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MEMBERSHIP CLASS

COCALICO
community church

CCC MEMBERSHIP CLASS

- **Introduction**

- **Membership at CCC**
  - Why church membership?
  - What are the prerequisites for membership?

- **Prerequisite #1 - Salvation**
  - What is salvation?
  - Response #1

- **Prerequisite #2 - Baptism**
  - What should I know about baptism?
  - Response #2

- **Prerequisite #3 - Beliefs**
  - What are our core beliefs?
  - What are our distinctive beliefs?
  - Response #3

- **Prerequisite #4 – Mission, Vision, Values & Strategy**
  - What is our purpose?
  - What is our mission?
  - What are our values?
  - What is our strategy?
  - What is our leadership structure?
  - Response #4

- **Next Steps**
  - What commitments are asked of CCC members?
  - What steps do I need to take to become a member?

- **Preparing for Your Membership Conversation**

- **Questions**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Brief History of Cocalico Community Church 3

Why Church Membership? 5

Prerequisites for Membership 8

Prerequisite #1 – Salvation 9

- What Is the Gospel? 9
- The Bridge Illustration 11
- Response #1 12

Prerequisite #2 – Baptism 13

- What Is the Significance of Baptism? 13
- Who Should Be Baptized? 14
- Why Should You Be Baptized? 14
- How Do We Baptize? 15
- When Should You Be Baptized? 17
- Response #2 18

Prerequisite #3 – Agreement in Beliefs 19

- Core Beliefs 20
- Distinctive Beliefs 22
- Response #3 24

Prerequisite #4 – Agreement in Mission, Values and Vision 25

- Our Purpose 26
- Our Mission 27
- Our Values 27
- Our Strategy 28
- Our Leadership Structure 29
- Response #4 30

Member Commitments 31

Steps to Becoming a Member at CCC 34

Preparing for Your Membership Interview 35

CCC – A BRIEF HISTORY

The idea of a church doing things differently became rooted in me during my teenage years. When I sat next to visitors, or friends I had invited to church, I noticed their struggle to differentiate the hymnal from the Bible. I wondered if the ideas and concepts coming from the pulpit were communicated in a way someone new to church could grasp. At this point in my life, ***God planted a seed*** in me.

I also witnessed individuals who would "play church," going through the motions on Sunday morning but ***living messy and broken lives*** during the week. No one discussed it or questioned it. Eventually, those people disappeared. I longed for a church in which people were challenged to follow Christ while being ***transparent in the struggle***.

During my graduate training, Christine and I were assigned to an internship at High Point Baptist Chapel where we learned about their interest in recruiting individuals to plant new churches. ***God answered*** my teenage vision when, in September 1991, a small group of five gathered in our home, marking the start of Cocalico Community Chapel. After outgrowing our living room, a dozen adults launched our first worship service on March 27, 1992, at the Comfort Inn in Denver, PA. After meeting at this location for five months, God gave us a church building in Fivepointville for our new home. As our congregation grew, ***God provided*** Gehman's Mennonite School, where we met for the next 18 years, setting up and tearing down each week. This gracious partnership allowed our church to expand through a season of adding staff, a second service, and various new ministries.

In 2007, sensing the need for a permanent facility, we purchased a 40-acre farm across the street from the school. The land was paid off in 10 months, so we began to make plans to build. Fundraising was a slow process, and we wondered when having our own building would become a reality. In the spring of 2014, we learned that a church building was about to be put on the market. This news resulted in a flurry of activity as our facility team, staff, and elder team evaluated this opportunity. As we ***sensed God's leading***, and with the support of our membership, the building was purchased that August.

After eight months of renovations, we moved into the gym of our new facility. We then spent another year renovating the sanctuary, with a grand opening on November 20, 2016. ***God directed our steps*** providing

the right place for our church in each season to impact our community. Through a series of setups and teardowns, packing and unpacking, God allowed that teenage vision to become a reality. Cocalico Community Church is a place for people at any stage of their faith journey, a place where people who are searching for something more can experience a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

WHY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

Church membership is a way for an individual to officially identify
with a local group of Christ followers (the church)

Reasons People Don't Become a Church Member

1. They were never _____to join or given a good reason to join a church.

   - We hope this class will change that. We want to encourage you and give you reasons to join.

2. There is no direct _____ in the Bible to formally join a church.

   - That is true; there is no command.

   - BUT –

     Acts 2:41
     "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

     Acts 4:4
     "*But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand."*

     Acts 5:14
     "Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number."

   - They knew who was in the church and who wasn't.

3. They see membership as a _____.

4. They have an issue with _____.

   - Becoming a member puts you under the oversight of church leadership.

   - If you have experienced abusive church leadership, it can take a long time to recover and a long time to trust other church leaders.

   - Having an abusive or absent father figure can make it difficult for you to trust male leadership in a church setting.

Reasons to Consider Becoming a Church Member

1. Because of how Christ views his _____.

    - Ephesians 5:25-27
      "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."

        - Jesus loved the Church enough to die for the Church.

        - If Christ died for the Church, it seems we should do all we can to show our commitment to Him.

        - A purpose of marriage is to illustrate Christ's love for the church.

2. Because church membership helps the _____ lead the church.

    - Hebrews 13:17
      "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you."

3. Because pastors are to give an account before God, we need to know who is part of the church.

    - It defines who is all in, who can be counted on, and who we ask to make greater commitments. This goes beyond those who name CCC as their church but rarely participate.

    - Certain ministry positions are limited to members (key leaders, elders, etc.).

    - It allows us to best care for members.

4. Because church membership helps you continue to _____ in Christ and to _____ you from straying.

    - Ephesians 4:11-13
      "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."

    - Spiritual Protection – Membership places you under the spiritual protection of elders

    - Personal Accountability – Membership is your request for accountability

5. Because church membership gives you a _____ and a _____ in the major decisions of our church as designated by our constitution.

    - We are a congregationally governed, elder-protected, and staff-directed church.

6. Because church membership invites you to be ____ of something bigger than yourself.

    - It gives you a chance to make a difference.

    - It offers you an opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself.

WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITES FOR MEMBERSHIP?

- Salvation
- Baptism
- Agreement in Beliefs
- Agreement in Purpose, Values, Mission

PREREQUISITE #1 - SALVATION

The most important decision you can make is about your relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This section of the class is designed to help you clearly understand what that means and how it happens.

What is _____?

- To be saved means "to deliver and rescue."

How is this _____?

- Through the gospel, which literally means "good news."

Know the Gospel

1. Man's _____: Everyone is a sinner. Our sin breaks the relationship with God our Creator, and the penalty is death.
   Romans 3:23 – "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*"
   Romans 6:23 – "*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

2. God's _____: Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God, died for the sins of mankind and rose again on the third day. His death paid the penalty for the sins of mankind. This sacrifice made it possible for the relationship to be restored.
   Romans 5:8 – "*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

3. Man's _____: Believe who Jesus is, accept what he did for you, and you will become one of God's children and be saved. This restores your relationship with God for eternity.
   John 1:12 – "*Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."*
   Romans 10:9-10 – "*If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."*

These are the facts of the gospel. Do you _____ them?

Believe the Gospel

- You are a sinner.
- Jesus died on the cross for your sins.
- His death made it possible for you to have a relationship with him for eternity.

These are the facts of the gospel. Do you _____ them?

Accept the Gospel Personally

- Admit your need for a Savior.
- Receive God's forgiveness for your sins by thanking him for dying on the cross and paying for your sins.
- Surrender your life to Jesus.
- Choose to follow him with your life.

These are the facts of the gospel. Have you made it _____?

The Gospel in 5 Words

1. _____

   This is why we need the gospel (good news). We all have sinned.

2. _____

   Our sin creates an irreconcilable gap between us and God with a future of eternal separation from him.

3. _____

   Jesus Christ died to fix this problem of our sin and separation from God.

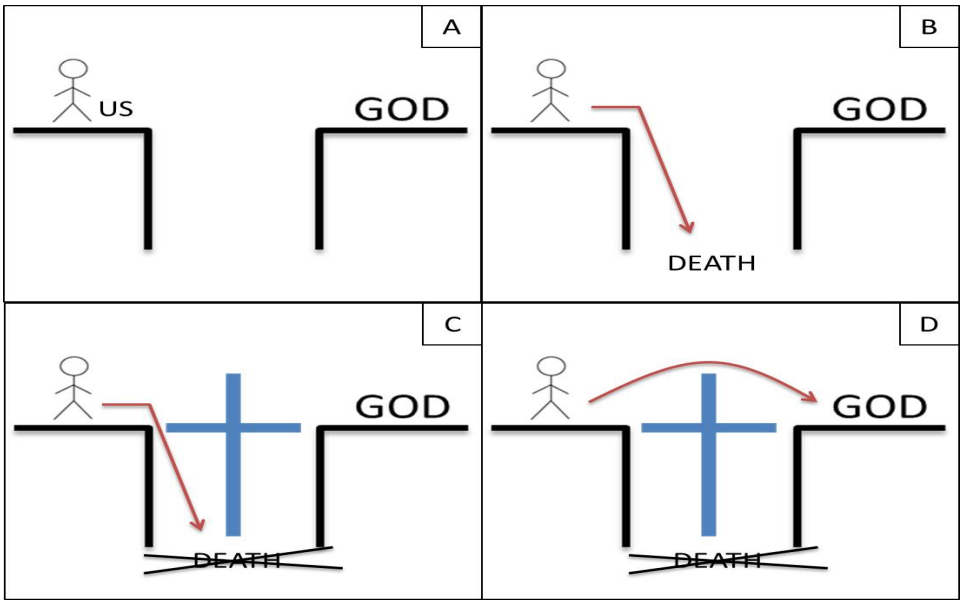
4. _____

   We surrender to Jesus when we place our faith in Christ as the forgiver of our sins and leader of our life.

5. _____

   After we come into relationship with Christ, we submit our lives to follow him daily.

The Bridge Illustration



RESPONSE #1

Please complete this response form in preparation for your membership interview.

1. What is the Gospel? How does a person receive salvation from his/her sin and begin a relationship with God?

2. When did you place your faith in Christ alone for your salvation? Share the details of what you remember.

PREREQUISTE #2 - BAPTISM

Baptism is not what you do to get saved, but it's what you do once you are saved.

- Acts 2:37-41
  "When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

Five Questions Concerning Baptism

1. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM?

- We believe baptism is an _____ physical picture of an _____ spiritual reality.
  - Romans 6:3-4
    "[3]Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4]We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

- Baptism is a picture of what happens at salvation. It is the way that we identify with what Jesus did on the cross.

Romans 6	**The spiritual act**	**The physical act**
✓ Verse 3	died with Christ	put into the water
✓ Verse 4	buried with Christ	under the water
✓ Verses 4-5	raised with Christ	taken out of the water

- It is _____ _____ with your faith in Christ.

2. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

- _____ who has chosen to follow Jesus.

- The New Testament order is always to _____ and then be baptized.

    - Matthew 28:19
      "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

    - Acts 8:35-36
      "Then Philip began with that very passage and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?"

    - Acts 10:47-48
      "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."

- The New Testament examples demonstrate that baptism is for followers of Jesus.

- Baptism always followed _____; it did not precede it.

3. WHY SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

- It is _____ for all believers

    - Matthew 28:19-20
      "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- It was demonstrated by the early church

    - Acts 2:38
      "Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.""

4. HOW DO WE BAPTIZE?

- The first three questions are most important: what, who and why? Although the mode of baptism is not the primary focus, here are three key reasons for why we baptize by fully immersing in water.

- Why do we baptize this way?

A. The Greek term for baptize (baptizo) literally means to submerge or immerse. The word is "transliterated" from Greek into English. If it were to be translated, it would be translated as submerge or immerse.

   - ❖ Word means – "dip or immerse" in any Greek/English dictionary

   - ❖ So why did they not translate the word?

   - ❖ When the Scriptures were translated into English, to use the word immerse or dip would have caused immense conflict in the church culture of the day. Churches, during the time the Bible was translated, did not immerse. They dipped or poured. This had become the practice out of convenience and deathbed baptisms. To avoid controversy, they used the Greek word. More details below.

Progression of the Modes of Baptism
Initially, baptism was done by immersion only but sprinkling and pouring started being used for practical reasons, such as illness. By the 7th century, sprinkling became more common, and in 1311 AD, the Catholic Church officially allowed sprinkling as a form of baptism. Historical examples, like Emperor Constantine being baptized on his deathbed, show how this practice developed.
When the Bible was translated into English, the Greek word *baptizo* was transliterated as people, like King James, who had been baptized by sprinkling. By keeping the term neutral, the translators avoided taking a stance on the method of baptism.
Even though sprinkling became common in many traditions, the original meaning of *baptizo* is still immersion, and it continues to be the most accurate representation of the term. Early Christians, as well as translations in other languages, understood baptism as full immersion, symbolizing a person's transformation in Christ and their participation in His death, burial, and resurrection.

B. _____ is the best picture of the spiritual reality of baptism (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12).

- Romans 6:4
  "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

- Colossians 2:12
  "…having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead."

C. The New Testament _____ immersion as the mode of baptism practiced in the early church.

- Mark 1:9-10 (Notice the phrase "coming up out of the water.")

  *"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was **coming up out of the water**, he saw heaven being torn open* and the Spirit descending on him like a dove."

- Matthew 3:6 (Notice "in the Jordan River" indicating immersion.)

  *"Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him **in the Jordan River**."*

- John 3:23 (Notice the need for "plenty of water.")

  *"Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was **plenty of water**, and people were coming and being baptized."*

- Acts 8:36-39 (Notice they "came to some water" instead of water coming to them. Also, notice the phrases, "down into the water," and "came up out of the water.")

  *"As they traveled along the road, they **came to some water** and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went **down into the water** and Philip baptized him. When they **came up out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing."*

D. How important is the way that I was baptized?

- The key issue is not the mode but whether your baptism took place after you gave your life to Jesus.

- If you experienced sprinkling or pouring after you gave your life to Jesus, we do not ask you to be baptized again.

- Parents have infants baptized for many reasons (tradition, fear of something happening to their child before salvation, fear that they won't go to heaven if not baptized). If you were baptized as an infant, you couldn't have put your faith in Jesus before your baptism. For this reason, we encourage you to be baptized after having made a personal decision to follow Jesus.

- Some individuals who have already been baptized via various modes when they were younger ask if they can be baptized again as their faith has become their own. We wholeheartedly encourage this.

5. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

- As soon as _____ (At CCC we have baptism celebrations 4 times per year).

- Acts 2:41
  *"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number **that day**."*

- Acts 8:35-38
  "Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?' And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him."

More information about baptism can be found on our church website – www.cocalico.church
- Go to the "Next Steps" tab
- Click "Baptism" and read the FAQ's on baptism at CCC
- Watch baptism stories
- Complete the form indicating your interest in being baptized and submit it to the church office

RESPONSE #2

Please complete this response form in preparation for your membership interview.

1. What is the purpose of baptism?

2. Have you been baptized after you came to faith in Christ? If so, when did this take place?

Prerequisite #3 - Agreement in Beliefs

IMPORTANCE OF BELIEFS/DOCTRINE

Doctrine is of central importance. Doctrine is a set of beliefs held by a church or religious organization. Holding the wrong theological beliefs can have eternal consequences. Our attempt is simply to ask the question:

What does the _____ say?

Our goal is to believe what the Bible says, obey what the Bible commands, and show grace where the Bible is unclear.

TWO CATEGORIES OF CHURCH BELIEFS

Truth is very important to us at CCC. Unity is also important. The beginning of church unity is doctrinal unity. Yet we recognize that many Christians interpret parts of the Bible differently. We put our doctrine into two major categories: Core beliefs and Distinctive beliefs.

1. CORE BELIEFS
   Core truths are central to our understanding of Scripture regarding the Christian faith and must be agreed upon by all members of CCC. If you disagree with our core truths, we are not the best church for you.

2. DISTINCTIVE BELIEFS
   Distinctive beliefs demonstrate our interpretation of the Bible in several areas. These distinctive beliefs are not universally held by all followers of Christ. Members of CCC may differ in their interpretation of Scripture regarding our distinctive beliefs, yet for the sake of unity, they choose not to cause division or recruit others to their position.

   Most distinctive beliefs do not need to be embraced for one to become a member, but the following considerations need to be made:

   - If you become a member of CCC, you agree to the spirit of the distinctive beliefs.
   - If you become a member of CCC, you choose not to allow your different interpretations to affect the unity of our church.
   - If you become a member of CCC, you agree not to actively recruit people to your position.
   - If you find that you disagree with several of our distinctive beliefs, we believe you will be frustrated in your ongoing engagement at CCC. We encourage you to find a church that is a better fit for your beliefs.

OUR CORE BELIEFS

The following statements constitute the core beliefs of CCC. They are central to our understanding of the Bible regarding our Christian faith and must be agreed upon by all members of CCC.

1. _____ – We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God written by human authors under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the ultimate source of truth for Christian belief and living. The Bible is true and without error in the original manuscripts. God has preserved his Word through the centuries for us today.

2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:105

2. _____ – We believe in one God who is the Creator and Ruler of the Universe. He has eternally existed in a loving unity of three equally distinct persons: the Father, the Son, 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 glory.

Genesis 1:1; Ephesians 3:14; Matthew 1:22-25, 28:19; 1 Peter 1:12; 2 Corinthians 13:14

3. _____ – We believe Jesus is the second member of the Trinity (the Son of God). He was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He revealed God to humanity as he lived a sinless life. He was crucified to become the Savior of the world. He rose bodily from the dead and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our Advocate.

Luke 1:27-31; John 1:3; 1 Peter 2:24; Matthew 28:5-7; 1 John 2:11

4. _____ – We believe the Holy Spirit is the third member of the Trinity. He convicts people of their guilt, transforms the lives of those who admit their sinfulness, and places them as heirs in the family of God. He lives with, directs, encourages, and empowers Christ followers to become more like Jesus.

Acts 5:32; John 3:3-6; Ephesians 4:30; Romans 8:9, 8:14

5. _____ – We believe God created all people in his image with the desire to have a relationship with mankind but, because of sinful disobedience, all people have become alienated in that relationship. As a result, we are incapable of regaining a right relationship with God through our own efforts.

Genesis 1:26-27, 2:16-17; Colossians 1:21; Isaiah 59:1-2

6. _____ – We believe because of our sinful nature we all fall short of God's perfect standard. God solved this problem by sending his Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for the sins of humanity. Those who trust in Jesus' payment for their sins are forgiven and receive eternal life as a free gift from God.

Romans 3:22-26, 5:9-18, 10:9, John 3:16-17, 10:28

7. _____ – We believe the church to be symbolically described in the Bible as the body of Christ of which Jesus Christ is the head. The members of the church are all people who have trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. The purpose of the church is to give him glory by loving him fully and making him known to the lost world.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 12:27; Ephesians 2:20, 4:11-12; Matthew 28:19-20

OUR DISTINCTIVE BELIEFS

The following distinctive beliefs demonstrate our interpretation of the Bible in several areas. All Christ followers do not, universally, hold these distinctive beliefs. Members of CCC may differ in their interpretation of Scripture regarding these distinctive beliefs yet, for the sake of unity, are committed to not cause division or recruit others to their position.

1. _____ – Predestination claims that God has determined the course of all human events while not removing human responsibility. Free will claims that within God's eternal plan and predetermined course, people can make some choices including their own spiritual destiny. We believe that God has chosen before time began those who will enter a loving relationship with him. We will urgently share the gospel with those far from God and hold to the sovereign control of God over our lives.

Romans 9:16, 20-24; Ephesians 1:4-5

2. _____ – We believe that once you are saved it is impossible for you to lose your salvation. You are secure in your salvation by the power of God through faith. If you wander away from God, either God will lovingly bring you back or you were never truly a Christ follower.

John 5:24, 10:28-29; Romans 8:1; Hebrews 5:9, 9:12

3. _____ – We believe spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to the body of Christ for the growth of Christ followers. We believe that these gifts were primarily used in the early church to confirm the message of the gospel. The gifts considered "sign gifts" include speaking in unlearned languages, miraculous healing, and speaking prophetically about the future. While God could still choose to use them in this day, it would have to be within the parameters outlined in the Bible. For the sake of unity, we do not practice or teach that these gifts should be used by our church family. We ask those who are attendees at CCC do the same.

1 Corinthians 12-14, 12:28; Hebrews 2:4

4. _____ – We believe the Bible teaches there is equality between men and women before God, yet there are distinctions in roles for men and women in the home and the church. Every leadership role is open to women except the role of elder and primary teachers to the entire church. The Bible establishes these limits.

Galatians 3:28; I Timothy 2:11-12, 3:1-12; Titus 1:6-9

5. _____ – We believe baptism is an outward sign of a person's internal decision to follow Jesus. It demonstrates a devotion and allegiance to Jesus as the ruler of their life. The example in the Bible is that it always follows salvation. The Bible commands baptism as an act of obedience. Baptism by immersion demonstrates a symbolic connection with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. We will baptize by immersion at CCC. We will accept into membership those who have been baptized by another mode if it follows, not precedes, their decision to give their life to Christ.

Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:12-13, 36, 38; Romans 6:1-10

6. _____ – We believe marriage is the union of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship. Marriage is the only biblical setting for the expression of sexual intimacy. The husband and wife are of equal worth in God's eyes and should exist in a mutually submissive relationship with each other.

Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 5:23-24; 1 Corinthians 5:9, 6:15-20; Galatians 5:19-21

7. _____ – We believe in the personal, premillennial return of Christ. The dead will be raised and those alive on the earth will be reunited with Christ instantly in heaven. He will bring history to its conclusion ending with the millennial reign on the earth, the final judgment, and the eternal state.

1 Thessalonians 4:16; Isaiah 9:6-7; Revelation 20:6-7, 11-15, 22:1-7

RESPONSE #3

Please complete this response form in preparation for your membership interview.

1. Do you disagree with or have questions about our core truths?

2. Do you disagree with or have questions about our distinctive beliefs?

3. What belief, if any, do you have that may be different than our beliefs?

4. If you could ask our pastors any question about doctrine or our beliefs, what would you ask?

Prerequisite #4 - Agreement with Our Mission, Vision, Values & Strategy

Although this fourth prerequisite is not nearly as important as the first three, agreement with our mission, vision, and values is very important for the sake of church unity and should be embraced by those who intend to become members of CCC.

To best understand our direction, we will consider the following categories:

- Our Purpose
- Our Mission
- Our Vision
- Our Values
- Our Strategy
- Our Leadership

OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose explains the reason we exist as a church.

When Jesus left this earth, these were his final words to his followers:

- Matthew 28:19-20
  *"Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

- Acts 1:8
  "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

_____ _____ who would be his witnesses were his final instruction. This is the goal of every church. What should be the purpose for these disciples?

Jesus expressed this as the first two most important commandments.

- Matthew 22:37-39
  "Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself."

The second half of the purpose is repeated by Peter.

- 1 Peter 4:8
  "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins."

We have summarized our purpose in this statement

- _____ _____ _____
- _____ _____ _____

OUR MISSION

All churches will generally have a similar purpose centered around the Great Commandments and the Great Commission. However, a church's mission is its unique calling from God for them to accomplish.

Our mission unites our church and all our ministries around a common goal. It brings us together in pursuing the mission God has given us.

Lead _____ who are _____for something _____

Into a _____-_____ relationship with Jesus.

OUR VALUES

Our values are the abiding principles that we hold deeply and passionately at CCC.

_____ _____**:** Having experienced God's love, our challenge is to extend gracious acceptance to the people God brings into our lives. It is our desire to follow the example of Jesus who walked past cultural, relational, and religious boundaries to graciously accept people very different from him.

_____ _____**:** We are designed for relationships. Unfortunately, our life experience is filled with unhealthy relating patterns and shattered relationships. We are committed to cultivating healthy, growing relationships that balance grace and truth.

_____ _____**:** Every believer brings something to the body of Christ that no one else can offer. We are committed to exploring God's unique design for every individual based upon their God-given gifts, helping each to express their purpose by serving others inside and outside the local church.

_____ _____**:** From the changing to the seasons to the beating of a heart, all life exists with rhythm. God's design for us is to incorporate rhythms of silence, time with him, activity and engagement, and then rest through observing the Sabbath.

_____ _____**:** Forward movement in our faith journey often requires us to pause and look back, processing life as we have experienced it. Going backwards allows God to give us clarity about the larger story that he is writing through us which enables us to move forward and live out the purpose he has for us.

OUR STRATEGY (OUR DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY)

So how do we accomplish our mission? The way we do this at CCC is through our Discipleship Pathway.

Define a disciple – A disciple is one who follows Jesus, lives like Jesus and invites others to do the same!

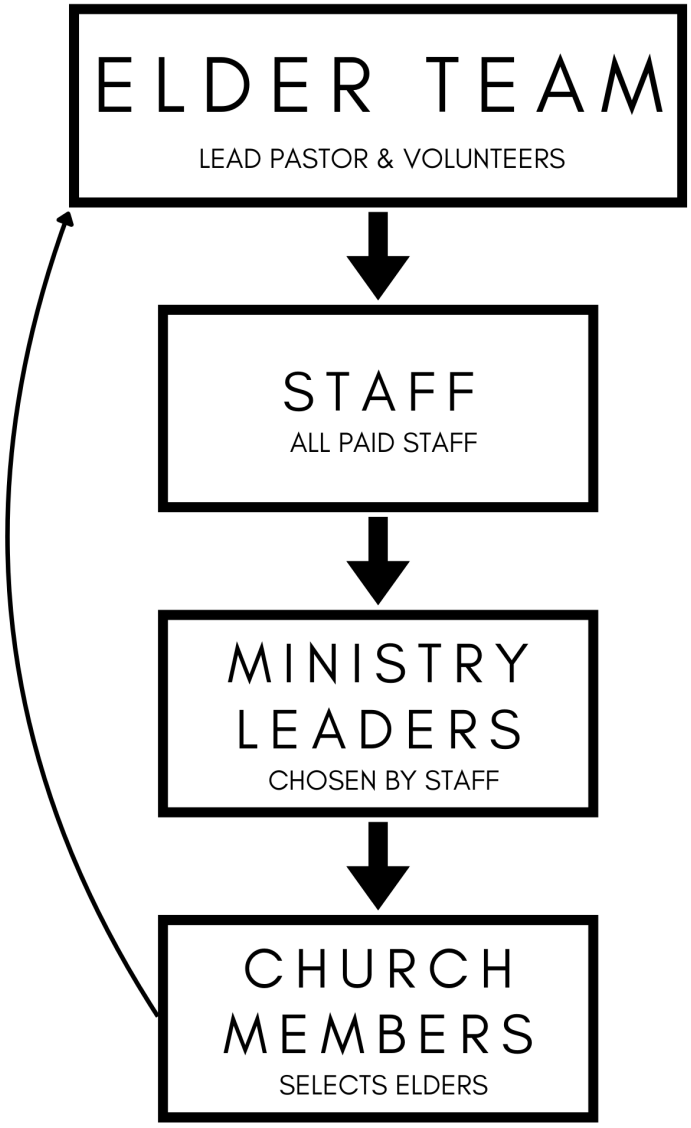
- Engage with _____
    - Daily meet with God reading the Bible and prayer
    - Weekly gathering for worship and teaching

- Connect to _____
    - Use your gifts to serve
    - Connect with others in a group

- Invest in a _____
    - Weekly ongoing commitment with a group of men/women

- Move into our _____
    - Share Jesus with family and friends
    - Invite others to join us
    - Make a difference in our world
    - Give generously

OUR LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE



RESPONSE #4

Please complete this response form in preparation for your membership interview.

1. I have read through the church constitution. Yes No

2. I agree with and commit to CCC's purpose. Yes No

3. I agree with and commit to CCC's values. Yes No

4. I agree with and commit to CCC's mission. Yes No

5. I am willing to participate in CCC's Discipleship Pathway. Yes No

WHAT ARE THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS?

- Commitments are not required.
- Commitments are _____.
- Commitments are _____.
- We don't expect that you do these through our ministry programs.

WHAT ARE THE COMMITMENTS?

- Our members commit to engage with God in personal and public worship regularly.
- Our members commit to connecting with others by being part of a small group.
- Our members commit to use their gifts to serve Christ and this local church.
- Our members commit to investing in a few, either through a formal group experience for a season or ongoing involvement in the lives of others.
- Our members commit to move into their world by supporting the church financially.
- Our members commit to move into their world by loving, serving and introducing people to Jesus.
- Our members commit to their own spiritual growth, embracing a journey where they are not solely reliant on the church for spiritual nourishment but self-feeders who are actively seeking to deepen their faith.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS

"This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children…We will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

Ephesians 4:12-16, NLT

1. Engage with God

. . . by establishing a regular time in God's Word and prayer. (Yes/No)

. . . by attending our weekly worship gathering.

Service you attend: 1st service 2nd service

2. Connect in community

. . . by using my gifts and skills to serve in a ministry weekly at CCC.

Ministry I am serving at CCC:

_____

_____

❑ I need help finding a place to serve.

. . . by committing to a small group environment.

Group I am attending at CCC:

_____

_____

❑ I need help finding a group to attend.

3. Invest in a few

. . . by meeting weekly with 2-3 people to grow in my faith.

Who are you meeting with currently?:

_____

_____

❑ I would like to talk to someone about how to take this step.

4. Move into our world

. . . by praying for, serving, witnessing and inviting others to CCC hear about Jesus.

Unchurched I'm praying for and seeking to invite:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

. . . . by giving of my resources in a consistent, generous way to support the ministry.

I am committed to work toward giving 10% toward the ministry at CCC and more as God challenges and blesses me.

Yes No

_____ _____

Signature Date

_____

Printed Name

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO BECOMING A MEMBER AT CCC?

- ✓ Attend CCC Membership Class
- ✓ Read the Church Constitution
- ✓ Complete Membership Application online
- ✓ Conversation with one of our elders

PREPPING FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP INTERVIEW

1. Be prepared to answer the question: What is the gospel?

   The Gospel can be summarized in five words:

   - Sin – we were born and are sinners
   - Separation – that sin separates us from God
   - Savior – Jesus died and rose to solve our sin problem
   - Surrender – We place our faith in the work of Christ and ask him to be our forgiver
   - Submission – Following that act of trust, we submit to follow Jesus as our leader

   The Gospel cannot be understood without the first four words (sin, separation, Savior, and surrender). As you write your answer, check to be sure it covers at least these four areas.

2. Be prepared to share how you would explain to someone how they can place their faith in Christ.
   This is a similar question to the first one but allows the interviewer to verify that you have a firm understanding of having a relationship with Christ.

3. Be prepared to share when you placed your faith in Christ.
   Simply share when you believe you crossed the line of faith and asked Jesus to be the forgiver of your sins and the leader of your life. Give as many of the details as you can remember.

4. Be prepared to share what baptism means and when you were baptized after you put your faith in Jesus.
   Baptism is a picture of us being united with Christ in His death and resurrection. It is our opportunity to "go public" with our faith in Christ. In no way does baptism give us a right relationship with God. But it is a demonstration of our right relationship with Him.

5. Be prepared to share any questions, concerns, or differences you have with our doctrinal statement.
   As you read the doctrinal section of the constitution, note any areas of disagreement so you can be prepared to share those with your interviewer.

6. Be prepared to share your commitment to CCC's mission, vision, values
   Share your involvement in the four steps on the strategy (discipleship pathway):
   - Engage with God
   - Connect in community
   - Invest in a few
   - Move into our world