

WILLIAMSBURG COMMUNITY CHAPEL'S

Core Values

The Williamsburg Community Chapel is called to make disciples of Jesus Christ. To ensure we are cultivating the character traits of those who fulfill this calling, we embrace the following values that correspond with each aspect of our discipleship strategy:

CONNECT, **GROW**, and **SERVE**.¹

Values that help us **CONNECT** to Jesus and community, and help others do the same:

- **COMPASSION** – We are a community that strives to bring hope, spiritually and practically, to the least, the last, and the lost in our world. (Matthew 25:40 – And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’)
- **OPEN** – We are a community that is open to new ministry methods, new ways of doing things, and, most importantly, we are a church that is always willing to open our doors to new people wherever they are on their spiritual journey. (Luke 5:38 – But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.)
- **NAME** – We are a community where the name of Jesus is preeminent. We will unite around the person of Jesus Christ and will not be divided by disputable matters. With His one Spirit, we strive to be a church that is interdenominational, intergenerational, and interracial, where we seek and find common ground that is rooted in the name of Jesus Christ, His Word, and His mission in the world. (Acts 4:12 – And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.)
- **NOT** – We are a community that believes we are NOT, but He IS, and we are in Him, and He is in us.² (John 15 – I am the vine, and my Father is the vinedresser . . .)
- **EVANGELISM** – We are a community that consistently seeks to proclaim the Gospel and to introduce people to Jesus. We gather together for *worship*, encouragement, and communion, and scatter throughout the week to announce the Good News wherever Jesus sends us. We affirm the role *teaching* plays in *evangelism*, getting people into God’s written Word so that God’s Living Word, Jesus, might get into them. At the same time, we see ourselves as Jesus’ ambassadors, His Body, the Church, pursuing opportunities to share our faith and introduce others to Jesus. (Matthew 28:19-20 – Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.)
- **CREATIVITY IN CONTEXT** – We are a community that values innovation and tradition. Jesus placed us in a specific context; we must be willing to both love and challenge that context. (Jeremiah 29:4-7 – Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.)
- **TOGETHER** – We are a community that makes disciples in *unity*, together. If disciples are not made together, they are not made at all. Our unity reflects the character of our Triune God to the world, helps the Chapel family work together, and builds the framework for us to embrace our common mission within the larger Body of Christ, the Church universal. We seek to build Jesus’ Kingdom, not the Chapel. Therefore, we seek partnership with other churches whenever possible. We emphasize the role *prayer* plays in uniting us as a body of Believers and with the larger true church of Jesus Christ. (Nehemiah 3:10 – Next to them Jedaiah the son of Haramaph repaired opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah repaired.)

¹ The Chapel’s Ten Fingerprints, created by Pastor Emeritus Dick Woodward, were instrumental in the creation of this document. Each fingerprint has been incorporated within these value statements and those words have been italicized for easy identification.

² *The Four Spiritual Secrets* by Pastor Emeritus Dick Woodward.

Values that help us **GROW** in Christ and help others do the same:

- **GOSPEL** – We are disciples who have been saved by grace through faith. Understanding the gospel is foundational for our spiritual growth and pushes us to *worship* Jesus corporately and personally. As people who are being transformed by Jesus' sacrificial love, we strive to live lives worthy of the gospel, submitting to Jesus' lordship and humbly living as His ambassadors in the world. (Philippians 1:27a – Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.)
- **REPRODUCING** – We are disciples who see reproduction as a primary part of the discipleship journey. Becoming a reproducing disciple is not optional; it is the obedient response to Jesus' Great Commission. Therefore, we strive to be disciples that make disciples of all nations. (2 Timothy 2:2 – And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.)
- **OWNERSHIP** – We are disciples who own our responsibility to grow in our faith. An ownership mentality means taking personal initiative to build God's kingdom and our connection to it through prayer, spending time in God's Word, enjoying *fellowship*, caring for the least, the last, and the lost, honoring commitments, and practicing stewardship. (John 10:12-15 – He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.)
- **WEAKNESS** – We are disciples who rely on Jesus' power to perfect us in and through our weakness. Humbly acknowledging our weakness is the first step toward greater access to Jesus' strength. (2 Corinthians 12:9 – But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.)

Values that help us **SERVE** Jesus and His Kingdom, and help others do the same:

- **SEEK ONSAMEPAGENESS** – We are servants who rigorously seek clarity so we can collaborate effectively. We seek onsamepageness spiritually, practically, and relationally. When we experience a lack of onsamepageness in any of these areas, we take all necessary steps to make sure we sync up with the team as soon as possible. (John 17:22-23 – The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.)
- **ESTABLISH TRUST** - We are servants who seek to establish trust through embracing our professional responsibilities and by making generosity our default mode of operation. We do what we say we will do. We are where we say we will be. We embrace the discipline it takes to present ourselves in a manner that demonstrates we can be relied on and instills confidence. We limit our freedom as long as needed to ensure trust is not compromised. We are generous with each other, the congregation, and all who come to us for help, modeling our ministry after Jesus who "though he was rich, became poor for our sake." (Romans 14:19 – So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.)
- **RESPECT EVERYONE** – We are servants who show deep respect for every person with whom we interact and for every role on the team. To respect everyone, we commit to maintain confidentiality, to uphold integrity, and to always do what is right. We affirm the *equality* of all people, since all are created in God's image; therefore, we strive to welcome all whom Jesus entrusts to our ministry, showing *empathy*, as if we were welcoming Jesus himself. (Genesis 1:27 – So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.)
- **VALUE FEEDBACK** – We are servants who listen well and take all input seriously. Everyone's voice should be heard and considered, recognizing that *plurality* is a gift to be opened and not a hoop to jump through. Valuing feedback means we have the relational courage to both give and receive difficult feedback well. (Proverbs 12:15 – The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.)
- **EQUIP OTHERS** – We are servants who are called to give ministry away so that the *diverse* gifts of the whole Chapel family are leveraged in the mission of making disciples of all nations. We let go of our personal ministry preferences in favor of methods that allow for greater participation of Jesus' body in the work of ministry. We are willing to sacrifice authority and control, believing that sacrifice will lead to greater joy and deeper fulfillment of Jesus' mission. (Proverbs 14:4 – Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox.)