

## **CORE CURRICULUM**

Pullen Memorial Baptist Church

### **BIBLICAL STORY\***

The revelation of God is the organizing center of our CORE CURRICULUM with attention given to major biblical themes. Scripture tells God’s story for the purpose of sharing human life. Though the central truth and message of the biblical text never changes, our CORE CURRICULUM guides learners to understand portions of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures in their original contexts, and then to interpret and apply these texts to our lives using contemporary tools of biblical inquiry and scholarship.

### **CHRISTIAN ETHICS**

Instead of avoiding difficult questions or settling for oversimplified scriptural proof texts, our CORE CURRICULUM addresses various ethical dilemmas with respect for varying interpretations of scripture and the need for individual choice. Where scripture is unclear on an issue, the biblical text is not reconstructed to force a particular position.

### **CHURCH HISTORY**

Knowledge of the history of the Christian faith from its inception to the present is vital for informed living for Christians today. Our CORE CURRICULUM calls upon the insight, wisdom, and understanding of the great champions of the faith who have come before us, including the cloud of witnesses who have formed and preserved our local faith community through the years.

### **CHURCH LIFE**

Our CORE CURRICULUM views the local church as the primary entity for nurturing the spiritual formation of all people. Therefore, people should understand the responsibilities of church membership and participation, the functional roles of the church, the role of various church leadership positions and groups, and the relationship of the local church to the community and the world.

### **COMING TO FAITH**

Coming to faith by recognizing the active presence of the Holy in one’s life and in the world is an essential component of Our CORE CURRICULUM. As Christians, we see the nature of this Holy Presence most clearly reflected in the life and ministry of Jesus and remain open to the numerous ways it becomes manifested in the lives of individuals and communities.

### **INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING**

In our pluralistic culture, understanding the traditions of people of other faiths is a critical component of being a loving, just person who values all of God’s children. Our CORE CURRICULUM exposes learners to the teachings of other faith traditions and the people who practice those traditions. These experiences ensure that the ministry of sharing God’s love and justice will not be hindered by suspicion and distrust among people who share a vision of healing, loving, and forgiving which is consistent with Jesus’ ministry.

*\* In alphabetical order*

## **JUSTICE**

Doing justice is a fundamental responsibility of persons of faith. It requires the active engagement of individuals and communities in missions and outreach to achieve a fair distribution of goods and resources for all people regardless of their location or circumstances. Our CORE CURRICULUM teaches skills that foster not only charitable acts to meet the immediate needs of our neighbors, but the capacity to seek systemic change through advocacy and action for social change both locally and globally. It also includes skills that guide us in analyzing the ways our individual behaviors can contribute to a more just world.

## **RELATIONSHIP**

The nature of Christian faith is fundamentally relational. Although personal experience of the Holy grounds a life of faith, connecting one's experience with other persons, communities, institutions, and the planet makes it possible for us to share with others the Divine love we come to know. In order to form us as persons of faith, our CORE CURRICULUM addresses the many ways we express a loving faith in all of our relationships.

## **PERSONAL STORY**

A key component of our CORE CURRICULUM is the connections one makes between personal experience and the many facets of the faith. Unless one's life story intersects with the story of the faith over time and space, learning will be superficial and fail to take root. If those connections between personal story and the larger faith story are made, transformation becomes possible. Our CORE CURRICULUM assists persons of all ages in acquiring the tools needed to articulate his or her personal story of life and faith.

## **SPIRITUALITY**

The pressures of family, school, work, church and community life leave people of all ages with little space and time for quiet reflection. Our CORE CURRICULUM encourages the development of spiritual disciplines. These include prayer, meditation, public and private worship, and the development of the use of gifts that are rooted in scripture, the spiritual traditions of the church, and the natural world.

## **THEOLOGY**

Instead of imposing various theological and doctrinal positions on scripture, our CORE CURRICULUM deals with broad topics as they arise from the study of the biblical story. Acquiring a basic knowledge and understanding of theological themes impacts the lifestyle and worldview of thinking people. When approaching theological and historic doctrinal issues, CORE CURRICULUM does so in ways that foster open exploration and are appropriate to the developmental stages of learners.

## **WORSHIP**

Our CORE CURRICULUM finds centrality in the worship of God. All that is sought after for faith and wisdom comes back to our quest for connection to the Holy. When we share the bread and the cup, lift our voices in song and prayer, and share liturgy and rituals, God is worshipped with heart, soul, and mind. Worship grounds the community and becomes the impetus for serving all of God's creation.