

What does Broadmoor Baptist Church see as its values or distinctive characteristics in the serving of our Lord in our community, Richmond and beyond?

Broadmoor Baptist Church is distinctive. We have a character that is different from any other group of believers who gather in the Richmond area. Through the cottage groups and the Visioning process, we attempted to define what was different about us. This is a short summary of our unique characteristics:

1. **Christ – Centered** We practice the enabling of the priesthood of all believers and place a high value on being followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. This empowering is both downwards from our Pastoral Staff and lateral among each other. We have seen many take opportunities to go on missions trips, begin new fields of ministry and step into ministry roles that are new and exciting.
 - a. We are a group of people who equip each other to step into ministry. We have supported and encouraged many to go on missions trips all over the world. We bring out the best in each other.
 - b. We acknowledge the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in the congregation as a group and in individuals. Faith in the work of the Holy Spirit amongst us is an important part of our service and witness for Christ in the congregation and our community.

A verse that we hold dear is Philippians 4:13 *For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.* Our strength to serve God comes from our belief that He will be there with us.

2. **Our Worship** is a rich blend of evangelical tradition and the Christian calendar, i.e.,
 - a. Advent, Lent, Easter and Pentecost
 - b. Believers celebrate the Christian Calendar with creativity, tradition, variety and people orientated honesty – both in expressing and in responding to praise and needs.
 - c. Our services are “homemade”- not professional productions
 - d. We enjoy writing and reading our own devotionals at Lent and Advent
 - e. Communion is open to all as we trust faith is between God and each individual.
 - f. Our worship is to reflect, re-orient, respond to God with repentance, praise and thanksgiving

Psalm 100 states, Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

3. **Relational** A good part of the ministry of the church takes place after the service as people have coffee together and chat about their plans for ministry, need for prayer and personal feelings about their role in the church. Coffee time is a chance to connect with others in ministry in a casual and authentic way that gives support and encouragement. Broadmoor is a place where people are accepted in a genuine manner that allows openness so that trust is built in each other to the point where we can explore new avenues of ministry. Romans 14:19 states: *Therefore, let's keep on pursuing those things that bring peace and that lead to building up one another.* This is a great strength to build upon.

4. **Inclusiveness** is a highly cherished value that Broadmoor enjoys. In a welcoming and hospitable way, we accept the imperfections of each other and see the value of each person's worth to God and to Broadmoor and all its ministry endeavours. There is an equality here that is authentic and results in love for each other. Dress code does not determine who we are; nor does which country, race or tribe we come from. All are accepted as equal in God's sight, equal in importance and equal in ministry. At Broadmoor, we are proud of our multicultural heritage. In Revelations 7:9 the Apostle John sees the believers in Heaven and describes them in this passage: *After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before God.* We have a glimpse of that vision at Broadmoor.

5. **Missional** Broadmoor is focused as a Missional congregation. Both locally and internationally we are active. We have supported initiatives in the community that help individuals in a manner which practises the love of Jesus to all mankind. Over the years we have been involved in:
 - a. Men's Shelter support
 - b. Women's transition house
 - c. El Salvador
 - d. China/ Hong Kong
 - e. Haiti
 - f. Christmas Ladies' Tea
 - g. Mandarin ministry
 - h. ESL Ministry
 - i. Richmond Food Bank
 - j. Meals on Wheels
 - k. Sonshine Day Camp
 - l. *Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.*

6. **Grace** We are a church where **grace is practised and given**. All levels of talent are appreciated and used, not as professionals – grace is valued here. We don't always do it right, but people are given the space and choice to express their love and commitment to Christ. Another area of grace given, is in the sharing of our space with other groups, i.e., St. John's Anglican, RMHA (proposal), choirs and Royal Conservatory. We recognize that the building we use is the Lord's and only ours to care for in a manner that pleases God and shows His grace. 1Tim 6:18 tells us ... *to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*

7. **Interdependence** Broadmoor has found strength in the **interdependence** of individuals to perform the work God has given us. By the grace of God people lend a hand with the skills God has given them and together we become a force for change and for good, demonstrating God's love. **Romans 12:5 "So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all others."**
 - a. We at Broadmoor Baptist Church recognize that there is always a need for the Gospel in all times and places. Love always trumps hate; kindness is always better than cruelty; hope overcomes despair; truth is always better than lies and deception; humility overcomes pride; generosity is always better than selfishness. All these positive qualities are blended into the values we embrace as our response to the Gospel working in our lives at Broadmoor Baptist Church. We are a group of people whom God has touched and continues to inspire.