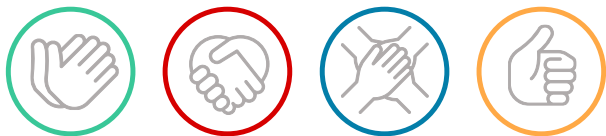


BEACON

C H U R C H



IN LOVE & OBEDIENCE TO JESUS



VALUES

We have five foundational, imperative values that all Advance partner churches eagerly embrace. However, the local application of these values differs from church to church, depending on the conviction of the local elders and their context. While we value many things (see the page that follows), we have chosen these five below as our “Big 5.” This is not only because we believe that these five values are very important, but because the blend of these five things might make us somewhat unique.

GOSPEL-CENTERED

“Gospel-centered” refers to the Biblical philosophy of ministry that keeps the gospel message at the center of all ministry, whether to believers or unbelievers. Belief in the gospel is how we enter God’s kingdom; and it is also how we make all progress in the kingdom. The good news of the gospel - that we can be saved from the wrath of God - contains both the power and motivation for salvation, and everything within salvation. We desire local churches to help unbelievers and believers increasingly believe and apply the gospel to every area of their lives.

MISSION-FOCUSED

We are convinced that God intends churches to be outward-focused mission agencies (both locally and globally); and that he intends all believers to be fishers of men. As such, we desire local churches to specifically equip and inspire their members to win people to Christ. We also desire the church community to be on mission more broadly by way of society-serving initiatives and church planting.

SPIRIT-EMPOWERED

We believe that local churches should be in eager and intelligent pursuit of the presence, power, fruit and gifts of God’s Spirit, as mentioned in the Bible. We believe that all believers should heed the Biblical call to be filled with the Spirit, and remain filled, throughout their lives.

DISCIPLE-MAKING

Because Jesus himself made disciples and commissioned all believers to make disciples, our goal is for every believer to become a disciple-making disciple. We desire local churches to actively make disciple making disciples who know, love and obey Jesus. Courses and tools might help, but discipleship happens via intentional relationships, as well as via small groups that prioritize this.

ELDER-LED

We believe that churches should be led by a called and capable team of elders with a team leader who is “first among equals.” This team of elders should lovingly guard, guide and govern the church. Elders are the highest human authority over a local church. We encourage elders toward meaningful connection with trans-local ministers to help them fulfil their calling.



IN LOVE & OBEDIENCE TO JESUS

BEACON
C H U R C H

ELDER-LED (continued)

The Biblical expectation is that elders are male. We believe in Biblically qualified, male, eldership. In partner churches, all men and women are encouraged to flourish in their gifts – including leadership gifts – but only a few men will be qualified by character and gift to serve in the office of elder.

While we partner around similar doctrine and values (such as our value of complementarity), eldership teams are encouraged to work out the detail of how these values are expressed in our church. For example, across all partner churches, elders are responsible for directional, authoritative preaching, but occasionally, on pertinent themes, some churches will have women speak to the gathered church.

Similarly, all our partner churches have a value of elders and their wives being meaningfully engaged in ministry together, both in their local church, and in our wider partnerships. Of course, there is no office of “wife of elder,” but if an elder’s wife doesn’t carry the church in her heart, it will be difficult for him to function effectively as an elder and will likely place strain on their marriage. Exactly how this looks and is worked out will vary from church to church and from couple to couple – Beacon does not seek to legislate in these matters.

Churches that are exploring partnership with ADVANCE Movement or people who want to join often ask about other things that we value dearly. They also ask about the “feel” that we think a New Testament-type church would have in today’s world. To this end, here are another fifteen Biblical values that we warmly encourage and try to help churches to pursue.

1. Enjoying God’s grace and sovereignty
2. Encouraging faith-filled exploits
3. Prioritizing and preaching the Bible
4. Worshiping wholeheartedly
5. Prioritizing prayer
6. Cultivating a family culture
7. Celebrating diversity
8. Nurturing a healthy home-life
9. Excelling in financial generosity
10. Observing believers’ baptism and communion
11. Modeling servant-leadership
12. Pursuing societal renewal
13. Loving Mercy and doing justice
14. Honoring other churches
15. Meaningful wider partnership



IN LOVE & OBEDIENCE TO JESUS

BEACON
C H U R C H