

The Named Congregational Character of Lord of Life

Accepting and Conferring

At Lord of Life people are accepted where they are and are viewed as having worth, value and dignity conferred by God.

Based upon the belief that God is one who desires relationship with those “made in His image,” all things at Lord of Life spring from this relational principle. Relationship precedes all other action, of both God and His people. The beginning of relationship is the acceptance of another just as they present themselves and the presumption of the inherent worth, value and dignity of this person. This acceptance and conferring of worth upon each other permeates much of what makes Lord of Life what it is.

Other words that speak of this value: welcoming, non-judgmental, inclusive, loving unconditionally.

Life-giving and Rejoicing

Lord of Life aspires in all that it does to be LIFE-givers as Jesus said, “I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness.” Being people full of life, Lord of Life lives joy. Even in the direst of circumstances, there can be rejoicing.

In the desire to make a significant difference in people’s lives, to be life giving, Lord of Life tends to focus on what is essential to life and not usually on what is merely enriching of life.

It is this focus that influenced the decision to enter the child development and adult day services work as out-reach ministries.

The joy in Lord of Life’s midst comes from a profound sense of God’s life-giving presence and the freedom He brings. While worship is not frivolous, it is joyful. While rooted in the historical liturgical form, worship is spontaneous and up lifting. While the circumstances of an observance may be sad such as in a funeral, joy is present.

Grounded and Adaptable

Lord of Life is grounded in Jesus and his call to discipleship. It is rooted in the faith expressed in the Creeds. As such, it tends to know who it is and whose it is. While grounded, it is open to the working of the Holy Spirit and thus is not afraid to adapt to changing circumstances, to think and do “outside the box” and to take risks.

Lord of Life knows and lives: Law and Gospel. Grace. Sanctification as well as Justification.

Other words that speak of “grounded” are steadfast, strong, rooted in core essentials.

Other words that speak of “adaptable” are creative; open minded, working both inside and outside the system, taking conventional and unconventional routes to a goal.

Out-reaching and In reaching

Being outer-directed, and not self-centered, Lord of Life exists with a double focus. One focus is to look outward to the neighborhood, community and world to address felt needs. The other focus is to look inward to bring about conversion and transformation in our own lives so that God may use us according to His purposes. Lord of Life seeks to embody an outer-directed posture in its corporate life while encouraging individuals to do likewise. It is important that the outside world see both in us.

This calls for a life-style rooted in giving, serving and generosity while giving appropriate attention to spiritual renewal, personal growth and self-care.