

# Hanover Valley Vision and Values

## **Purpose:**

To know Christ and make His grace and truth known with such power and glory that lives are transformed by the gospel, multiplying worship and praise to God throughout Hanover and the world. (Phil. 3: 10ff, Eph. 6:19, 20)

*“ What matters supremely therefore is not in the last analysis the fact that I know God, but the larger fact which underlies it – the fact that he knows me. I am graven on the palms of his hands. I am never out of his mind. All my knowledge of him depends on his sustained initiative in knowing me. I know him because he first knew me, and continues to know me. He knows me as a friend, one who loves me; and there is no moment when his eye is off me, or his attention distracted from me, and no moment therefore when his care falters.*

*This is momentous knowledge. There is unspeakable comfort... in knowing that God is constantly taking knowledge of me in love and watching over me for my good. There is tremendous relief in knowing that his love for me is utterly realistic, based at every point on the prior knowledge of the worst about me,, so that no discovery now can disillusion him about me, in the way I am so often disillusioned about myself, and quench his determination to bless me.*

**J. I. Packer**  
*Knowing God*

Hanover Valley desires to be a church that both evangelizes and nurtures the people of the larger Hanover community with the gospel, so that they serve God in that community.

## **Core Values:**

- **Gospel Orientation:** The gospel of Christ tells us that, in Christ, we are both sinful and righteous at the same time. We are more sinful than we know, yet loved and accepted by God because of the righteous Christ gives to us by faith. One side humbles us and makes us aware of our limitations. The other side gives us confidence and freedom. The gospel is a whole new system of approaching and knowing God. The non-religious don't repent at all, the religious only repent of sins, but the Christian also repents of his righteousness. Being neither liberal nor legalistic. The gospel for justification and sanctification is the key to transformed lives and communities. All our problems stem from a failure to apply the gospel. Renewal and revival occur when there is a continual rediscovery of the gospel. Attitudes will be created that it's not about me it's about Christ and his kingdom. All the church's values are saturated with the gospel.
- **Focus on the Lost:** We want to expand the kingdom of God, a church not merely for ourselves but for those around us who don't know Christ. We welcome and expect the “not yet believers” in every part of the church's ministry. We want to avoid a fortress mentality that views the world as our enemy. Everything we do has an outward face. Building bridges to unreached and unbelieving people in our lives is the key. Creating an atmosphere where prayer for the lost is common. Modeling. Connecting events. Cultivating a new mindset in believers to be “bringers”
- **Related to the gospel:** The gospel's humility – confidence character keeps us from condemning the lost and fills us with a hope for anyone.

- **Joyous, Biblical Worship:** We desire to engage hearts and minds in worshiping God, both privately and corporately. We expect to experience joy amidst a spirit of celebration. Evangelistic worship is our goal that produces the idea in a Christian who comes to Hanover Valley that he wishes he could bring a non-Christian friend. We must reflect God's desire to reveal himself by making the service understandable to those who might come. Avoid jargon that confuses and creates barriers.

**Related to the gospel:** The gospel's humility – confidence character removes our arrogance about how God desires to be worshiped and reminds us that in Christ he accepts our sacrifices of praise.
- **Incarnational Ministry:** We must be a church that takes the initiative to serve and reach the community, matching the gifts and resources of the church to the needs of the community. We want to bring the message of the gospel into the lives of those around us in such a way that they are drawn to trust the church and lower their sense of the church's hypocrisy. This means understanding and engaging our culture. Remembering what it's like not to believe. We don't seek merely behavioral change but complete transformation through the gospel in people's relationship to God, themselves and the world. Avoid over emphasis on numbers and money. Avoid use of guilt as a motivator.

**Related to the gospel:** The gospel's humility – confidence character gives us servant hearts for the community and respect for it, as well, since God is at work there. Timidity is removed and compassion is stimulated. The gospel shows us another kingdom that is growing with differing values from the world. A boldness to go and a gentleness to be patient.
- **A Gospel Community:** We are committed to developing small groups where growth in grace can take place. We favor small groups and mentoring over classes and programs. Our goals of evangelism and discipleship are primarily carried out in these Christian communities. Pastoral care, training, prayer, fellowship, service all happen more effectively here. A church that is small groups not one that has small groups. Genuinely love and befriend people.

**Related to the gospel:** The gospel's humility – confidence character makes deep friendships possible between radically different people. The gospel creates a unity out of a diverse community where humility reigns and forgiveness is practiced.
- **Every Member Ministry:** Training people to be trainers of servant leaders is our goal. The pastor can not and should not do it all. We want to enable people to discover what they love to do in the kingdom and then help them do it. Planning not for 'control' but for empowering and entrepreneuring. Letting teams do ministry. Lay leadership, rather than clergy bear the main burden of evangelism and nurture.

**Related to the gospel:** The gospel's humility – confidence character enables us to trust God in others and tears down our attitudes of indispensability and self-absorption.

- **Prayer:** Healing our broken world requires prayer. It changes our hearts so that we can be used to change our world. Prayer must be first in philosophy and practice. De-emphasize “doing” over against “trusting”.  
**Related to the gospel:** The gospel’s humility – confidence character convinces us of our constant need of Christ to do all things, while reminding us of the work of the kingdom such that we can ask for “big” things selflessly. The gospel produces a balance of patience and action.
- **Excellence:** We strive to do a few thing well rather than many things with mediocrity. This requires that we be purpose driven rather than slaves to preference or tyrannized by the urgent. Budget priorities. Focus on our vision. Excellence not only honors God but reflects his own character.  
**Related to the gospel:** The gospel’s humility – confidence character takes my eyes off me and my needs. It teaches me to live with a kingdom mindset with Christ at the center.