

## Patrick Bowman Gordy-Stith - Core Values

1. **Openness to new truth** - the guidance of the Holy Spirit - and a **readiness to follow God's truth anywhere.**
  1. *"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then **you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**" (John 8:31-32)*
2. **Commitment to every person to help them discover, develop, and share God's gift of their life with others (this is what I understand to be perfect love of my neighbor).**
  1. *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-16)*
3. **Deep conviction that all things are connected in the unity that is God.**
  1. *God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. **'For in him we live and move and have our being.'** (Acts 17:27-28a - quoting the Cretan philosopher Epimenides).*
  2. *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.** (Ephesians 4:6)*
  3. *He is before all things, and **in him all things hold together.** (Colossians 1:17)*
  4. *Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but **Christ is all, and is in all.** (Colossians 3:11)*
4. **God has created all people as a unity - spiritually, emotionally, socially, and physically - and we are healthiest as we nourish and honor all of the expressions of our being.**
  1. *You shall love the Lord your God with **all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.** (Deuteronomy 6:5)*
  2. *And **Jesus increased in wisdom and in years [stature],** and in divine and human favor. (Luke 2:52).*
  3. *So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are **members one of another.** (Romans 12:5)*
  4. *Do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit** within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore **glorify God in your body.** (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).*
5. **Life eternal and abundant enters fully into this unity of self and of all creation in God - a state of being Jesus calls the Kingdom of Heaven (or of God). We live in this place of unity and perfect love - beyond ourselves - whenever we live into God's perfect will: when our desires and actions are God's desires and actions**
  1. *'...The Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because **whatever the Father does the Son also does.** (John 5:19)*
  2. *'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.** (John 15:5)*
  3. *'Peace be with you! **As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.**' (John 20:21).*