

WHO WE ARE

Statement of Faith – Our foundational doctrinal statements are found in *The Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*, which we hold to be “the system of doctrine which is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone” (Associate Reformed Synod, May 31, 1799).



Human Value and Dignity

Before looking at what Camp Joy is, it's good to look at why there is a Camp Joy. Specifically, how does our society measure human value and dignity? Do we tend to pick someone who is dependent or independent? Someone weak or strong? Someone meek or assertive? Sadly, our culture chooses the independent, the strong, and the assertive, and often disregards the rest. However, Christ commands that we declare and celebrate the dignity of life for everyone. A life marked by physical disabilities and special needs, for example, IS worthy of our love, respect, and care. They are made in the image of God and worthy of our sacrifices, our attention, and our energy. This is what we seek to do at Camp Joy.

Our Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, we provide exceptional Christ-centered camp experiences nationwide (our vision). We do this by offering one-on-one life-changing camps for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Together, campers and counselors experience JOY, learning what it means to put Jesus first, Others second and Yourself last (our mission). To achieve our vision and mission, we live by our core values: we love like Jesus as we disciple, so we make others the priority, make it safe, and make it fun. These things bring JOY.

MAKE OTHERS THE PRIORITY

What does it mean?
We focus on others by serving sacrificially, like Jesus.

- I know I see it in myself and others when?**
- We ask others what they want or need.
 - Others' needs are put before our own.
 - Tasks are done joyfully outside of assigned roles.
 - We are active participants and fully present in all aspects of Camp Joy.

MAKE IT SAFE

What does it mean?
We protect, care for, and encourage others.

- I know I see it in myself and others when?**
- We seek to protect the well-being of all.
 - People feel loved and all their needs are met.
 - Campers always have a friend with them.

MAKE IT FUN

What does it mean?
We continually seek to create experiences that promote joy.

- I know I see it in myself and others when?**
- All are encouraged to participate according to their ability.
 - We form Christian friendships.
 - We plan activities and events that are engaging.
 - Recalling Camp Joy brings laughter, warm memories, and a desire to return.

DISCIPLESHIP

What does it mean?
We spiritually nurture all participants.

- I know I see it in myself and others when?**
- We are intentional about getting to know others.
 - When we become more like Jesus.
 - We seek ways to invest in each other's lives.
 - We create space for prayer and reflection.
 - We use scripture and engage in worship.

We believe in:

- **The Holy Scriptures** as originally given by God, divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy; and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- **One God**, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- **Our Lord Jesus Christ**, God manifest in the flesh, His virgin birth, His sinless human life, His divine miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, His mediatorial work, and his personal return in power and glory.
- **The Salvation** of lost and sinful man through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ by faith apart from works, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit.
- **The Holy Spirit** by whose indwelling the believer is enabled to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **The Unity of the Spirit** of all true believers, the Church, the Body of Christ.
- **The Resurrection** of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.