

## Piedmont *Community* Church

Vision

5/1/09

### Introduction:

In order to envision the future for any organization, it is necessary to re-examine and to re-assess its mission: the core, defining, motivating purpose that sets the plan in motion and gives it meaning. For a Christian church, that purpose is perhaps stated most clearly in what is called “The Great Commission” – the last words the risen Christ says to his disciples at the end of Matthew’s Gospel (Matt. 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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

There are many ways to interpret the meaning of these words – literally or figuratively, exclusively or inclusively, charitably or arrogantly. But the root message is clear: Jesus sends his disciples – that is, his Church – into the world to actively share the Good News of God’s grace and mercy, peace and love. The Church does this by word and by deed, in humble confidence and in compassionate service. **Through baptism, it welcomes people who respond to God’s grace into a community of faith, the Body of Christ. Through teaching it nurtures growth in the Spirit and develops the gift of discipleship.** At the same time, and following Jesus’ own example, it reaches out in love to serve *all* people, regardless of nationality, gender, social status or religious affiliation. All this it does, remembering that Jesus promises to be “with” the Church when the Church is aligned with his mission.

The words of the Great Commission underlie the Mission Statement of Piedmont Community Church:

**“Welcoming and nurturing disciples to serve.”**

In other words, our Mission is *mission*. We exist in order to serve. We do not possess the Good News for ourselves alone. We are possessed *by* it, in order to live it out in worship, in community and wherever we go . We are Christ’s disciples, seeking to be Christ for others and to meet Christ in others too.

The Strategic Plan that follows is an attempt to cast a vision, to set goals and to move us ahead as a faith community in this time and in this place. We seek to be both aware of our current context and faithful to our enduring task, in the name of Jesus and for the sake of all of God’s creation.