

Eagle Ridge United Church

Core Values Policy

Governed by: Congregation

Adoption Date: June 24, 2007

Modification Date:

POLICY:

The following are the Core Values of Eagle Ridge United Church:

1. We value every person as a beloved child of God (inclusivity).

Modelling ourselves on the vision of Jesus, we believe that all are welcome into the kingdom of God. We believe we are called to offer our ministry to all persons.

Therefore we honour and welcome all persons, regardless of race, religious background, culture, gender, education, sexual orientation, differing abilities, or age. We commit to breaking open all circles of exclusion within our community.

2. We value worship that provides an experience of God (experiencing God in worship).

Since we believe that worship is a transformative event, we aim to provide music, prayer, preaching and community which facilitate an experience of God. We commit to seeking out and offering worship experiences which inspire its participants to develop a deeper relationship with God.

3. We value living as people who follow and model their lives on Jesus Christ (discipleship).

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we have answered the call to follow Jesus on the way and to live as though the kingdom of God is fully present in our lives. To do this we must discover who Jesus is. Therefore, we commit to providing opportunities for learning, worship, Christian community, and other spiritual disciplines.

4. We value a community marked by warm, caring, and loving relationships (caring & authentic relationships).

We believe that Christian community is strengthened and deepened whenever its members exhibit practical care and concern for one another. Likewise, the community is built up whenever we spend time together. We commit to providing ongoing opportunities for our community to be together and to grow together.

5. We value creating safe places to explore matters of faith (safety).

We recognize and honour that being a disciple of Christ means, at times, taking risks and being personally vulnerable as we explore with others where God is leading us. Our aim is to make that process as safe and productive as possible by promoting an atmosphere of spiritual inquiry. We strive to ensure the physical, emotional and sexual safety of everyone.

RATIONALE:

Simply put, values are those things we value or hold dear in life. Our values are what we believe to be really important. Core values are our shared values which form the basic character of our community. Having well-articulated core values allows us to make decisions more easily, as well as forming one of the boundaries of congregational life. They, along with our Purpose and Vision statements, guide us in our decision making. In fact, these three crucial statements become some of the central guiding authorities of the church as every decision is measured against these statements. Core values also assists us in making difficult choices between good options.

Formed by our history, theology, identity, and experience, our core values are so integral to our life, that if we were to not hold them, we would be a completely different congregation. These are our bedrock values on which we cannot compromise.