

*Responsive Reading: BIC Core Values**

LEADER: At the beginning of this century, 51 men and women from across our North American Church community gathered to identify and restate the convictions that lie at the heart of what it means to be Brethren in Christ. What emerged from that summit were ten concise statements articulating our Core Values.

ALL: Today, we gather as a community of believers in the unity and wisdom of those statements. With God's help and for God's glory, we recommit ourselves ...

LEADER: ... to experiencing God's Love

CONGREGATION: We value the free gift of salvation in Christ Jesus and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

LEADER: ... to believing the Bible

CONGREGATION: We value the Bible as God's authoritative word, study it together, and build our lives on its truth.

LEADER: ... to worshipping God

CONGREGATION: We value heartfelt worship that is God-honoring, Spirit-directed, and life-changing.

LEADER: ... to following Jesus

CONGREGATION: We value wholehearted obedience to Christ Jesus through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

LEADER: ... to belonging to the community of faith

CONGREGATION: We value integrity in relationships and mutual accountability in an atmosphere of grace, love, and acceptance.

LEADER: ... to witnessing to the world

CONGREGATION: We value an active and loving witness for Christ to all people.

LEADER: ... to serving compassionately

CONGREGATION: We value serving others at their point of need, following the example of our Lord Jesus.

LEADER: Pursuing peace

CONGREGATION: We value all human life and promote forgiveness, understanding, reconciliation, and nonviolent resolution of conflict.

LEADER: ... to living simply

CONGREGATION: We value uncluttered lives, which free us to love boldly, give generously, and serve joyfully.

LEADER: And finally, to relying on God

CONGREGATION: We confess our dependence on God for everything, and seek to deepen our intimacy with Him by living prayerfully.

LEADER: In these Core Values, as in all things, we put our confidence in the Lord, who has called us to dramatic transformation,

CONGREGATION: And who will be faithful to complete the good work He's begun in us.

LEADER: Amen!

ALL: Amen.