

To Present and Prospective Members of Eden Baptist Church:

Several years ago, I met with our deacons for the better part of a Saturday. Our task was to think through the purpose and mission of our church and how we could distill these concepts into a short document which would define the vision and guide the function of our ministry.

We live in a day when many churches are narrowing the mission of “their” church to fit a particular niche in the ecclesiastical market which they arbitrarily choose to fill. Driven by a Madison Avenue approach and the belief that the purpose of the church is an evolving discussion, churches today are fast losing touch with biblical reality as to their God-given purpose.


Since our church believes God’s Word is the only and fully sufficient mandate for faith and practice, the discussion I held with our deacons was not grounded in our notions or inspired by current trends. There were no books or reports, no newspaper articles or “how to” manuals in the room where we met. We appealed to no church experts or professional consultants. The only resource we used was the Bible. Our work that afternoon focused exclusively upon what Scripture defines as the purpose of a local church.

Recently, I worked on the latest form of this document with our Adult Class on Sunday mornings. The class worked diligently to add helpful insights and enforce specific points with appropriate scriptural support. Again, our only source was the Word of God.

In January of 1996, this document was unanimously adopted by the assembled membership of the Eden Baptist Church. The imperfections of this document lie only in human failure and the collective immaturity of our church. As time passes, maturity may allow us to strengthen this document to more accurately reflect Christ’s will for his church. We are convinced, however, that as it stands, this document will serve as a faithful guide in the development of Eden Baptist to the glory of our great Savior.

Should you have any questions concerning our “Statement of Purpose,” or have any suggestions as to how this document might be improved, please do not hesitate to contact me. I trust that it will encourage you as you labor in the strength of the Spirit to love the Lord with all of your heart.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dan Miller, Pastor