



**NORTH ATLANTA**  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**North Atlanta Church of Christ**

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

North Atlanta exists to love first, equipping, inspiring and empowering people on their journey toward Christ.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Here at North Atlanta Church of Christ we believe that God, through the work of the Holy Spirit, has purposed us for the noble task of witnessing to and affecting our community and the world through our Christ-centeredness, diversity, and inclusion. In John 17, Jesus prayed that we would achieve complete oneness in our differences. As we grow in this oneness, we become credible witnesses to the work of God in Christ to reconcile the world to himself. For us, this means we are striving to create an environment in which EVERYONE is genuinely loved, accepted, engaged and empowered in serving, learning, and growing in our journey to be more like Christ.

In this environment, people may bring to the table their unique experiences, preferences, and strengths without sacrificing or minimizing core aspects of their identity, background, or perspective to belong. We seek to do this in the spirit of “grace and truth” with the cultural competency that Jesus himself modeled for us. We believe by the power and activity of the Holy Spirit we will foster a transformative environment of justice, equity, and inclusion.

## CORE BELIEFS

**THE NATURE OF GOD: GOD IS LOVE** The core doctrine of Scripture is Love First. God is love. We love because He first loved us. Jesus identifies the two greatest commands: Love God and love people. No matter what else we believe, or feel is important, the most important pursuit for followers of Jesus is to love as we are loved by God. We welcome anyone to join us on our spiritual journey to know the love of God, to live in union with Him, and to bless the world as He intends.

**THE PERSON OF GOD** There is one God, creator and sustainer of all things. God reveals Godself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit—eternally One in every way. God became flesh in the Son, born of the virgin and conceived by the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was fully God and fully human. He revealed God to us, modeled life for us, took on our sin at the cross, rose from the dead in triumph, and ascended to heaven after promising the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God, and now dwells in all who put their faith in Christ for salvation and eternal life.

**THE WORD OF GOD** The Bible is God's Word and our final authority for all matters of belief and life. The Bible is God's inspired gift to us—encouraging, inspiring, instructing and guiding our steps. The Scriptures are described as a lamp for our feet and a light to our path. The Scriptures are a source of strength, hope, guidance, and wisdom. The story of Scripture is the story of God and God's vision for his creation. Throughout the Bible we learn about God's interaction with real people who have real problems and real questions. In the narratives, prophecies, psalms, and teachings we discover who God is, who we are, and how-to live-in unity with God and each other.

**GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS CHURCH** The Church is the body of Christ on earth and is empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a sign of God's desire to bless all people. The church through its collective body and its individual members exists to be a witness for God in the world. The message we share through our daily lives bears witness to God's presence and purpose in the world. The church is God's family. As family we support and encourage one another, and we raise up the next generation of disciples to fulfill the ongoing mission of God in the world.

**BAPTISM AND COMMUNION** When you participate in the life of a local church you will notice many things, including how the church practices baptism and communion. Jesus taught his followers to be baptized and to participate in communion. The New Testament describes the purpose of baptism as a burial with Christ, union with Christ, resurrection to a new life, and our initiation into the life of the church. The practice of baptism in the New Testament is immersion in water, and this is our practice as well. Baptism is available anytime. The purpose of communion is to bear witness to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and to reinforce the unity of believers who have been united with Christ. In keeping with the ancient tradition of the church, we offer communion every Sunday, and it is also available upon request.

## THREE COMMITMENTS FROM NORTH ATLANTA FAMILY MEMBERS



### COMMITMENT FROM THE LEADERS OF NORTH ATLANTA:

The North Atlanta elders, ministers and church body will provide family members with tools, resources, relationships, shepherding, support, and guidance to help each one grow to know God and surrender to him daily. The North Atlanta leadership believes discipleship is reciprocal, meaning the North Atlanta family can be assured that North Atlanta leaders are called to the same commitments and are accountable to equipping and caring for each North Atlanta Family member.

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## ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE YOURSELF FULLY TO GOD?

North Atlanta family members believe that discipleship is a direction, not a destination. Committing to give oneself fully to God **is not a statement that North Atlanta Family members expect to be perfect** or that they can achieve perfection. No, it is simply a statement that North Atlanta Family members **want to know God more** and move towards him (Philippians 3:10-14).

## ARE YOU WILLING TO SUPPORT THE LOVE FIRST VISION?

North Atlanta family members believe our Love First vision for life is rooted in the nature of God. *“God is love, and we love because he first loved us.”* (1 John 4:16, 19) This means that North Atlanta Family members commit to **loving God and loving others** before and **above everything else**. North Atlanta family members commit to prayerfully supporting this vision with their **time, finances, and spiritual gifts**.



## ARE YOU WILLING TO COMMIT TO THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY AT NORTH ATLANTA?

North Atlanta family members believe that committing to the discipleship pathway will help all North Atlanta family members grow to be more like Jesus.



## THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



### FOUR ONGOING STEPS IN THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

We recognize that simply "doing" these activities and taking these steps will not transform us into the likeness of God. We do believe, however, that taking these steps with the intention of giving ourselves more fully to God will create space for God to ***transform us into the image of Jesus.***

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## ATTEND WORSHIP

In the busyness of life, **we must be intentional with our time.** Setting aside Sunday morning to fellowship, hear God's word, and encourage each other is an important commitment for disciples of Jesus.

## JOIN A SMALL GROUP OR BIBLE CLASS

The Christian life is designed to be lived out in community. Joining a group or participating in a Bible class is a great way to experience life together in Christ. To find a small group, email [smallgroups@nacofc.org](mailto:smallgroups@nacofc.org).



## SERVE WITH NORTH ATLANTA

Jesus came to serve, not to be served. As followers of Jesus, we commit to serve within our own church community and outside our church community in the name of Christ. To learn more about opportunities to volunteer, email [Missy.Taylor@nacofc.org](mailto:Missy.Taylor@nacofc.org).



## PRAY AND READ YOUR BIBLE

Being a disciple means listening to God and talking with God. By reading scripture, we get to know God and join Him in his mission. Praying daily helps us to align our lives with God's mission and keeps us connected.



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## BAPTISM

Baptism is the simple act of surrender by someone who chooses to give themselves fully to God. Ephesians 2:8-10 describes salvation of the gift of God. The following scriptures from the book of Acts tell stories of people being baptized in response to God's gift - Acts 2:38-42; 8:38-39; 10:43-48; 16:29-34; 22:16.

If you have questions about baptism, contact one of the Shepherds or ministers, or sign up for the next **Starting Point Class**. This is a great resource for people who would like to learn how to get started in their walk with God and why we believe Baptism is integral to our faith. The Starting Point class is a four-week discipleship class.



# NORTH ATLANTA LEADERSHIP

## ELDERS AND GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

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