



Membership Packet

What is a member? | Is membership biblical? | If so, what is involved?

Universal Membership

By virtue of our union with Christ, ***we are all members*** of the **universal church**.

(Regardless of our church or denominational affiliation.)

1 Corinthians 12

12 For just as the body is one and has **many members**, and *all the members* of the body, though many, **are one body**, so it is with Christ. **13** For in one Spirit we were all **baptized into one body**—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

14 For the body does not consist of **one member** but *of many*...**27** Now **you are the body of Christ** and individually **members** of it.

Local Membership

- Through the baptism of the Spirit at the moment of conversion, we are spiritually unified with the Body of Christ.
- In the beginning of the church, new believers saw their **physical baptism** as their visible entrance and commitment to a ***particular body*** of believers.
- Today, few people stay in one church for a lifetime, so baptism has lost that meaning.
- Instead, Christians today make a commitment to belong to a particular body of believers through **church membership**.

We see membership as identifying as part of our family.

"We're a family...but there is always more room at the table."

Biblical Rationale for Local Membership

- It identifies the “**sheep**” the shepherds are **to shepherd** (1 Tim 3, Titus 1, 1 Pet 5)
- It gives us a place to **exercise spiritual gifts** (1 Cor 12, Eph 4, etc.)
- It gives us **a context** in which to practice the “**one anothers**” of Scripture

Some of the 59 “One Anothers” in Scripture

- Love one another (John 15:7)
- Carry one another’s burdens (Gal 6:2)
- Spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Heb 10:24)
- Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16)
- Forgive one another (Col 3:13)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)

Membership Aids In Our Spiritual Growth

- Submit to one another (Eph 5:21)
- Submit to those who are charged with our spiritual care (Heb 13:17)
- Submit to church discipline when necessary (1 Cor 5)

Our Vision For BCCC

BC Community Church is a place Where **all people**, from **all walks of life**, are invited to experience the **transforming power** of the **gospel of Jesus Christ** and **become disciples** who **love God completely, love self correctly,** and **love others compassionately.**

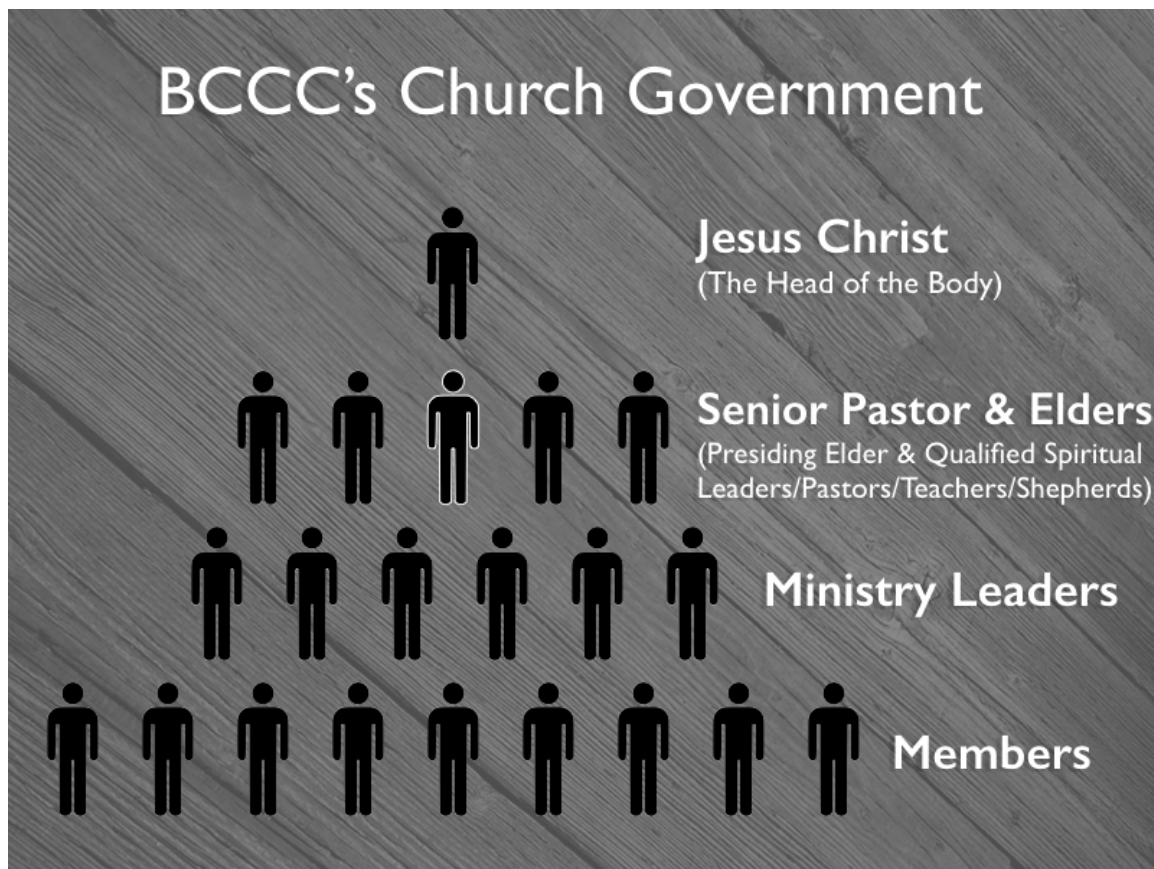
What Family Members Can Expect From Us

- To be a church that is subject first to Christ in all things, and to the authority of Scripture
- To shepherd those entrusted to our care, just as Christ calls us to (1 Pet 5)
- To only appoint those who meet the spiritual and personal character qualifications of an elder into that role (1 Tim 3, Titus 1)
- To love and serve those in our local church, just as Christ loves and serves His Bride, the Church

What We Expect of Family Members

- To be a professing believer in Jesus Christ.
 - To have been baptized.
 - To agree to our doctrinal statement and understand our values.
 - To submit to the spiritual leadership of the elders, including church discipline if ever necessary.
-
- To regularly attend worship services.
 - To serve as God has gifted you to serve.
 - To be in a Small Group.
 - To give as the Lord directs you to give...and do so joyfully.
 - To reconcile any broken relationships with other believers.
 - To live at peace with all people, as far as it depends on you.

How We Are Structured



What We Believe

God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory. (Gen 1:1, Isa 6:3, Deut 6:4, Mat 3:16-17, Rev 21:5)

The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises. (2 Tim 3:16, 2 Pet 1:21, Jer 18:1, Ps 19:7-11)

The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed. (Gen 1:26-27, Gen 3, Eph 2:1-3, Rom 5:12-19, John 3:16)

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate. (Jn 1:14, Col 1:15-20, Phil 2:5-11, Mt 28:1-10, Acts 1:9-11, Heb 4:4-16)

The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation. (Jn 17:3, Rom 3:24-46, 5:8-9, 1 Cor 15:1-4, 1 Pet 3:18)

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

(Jn 16:8, Titus 3:5, Jn 16:13-14, 1 Cor 12:12-14, Gal 5:16-24)

The Church

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer. (Mat 16:18, 28:18-19, Col 1:18, Eph 4:4-6, 1 Cor 11:24-26)

Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed. (Rom 6:1-11, Jas 1:17, Jn 13:34-35, 17:16-17, 2 Cor 10:3-6)

The Covenant of Marriage

We believe that marriage is God's design for a sacred covenant between a man and a woman and reflects the relationship between Jesus Christ and the church. Through marriage, God has created a place for sexual intimacy to be enjoyed through a man and a woman coming together as one. Any sexual intimacy outside of marriage is sexual immorality. Though sexual intimacy outside of marriage is sinful, the gospel provides redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin. (Gen 2:23-24; Mat 5:31-32; Mat 19:1-2; Eph 5:25-33)

Christ's Return

We believe in the personal and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission. (1 Thes 4:13-18, Mat 24:19-31, Rev 19:11-16, 22:20, 2 Pet 3:11)

Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen. (Jn 14:16, Act 3:19-21, Rom 10:9-10, 1 Cor 15:50-56, Rev 20:11-15)

* Taken from the Evangelical Free Church of America. "Covenant of Marriage" adapted from Transformation Church.

Our Values

Jesus

Jesus is everything to us. He is the focus of our worship (Phil 2:9-11). He is the image of the invisible God, the Head of the Church, and the Creator and sustainer of all things (Col 1:15-20). Because of His all-sufficient death and victorious resurrection, we can have new Life in Him (Rom 5:1-2). This means He allows us to not only be reconciled to God, but to one another. Because of this, we passionately want everyone to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Scripture

Since all of Scripture points us to Jesus (Luke 24:25-27), we are committed to learning and knowing God's Word within the context it was written. That is why we believe it is important to preach through entire books of the bible at a time. This helps us see God's plan of redemption from Genesis to Revelation.

Discipleship

We are committed to living out what Scripture commands us to do (James 1:22). The Greatest Commandment of all is to become disciples of Jesus who love God, love self, love others (Matt 28:19-20).

Community In the Church

We named ourselves Battle Creek Community Church for two reasons: we are passionate about community in the church, and we are passionate about the community our church is in. When we talk about community in the church, we're talking about living as family: loving each other, caring for each other's needs, and encouraging each other to become more and more like Christ. We believe this can most effectively be done in Small Groups.

Community the Church Is In

When we talk about the community our church is in, we mean making a real difference in the City of Battle Creek. As part of our commitment to do this, we're honored to serve as mentors at Verona School as well as support several local Community Ministry Partners.

Outreach

We are committed to supporting missionaries from our church who serve in domestic and international ministries. We believe these are ways we can fulfill Jesus' command "to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Membership

Because we feel so strongly about community in the church, we believe it's important for people to commit to become a member of a local church. This is how we know primarily who we are to care for spiritually and physically.

Elder Leadership

Those who are entrusted to shepherd the flock in the church are called Elders (1 Tim 3:1-7; 1 Pet 5:1-5). We believe that God has called men into this role. We also believe that the biblical model is for there to be a plurality of elders, of which the senior pastor is one.

Teaching Roles

We believe Scripture reserves the role of elder for men, however we encourage the gifts of teaching to be used by both men and women in our Sunday services and throughout the week. Anyone who preaches or teaches does so under the authority of the elders.