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### *Mission*

Seeking the peace of our neighborhood by sharing God's love with our neighbors.

### *Vision*

To become a church that follows Jesus, the prince of peace, and embodies God's peaceable kingdom in the Keller Park neighborhood, the city of South Bend, and beyond.

### *Convictions*

We believe that Jesus, the prince of peace, is the [risen Lord](#), [Word of God](#), [Son of God](#), [messiah and suffering servant](#), [new human](#), [savior of the world](#), [sender of the Spirit](#), [liberator of the oppressed](#), [authoritative teacher and healer](#), [victor over sin and death](#), [head of the church](#), and [initiator of the kingdom](#).

We believe that God's peaceable kingdom is the realm of God's [love](#), [joy](#), [peace](#), [patience](#), [kindness](#), [goodness](#), [faithfulness](#), [gentleness](#), [holiness](#), [righteousness](#), [justice](#), [generosity](#), [truth](#), and [freedom](#).\*

### *Story*

[Keller Park Church](#) (KPC) is a close-knit, intergenerational church in a diverse neighborhood in South Bend, Indiana. KPC was founded in 1968 by nearby Redeemer Missionary Church who bought a neighborhood grocery store, Barkley's Supermarket, and transformed it into the Christian Community Center.

Over time, we changed our name to Agape Missionary Church (after the New Testament word for self-sacrificial love) as we transitioned from a community center to a church. But our original vision as a community center to the Keller Park neighborhood was never lost, as is reflected in our current name—Keller Park Church.

Today KPC combines the mission of the church with the heart of a community center. From worship services to Jubilee meals, prayer gatherings to block parties, koinonia (fellowship) groups to a food pantry, KPC ministers to both the spiritual and the material needs of the Keller Park neighborhood and the surrounding South Bend community.

KPC is a member of the Missionary Church, an evangelical denomination with Mennonite roots, Wesleyan-holiness influences, and a legacy of "ministering sisters." We honor these rich traditions through our Anabaptist emphasis on discipleship and peacemaking, our Wesleyan emphasis on the holy love at the heart of God, and our active embrace and empowerment of all people's gifts, including people with disabilities. (See our inclusivity policy in [Appendix A](#).)

*\*See hyperlinks for extended reflections on each of our convictions and how we embody them in our communal life and worship.*

## *Membership*

At KPC, we take a centered-church approach to membership. This means that we regularly proclaim Jesus and God's kingdom as the center of everything we do, and we invite everyone to consider their relationship to that center. Anyone who is committed to being drawn by the Spirit and the community toward the center is welcome to become a member of the church. (For more on this approach to membership, see [Appendix B.](#))

Being a member doesn't mean that you've signed off on a list of doctrines and practices, nor does it mean that you won't ever have days when you are pulled away from the center rather than toward it. What it does mean is that you freely commit to being part of a community that defines itself by who and what is at its center and that you freely commit to being drawn closer to the center as part of that community.

At KPC, membership is open to anyone who commits to following Jesus and embracing God's kingdom as part of our local community of believers, whose commitment is (1) enacted through believer's baptism, (2) memorialized through the regular practice of communion, and (3) upheld through mutual counsel, discernment, admonition, and accountability from within the community.

We ask that anyone considering membership at KPC interact with the following questions to discern their relationship to Jesus, God's kingdom, and the church:

- (1) Where do I currently stand in relation to Jesus?
- (2) Where do I currently stand in relation to the kingdom of God?
- (3) What might it mean for me to be drawn closer to Jesus?
- (4) What might it mean for me to be drawn closer to the kingdom of God?
- (5) How might KPC be a context for being drawn closer to Jesus and the kingdom of God?
- (6) How might I help others at KPC, the Keller Park neighborhood, and beyond move closer to Jesus and the kingdom of God?
- (7) Do I freely commit to a fellowship of people who are being drawn ever closer to Jesus and the kingdom of God in the context of the Keller Park community?
- (8) Have I enacted my commitment to Jesus, the kingdom of God, and the church through baptism (at KPC or another Christian church)?
- (9) Do I regularly memorialize my commitment to Jesus, the kingdom of God, and the church through the practice of communion at KPC?
- (10) Am I willing to uphold my commitment to Jesus, the kingdom of God, and the church by (a) offering and (b) receiving mutual counsel, discernment, admonition, and accountability at KPC regarding our shared commitments?