

The Dearest Place on Earth

“Give yourself to the Church... If I had never joined a Church till I had found one that was perfect, I would never have joined one at all! And the moment I did join it, I should have spoiled it, for it would not have been a perfect Church after I had become a member of it. Still, imperfect as it is, it is the dearest place on earth to us...”

Charles Spurgeon, Delivered on April 5, 1891 at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, England

At Movement Church, we earnestly remind ourselves that we **belong** in the family of Jesus, that we have the privilege and responsibility to **participate** in the Life of Jesus, and we are called upon by God to **reflect** Him wherever we are. By the power of the Spirit, **we will be a family of missionary servants and loving practitioners.**

As His disciples, we are committed to live in **uncommon unity** as a family of believers. Our family is diverse in many ways: spiritual backgrounds, denominational affiliations, cultural influences, family types, educational opportunities, church experiences, to name a few. Biblical unity does not require a rigid uniformity of any group, so we aspire to live this well-known statement into our church’s lifestyle:

“In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity.”

Our hope and goal is to bring the entirety of our church family into agreement on the essentials while acknowledging that we may differ to varying degrees on nonessentials. We will navigate the complexities of unity by using God’s Word as our guide, hospitality as our rule, and an unwavering commitment to love every person.

While the concept of family has been significant within our church since its inception, it has not been given the emphasis we aspire to in shaping the future of Movement Church. If, as above, we in fact choose to live with an unwavering love for every person, practical expressions of that love must be increasingly visible, genuine, and selfless. An extra chair in your circle will help us fulfill the call for the church to **be a family.**

This calls for steadfast dedication to cultivating a healthy gospel culture and fostering healthy leadership at every level, from our staff to our volunteers and all who are part of our community. We firmly believe that no role within our church is insignificant. Therefore, we expect every family member to faithfully embody the values and expectations that align with our understanding of God’s character. Recognizing the immense potential within our church family, we are committed to nurturing and unleashing the unique talents and gifts that reside within each individual among us.

We are committed to cultivating **relational discipleship** in our church. This means teaching, practicing, and modeling the faith to one another. We desire to see all people have someone to walk with, someone to follow behind, and someone to lead to Christlikeness. The relational dynamic this creates is more demanding and fulfilling than we may yet know.

We must never lose sight of the fact that we exist to **pursue the well-being of the city.** As missionaries of the Kingdom, we must offer a servant’s heart to the people of our community. There are thousands of people relationally lost from Jesus and from His family. This compels us to live with unceasing anguish. We are deeply committed to growing individually and collectively in such a worthy cause.

Lastly, churches with a sense of mission can easily and unknowingly substitute busyness for effectiveness. We will be an **unhurried church**, taking time in both personal and corporate life of **contemplation**, learning to **abide** in God, and how to **respond** to Him without succumbing to an anxious pace.

Ultimately, we aim to make Movement Church not just a place we attend but a true home—a family where each member belongs, participates, and reflects Jesus. And as imperfect as it may be, we believe that the church, as a true spiritual family, truly is **“the dearest place on earth.”**



**Movement
Church**