what we are focused on in life (Heb 12:2)

...We need then to focus on growing in the character of Christ (Eph 5:1)

...To focus on making the Cross of Christ central to our lives (Gal 6:14)

...To focus on living in the resurrection power of Christ (Phil 3:10,11)

...To focus on living our lives in the light of the Second Coming of Christ (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:10,11)

## **To this end**

...We will encourage every member of our church family to purposefully commit to seek to grow in their relationship with Jesus (Jn 15:5)

...Integral to this is the study of God's Word with our aim being not only to grow in knowledge but also to see transformational growth in Christlike character. (Jn 17:17)

...As in aid to achieve this we will seek to develop a mentoring program where mature Christians are partnered with those younger in the faith (Acts 20:20)

...Seeing this kind of growth and transformation needs to be understood as being the key purpose of our growth groups (1 Thess 5:11)

...We will endeavour to provide materials and learning opportunities to enable all this to happen. That we might become a church of whole life disciples equipped to deal with the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> Century life. (Rom 12:1,2)

## **2. In our PASSION for mission**

...Recognising that mission begins at the local level and so must focus on making an impact where we are (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:12)

...Yet a truly biblical mission focus must also have a national and international perspective. We are called to be global Christians (Acts 1:8)

...It will also have a holistic concern. In that though our primary aim is to share the gospel and see people come to know Jesus. Yet we also recognise that a concern for the extension of God's

Kingdom should express itself in addition, in a desire to alleviate suffering and combat injustice (Amos 5:21-24)

## **To this end**

...We will seek to ensure that every that every believer is given the training, help, and encouragement that will enable them to confidently share their faith (1 Peter 3:15,16)

...We will seek to develop a program of evangelism, where in a sensitive and progressive way, people are presented with the claims of Christ

...We will seek to effectively serve our local community. This will involve intentionally seeking out ways to connect with and serve our local community. Endeavouring always to show God's grace and mercy, but while never abandoning Christian truth and integrity. (Jn 17:15,16; Prov 22:9)

...But we never want to lose sight of our global responsibilities. So as a church we want our membership to be well informed about world mission, with more and more opportunities provided to be actively engaged in world mission.

## **3. In our PASSION for worship**

...Remembering that worship is about focusing on God, not ourselves (Deut 6:5; 2 Cor 3:18)

...That it includes music and singing, but it is much more than that. It is a whole life response to Him (Ps 51:17; 1 Cor 10:31; Col 3:17)

...That worship should be grounded in truth, and not driven by emotion. The proper place of emotion is as a response to truth based worship. Emotion should never be the primary aim, or the main indicator of effective worship (John 4:24)

...Worship should be an expression of both our unity and our diversity (1 Cor 12:7)

...Worship should allow us to express our God given creativity

...So while in worship we draw on a rich tradition of Christian worship, yet we should always seek to be culturally relevant (1 Cor 9:20-23)

## **To this end**

...We will be intentional about seeking to discover develop and deploy the gifts of God's people in worship

...We will work at developing our ministry of prayer.

Recognising that while a healthy church prayer meeting is important, yet there must be more to our prayer life than the prayer meeting (1 Thess 5:16-18)

...We will seek to build a growing love for God's Word. An expectancy that as we focus on God's Word that He will speak (2 Tim 3:16,17)

...As an expression of this we will seek to build a team of effective communicators of God's Word (Rom 10:14,15)

## **4. In our PASSION for people**

...We want everyone who comes into contact with our church to sense through the warmth of our welcome, something of the depth of God's love for them (Jn 3:16)

...We want everyone who is part of our church to feel loved and cared for (1 Cor 12:25,26)

...We want every member of our church to be given every opportunity they need to enable them to fulfil their potential in Christ (Eph 4:13-15)

### **To this end**

...We will look to assess and improve the welcome we give to visitors. Also we will work at providing opportunities to develop our sense of fellowship and community

...We will work at developing a whole church ministry of pastoral care. Where all suitably gifted people are involved in pastoral care, and where every valid pastoral need is met

...We will seek to ensure that every member is given the resources and support needed to help them to achieve their God given potential.

...In addition we will work to help every member discover, develop, and deploy their gifts of service, ministry etc (1 Cor 12:7)