



Locust Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Douglas L. Van Niel, Pastor

“How to Recognize a Good Church” (Some suggested areas to consider)

I. Spiritual Truth.

What does the church believe (doctrine or theology) and teach (sermon themes and Bible studies)-- about the basics of Christian Faith, such as: God’s Word revealed in the Bible, God’s love and holiness, Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, Salvation by grace through faith, being born again and filled by the Holy Spirit, the one universal Church as the Body of Christ, the Second Coming of Christ, and Christian lifestyle of obedient discipleship and service?

II. Love for People.

- a. Genuine love for the Lord God, Our Heavenly Father, and caring for each other.
- b. Opportunity for in depth fellowship, caring friendships, small group Bible study, and relationship with the pastor.
- c. Potential for personal spiritual growth, nurture and meaningful ministry of service to others.
- d. Worship service that is uplifting and instructive.
- e. Missionary outreach, both local and global concerns. Acts 1:8
- f. Reaching out to others with the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, “to seek and to save the lost...” Luke 19:10

III. Some Secondary Factors

- a. Relationships with friends and family- past, present and future.
- b. Location- close enough driving distance for active involvement.
- c. Denominational affiliation- including theological positions on particular Christian doctrines (such as the sacraments of baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and the nature of ministry), and theological positions on current “social issues.”

IV. Some other, perhaps less important, considerations

- a. beauty of the church building and sanctuary.
- b. size of the congregation.
- c. music program or style of worship.
- d. personality of the current pastor.

I hope these suggestions are helpful to you in choosing the church where the Lord is calling you for your spiritual growth and service. *We welcome you* to join the fellowship of believers here at Locust Presbyterian Church. Hope to see you next Sunday for Sunday School for all ages at 10:00 a.m., and worship at 11:00 a.m.

With our prayers for God’s direction and blessing in your life,

Rev. Douglas L. Van Niel, Pastor