

# AD FONTES

## MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY

### **Mission** (What we are *about* doing)

To glorify God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit as we produce disciples who comprehend and affectionately obey Jesus Christ's commands. To construct a non-traditional ecclesiastical ministry centralizing the craft of discipleship of historically minded Christians.

### **Philosophy** (Targeted *texture, look and feel* of doing)

To treat others as we want to be treated: treating all within our ministry with respect, fairness, and integrity; caring for and listening to them; professionally serving them; always being a model of working hard and striving towards understanding truth in this life and living out the beauty of human relationships.

### **Vision** (What we are doing *generally*)

To reform and increase an individual's understanding of the Scriptures. To provide a more robust experience of human spirituality within the Christian framework. To improve the Christian religion within the larger public arena of society through communal action and integrated relationships. The goal is to provide opportunities which are beneficial, rewarding and growth-oriented while also fundamentally altering the financing and organization of just such a structure in order to produce a vehicle of ministry that is founded more on service to human relationships rather than dominion as expressed in behaviorism and modern ministry programs.

## *Ad Fontes Central Values*

### **Knowledge of Truth**

Many Christians simply want to know what the Bible means. Long-term educational endeavors will result in legitimate intellectual growth and appreciation of the Law, Prophets, Psalms, Gospels, & Apostles' Teaching.

### **Beauty in Relationships**

People have dignity as the *Image of God* but are also morally guilty due to spiritual separation from God — they are capable of both nobility and cruelty. Discipleship is a relational endeavor where spirituality is lived out in the context of relationships that are true, but not always perfect. What we have seen in our culture is that a disregard for relationships produces ministry that is merely technique and thus dehumanizing.

### **Real Transformation is Possible**

People can change and the Person of the Holy Spirit does convert their affections. Behaviors can be counterfeited, but true love for God cannot. Developing people and witnessing viable change that is evident amongst colleagues, family members, etc. is important.

### **Demonstrate Ministry Expertise**

Demonstrate thorough understanding of the human condition, as well as being conversant in basic issues of history, art, philosophy, science, politics, and theology. Being able to translate theological truth into the warp and woof of life is imperative. Those who believe should always seek to understand what Christianity is and how it relates to contemporary ideas of life. That way, we will become better able to help others understand faith and that truth from God exists.

### **Display Commitment to Ministry Success**

The kingdom of God is carried out through personal relationships, not organizational survival or empire building. Success is defined as making disciples, not just proselytizing. Right belief and virtuous practice are linked in this endeavor. Thought, word and deed display commitment to the overall success of the ministry and is greater than individual success of direct responsibilities.

## ***THE GREAT VIRTUE***

Collaboratively demonstrate the above essential values consistent with the distinctively Christian virtue of love. This is the heart of an evangelical return to the virtues of Apostolic ministry since it is better to be for something than against something.