

The logo features the word "ark" in a large, white, lowercase sans-serif font, with "MISSION" in a smaller, white, uppercase sans-serif font directly below it. The text is centered within a blue curved shape that resembles a quarter-circle or a stylized 'A' shape, set against a white background.

# ark

## MISSION

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# Vision of Ark Mission

The great plan Jesus gave his Church was to go into all the world and make disciples.

Being part of a Church firstly, means having your own prayer relationship with God. A time each day to read His word, listen to His voice and speak to Him about our own needs and about His Church. A strong prayer life prepares us to worship and serve in the life of the Church

Secondly, Jesus put His disciples in pairs. We encourage everyone in the Ark to find one person they can call each week to pray with for 5 minutes. That simple connection strengthens our prayers (For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them Matthew 18:20) and give us courage in the Spiritual Battle.

Thirdly, and most crucially, we ask everyone in the Ark to join a small group. It's hard to feel known in a crowd, and God wants Church to be "family". The small groups meetings divide into three parts: sharing the victories and challenges; discuss a Bible passage; setting personal goals from what we have read. Groups are where we grow.

Lastly, we gather together on Sunday mornings to celebrate and experience God: His word and His power.

Prayer, partnership, and fellowship is the foundation we launch from into the world. This is Church. This is what strengthens us to be an influence through our career and businesses and wider connections. This is what we invite you into.

**Purpose of document:**

Ark Mission Church (AMC) is committed to the fundamental truths of Christianity as revealed in Holy Scripture. The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that all who are part of the facilitating team(s) understand the application and practical outworking of Scripture in serving within AMC as co-workers in Christ.

**Explanatory paragraph:**

For the sake of this document, “we” are all those serving in Ark Mission Church, either as an Elder, Trustee, Church Council member, leader, employee, or team volunteer.

## **Personal Attitude**

As workers we should have a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and a willingness to worship and serve Him in AMC according to the principles set out in the church constitution (John 3:3-5, Romans 12:11) specifically we should:

- have a heart for the church community (1 Timothy 3:1-13)
- have a willingness to help and serve others
- be welcoming to all (1 Timothy 4:8-10)
- show obedience to Jesus Christ and the word of God
- display the fruits of the Spirit<sup>ii</sup> (Galatians 5:22-23)
- be prayerful (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

## **Integrity**

Serve as unto the Lord with due diligence, integrity, truthfulness, honesty, and purity

- Because we are people of integrity who respect others we will serve without discrimination, recognising that we are part of a team and therefore also have responsibility towards our fellow workers - 1 Corinthians 4:1-2<sup>iii</sup>; Hebrews 6:10; and handle the responsibilities in a conscientious manner (Colossians 3:23)
- We have a responsibility to set high moral standards and to lead by example (Titus 2:7, 1 Corinthians 11:1, 1 Timothy 4:12)
- All workers should be people of their word (James 5:12)

## **Relating to others**

- Relate to one another in love and humility in a manner which fosters unity and peace (Galatians 5:26) – including online activity.
- Submit to all lawful authority, (1 Peter 2:13-17, Hebrews 13:17, Acts 5:27-29) recognising that authority structures are in place

for the benefit and protection of society in general; in church they are there to facilitate effective ministry. Our submission should be based on the Bible as the supreme authority and final arbiter in every matter and conduct of the Christian (Acts 4:18-20).

As the whole body depends on its parts to function well, so we all should endeavour to attend regularly and be punctual at church meetings and activities (Ephesians 4:13-15; Hebrews 10:24-25<sup>ix</sup>).

- Regular financial giving to the church should be part of our commitment (Malachi 3:8-11)
- Active participation in local contact groups (Home Groups) is expected (Hebrews 10:24-25)  
We must always act as prudent custodians of church premises and property, observing all health and safety standards (Colossians 3:17, Luke 16:10-12)
- We must be willing to participate in training, seminars, and workshops as appropriate (2 Timothy 2:15)
- We will be careful in our use of language, seeking to edify one another. We will abstain from all forms of swearing and blasphemy, recognising that some apparently innocuous words may have their roots in blasphemy, vulgarity or sexual innuendo and can cause offence (Ephesians 4:19-31, Colossians 3:8-9, Ephesians 5:4)
- We should always seek to resolve conflict issues prayerfully and by prescribed means: working in love, following relevant church policy and avoid acting in manners that undermine duly constituted authority (Matthew 18:15-17). We are warned of the power of the tongue to create discord (James 3:1-10, Colossians 3:12-15)
- We will use the structure of local contact groups as initial points of contact for conflict resolution (Matthew 18:15-18)

- We should be willing to share the good news of the gospel and refrain from any acts that can jeopardise our witness (Matthew 28:18-20<sup>i</sup>, 2 Timothy 4:2, 2 Corinthians 13:11; Romans 12:10)
- We recognise that our commitment is not only to the Church, but also to the wider community (Matthew 5:16)
- We should pursue excellence in every area of life as a witness to those around us (Daniel 6:3; Matthew 5:16; Galatians 2:21)

## **Confidentiality**

We will not gossip; things told to us of a confidential nature will be kept within the pastoral team (Proverbs 11:13; Proverbs 26:20)

During the course of providing pastoral support, we may find ourselves fulfilling an advisory role requiring in-depth listening, and therefore need to operate within safe boundaries:

- Avoid mixed gender pairing, but if unavoidable ensure a third person is in the immediate vicinity and closed doors have glass panels
- Maintain confidentiality (person, place, time) meticulously but offer it cautiously. Do not promise confidentiality.

Confidentiality can be broken in the following circumstances:

- within the pastoral team - all of whom are bound to maintain confidentiality
- with their doctor or other health professional, with permission
- if you believe there to be a risk to the safety of the individual or another person
- where required to do so by law.
- If it is felt necessary to keep notes of ongoing meetings, these should be regarded as confidential and kept securely.

## **Dress code**

Our appearance and conduct should reflect who we are as ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20)

- We must always consider the potential effect of our dress and avoid wearing anything that might provoke, offend or create a stumbling block for others (Romans 14:13). We must cover any area of our body which may cause offence or may cause others to stumble in their Christian walk, including but not limited to cleavage, midriff and private parts. Clothing, which is revealing, by being too tight, too short or too low-cut; or T-Shirts etc with inappropriate logos/pictures should be avoided. The onus for moderation and consideration is greater on those leading from the platform (Romans 14:13, 1 Timothy 2:9-10)
- We recognise that fashion plays a part in our choices but when this is in conflict with our modesty or position as role models, we need to show honour to those around us and not be deliberately too ostentatious nor too casual in our choices.
- The above is in addition to any departmental or event related dress code.

## **Sobriety & Drugs Abuse**

The scripture entreats us “do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18) thereby calling us to a better and higher alternative. God wants us to be continually under the influence of the Holy Spirit and not of alcohol or other substance. (Romans 12:1; Romans 13:13; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

- All workers should be aware of the potential harm of insobriety to the cause of the gospel, (1 Corinthians 9:19-23) be sober at all times, abstaining from all forms of legal or illegal



- drugs/substances which are harmful to the body, including tobacco.
- No alcohol should be provided or consumed on the church premises or at church events
  - Good stewardship is an important aspect of Christian life and therefore we recognise that gambling, in its various forms, not only has the potential to create addictive and compulsive behaviours but also undermines good stewardship and must be avoided (Matthew 25:14-30)

## **Sexual conduct**

We are called to purity and therefore to avoid all casual or inappropriate sexual behaviour.

We must stay clear of all pornographic materials (Colossians 3:5, Romans 12:1, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, Ephesians 5:3)

God has provided that sexual activity is to be enjoyed in the context of a loving and stable marriage relationship as defined in Scripture and has set these parameters for our protection (1 Corinthians 7:1-9; Hebrews 13:4), therefore we will not engage in any sexual relations or appearance of sexual relations with someone who is not our biblically wedded spouse (1 Thessalonians 5:22, 1 Corinthians 6:15-20)

We do not condone cohabiting (living in sexual sin) with someone of the same or of opposite sex (Hebrews 13:4, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

The Bible clearly states that homosexual activity is abominable to God, and so cannot be condoned by believers in Jesus Christ (Leviticus 18: 22-23, Romans 1:26-27)

Any form of sexual harassment including but not limited to:

- suggestive sexual remarks, jokes or innuendoes
- receipt of items of a sexual nature: objects, material in print, electronic or digital form
- inappropriate hugging or touching of private areas of the body
- sexual abuse or rape

will not be tolerated and must be reported to any of the Pastors in the Church.

We are to look after the temple of Christ, sanctifying ourselves to his work (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 6:18-19).

## ***Bible Reference:***

***All Bible quotations are from the New King James Bible (NKJV) except where otherwise stated.***

### **i**

“Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God”. (John 3:35 NKJV) “Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;” (Romans 12:11 NKJV)

### **ii**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22,23 NKJV)

### **iii**

“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4:1,2 NKJV)

### **iv**

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,” (Colossians 3:23 NKJV)

### **v**

“In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,” (Titus 2:7 NKJV)

“Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1 NKJV) “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12 NKJV)

**vi**

“But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No,” lest you fall into judgment.” (James 5:12 NKJV)

**vii**

“Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.” (Galatians 5:26 NKJV)

**viii**

“Therefore, submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honour all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.” (1 Peter 2:13-17 NKJV) “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” (Hebrews 13:17 NKJV) “And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, saying, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!” But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:27-29 NKJV)

**ix**

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24,25 NKJV)

**x**

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore, if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own?” (Luke 16:10-12 NKJV)

**xi**

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.” (Ephesians 4:29-31 NKJV)

**xii**

“Moreover, if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.” (Matthew 18:15-17 NKJV).

**xiii**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV).

**xiv**

“A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.” (Proverbs 11:13 NKJV) “Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.” (Proverbs 26:20 NKJV).

**xv**

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV).

**xvi**

“Therefore, let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way.” (Romans 14:13 NKJV) “in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.” (1 Timothy 2:9,10 NKJV)

**xvii**

“Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.” (Romans 13:13 NKJV)  
“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1 Corinthians 6:19,20 NKJV).

**xviii**

“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.” (1 Corinthians 9:19-23 NKJV).

**xix**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who

had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise, he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time, the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. "So, he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'" "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'" "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So, you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore, take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (Matthew 25:14-30 NKJV).

**xx**

"Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry." (Colossians 3:5 NKJV) "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1 NKJV) "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honour, not in passion of

lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;" (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 NKJV) "But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;" (Ephesians 5:3 NKJV)

## **xxi**

"Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment. For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion." (1 Corinthians 7:1-9 NKJV) "Marriage is honourable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4 NKJV).

## **xxii**

"Abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22 NKJV) "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:15-20 NKJV).



### **xxiii**

“Marriage is honourable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4 NKJV) “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 6:9,10 NKJV).

### **xxiv**

“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.” (Leviticus 18:22-23 NKJV) “For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise, also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.” (Romans 1:26, 27 NKJV).

### **xxv**

**“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.”** (1 Corinthians 3:16,17 NKJV) “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1 Corinthians 6:18-20 NKJV).