



WHO WE ARE

Grand View United Methodist Church is a high energy, high flexibility, high satisfaction congregation that has grown to be a transformative body of Christ over the last 10 yrs.

Grand View's active participants are younger than a majority of other local churches, attracting and engaging many young families with children. The spirit of Grand View is genuine, warm, welcoming, and accepting of all people, at all events and activities. We have taken this seriously in the midst of a chaotic and divided culture. People are longing to **be known** and to **know others**, to move to relationships of trust and care. We've been built to be a vital and thriving church because we intentionally designed systems to help **people grow in faith** and the **practices of the Christian lifestyle**.

OUR CORE VALUES AND ACTIONS MAKE US WHO WE ARE:

The Nicene and Apostle's Creeds are important to us and inform our faith. They stand as solid general statements about what we believe.

We read the Words of God as contained in the Bible and strive to hear the Word of God, learn from it and most importantly do it. Scripture informs and directs us in what we do.

We believe **we are the living Body of Christ**, empowered by the Holy Spirit of God to continue the work of Jesus Christ in the world.

We believe in the **power of small groups for all ages**. We encourage all people to be active in a small group so as to experience meaningful and loving Christian community, nurture, and growth in Discipleship.

We believe all means all. All people are invited and encouraged to participate in the ministries of Grand View, including hospitality, worship, Communion, and connection in this congregation. All are encouraged to be part of several circles of friends, circles of service, and a cell group. These connections grow through the expectation of all to greet and welcome others.

We assume the best. Finding the good and the positive are first responses to people, projects, changes, and ideas. When we disagree, we talk to one another not about one another. We practice Matthew 18:15-17.

We are not afraid to try, to risk, to question. A culture and attitude of grace and love make this possible. We open ourselves to "burning bush" calls from God and we welcome and encourage people to throw gasoline onto these burning bush communications, not water. Like making pancakes, we are not afraid to burn the first one and then make adjustments so as to get it right.

Worship is essential and we strive to make it meaningful, inspiring, accessible, and excellent. It is the "main event" of the week, when this Community gathers in one place for communion with God and with one another.

Education and learning for all ages is essential. We must continually plan, organize, promote, and carry out meaningful Christian learning opportunities. All people of all ages are encouraged to participate in at least one opportunity so as to learn and practice the ways of Jesus and to experience Christian Community.

We have fun! We cannot take ourselves too seriously and believe that good things happen when the Church Family plays together. This is where we build relationships of trust and offer points of entry for others.

We are not clergy or staff dependent. We utilize clergy and staff to identify, equip, and encourage people to serve God alongside them and others. All are called to serve God and do ministry; paid servants of God have a role and unpaid servants have a role.

Our Administrative Board, administrative systems, and work teams exist to help further ministry; they are not ends in themselves. They help organize, coordinate, and pay for ministry and are necessary for us to function, go, and do.

People, not programs or traditions, matter most. Programs and traditions exist for people, not the other way around.

We don't promote islands, silos, or lone rangers. Connection, communication, and coordination of all people, visions, and activities are essential. Alignment of all resources, teams, groups, and efforts with the mission, vision, and priorities must happen.

The Church building and grounds are a means or tool to be used to further the work of Jesus in the world. This is the only requirement we use to determine what happens within these walls and who utilizes the church building. Grand View is neither a rental space nor a club house. All church property is used only for the mission and ministry of Jesus.

Membership means something. All are invited to attend and participate. Membership is a formal commitment and pledge to give to God and to Grand View one's:

- **Prayers** for others, the Church, and the world.
- **Presence** at activities, events, and worship unless sick or out of town.
- **Money:** all should be working to give a tenth of income to God's representative on earth, the Church.
- **Service:** all have gifts, abilities, and experiences that are needed to serve God.
- **Witness:** how we talk about our church and God, as well as our invitations to others to be a part of the Church and the Christian lifestyle.

Membership is not simply getting a name on a list so that the church will serve the need for facility use or religious rite of passage (baptism, marriage, confirmation, funeral).

We are a church of threes. We believe in the triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For all to know this triune God, everyone is invited to participate in Celebrations (worship), Small Groups, and Service. Through this, Grand View lives into the mission of the church by Loving God, Loving Others, and Serving the World.

All People are expected, encouraged, and equipped to serve. We strive to serve as much and give as much outside of our walls, in fulfilling the Great Commission and Great Commandment, as we do within our walls. (Matt. 22, 25 & 28)

Invitation and Encouragement: All attached to Grand View are expected, encouraged, and equipped to invite people to be a part of worship and full participation in this Christian Community, Grand View. We constantly and continuously invite and encourage because we believe we have something good and worthwhile here and we actively strive to share that with everyone! We also encourage one another constantly; sharing love, concern, and resources.