

Greater Milwaukee Synod
Vision, Mission, Values, Practices statement:
DRAFT #2 (March 2019)

The Greater Milwaukee Synod (bishop, staff, pastors, deacons, leaders, congregations, and ministries) embrace the following statements that express our common commitment to living into God's vision for our world.

God's Vision: A world that embodies the fullness of life: justice, peace, equity, hope, and love for everyone, including all races, genders, identities, and social status.

Our Mission: We follow Jesus in communities that seek love and justice for all.

Core Values:

- Curiosity. We believe that God is always up to something new, working to bring people together from diverse contexts to embrace life out of death, hope out of despair, and community over isolation. Our task is to wonder and explore as the Holy Spirit moves among us. (Acts 2:1-24)
- Courage. We believe that God is inviting us to explore new ways of being church, re-examining familiar structures, beliefs, and practices, that we might experience the rich and full life that God intends for all creation. (Isaiah 42:5-9)
- Compassion. We believe that Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves needs to guide everything we do. (Luke 10:25-37)
- Collaboration. We believe that, just as God walks with us in our journey of faith, God invites us to walk with and work with each other and with our neighbors in relationships of authentic mutuality and equity. (Ephesians 4:1-16)

Common Practices:

- Worship. We regularly respond to the Holy Spirit's invitation to meet God through Word and Sacrament, experiencing God's saving love in Christ and being sent into the world to share that love.
- Prayer. We ground all that we do in prayer, calling on God's Spirit to bless, strengthen, and shape us for witness and service.
- Listening. We seek to listen to and learn from God's Word, each other, our neighbors near and far, and the world around us, asking deep questions and being open to new voices and new perspectives.
- Learning. We strive to be learning communities, committed to training that equips us to live out our faith in the world and combat racism, poverty, injustice, and discrimination around issues of gender identity and sexual orientation.
- Generosity. We open our lives to the free sharing of ideas and resources with all, recognizing that everything belongs to God.
- Innovation. We know that the Church and our world is changing, and we need to take some risks and explore new ways of being faithful, building relationships, and organizing our life together.
- Leadership development. We support and encourage new people into leadership roles, focusing on those who have often been overlooked and undervalued.
- Showing up. We live out our faith by engaging in action and advocacy around issues of poverty, violence, racial equity, gender and gender identity, and injustice of all kinds.