

**Welcome to  
Discovering Church Membership**

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Chester Avenue Community Church! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members with no church background as well as others from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is.

**Discovering Church Membership** is divided in three sections and is taught by our pastor since 1990. Rev. Keith W. Fultz. Other elders and leaders may assist in teaching some of the sessions.

**THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS:**

*Ephesians 2:19 (ESV)*

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household (family) of God,*

**KEY TRUTHS**

1. The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_
2. God expects you to be a \_\_\_\_\_ of a church family.
3. A Disciple of Jesus without a church family is an \_\_\_\_\_.  
INHIBITS the Maturity of the Believer

**THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS**

That I will commit myself to the \_\_\_\_\_

and to the \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT MAKES C.A.C.C. FAMILY?

Three things unite us!

- Our Salvation (What God has done for us)
- Our Statement (Why we exist as a church)
- Our Structure (When & where we fulfill our purpose)

## SEMINAR OUTLINE

### SECTION ONE **OUR SALVATION**

- What it means to be a Disciple of Jesus
- The symbols of Salvation: Baptism and Communion

### SECTION TWO **OUR STATEMENTS**

- Our purpose statement
- Our faith statement
- Our lifestyle statement

### SECTION THREE **OUR STRUCTURE**

- How our church is structured
- Our Affiliation
- What it means to be a member

## SECTION ONE

### OUR SALVATION

*“You all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who have been baptized in Christ have clothed yourselves in Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*  
Galatians 3:26-28

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS?

Most people live their lives without knowing “WHY?” They exist year after year with no idea why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question people ask is, *“What is the meaning of life?”*

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways

...Some look for happiness by acquiring possessions

...Some look for happiness by experiencing pleasure

...Some look for happiness by gaining prestige and power

...Some people just give up on life

But real happiness comes from \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s  
\_\_\_\_\_ for my life.

#### I. Why am I here?

A. God made me to \_\_\_\_\_ me!

*Jeremiah 31:3 (ESV) (God says) I have loved you with an everlasting love*

*Ephesians 1:4-5 (ESV)*

*...he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,*

B. We were created to have a personal \_\_\_\_\_  
with God and to \_\_\_\_\_ all of God’s creation!

*Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV)*

*So God created man in his own image, ... And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, ...”*

C. We were created to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God.

*Joshua 24:15 (ESV) "...choose this day whom you will serve, ... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

*Romans 12:1 (NKJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

*2 Corinthians 5:9 (ESV)*

*So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.*

D. We were created to live an \_\_\_\_\_ life

*John 10:10 (ESV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

We define abundant life as living with the qualities of the Fruit of the Spirit as opposed to wealth and health.

*Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV2011) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

E. When we know and love God, and live in harmony with his purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

**Clear conscience**  
Romans 8:1

**Life & Peace**  
Romans 8:6

**Help with weakness**  
Romans 8:26

**Purpose**  
Romans 8:28

**Confidence**  
Romans 8:31

**Security**  
Romans 8:39

**Power & Strength**  
Philippians 4:13

**Fulfillment**  
Philippians 4:19

**Freedom**  
John 8:32, 36

This is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live. Why then aren't most people living the ABUNDANT and BLESSED life?

## II. WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Man has a natural desire to be their own \_\_\_\_\_ and to ignore God's principles for living.

“Look out for number 1.

“Do your own thing”

“If it feels good, do it - regardless of what God says about it.”

“It's my life and I'll do what I please.”

**THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE \_\_\_\_\_**

*Isaiah 53:6 (ESV) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*1 John 1:8 (ESV) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

**Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside his will.**

*Isaiah 59:2 (ESV)*

*your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,*

*Romans 3:23 (ESV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

**When our relationship to God is not right, it causes \_\_\_\_\_ in every area of our lives—marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.**

**WHEN PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS, THEY OFTEN TRY MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF COPING BEFORE THEY TURN TO GOD.**

*Proverbs 16:25 (ESV)*

*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.*

**Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try the wrong ways of getting to know him:**

- “My mother was a Christian”
- “It doesn't matter what you believe, just be sincere”
- “I'll give up all my bad habits, first
- “I'll work real hard and earn it”
- “I'll be religious and go to church”
- The church is full of hypocrites.”

### III. WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

*John 14:6 (ESV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back into a love relationship with himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come and die for our sins. The way is the person, Jesus!

\_\_\_\_\_ has taken care of our sin problem.

*Romans 6:23 (ESV) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Jesus lived the life we should have lived and died the death that we should die.

**God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to be restored to right relationship with him.**

*Romans 5:8 (ESV) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV) For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*

God has already done his part to restore his relationship to him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what he has done.

**Although we have offended God, Christ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us to God.**

*2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;*

#### IV. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ that God has not been first place in your life and ask him to forgive your sins.

*1 John 1:9 (ESV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and he rose again and is alive today.

*Romans 10:9 (ESV) because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*Acts 4:12 (ESV) And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ God's free gift of Salvation, Don't try to earn it.

*Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

**Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us!**

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the Director /Manager ("Lord") of your life.

*John 1:12-13 (ESV) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*Revelation 3:20 (ESV) Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*

**You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God:**

*“Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me; even when I’ve ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I’m sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me understand it more. As much as I know how. I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of Salvation. Please help me grow now as a Disciple of Jesus.”*

***Romans 10:13 (ESV) For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”***

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

### I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To follow the example set by \_\_\_\_\_

*Mark 1:9 (ESV) In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.*

2. Because Christ \_\_\_\_\_ it.

*Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

3. It demonstrates to the world that I really am a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 18:8 (ESV) And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.*

### II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It illustrates Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (ESV) Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*

*Colossians 2:12 (ESV) having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.*

2. It illustrates my \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

*Romans 6:4 (ESV) We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

*John 3:3-5 (ESV) Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*

3. It illustrates my \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ as a Believer.

*Acts 22:16 (ESV) And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'*

*Titus 3:5 (ESV) He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.*

Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it’s the outward symbol of the commitment you made with you heart. Baptism doesn’t make you a believer - it shows that you already believe.

*Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

### III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. Baptisms in the New Testament were by \_\_\_\_\_.

*Acts 8:38-39 (ESV) ... they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, ..., and went on his way rejoicing.*

The Greek word for BAPTIZE means TO \_\_\_\_\_

**baptizō**; to dip. Immerse, submerge for a religious purpose, to overwhelm, saturate, baptize                      The Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament.

**Martin Luther** ... “I would have those who are to be Baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”

**John Calvin** ... “The word baptize signifies immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

**John Wesley** ... “Buried with him, alludes to Baptizing by immersion according to the customs of the first church.”

#### IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every one who has \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

*Acts 8:12 (ESV) But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

At CACC, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. The ceremony is intended to be a covenant between parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 500 AD.

This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those who believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ. At CACC, it is a membership requirement.

#### V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

**As soon as you have believed!**

*Acts 2:41 (ESV) So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*

*Acts 8:35-36 (ESV) Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” eunuch went down to the water and Phillip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38*

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can should be baptized. If you wait till you are “Perfect,” you’ll never feel “good enough”

### **Can my family be baptized together?**

**YES!** If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has put his/her trust in Christ for Salvation, We encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with the minister to children for a pre-baptism conversation,

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

### **What should I wear when I am baptized?**

Women should wear shorts and top or a “mu–mu” style dress rather than a swimsuit. You will be wearing a white baptismal gown that can be some what transparent when wet. Bring a towel and a change of clothes and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. You will meet in the upstairs of the education wing just south of the sanctuary. There are changing rooms up there and some deacons will assist you with any questions.

### **Will I have to say anything?**

You will be asked, “Are you here to proclaim your trust in Christ?” You will be expected to say, “Yes.” And you will have the opportunity to share more if you desire. But you are not expected to say anything more than “Yes.”

### **Special Note?**

**Any Member of the church you desire can perform the baptism.**

**Under special circumstances we can arrange for alternate baptismal methods.**

## THE MEANING OF COMMUNION

Jesus never asked disciples to remember his birth. But he did instruct them to remember his death and resurrection and his coming again. The Lord's supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

### MANY NAMES

The Lord's \_\_\_\_\_

The Lord's \_\_\_\_\_

HOLY \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_

Breaking \_\_\_\_\_

### ORIGINAL SETTING

#### JESUS IS CELEBRATING PASSOVER WITH HIS DISCIPLES

John 13:1-35

*Matthew 26:26-29 (NIV2011) While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."*

#### JESUS GIVES NEW UNDERSTANDING TO THE PASSOVER

JESUS IS THE SACRIFICIAL \_\_\_\_\_

JESUS IS THE DELIVERER AND \_\_\_\_\_

The BREAD is a symbol of Christ's \_\_\_\_\_

The WINE is a symbol of Christ's \_\_\_\_\_

WE ARE TO \_\_\_\_\_

THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRIST FOR OUR SINS

THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRIST

THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRIST

WITH \_\_\_\_\_

## HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNION?

1. \_\_\_\_\_?

The first Communion took the place of PASSOVER which was once a year.

2. \_\_\_\_\_?

Many churches observe Communion monthly

3. \_\_\_\_\_?

The early church seemed to BREAK BREAD on a weekly basis.  
The Church of Christ and Catholics observe Communion weekly.

4. \_\_\_\_\_?

Giving Thanks or saying “Grace” at every meal stems from the concept of Communion

*1 Corinthians 11:17-26 (NIV2011)*

*In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God’s approval. So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord’s Supper you eat, for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. Don’t you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter! For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.*

**We encourage you to practice COMMUNION at every meal.**

**We encourage families, groups of friends, small groups and individuals to practice COMMUNION on a regular basis.**

**We try to have Communion a central part of every meal gathering at the church and on irregular occasions in the Worship Celebration.**

**SECTION TWO**

**The Chester Avenue Community Church**

**STATEMENTS**

*1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV) I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*

**OUR PURPOSE:  
Why we exist**

Our purpose comes from the Lord Jesus Christ

**THE GREAT \_\_\_\_\_**

*Matthew 22:37-39 (ESV) And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

**THE GREAT \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

**OUR VISION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **GOD**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **OUR LIFE**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **THE WORLD**

**OUR MISSION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **DISCIPLES WHO** \_\_\_\_\_ **DISCIPLES**

**OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH**  
What we believe

• **IN ESSENTIAL BELIEFS - WE HAVE \_\_\_\_\_**

*Ephesians 4:4-6 (ESV) There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

• **IN NON-ESSENTIAL BELIEFS - WE HAVE \_\_\_\_\_**

*Romans 14:1-22 (ESV) As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. ...Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. ... So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. ...The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.*

• **IN ALL OUR BELIEFS - WE HAVE \_\_\_\_\_**

*1 Corinthians 13:2 (ESV) And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

**ESSENTIALS**

1. **About \_\_\_\_\_ THE \_\_\_\_\_**

God is the creator and ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is one essence and distinct in person. He is beyond our ability to fully comprehend.

Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:18; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

2. **About \_\_\_\_\_ CHRIST, THE \_\_\_\_\_**

Jesus is the Savior and Lord. He was born of the virgin Mary. Being fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people and dying on the cross. He was raised from the dead after three days to prove his power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven and will return someday to the earth to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Matthew 1:23; John 1:1-5, 14; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14; Titus 2:13

### 3. About GOD THE \_\_\_\_\_

The Holy spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus. He lives in every believer from the moment of salvation. He is the Helper and Comforter and Counselor for every Disciple. He is the Disciple's source of power for living, wisdom, spiritual truth and guidance. He empowers the believer for service in the kingdom and family of God. Disciples of Jesus are instructed to live in the Spirit and to be filled with the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8;  
1 Corinthians 2:12,3:16; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18; Galatians 5:25

### 4. About THE \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible is inspired by God the Holy Spirit. It is an infallible revelation to man through men. It is our supreme authority and is sufficient as our only rule of faith and practice.

John 5:39; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12

### 5. About \_\_\_\_\_

We are made in God's image. We were designed to be like him in character. People are the supreme object in God's creation. All of us are marred by our disobedience toward God. This is called "Sin." People have a "sinful" nature which separates us from God and causes many problems in our lives. All people are to be treated and honored as people created in His image. We are in the process of transformation or restoring the marred image/nature of God through the power of the Holy Spirit

Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:17

### 6. About \_\_\_\_\_

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement, good intentions or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Christ into his life by faith, demonstrated by repentance, confession, forgiveness, and submission to Christ as Lord.

Romans 5:1, 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12, 14:6; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26

### 7. About \_\_\_\_\_

We were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through repentance, forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be with God eternally is to be in heaven eternally. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16, 14:17; Romans 6:23, 8:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9; Revelations 20:15

## OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

### What we practice

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based upon what the Bible teaches, we are committed to living out the following realities:

#### 1. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF JESUS Spirit - led living

The only way to live a Disciple's life is through God's power. We seek to practice a daily surrendering, abiding, infilling and dependence upon the Holy Spirit to enable us to do what is right and to accomplish the work of the kingdom of this world.

***John 15:5 (ESV) I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.***

#### 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture

Since the scriptures are the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a problem is "What is God's heart and mind on this matter?" God's heart and mind are best expressed through scriptures. Therefore, we practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

***2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.***

#### 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of every Believer

The Bible teaches that every Disciple is called to full time ministry, regardless of his/her vocation. Every believer is a minister. Every believer has direct approach to God through prayer and the right of private interpretation of scripture.

***1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.***

#### 4. Baptism for \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism is a symbolic act of initiation for believers followers of Jesus. We practice Baptism by immersion under water, because we believe this is the way Jesus was Baptized and the way the Bible commands.

***Colossians 2:12 (ESV) having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.***

**5. A \_\_\_\_\_ Church Membership**

You can only be a member through confession in Jesus Christ as Lord and savior demonstrated by Believers Baptism. You may transfer from another evangelical church if you were baptized. If you are already a believer and previously Baptized we will accept you on your personal statement of Discipleship experience.

*Romans 10:9-10 (ESV) because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

**6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the local church**

Christ is recognized as the head of the church. No person, group or religious organization holds control over the church. We recognize the value of associating, cooperating and maintaining fellowship with other churches. We value independence and inter-dependence. We value the church as a self governing organism and organization, independent from any denominational control.

*Colossians 1:18 (ESV) And he is the head of the body, the church.*

**7. The spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of Believers**

Anyone who claims Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior is our brother and sister in Christ. We are family. We seek to be in unity with what God is doing in the life and fellowship of other believers.

*John 17:23 (ESV) I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*

**8. The \_\_\_\_\_ of church and state**

Believers were fundamentally instrumental in the democratic formation of our nation and principle that the government should in no way promote or restrict any religious group. We affirm this principle. We encourage people to be involved in government, but we don't want to use the government to further the cause of Christ or any other religious beliefs.

*Romans 13:1 (ESV) Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*

9. \_\_\_\_\_.

We encourage everyone to practice tithing for support of God's body, the Church. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is a biblical standard of giving. We practice this as members and as a church. 10% of our tithes and offerings go to missions outside of our church for evangelism.

***Leviticus 27:30 (ESV) "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD.***

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Christ with the world

It is the responsibility of every believer to share the Good News with those which God brings us into relationship. We practice sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church. We speak blessing on every one we meet. We support missions work to unsaved peoples throughout the world. We support International Ministries and Transformation Ministries and a variety of local and foreign missions.

***Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."***

***Luke 10:2-9 (ESV) And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'***

## SECTION THREE

### Chester Avenue Community Church

#### STRUCTURE

*1 Corinthians 14:33 (ESV) For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,*

*1 Corinthians 14:40 (ESV) But all things should be done decently and in order.*

#### HOW THE CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or denominational traditions.

##### 1. THE CHURCH IS A \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 2:42 (ESV) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

A top priority in a fellowship is \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_

*Ephesians 4:3 (ESV) eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

*Romans 14:19 (ESV) So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.*

Any attitude or behavior that causes disunity is \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 2:2; 3:15

Proverbs 17:14

Philippians 2:1-3; 4:2

John 13:34-35

Romans 12:16-18; 15:5-6

1 Corinthians 1:10

2 Corinthians 13:11

1 Peter 3:8

2 Timothy 2:23

2 Timothy 2:14

Philippians 1:27

1 Corinthians 14:33

Psalms 133:1

**IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS \_\_\_\_\_**

*1 Corinthians 11:17-18 (ESV) But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you.*

“Voting” tends to \_\_\_\_\_

At CACC we only vote on:

- Annual Budget
- Confirmation of Elders
- Purchase of land or buildings
- Calling of Senior Pastor
- Changes in church constitution

**II. THE CHURCH FAMILY IS A \_\_\_\_\_**

*1 Peter 3:8 (ESV) Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.*

Galatians 6:10

Hebrews 2:10-12

1 Peter 4:17

**SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF \_\_\_\_\_ NOT \_\_\_\_\_**

*1 Timothy 5:1-2 (ESV) Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.*

*1 Timothy 3:4-5 (ESV) He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?*

**III. THE CHURCH IS AN \_\_\_\_\_**

1 Corinthians 12:27 Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23 Colossians 1:18; 2:19

We are a body – not a business! We are an organism – not an organization  
We are stewards—not owners.

**WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF \_\_\_\_\_**

*Romans 12:4-6 (ESV) For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;*

In an ORGANIZATION “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” becomes the focus.

In an ORGANISM “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” is the focus.

AT CACC WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN

MAXIMIZE \_\_\_\_\_ AND

MINIMIZE \_\_\_\_\_

*Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,*

### OUR STRUCTURE

The PEOPLE are the \_\_\_\_\_

The PASTORS are the \_\_\_\_\_

IV. THE CHURCH IS A \_\_\_\_\_

*John 10:27 (ESV) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.* (Jesus’ favorite description of the church)

(Matthew 26:31)

(Matthew 25:33)

THE CHURCH IS AND CARED FOR AND LED BY \_\_\_\_\_

*John 21:15-17 (ESV) When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.*

## BIBLICAL TERMS FOR LEADERS

Three different terms are used in the new Testament to refer to the same church leaders;

- “POIMEN”
- “PRESBUTEROS”
- “EPISCOPOS”

*1 Peter 5:1-3 (ESV) So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.*

*Acts 20:28 (ESV) Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*

*Titus 1:7 (ESV) For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,*

*1 Timothy 5:17 (ESV) Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.*

ELDERS = OVERSEERS = BISHOPS = SHEPHARDS = LEADERS

## **OUR AFFILIATION**

**Transformation Ministries  
970 Village Oaks drive  
Covina, Ca. 91724-3679**

### **WHY NOT JUST BE AN INDEPENDENT CHURCH?**

We celebrate our Baptist roots, however, our highest identity is that we are children of God and people of the Kingdom of God.

We are independent, yet interdependent! Every TM church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs.

For example:

- EVERY TM church chooses its own Pastor
- EVERY TM church owns its own building and assets
- EVERY TM church determines its own ministries
- EVERY TM church determines its own level of support for Transforming Ministries.
- EVERY TM church supports the missions of its choice.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word \_\_\_\_\_

**At CACC we recognize the need for formal membership.**

**We ask you to commit to membership for 4 reasons:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **REASONS: Christ is committed to the church**  
(Ephesians 5:25) “... Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her”

\_\_\_\_\_ **REASONS: It is an antidote to our society**  
We live in an age where very few people want to be committed to anything... a job, a marriage... our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers.” Membership sails against the prevailing winds of selfishness and America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

\_\_\_\_\_ **REASONS: It defines who can be counted on**  
Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and counts on voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

\_\_\_\_\_ **REASON: It produces spiritual growth**  
The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Disciples to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You can not be accountable when you are not committed to a specific church family.

### **What is expected of me as a church member**

At CACC we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Disciple to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the **membership covenant**

## THE CABC MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized, and being in agreement with CACC's statements and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the CACC church family. In so doing, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I WILL \_\_\_\_\_ THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH  
By acting in love toward other members  
By refusing to gossip  
By following the leaders

*Acts 2:42 (ESV) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

*Romans 15:5 (ESV) May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,*

*1 Peter 1:22 (ESV) Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,*

*Ephesians 4:29 (ESV) Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

*Hebrews 13:17 (ESV) Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

2. I WILL \_\_\_\_\_ THE PURPOSE OF MY CHURCH  
By praying for its growth  
By inviting the unchurched to attend  
By warmly welcoming those who visit

*1 Thessalonians 1:2 (ESV) We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly*

*Luke 14:23 (ESV) And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. mentioning you in our prayers,*

*Romans 15:7 (ESV) Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

**3. I WILL \_\_\_\_\_ THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH**

By developing a servants heart  
By discovering my gifts and talents  
By being equipped to serve by my leaders

*1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:*

*Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,*

*Philippians 2:3-7 (ESV) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*

**4. I WILL \_\_\_\_\_ THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH**

By attending faithfully  
By living a godly life  
By giving regularly

*Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

*Philippians 1:27 (ESV) Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel"*

*1 Corinthians 16:2 (ESV) On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.*

*Leviticus 27:30 (ESV) "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD."*



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
***CHESTER AVENUE COMMUNITY CHURCH***  
**FOUR REQUIREMENTS**

1. Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trust him as your salvation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
When \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

in this class?

2. Have you ever been baptized after you committed your life to Christ?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
When \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be Baptized at CACC

3. Have you completed *Discovering Church Membership*,

Yes Date \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you desire to live by the CACC Membership promise?

Yes, I do!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY!**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:     Male     Female

Date of birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Single     Married     Widowed     Divorced

My occupation is \_\_\_\_\_

I have been active in a church for     0-1 yr     2-5 yrs     6-10 yrs     11+

How would you describe your relationship with Christ?

New Disciple

Committed Disciple

I've been a Disciple for a while but I need to grow closer

**FAMILY MEMBERS**

Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_ date of birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Does your spouse attend CACC?     Yes     no

Children:

First name	Last name	birth date	lives w/you		attends CABC	
_____	_____	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
_____	_____	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
_____	_____	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
_____	_____	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
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