**Mission & Core Convictions**

*of*

**University Baptist Church**

Ames, IA

Mission: "Equipping disciples to make disciples for the glory of God and the joy of all peoples.”

Matthew 28:18-20; John 15:11; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 4:11-13

Core Convictions:

1. Biblical Sufficiency (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4)

We believe God grants us everything we need for life and Godliness through the knowledge of him in the Bible.

We believe the Bible is capable of answering our greatest questions, meeting our deepest needs, and is trustworthy to guide us at every path.

We believe the Bible should be our final authority in all matters.

1. Simple Ministry (Ephesians 4:11-13)

We believe the congregation should be spiritually well fed and trained by its leaders to go about the work of gospel ministry.

We believe in ministering to people rather than administrating programs.

We believe in helping church members, with their individual gifts and burdens, connect with corresponding opportunities for service.

1. Authentic Relationships (John 13:35; Romans 12:9-10, 13)

We believe phoniness and self-aggrandizement hurt the church’s testimony to a lost world.

We believe genuine relationships, while formed over time, are essential for a church to grow and testify to the gospel.

We believe hospitality, in and outside of the home, is vital for healthy church life and successful evangelism.

1. Substantive Worship (Colossians 3:16)

We believe corporate worship should be rich in gospel meaning and follow the examples and principles described in the Bible.

We believe Christ-centered, expositional, and life-applicational preaching should be the norm.

We believe worship in song should allow the edifying voice of the congregation to be heard.

1. Christ-Centered Instruction (1 Corinthians 1:23-24; Ephesians 3:8-10)

We believe that Jesus Christ is the focus of the Bible and that all Scripture points to him.

We believe that good Biblical instruction will always lead to examining oneself in light of the person and work of Jesus.

We believe the message of Christ speaks to every area of life and should be connected to our vocations, families, communities, and worldview.

1. Fervent Prayer (Luke 18:1-8; Ephesians 6:18-20)

We believe we are powerless without God’s intervention.

We believe God delights to answer the prayers of his people.

We believe prayer must be the committed practice of each church member as well as the church corporately.

1. International Heart (Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 2:14-16)

We believe God has brought the nations to our door through Iowa State University.

We believe the gospel of Jesus breaks down every dividing wall between races, ethnicities, and nations.

We believe in reaching, equipping, and sending international students to reach their homelands with the gospel.