**OUR PURPOSE: WHY WE EXIST**

**a2’s Mission: ...to glorify God and lead people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ**

(The Great Commandment) Matthew 22:36-39 (NLT), “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” 36 Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ 37 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

(The Great Commission) Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT), Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV), They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

**OUR CORE VALUES: THE STUFF WE BELIEVE MATTERS**

**God First:** We call it worship. It’s about expressing our love and devotion to God. It’s responding to all that God is with all that we are. We want to honor God in everything we do by worshipping passionately, praying intensely, living with integrity, and, always doing our best. (Matt 22:36-37; Col 3:17; 23; Mal 1:6-14)

**People Matter:** People matter to God and they ought to matter to us. We reach out to people who haven’t experienced a relationship with God and invite them into the adventure of a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. (Lk 5:30-32; 15; Matt 18:14; 28:19-20)

**Love and Acceptance:** We love and accept people unconditionally, right where they are, with no strings attached, and lead them to the healing and wholeness available in Jesus Christ. (Rom 15:7; Jn 13:34-35; Matt 2:15)

**Celebrate Diversity:** The first century church was a diverse community of faith. We believe that ethnic and generational diversity reveals the beauty and creativity of God. It is an earthly picture of what heaven will be like. We will pursue diversity and racial reconciliation. (Gal 3:26-29; Rev 5:9)

**Life Change:** We believe in God’s ability to radically transform and change lives from the inside out through the person of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Gospel of Jesus. We diligently pursue spiritual growth, personal transformation and full devotion to Christ. (Eph 4:22-32; Heb 12:1; Phil 1:6; Rom 12:1-2; Lk 9:23; 2 Pet 3:18)

**Everyone Belongs:** We were made to do life together. We believe that lasting life change, personal transformation and spiritual growth best occur in the context of authentic, life-giving relationships. (Acts 2:42, 46-47; 1 Jn 4:7-13)

**Biblical Truth and Cultural Relevance:** We will be true to God’s Word and relevant to our culture. We will never be out of touch or out of sync with God. We also strive to be creative, innovative, relevant, practical, excellent and uncompromising in presenting the truth of God’s unchanging Word to our changing culture. (1 Cor 9:19-23; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Tim 4:1-5)

**Creativity and Artistry:** We believe that God is the master artist. He paints on a canvas as big as the Universe. We desire to move people towards a God-centered vision of the arts that expresses itself through worship, the discipleship of artists, and creating a life-giving community where artists are inspired to use their gifts to glorify God and inspire people. (Ps19:1 Ex 31:2; 35:30-35)

**Make A Difference:** We believe that God has given every individual some amazing gifts. We champion the gifts, talents, strengths, passions and abilities of every individual and challenge them to use these gifts to honor God by serving others and making a difference in our community and world. (Mt 10:45; 1 Cor 12, 14; Rom 12; Eph 4; 1 Pet 4:10)

**Pray Hard:** Prayer is constant communion with God that helps us know God and understand His heart, align ourselves with His purpose and plans, and access His incredible power! We will pray like everything depends on God and work like everything depends on us. (Eph 6:19-20; Col 4:2-6)

**a2 Church exists:**

- to glorify God! We call it **worship** It is expressing our love to God. (Mt 22:36-37; Acts 2:47)
- to lead people into a life-changing **relationship** with Jesus. (Mt 28:19-20; Acts 2:47)
- to partner with God in His desire to radically and progressively **transform lives** from the inside out through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Mt 28:19-20; Mt 16:18; Acts 2:42-47)
- to help **connect** people with one another in life-giving **relationships** where they can care for one another and challenge one another to live lights out for Jesus. (Acts 2:42-47)
- to help people discover their unique **gifts, strengths, passions and abilities** and deploy these in bringing great glory to God and serving other people. (Acts 2:42-47)
a2’s STATEMENT OF FAITH

The sole basis of our belief is the Bible, which is uniquely God-inspired, without error, and the final authority on all matters on which it bears. As the Bible teaches, there is one God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each possessing all the attributes of Deity.

God created humans to have fellowship with Him, but they defied God by sinfully going their own way. As a result, we need God's saving grace to end our alienation from Him. Salvation comes only through God's saving grace - not human effort - and must be received personally by repentance and faith.

Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Trinity, lived a sinless life on earth and voluntarily paid for our sin by dying on the cross as our substitute. This accomplishes salvation for all who receive grace by trusting in Him alone. He rose from the dead and is the only mediator between us and God. He will return to earth to consummate history.

The Holy Spirit draws sinners to Christ, equips believers for personal growth and service and empowers believers to share the message of God's love. The church's role is to glorify God and serve those in need.

At the end, everyone will experience bodily resurrection and the judgment. Those forgiven through Jesus Christ will enjoy eternal fellowship with God. Those who have not received the free gift of forgiveness offered through Jesus Christ will be eternally separated from God in a place called hell.

Three Questions Owners Ask:

• What do people see?

• What do people hear?

• What do people experience?

Why Does a2 Church Have “Owners”?

a2 Church is a "safe place for people to hear a dangerous message" about Jesus Christ. As a church, we are a community made up of guests, regular attenders and "owners".

When a regular attender decides they'd like to become a committed participant in the vibrant life of the church, when they decide they want to personally "own" the mission, vision and values of a2, they become "owners."

The difference between attenders and owners can be summed up in one word: commitment

3 THOUGHTS:

• An attender is often a consumer.

• A member has privileges.

• An owner has responsibilities. They are committed to what God is doing in and through His church and take personal responsibility for the life and health of a2 Church.

a2 CHURCH OWNERSHIP COVENANT*

At a2 Church, we never ask our owners to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect owners to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in our Ownership Covenant.

Having received Jesus Christ as the forgiver of my sin and the leader of my life, and being in agreement with the mission, values and ideas presented in DISCOVER a2 Church, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite as an owner with the a2 Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other owners to do the following:

1. I will protect the unity of my church:
   • By acting in love toward other members.
   • By refusing to gossip.
   • By following the leaders.
   (Cf Rom 14:19; 15:5; 1 Pet 1:22; Eph 4:29; Heb 13:17)

2. I will share the responsibility of my church:
   • By praying for its growth, health and vitality.
   • By praying for and inviting unchurched people to attend.
   • By warmly welcoming all who attend.
   (Cf 1 Thes 1:1-2; Lk 14:23; Rom 15:7)

3. I will serve the ministry of my church:
   • By discovering my gifts, strengths, talents and abilities.
   • By being equipped to serve by my pastors.
   • By developing a servant’s heart.
   (Cf 1 Pet 4:10; Eph 4:11-12; Phil 2:4-5)
4. **I will support the testimony of my church:**
   - By attending faithfully.
   - By living a godly life.
   - By giving regularly.

(Cf Acts 2:42; Heb 10:25; Phil 1:27; 1 Cor 16:2; Lev 27:30; Mal 3:10)

* The Ownership Covenant is adapted from Rick Warren in *The Purpose Driven Church*