

## **East Cooper Baptist Church Profile**

### **Our Distinctives**

#### **Christian with a big “C”**

The first of our core values is the one that undergirds and informs all of the rest of our core values. It is, “Passion for the person and work of Christ: Jesus Christ is the center and circumference of the Christian faith. Therefore, in every aspect of our ministry the focal point will always be the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our primary message will be Christ’s redemptive work upon the cross as our substitute, purchasing our pardon by His blood, and rising victorious over death.”

#### **Baptist with a convinced “B”**

We are a Baptist church. We affirm “The Baptist Faith and Message 2000”. Our focus is on the primary strengths of historic Baptist belief, lived out in culturally relevant ways. Our membership and staff come from a variety of traditions, brought together under the umbrella of Baptist belief, while allowing for biblical latitude concerning what we believe to be secondary matters.

We have strong links to a number of Southern Baptist seminaries and our local Southern Baptist University. We give generously to the International Mission Board of the SBC.

#### **Calvinist with a small “c”**

This does not refer to a weak Calvinism but to the fact that we do not want it to be bigger than Jesus. We believe that the door into the local church should be the same as the door into the universal church, personal belief in the saving work of Jesus Christ.

However the leadership of the church resonates with the fundamental beliefs of the Protestant Reformation. We affirm the 5 Solas of the Reformation: Scripture only, faith only, grace only, Christ only and glory to God only. We believe these to be essentials of Christian faith and practice.

#### **Reaching with an active “R”**

We exist to bring glory to God by, equipping people to pursue Jesus Christ passionately as they impact the culture. We seek to clearly communicate the gospel of grace in a way that will result in seeing people worship God as vigorous participants in a community of faith.

We strategically reach our community and world with the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ alone, working for the well being of people in our areas of influence. Local and global impact are a vital part of East Cooper Baptist Church.

(Please see the document “Core Values, Mission and Vision of East Cooper Baptist Church for a more detailed picture of our distinctives.)

## **What We Look Like**

### **Community**

East Cooper Baptist Church is located in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. We are a part of the greater Charleston area, located just across the harbor from historic downtown Charleston. Mt. Pleasant is a growing community of 75,000 people. It is a great place to live and work. ECBC is a regional church which draws people from all of the Charleston area.

### **History**

The church began in 1974 and has experienced steady growth since that time. We currently have about 2100 in our worship services on Sunday morning. Our Senior Pastor, Buster Brown, arrived in 1982 as a young pastor recently graduated from seminary. We have benefitted greatly from his long term commitment to this local church. A number of our other pastors have served between 10 and 20 years.

### **Worship**

We have four worship services on Sunday morning. We use video technology to increase our worship space, allowing us to have services in two venues at the same time. Two of the services feature our choir and orchestra. Two of the services feature our worship band. All of the services exalt Christ in ways that are consistent with the primary musical genres used in those services. Strong biblically based preaching holds this all together.

### **Education**

In addition to Sunday morning worship, we place a high value on education, with the goal of instructing the members of ECBC to think and act biblically. On Sunday mornings we have classes for all age groups. During the rest of the week, we have numerous other opportunities for people to study together. A strong group of teachers leads this ministry.

### **Relationships**

Small groups are important at East Cooper Baptist Church. Over 600 people are involved in our adult Community Group ministry. Many of these groups meet on Sunday evenings throughout the Charleston area. Our Student Ministry and our College ministry also have a strong small group emphasis.

### **Next Generation**

Helping the next generation follow Jesus Christ is an important part of the vision of ECBC. This can be seen in the staffing, programs and make up of our church. 500 adults serve in our children's ministry. Close to 300 students are a part of our Middle School and High School ministries. Ministries to college students, medical students and post-college singles

are not an add on but central to the vision of ECBC. Our K-12 school, Palmetto Christian Academy, is another part of our next generation focus.

### **Missions**

Our commitment to local and global impact can be seen in the involvement of people by their giving and living. Our Global Impact Conference is a highlight of each year. We regularly send out our people on short term missions trips and see significant numbers move into involvement in long term cross cultural mission work. This is supported by the generous giving of our body.

### **God's Work of Grace**

All of this happens in an environment of grace. In the beginning of the gospel of John, Jesus is described as being "full of grace and truth." As we seek to help people grow in Christ-likeness, this description provides the "what" and the "how" of all we seek to see happen by God's work in and through our church.