

## ZION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

### **PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

Zion Congregational Church is a refuge for Christians who love God, each other and our neighbors.

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

1. In obedience to the “Great Commandments” (Matthew 22:36-40), we will intentionally pursue loving God and our neighbors as ourselves by biblically encouraging one another toward love and good works (Hebrews 10:24-25).
2. In obedience to the “Great Commission” (Matthew 28:18-20), we will seize every opportunity that God provides to invite people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and do all that we can to equip Christians to know, love, trust and obey Him in every area of life.

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

Consistent with our purpose and in pursuit of our mission, we will be a church that places the highest priority on relationships, with God, our neighbors and each other. We intend to be a fellowship in which anyone who has been accepted in Christ will know they are likewise fully accepted by us (Romans 15:7). We will be a refuge where Christians can expect us, in reliance upon God’s grace and mercy, to be always growing in and intentional about: loving, accepting, encouraging, being devoted to and honoring, living in harmony and associating with, instructing, affectionately greeting, putting every effort into agreeing and maintaining unity with, being completely humble, gentle, patient, forbearing, compassionate, submissive and forgiving toward, teaching and admonishing, showing hospitality toward, walking in the light with, building up, thankful for, being kind to, serving and helping to carry the burdens of, speaking the truth in love to, living at peace with, showing equal concern for, confessing our sins against and praying for one another. (See John 13:14, 34-35; Romans 12:10, 16; 13:8; 15:4, 14; 14:1; 16:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:25; Galatians 5:13; 6:2, 10; Ephesians 4:2, 32; 5:19, 21; Colossians 3:13, 16; 1 Thessalonians 4:9, 18; 5:11, 13, 15; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; Hebrews 3:13; 13:1; 10:24-25; James 5:16; 1 Peter 3:8; 4:8-9; 5:5; 1 John 1:7; 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11-12)

Toward those ends, also in reliance upon God’s grace and mercy, we will trust Him for the grace to avoid or whenever necessary to confess and renounce uncharitable judgments toward, putting stumbling blocks in the way of, gossiping, slandering or in any way maligning or grumbling about, lying to, provoking or envying one another. (See Romans 14:13; Galatians 5:26; Philippians 2:3-5; Colossians 3:9; James 4:11; 5:9)

It is our intention as a local family of Christians to live by and walk in the Spirit that we might be characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (See Galatians 5:22-26)

# ZION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## COMMITMENT TO BIBLICAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

As people reconciled to God by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we believe that we are called to respond to conflict in a way that is remarkably different from the way the world deals with conflict.<sup>1</sup> We also believe that conflict provides opportunities to glorify God, serve other people, and grow to be like Christ.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, in response to God's love and in reliance on his grace, we commit ourselves to respond to conflict according to the following principles:

**Glorify God** — Instead of focusing on our own desires or dwelling on what others may do, we will rejoice in the Lord and bring him praise by depending on his forgiveness, wisdom, power, and love, as we seek to faithfully obey his commands and maintain a loving, merciful, and forgiving attitude.<sup>3</sup>

**Get the Log out of Your Eye** — Instead of blaming others for a conflict or resisting correction, we will trust in God's mercy and take responsibility for our own contribution to conflicts—confessing our sins to those we have wronged, asking God to help us change any attitudes and habits that lead to conflict, and seeking to repair any harm we have caused.<sup>4</sup>

**Gently Restore** — Instead of pretending that conflict doesn't exist or talking about others behind their backs, we will overlook minor offenses or we will talk personally and graciously with those whose offenses seem too serious to overlook, seeking to restore them rather than condemn them. When a conflict with a Christian brother or sister cannot be resolved in private, we will ask others in the body of Christ to help us settle the matter in a biblical manner.<sup>5</sup>

**Go and be reconciled** — Instead of accepting premature compromise or allowing relationships to wither, we will actively pursue genuine peace and reconciliation—forgiving others as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us, and seeking just and mutually beneficial solutions to our differences.<sup>6</sup>

By God's grace, we will apply these principles as a matter of stewardship, realizing that conflict is an assignment, not an accident. We will remember that success in God's eyes is not a matter of specific results, but of faithful, dependent obedience. And we will pray that our service as peacemakers will bring praise to our Lord and lead others to know His infinite love.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 5:9; Luke 6:27-36; Gal. 5:19-26.

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 8:28-29; 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1; James 1:2-4.

<sup>3</sup> Ps. 37:1-6; Mark 11:25; John 14:15; Rom. 12:17-21; 1 Cor. 10:31; Phil. 4:2-9; Col. 3:1-4; James 3:17-18; 4:1-3; 1 Peter 2:12.

<sup>4</sup> Prov. 28:13; Matt. 7:3-5; Luke 19:8; Col. 3:5-14; 1 John 1:8-9.

<sup>5</sup> Prov. 19:11; Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Gal. 6:1-2; Eph. 4:29; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; James 5:9.

<sup>6</sup> Matt. 5:23-24; 6:12; 7:12; Eph. 4:1-3, 32; Phil. 2:3-4.

<sup>7</sup> Matt. 25:14-21; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:18; 1 Peter 2:19; 4:19.