

July 31, 2025

## Unity in Diversity –Mission Statement

### Mission:

*To foster Christ-centered unity within the body of Christ by building understanding and relationships across lines of background, culture, and experience—grounded in Scripture and guided by the Holy Spirit.*

*It is primarily an exploration of the African American experience here in St. Louis.*

### Purpose:

- To explore how God’s diverse creation reflects His image (Genesis 1:27, Revelation 7:9)
- To strengthen the unity of the church by listening well and loving one another (Romans 12:10, Ephesians 4:2–3)
- To identify and remove barriers to fellowship within our church family, in ways that are biblical, nonpartisan, and spiritually constructive

### Boundaries & Guidance:

- Discussions will be **rooted in Scripture**, not partisan politics or cultural ideologies
- The goal is **relationship and reconciliation**, not advocacy or activism
- Ministry leaders will work in **coordination with the elders** to ensure alignment with our church’s values and teaching
- Any resources, speakers, or events will be **pre-approved by the elders** to maintain theological and cultural sensitivity
- Conversations should promote **humility, grace, and peace**, avoiding divisive or inflammatory rhetoric (James 3:17)

### What Unity in Diversity Is Not:

- It is not a platform for political expression (left or right)
- It is not an endorsement of every expression of “diversity” as defined by the culture
- It is not a place to settle cultural debates, but to **learn how to love across differences**
- It *is* a space for **humble listening, thoughtful reflection, and Christ-like love**.