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IPC

Information Booklet

*And they shall come from the east, and from the west,
and from the north, and from the south,
and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.*

Luke 13:29

Who We Are: Some History

- IPC held its first worship service on April 30, 1961
- 30 English-speaking expats and a few Swiss joined together to establish a weekly worship service
- Morning worship was held in the French Reformed Church for the first time in 1979
- In 1998 an evening worship service was added in the Evangelical Methodist Church
- Today IPC has more than 400 members who represent more than two dozen nationalities
- IPC has had 18 senior pastors, 4 associate pastors, and several interns

Who We Are: Our Life Together

- We worship together
- We provide Christian education for all ages
- We serve each other and others (near and far)
- We invite and encourage faith in Christ
- We maintain relationships with other Christians and church bodies, including the Swiss Reformed Church and the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East (AICEME)

What We Believe

Our example is the early church described in Acts 2:42-47...

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...giving to anyone who had need.

Because we come from so many different Christian backgrounds, we find our unity in two important truths:

The lordship of Jesus Christ

The authority of the Bible

The Covenant of IPC

Recognizing full liberty of individual interpretation, and taking cognizance of the various statements of faith under which its members may have made their professions, we, the members of this church, associate ourselves with all who follow Jesus, and promise to work with one another in this church to further its Christian testimony through worship and in service, supporting its efforts as best we are able. We humbly repent of all the selfishness that is in us and of the wrongs that we have done, and trusting in God's love to forgive, guide and strengthen us, hereby propose to love him with all our heart and mind and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.

We resolve to follow the Biblical injunction to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God; to take Jesus Christ as Savior and Master, his Spirit as our spirit and his way of life as ours. We promise to pray, to work and, if need be, to suffer for the realization of righteousness and freedom, and to seek as God's children to fulfill together our common calling to the glory of the one God.

How We Are Organized

- As set forth in the church's Constitution and By-Laws, IPC is led by a council of elders who are elected by the congregation
- Electing elders to make decisions on behalf of the church is known as a Presbyterian form of government
- In addition to electing elders at the annual meeting in January, the members of the church also elect pastors, set annual budgets, and have several other responsibilities
- IPC has a covenant relationship with the Swiss Reformed Church, but is independent theologically and financially
- We have active elders who are currently serving on the church Council
- We have teaching elders who are the pastors (they are non-voting members of the Council)
- We have spiritual elders who have previously served on the Council and continue to provide spiritual leadership for the congregation
- And finally, we have deacons who carry out a ministry of caring and service within the congregation

Some Helpful Information About Church Life

We gather together to worship God

True to our Reformed theological roots, we believe worship is participatory, and our members participate by reading scripture, leading prayer, singing in the choir, playing musical instruments, giving the children's sermon, ushering, greeting, preparing for communion and baptism, providing fellowship, handling the sound, and more!

We meet together in friendship

A lot is happening in fellowship! Home Groups (many of them!), Men's breakfast, NEXUS (young adults), Women's and Men's Hikes, Bible study groups, retreats (men's, women's, youth, and all-church), picnics, film evenings, game nights, potlucks, and more

(If you have another idea, let us know!)

We pray and study together to grow

Discipleship at IPC happens in a variety of ways: prayer groups, prayer chains, and personal prayer (after morning and evening worship). Also, Sunday school, youth group, and adult education. Our network of home groups is not only a way to be connected, but it is also a way to grow in faith.

Sunday school (ages 2-12 approximately)

Youth group (every Sunday at 10:00)

Some Helpful Information About Church Life

We serve one another in love

Our church's caring and serving ministries take on many forms: there's a nursery for young children, and there is a meals-for-new-moms ministry. Our deacons visit the sick and elderly. And our congregational care elder works with the pastors to provide emergency assistance.

Beyond all of that, there is the bookstall, IPC publications, the church library, and a faithful group of office volunteers!

Our goals for ministry are to:

- Accept the people God brings to us
- Welcome them into worship and fellowship
- Disciple them toward mature faith in Christ
- Empower them to use their gifts and find their own unique ministries

Some Helpful Information About Church Life

And finally, we share Christ with others

For such a small congregation, IPC has a big impact locally and around the world!

Our members take on both long and short-term mission assignments, as a church we have adopted the people group known as the Shan, we have a major mission fundraiser each year known as the Harvest Festival, and we provide Christmas gifts to those in need.

IPC's constitution directs that between 10 and 20 percent of the budget each year be given to missions.

Membership

Reasons to become a member:

- 1) It's an act of commitment and an expression of partnership
- 2) Membership is a way to deepen our faith and grow in Christ
- 3) Membership allows us to vote at congregational meetings, where we set budgets, as well as elect pastors and elders
- 4) Members may become elders and deacons

Ways to become a member:

- 1) Transfer – you may transfer your membership from another Christian church where you are currently a member
- 2) Reaffirmation of faith – if you are not currently a member of any church, you may reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ
- 3) Profession of faith – if you have never been a member of a church before, you may declare your faith in Jesus Christ and your intention to follow him (this may include a baptism, if you have never been baptized)
- 4) Affiliate membership – this category allows you to retain your membership in another church

Membership

Questions for membership:

- 1) Who is your lord and savior?
- 2) Do you trust in him?
- 3) Do you intend to be his disciple, to obey his word, and to show his love?
- 4) Will you be a faithful member of the church, giving of yourself in every way, and will you seek the fellowship of the church wherever you may be?

Notes:

THE IPC COUNCIL OF ELDERS is here to serve you! Do you have any questions? Or would you like to become involved in a particular aspect of the life of our community? We would love to get to know and serve you better. If you would like to contact any of these people, please call the church office or purchase an IPC Directory during coffee hour.

Council Officers:

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Adult Education, Retreats & Youth

Children's Education

Communication

Congregational Care

Evening Worship

Fellowship & Special Events

Membership Involvement

Morning Worship

Outreach and Mission & Special Projects

Personnel, Property & Planning

Sheila Ohlund

Richard Cupples

Michael Weeks

Reto Kurmann

Bre Lasater

Richard Cupples

Matt Kägi

Lars Nilsson

Mei-yiu Held

Jeff Anhut

Rajan Nainar

Christof Lindenstruth

Joan Gottraux

Staff:

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Administrative Assistants

Children's Education Coordinator

Morning Worship Organist

Rev. Andrew R. Stager

Sam E. Gyorfi

Laura Fisher

Bev Visser

Vanessa Bischoff

Ruth Pfister

The Ministers

The Congregation!

THE INTERNATIONAL PROTESTANT CHURCH OF ZURICH
is an interdenominational, international, self-supporting congregation
serving the English-speaking community in Zürich and surrounding areas.
Our vision statement is: *Growing Together and Reaching out in Christ*
You are welcome in our church family!
For more information, please call the church office at 044 262 55 25
or email us at office@ipc-zurich.org.