**CORE VALUES**

Hilltop Urban Church

**GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR.** Hilltop is a church made up of people from the culture of poverty (even if their current income is above poverty level) and those whom God has called to ministry partnership in this culture.

**MULTI-CULTURAL.** We are called to be a multi-cultural church, known for our close, loving relationships among people of different races and classes.

**HANDS OF JESUS.** We are called to be the hands of Jesus in our community, together reaching out with acts of service and encouragement, inviting people into relationship with God and the family of God.

**UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE + RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP.** When people come to Hilltop, they normally experience a radical acceptance, regardless of their present or past stories.

We invite them to be whole-hearted followers of Jesus as members of a Christian community. We do not shy away from calling people to turn away from sinful lifestyles.

**HEART CHANGE THROUGH DEEP RELATIONSHIP.** We believe that God transforms not primarily through listening to teaching and preaching--though these contribute--but through deep relationships where it is safe to do open heart surgery. Therefore, house churches are at the heart of everything we do, complemented by ministry teams and triads. We value large group gatherings but they take a second place to house church.

**GROWING LEADERS.** We are passionate about growing “oral culture” leaders. Leaders with roots in the culture of poverty are normally best able to understand and connect with those we are called to reach. We also value bicultural (print/oral) leaders. Their primary role is to help oral culture leaders succeed through (1) assisting oral culture leaders (2) co-leading with them, (3) coaching, or (4) jump starting a new effort and then entrusting it to others.

**SIMPLE, RELATIONAL STRUCTURES.** The key to growing oral culture leaders is a ministry culture built on the strengths of oral culture. In place of “print culture” ministry methods which rely on formal education and complex organizational skills, we use methods that are simple, reproducible, and relational.

**TEAM MINISTRY.** All our ongoing ministries will be led by teams of people who are called to those ministries, who together decide how to do those ministries within the church’s vision and values. Leaders grow mainly through serving on teams. Every team and house church will normally be led by a team of 2 or 3 leaders. Every team leader and house church shepherd will supported by and accountable to a coach.

4-5-13

*1. Which of these core values is most important to you? Why?*

*2. Which ones do you think Hilltop does best?*

*3. Which one do you think we most need to improve on?*