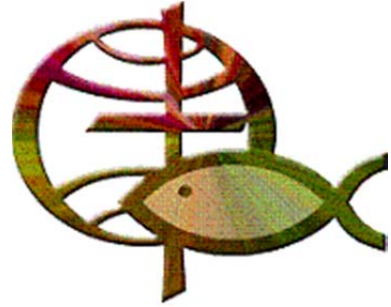


## University Baptist Foundation at Normal - Purpose and Practice

As a ministry of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, the University Baptist Foundation will seek to develop a community of Christian disciples utilizing the story, identity, and practices of our Baptist heritage to engage the campus communities in the Bloomington-Normal area with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



This purpose shall be incarnated through the following practices together:

### Narrating the Story - Worship

Regular occasions of community prayer, praise, and preaching.

*2011-2012 – possible evening worship service led by interim and then permanent campus pastor.*

### Acting like Jesus in the Story - Discipleship

Study and seek to practice the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through regular occasions of community Bible Study, Spiritual formation through the Spiritual Disciplines, and mutual accountability to one another.

*2011-2012 –regular weekly gathering to study the scriptures and other texts as profitable to the members. (Prefer not to delineate times, dates, and topics.)*

### Developing a Community Story - Fellowship

Provide opportunities for students to build community and form significant relationships through recreational, social, and fellowship activities.

### Influence/Reason

Regular Worship is encouraged in Scripture

Exodus 20:8; Acts 2:46; Hebrews 10:19-25

Per UBF community recent history, an evening worship experience is connected to who we have been. (Actually, worship is a fairly new phenomenon for UBF, since in general students have been encouraged to connect with a local church.)

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We are destined to become like Jesus  
Ephesians 2:14-19; Romans 8:29

This seems to be the current and logical place to focus most of our attention. The development of a core group is the heart of every campus ministry that thrives.

Discipleship and evangelism are the top 2 foci from the Church Surveys. Apologetics is a top focus of the Student Surveys

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We are called to love one another.

John 15:12, Acts 2:42-47

## **Ministering like Jesus - Mission**

Discern the work of the Holy Spirit in the campus communities among whom UBF lives and shares. Cooperate with the Holy Spirit through the use of individually equipped spiritual gifts and Spirit-ordained opportunities to share in word and deed the story of Jesus Christ.

*2011-2012 – we'll try to engage and assist the members of the campus community as decided by students who participate in UBF as they will be our best guide as to what is going on in the student and campus communities. Some ideas that come from the campus survey include helping students plan for life after college, tutoring, helping new or international students find the resources they need to settle into college life. Video or book discussions based on current events or important community topics may also be an outreach-oriented activity together.*

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The purpose of the church is to participate in the Kingdom of God in the here and now in preparation for the Day to come.

John 14:12; Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From the Church Survey, evangelism is a high priority.

From the Student Survey, students are concerned with how they might know God was real, how they might communicate with him, barriers that might keep people from believing in Him, and they identified needs of safety, tutoring, social connections, post-college planning, and support in struggles as the most important needs they perceived right now.

The campus community also seems to be discussing difficult issues such as War and Justice, Sexuality and Identity, Religion and Politics, Human Trafficking, and Environmental Stewardship. These all provide opportunities to share the perspective of God's Story in light of these topics as outreach possibilities.

Fellow UBF Board members, this seems to me to be the purpose and current practices that will aid in accomplishing that purpose for our shared ministry together this year at UBF as guided by previous Campus Ministry experience at UBF, ABC Church input, and campus community member input. Please let me know how the document identifies or needs to clarify particular priorities that you feel ought to be included. I hope that this is a helpful way to guide our mission together this year.

A fellow servant in Christ,  
Christian Ricker  
Pastor  
First Baptist Church in Chenoa, Illinois