

 CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP
becoming part of a local Church family

Thank you...

Thank you for taking the time to explore what church membership means at Christ Community Church. As you move through the following pages, you'll find that we have a high view of Scripture. You'll also find that we are a church that has as it's focus to be love led, to live a life of love, truth, and grace so that we glorify God, love others, and communicate the Good News that Jesus Christ forgives sin.

Because choosing the right church is of vital importance to your spiritual life and one of the most important decisions you'll make in your life, we encourage you to read through each page with intentionality. At the back of the membership packet, Christ Community Church's constitution has been included which contains more in depth information about who we are. We also encourage you to visit our website (loveled.org) and be a part of our many church functions to get to know us on a deeper level. Know that if you have questions, the Christ Community Church eldership and board are available to you.

The last page of this packet has been reserved for you to write down any questions you may have.

Again, thank you for choosing to explore membership at Christ Community Church.

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Membership Process

Read and complete the entirety of the Christ Community Church membership packet at your own pace.

- We believe this is a healthy step that gives you the time to absorb the information and to pray over it.

Set an appointment with an elder or the pastor to go over the membership packet. During the get-together,

- you and the pastor, or an elder, will have an opportunity to get to know one another.
- bring up the topics that you need clarification on and ask any question you may have.

If during, or after, your time with the pastor or an elder to go over the membership packet you should have a desire to become a member...

- You'll sign the membership covenant.
- Soon after you sign the covenant, we'll set aside a Sunday during the worship service for you to come before the church to be received by them as a member and to be prayed for by the church.

God

**As presented in our constitution...*

*There is one God Who exists in three Persons and Who is without beginning and has no end: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. This is the doctrine of the TRINITY.

(Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Matthew 3:16-17)

- God the Father is presented in Scripture as being One of the Members and Persons of the Holy Trinity. Like the other two members of the Trinity, He is perfect, self sufficient, and also like the other two Members of the Trinity, carries all the other attributes, like being omnipresent, eternal, and omnipotent, that are exclusive only to God. He is God the Father in that He is Father to those who are a part of Christ's Church, His children.

(1 John 3:1, Matthew 28:19, Isaiah 63:16-17, John 14:9, Philippians 2:5-8, Galatians 2:20, 1 Corinthians 6:3)

- *Jesus Christ is God; in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His substitutionary death that paid for mankind's sins on the cross, in His bodily raising from the dead, in His rising from Earth to Heaven to the right hand of the Father, and in His present priestly ministry. This is the doctrine of the DEITY, (Godship), of JESUS CHRIST.

(Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 1:22-23, 2 Corinthians 5:21, John 3:2, Isaiah 53:4-7, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, Acts 2:32-33, Hebrews 7:21-25)

- *The Holy Spirit, Who is God, is our Comforter, our Guide into all

God

truth, and Enabler Who empowers. The Holy Spirit empowers the Church to talk about Jesus Christ in their speech and in their actions while He gives His followers supernatural gifts (Gifts from Heaven), as He wills, to effectively impact people, events and culture inside and outside of the church for the Gospel. We're able to see the work of the Holy Spirit, and the supernatural gifts, in the deeds of those who follow Jesus. (John 14:15-17, Acts 1:8, 2:1-4, 11:15-17, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Galatians 5:22-23)

God is perfect in every way, is without sin, is holy, is love, and God alone is the One from Whom we receive salvation.

Salvation

Salvation is a miraculous and instantaneous event in which a person's sin is forgiven, and they are delivered from eternal death to eternal life through God given faith in Jesus Christ and His complete work via His miraculous birth, His perfect life, His shed blood, and Him dying on the cross.

Every person needs Christ so that their sins are forgiven.

ADMIT that you were born in sin and that you are a sinner.

We have offended God by missing His perfect mark by breaking His law (the 10 Commandments). In understanding sin and its affects, the Bible Proclaims that:

- God is highly offended by our sin to the point that an eternal price had to be paid for every sin that was ever committed. Jesus Christ willingly and sacrificially paid for the sin of the world.
- As a result of being born in sin and our continued rebellion against God, we are spiritually blind, enemies of God, have a wicked & depraved heart, by nature are evil, are children of the devil, are slaves of sin, with every sin we store up wrath for ourselves until the day of judgement, and are children of God's wrath.

Romans 5:12, 'Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—'

'... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,' Romans 3:23

God demands perfection and we can't give it to Him; only Christ can.

Salvation

God recognizes and gravitates favorably to the attitude of Psalm 51...

'Against You (God), You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.'

Psalm 51:4

BELIEVE that Jesus died to pay for your sins, that He rose from the dead, and is alive today.

"9 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. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

Romans 10:9-10

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name [Jesus] under Heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

"We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him." 1 Thessalonians 4:14

REPENT (turn) from your sin and your way of living life. Turn to God and the life He has for you.

"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out..." Acts 3:19

ASK Jesus Christ to forgive you, RECEIVE Him and the work He did for you (perfect life, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension).

And...

Salvation

SURRENDER to Him as the Lord of your life.

John 1:12-13, '12 But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.'

YOU CANNOT EARN ETERNAL FORGIVENESS FROM GOD; He gives it as a free gift.

"For it is by grace you are saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

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

This is the Gospel...

1 Corinthians 15:1-4, '1 Now I would remind you, brethren, of the Gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,'

You can take the step of salvation by crying out to God in humility and surrender:

Salvation

Know that only Jesus Christ saves you from sin, God's wrath in Hell, and then an eternity in the lake of fire. So when we cry out to Jesus to save us from sin and it's penalty, (His wrath being poured out in punishment for all eternity) to a life of glorifying God, serving others, and spending eternity with Him in Heaven, we make a step of faith that God not only hears, but He honors that prayer with an answer of, "YES!".

It's not God's will that anyone should perish, but that we spend eternity with Him.

9 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. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ROMANS 10:9-13

Has eternal salvation happened in your life?

Communion & Baptism

Communion and Baptism are ordinances. Ordinances are holy symbolic practices to honor the Lord and in doing these practices, they point to the redemptive work that Jesus Christ has already done for the follower of Jesus.

Communion

We participate in the Lord's Supper, (Communion), in every Sunday church service as a personal and corporate reminder of what Jesus has done for His people. When we remember the death and sacrifice of Jesus, we commune with God. Jesus Christ's body was broken for us on the cross; and the blood that was shed for us was for the taking away of sins. To remember this great act of Jesus, we use bread and juice. The broken bread symbolizes the body of Christ which was broken for us and we share and eat that bread with one another. The juice we share and drink with one another symbolizes the blood of Jesus that was shed for us for the remission of sins.

Communion is exclusive to Christians only and the Scripture warns of partaking in an unworthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27-32). Partaking in an unworthy manner can happen in two ways:

- being an unbeliever in Christ (not being born again {1 Corinthians 15:3-4, John 3:1-21, Romans 10:9-13, Acts 3:19}).
- being a believer in Christ but living in sin that has not been confessed and repented of (1 John 1:9)

Before we come to the communion table, we confess our sin to God. Afterwards,

Communion & Baptism

we come to the table and partake of communion with reverence, worship, and celebration toward Jesus Christ in remembrance of His sacrifice for His people. Christ Community Church participates in communion weekly.
(Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

Baptism

Baptism is an ordinance in which a person, after being born again, is immersed in, and taken out of, water to symbolically show what Christ has done in their life in forgiving their sin. The act of baptism symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in that it shows that a person has 'died' to their sinful life, their old life has been 'buried' and no more to be seen, and that the new creation of Christ has risen to new life solely because Jesus Christ has died, been buried, and has risen for the forgiveness of sin.

We recognize, affirm, and teach that the Scripture teaches that baptism, happening just after a person becomes a Christian, does not provide forgiveness but publicly shows obedience to Jesus Christ in proclaiming that He is Lord & Savior over their life (Acts 8:26-39). Baptism is done in obedience to the Lord after a person has been saved. Salvation is only by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:3-7). Baptism is a symbol of the new birth in Jesus Christ and a mark of obedience that a person shows to the world that they are now a follower of Jesus. (Matthew 3:13-17 & 28:19, Acts 8:12-13 & 36-39).

Spiritual Growth

2 Peter 3:18, 'But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.'

Sanctification is a work done by the Holy Spirit to spiritually grow you to become more like Jesus Christ. This happens by:

- The Holy Spirit empowers you.
 - You are obedient to Christ and by trusting in Him and by cooperating with Him.
- 2 Peter 1:3-4, 'His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.'

Galatians 5:22-23, 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.'

John 14:15-17, ¹⁵ 'If you love Me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.'

Spiritual Growth

Our responsibility in Sanctification is:

- Obedience to the Scripture.
- Daily Bible reading & Prayer.
- Consistently gathering together to worship.
- Being accountable to and loving and encouraging one another.
- Discovering our spiritual gifts and serving one another and our sphere of influence.
- Discipleship through Bible studies and life groups.

No one can accomplish this alone. We need the Holy Spirit and we need one another. There are 59 'one another's' in the New Testament and we find encouragement as we count on God and each other to become more like Christ.

Through the Holy Spirit's empowerment and the encouragement of one another, we find freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17, 'Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.'

Church Health

Who is the Church?

In the Biblical sense of the word, the Church is a group of people who have been rescued from sin by Jesus Christ and now belong to Him with the express purpose of Glorifying God in the entirety of their life and telling others about the Gospel. The Church consistently gathers together locally to worship Him and to serve one another. The Church loves one another and is submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ which includes daily killing sin, repentance, giving & receiving forgiveness, among many other things. Buildings may come and go but God's Church will endure, be significantly different from the rest of the world, and continue to love their Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Church health is vital if it desires to be Biblically faithful.

We believe that a healthy Church is one that glorifies God through...

- A High view of the Bible.
- Holding to sound Biblical doctrine and theology.
- Expository Preaching & Teaching from the Bible.
- Consistent Evangelism: Corporately & Individually ensuring the Gospel is preached and lived.
- Practicing Church discipline.
- Corporate worship.
- Consistent corporate & personal prayer.
- Biblical complementarian leadership lived out in the Church and home.
- A lifestyle of truth, love, grace, freedom, and joy in Christ.

History

In understanding the whole of who Christ Community Church is, it's worth noting that no Church is perfect but all Churches, (comprised of people who have been born again), have been empowered by God to be faithful; and God is always faithful to His Church. As Charles Spurgeon once said, "You who are members of the Church have not found it perfect.". Dovetailing with that thought, in Lamentations 3:22-23 we find,

²²The lovingkindnesses of Yahweh indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. ²³They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.'

HISTORY

Christ Community Church has a rich and longstanding heritage in the eastern region of Ohio. We root all the way back to being founded in 1821 and were named Big Spring Presbyterian Church. Big Spring Presbyterian Church then joined with Fairmount Presbyterian Church after both church buildings were burned and destroyed. The two, newly joined churches, now called Dellroy United Presbyterian Church, subsequently relocated to Cannonsburg, (now known as Dellroy), Ohio. At that time, the church was with the Muskingum Presbytery. However, in 1984, Dellroy United Presbyterian Church dissolved their relationship with the Muskingum Presbytery and continued as an independent church.

History

In 1987, Christ Community Church was formed and it's constitution was revised.

The pastors on record are as follows:

Jack Lumley, 1978-1999

AJ Johnson, (Interim Pastor), 1999-2000

Jeff Bartolet, 2000-2002

Ron Silver, 2002-2016

Starting on August 6 of 2017, Scott Welch answered the call to pastor Christ Community Church. With his wife, Sherri, and his son, Connor, they joyfully serve the church and the community.

Infrastructure

Believers who invest their heart, time, family and finances in the building of a local church deserve to have confidence in church leadership. People are looking for leaders to conduct themselves with love, integrity and respect when making decisions that affect their lives. The leadership at CCC depends on God the Holy Spirit to help them to model love, truth and grace so that as the whole church body lives out these attributes, we will honor Christ to the full and lead others to our Lord and Savior.

AT CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH WE...

- are led and pastored by Jesus Christ Who is the Head of the Church.
- Look to the Bible for direction and wisdom
- prayerfully seek and follow Him as He leads us.
- recognize the Church is His Church.

WE ARE...

Governed By A Board (Stewardship)

The Christ Community Church Board, (Pastor, Trustees, Elders, the Treasurer and the Clerk), is in place to oversee the finances of our church and direct the provision of the physical facilities needed by the church. The Board makes various decisions for the church's well being, under the direction of Jesus Christ and the Bible. They provide counsel to the Pastor. Most decisions that the board faces are discussed and decided upon in monthly board meetings.

Infrastructure

The board will continually be transparent through: Special Assemblies (as needed), weekly program, monthly newsletters, open monthly board meetings, website (www.loveled.org), facebook page, quarterly church wide pastoral address, annual congregational meetings, and by one on one, (or more), meeting(s) requested by anyone.

WE ARE...

Spiritually Led, Taught, and Shepherded By the Pastor & Elders

The pastoral staff team, led by the pastor, oversees the day-to-day ministry and operations of the church. They serve the congregation and are responsible for the development of the spiritual life of the church. Currently, we have a paid Biblically qualified Pastor. We also have voluntary Biblically qualified Elders. (1 Timothy 3:1-10, Titus 1:5-9)

WE ARE...

Sheltered By the Trustees and Treasurer

The Trustees and Treasurer are volunteer only. They ensure that our budget in its entirety is kept secure and that finances are wisely spent. The Trustees also play a vital role in ensuring building readiness as it pertains to electrical, structural, plumbing and other maintenance needs. Whether it be salaries, monthly expenses, painting, building maintenance, or other various ministry needs, the Trustees and Treasurer are greatly valued at Christ Community Church.

Infrastructure

WE ARE...

Managed By Staff

Currently, Christ Community Church runs on a day-to-day basis with a full-time pastor, a part-time ministry support assistant, and volunteer staff, all overseen by our senior pastor, elders and trustees. Our whole active membership, (from the senior pastor to every member that serves in a ministry), make sure all the details are in place to make Christ Community Church a welcoming, loving and a purposeful church.

WE ARE...

Supported and Kept Accountable by the Congregation

The Congregation which is made up of all members (board included), as it involves itself, has the constant opportunity to be in the decision making process of Christ Community Church via:

- active participation in individual ministry=decision making by the congregation (Ex. By virtue of being an active part of a ministry team, you influence your particular ministry and its direction a great deal.)
- voting via special voting procedures=decision making by the congregation, (Ex. Voting to build, or not build, a shelter for the homeless)
- annual congregational vote=decision making by the congregation, (Ex. Annually, the church votes on office positions and various items.)
- setting a meeting with anyone on staff or on the board to get questions answered and/or concerns heard.

Infrastructure

In other words, as Jesus directs His Church, we as active members follow His leading according to our obedience to Him while serving those in and out of the Church. Our voice has a constant opportunity to be heard, and acted upon, via our serving and voting. As we are active, we can all support the mission of the church and be kept accountable.

A Note About Church Finances

At Christ Community Church some practice tithing (10% of their income) while others give from their heart for the support of Christ's Body, (the Church).

We also recognize the giving of tithes and offerings as worship to Jesus Christ as an expression of the relationship between the individual giver and the Lord. We don't treat your giving as just "operating funds." We acknowledge that your tithes and offerings, entrusted to us, are an expression of gratitude toward God that will be used for Gospel centric endeavors.

We also give Alms. Alms are donations given to the poor/needy which are apart from a tithe or offering. We do this in various ways including our SOS ministry which financially assists the members of Christ Community Church. (Proverbs 19:17, Acts 9:36, Galatians 2:10).

With the whole of the church in all we do and say, questions are always welcome, getting together to talk is encouraged, the coffee is kept hot and the door is always open. Transparency and communication are things that God smiles upon.

Sundays

Our Sunday Service

Each Sunday service and the ministries that happen on that day are prayerfully designed to glorify God.

This means we:

Honor, worship, celebrate and love God for Who He is, for what He's done for us and for who He's making us to be. We also serve others in various ways.

Prior to the Sunday Service:

- EveryMan Men's ministry, 8am. We go verse by verse through the Bible.
- Sunday school happens at 9am for all ages.

During the 10am Sunday services we:

- constantly proclaim Scripture and Scripture is involved in every facet of each church service. God's Word, the Bible, speaks to every situation.
- teach the Bible expositionally. We mine Biblical truth from each verse while explaining it's meaning. We find that as we do that we're faithful to God's Word, that it always provides practical application, and because it's God's Word, it's always relevant. We teach verse by verse through the books of the Bible as well as teach about topical issues using God's Word as the standard.
- have a call to worship that we observe at the beginning of every service. During this time we read a portion of Scripture, greet everyone, and pray.
- worship God through music. It's one of our most enjoyable ways of exalting Him. We utilize theologically rich praise and worship music as well as hymns.

Sundays

- observe communion every service. More information about communion is available in the Communion Baptism portion of this packet.
- encourage financial giving to the Lord so that we may use what He provides for the building of His kingdom. We trust Him to provide for our needs.
- have corporate prayer so that the needs of the church and others may be prayed for. We also open our altar to allow people to pray or to be prayed for during the service.
- preach the whole counsel of God along with the Gospel of Jesus Christ expositionally so that those who are apart from Him may answer the call in faith, belief, and repentance to have a saving relationship with Him.

We believe that children are part of the Church, as well. The K-4th Grade join us during the praise and worship time. After praise and worship, they are taught the Bible in their own, age defined classes, through the puppet ministry, fun and exciting mediums, crafts, and interactive teaching.

While some of the preteen and teens stay with the adults during the adult service, others assist the elementary age children on a rotating basis with adult supervision.

Membership Regulations

BYLAWS (page 6 of the Christ Community Church Constitution)
Revised 10-18-2020

Section I Membership

Membership is Christ's sovereign drawing of a person to a local body of believers using the obedience of God's people to all partner together, in covenant, to fulfill the mandate of the Kingdom of God as Biblically defined in a local area.

(1 Corinthians 12:12-27) Membership is a valuable two-way relationship between the member and the church. A person is considered a member of Christ Community Church upon completion of the Membership Training Class and the signing of the Membership Covenant.

Membership is defined in two ways at Christ Community Church; a voting member or a non-voting member (see below).

Voting Member

Any member, age 16 or older, who has completed the Membership Training Class and signed the Membership Covenant.

Members prior to June 30, 2019. These members are encouraged, but not required, to complete the Membership Training Class and sign the Membership Covenant.

Non-voting Member

Any member who has been inactive for a period of six months or longer may become a non-voting member, with Board review and discretion.

Membership Regulations

Other membership information:

Any member may voluntarily request to withdraw their membership at any time by contacting the Pastor.

Any member who has been absent for a period of six months or longer may have their membership dissolved, with Board review and discretion.

Unresolved conflicts may also result in dissolution of membership (See Section 7 Conflict Resolution).

Any required Quorum is determined using the number of voting members only.

Distinctives

What makes Christ Community Church unique?

We have our own unique characteristics that make us who we are and these characteristics are what we call our distinctives. In our pursuit to be as Biblical as possible in all we do, our distinctives (like our foundations), are built upon Biblical faithfulness.

Our distinctives are:

- Glorify God
- Expository Preaching & Teaching
- Cautious Continuationism
- Complementarian
- Marriage & Gender
- Reconciliation

Glorify God

A familiar verse at Christ Community Church is 1 Corinthians 10:31 which says, 'Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.'. It's our desire to live for God's glory. In accomplishing that, knowing we don't do it perfectly, we approach life from a posture of Biblical love, truth, and grace. We strive to love as Christ loves and uncompromisingly & unapologetically proclaim & live out the truth of Scripture while doing all graciously.

Distinctives

Expository Preaching & Teaching

We believe that the best and only way to 'rightly divide the Word of Truth', (2 Timothy 2:15), is to actually preach and teach from the Word of God. We preach and teach expositionally which means learning verse by verse (explaining verse by verse) through the Bible. Expository preaching stays within context, explains the historical & grammatical meaning of each verse, which ultimately gives a correct interpretation of Scripture. Expository preaching is Christ-centered, gives people a full & rich theological view of God, His will, & His purpose.

As we faithfully exposit God's Word, whether by carefully going through a whole book of the Bible or by looking at topics (Biblical or cultural), we:

- are being faithful to God.
- are deepening our relationship with God.
- are strengthening our love for one another.
- are benefitting the listener.
- are being obedient to Christ in proclaiming 'the whole counsel of God'

The world needs authentic hope, joy, and peace that only Biblical clarity can bring. We believe that the Bible speaks to all of life and therefore, God in His loving kindness would have us to faithfully unpack the Word of God expositionally.

Acts 20:27, John 17:17, 2 Timothy 2:15

Cautious Continuationism

We believe that the Bible teaches that God continues to gift His Church in various ways for the purpose of pointing to Him, pointing to His Gospel, and for the edification of His Church. The expression of these gifts and the work He does through His church are edifying, encouraging, powerful, and at times miraculous.

Distinctives

However, they are never to be abused or counterfeited and are not an excuse to promote the individual but are to be exercised in order. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are meant to bring glory to God and not to feed mankind's ego. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are a gift from Him and Christ Community Church will continue to walk in them under the Lord's power in a Biblically ordered way. Our ministry reflects this 'freedom with order' and our constitution reflects the theology behind this distinctive in **Article 3 #6...**

'6. We affirm the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the church as Comforter, our Guide into all truth, and Enabler who empowers. The Holy Spirit empowers the Church to talk about Jesus Christ in their speech and in their actions while He gives His followers supernatural gifts (Gifts from Heaven), as He wills, to effectively impact people, events and culture inside and outside of the church for the Gospel. We're able to see the work of the Holy Spirit, and the supernatural gifts, in the deeds of those who follow Jesus.'

This is the doctrine of the HOLY SPIRIT

John 14:15-17, Acts 1:8, 2:1-4, 11:15-17, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 14:26-33

Complementarian

Complementarianism is the Biblical understanding that God has created men and women uniquely to complement one another while recognizing their unique and individual roles that He has ordained for them. The Bible teaches that since men and women are created in the image of God, they are equal in value, but have different roles. They have been created by God to be absolutely equal in human essence, dignity, value, and are distinctively and gloriously different by His

Distinctives

creative work. As part of God's good, created order, men and women have different yet complementary roles and responsibilities in the home and church. Within God's economy, men and women are both expected to lead in the areas He has uniquely chosen for them while they both are also called to serve one another and serve God in the entirety of their life.

Biblical examples:

- God is the head of Christ, Christ is the head of the husband, and the husband is the head of his wife. The husband leads his family.
- In the Church, Christ is the head (the pastor) of the church and the office of pastor and elder is reserved only for Biblically qualified men.
- The Bible favors and affirms the role of being a wife, being a single woman and motherhood. The Bible favors and affirms when women lead in a business, lead & teach other women in the Church, assist helping men to understand Scripture, lead & teach children in the Church, and there are many other ministries and functions in which God has called women to walk.
- The Bible calls all of us to honor and to love one another.

As God gives different leadership roles according to His order, overall God's will is that all submit to Christ and we respond in our unique roles with Christian love, kindness, gentleness, and strength. Complementarianism, then, is an expression of life that is lived out best when men and women within their unique roles as written in Holy Scripture harmoniously complement one another in life in accordance with God's loving, dignity driven, created order.

1 Peter 3:1-12, 1 Corinthians 11:1-16/14, Genesis 2-3, Titus 1:5-9/2:1-8, Acts 18:24-28, Galatians 3:25-29, Ephesians 5:22-33, Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Timothy 2:8-3:13

Distinctives

gender is a gift from the omniscient God.

Christ Community Church recognizes it as the doctrine of GENDER.

(Genesis 1:27, 5:1-2, Matthew 19:4, Mark 10:6, Romans 1:19)

Marriage & Gender

We teach that in the bounds of marriage, a covenantal commitment relationship is a promise between one man and one woman under God's headship. Exclusively, a heterosexual married couple is committed to one another via their promise of faithfulness to one another and their marriage is committed to God.

From Christ Community Church's Constitution Article III:

12. We affirm that sexual purity is God's command for all people and requires restraining from sex outside of marriage, incest, homosexuality, bestiality, lust for sex, or other sexual relationships or practices forbidden by Scripture.

Christ Community Church recognizes it as the doctrine of SEXUAL PURITY.

(Hebrews 13:4, Romans 1:21-32, 1 Corinthians 6:18, Leviticus 18:1-30)

13. We affirm that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment (binding promise) for a lifetime and is a sacred institution established by God.

This is the doctrine of MARRIAGE.

(Matthew 19:4-6)

14. We affirm that since mankind is created in God's image, human life is priceless and significant in all its dimensions, from conception to death. This view on life is motivated by love.

Distinctives

Christ Community Church recognizes it as the doctrine of the SANCTITY of LIFE.
(Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139:13-14)

15. We affirm that within the boundaries of mankind, God has designed two genders only, that being male and female. We recognize and affirm that God has also blessed the two specific genders. As each person is uniquely designed by God, gender is a gift from the omniscient God.

Christ Community Church recognizes it as the doctrine of GENDER.
(Genesis 1:27, 5:1-2, Matthew 19:4, Mark 10:6, Romans 1:19)

Reconciliation & Church Discipline

When a person becomes a Christian, they are the benefactors of what it means to be reconciled on the largest scale— to be reconciled to God in Christ. As we continue in the Christian life we are constantly and practically being sanctified, (growing spiritually to become holier), which means we sin, repent, ask Christ for forgiveness, learn from the experience and walk in righteousness. So, we are in a constant state of being disciplined in that as we continue our spiritual life we are learning how to become more Christ-like. This process involves growing which can be sometimes painful but as we're obedient to Christ, the end result is fulfilling and worth it.

However, there are times in the Church where we are either at odds with one another and/or are in sin. In both cases, sin needs to be repented of and forgiveness needs to be given and/or received, depending upon the situation so that we can live the life as a healthy Christian. To help us accomplish maintaining a healthy Church in the areas of reconciliation and church discipline,

Distinctives

we predominately take our lead humbly, graciously, and patiently with love for the sinning brother or sister from Matthew 18:15-20, as well as other Scriptures dealing with this subject and Section 7 of our constitution. Christ desires reconciliation and a holy Church, we desire the same.

Acts 6:1-7, Matthew 18:15-20, Romans 12:18, 1 John 1:6-2:2, Ephesians 4:25-32

Constitution

THE REVISED CONSTITUTION OF CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Dellroy, Ohio, Revised 10-18-2020

PREAMBLE

The Church is of God, and therefore, its ministry, both in identity and intent, belong to God. Through Christ, God has called the Church into being as the community of faith (Romans 5:1-2). Therefore, the Bible is our continual and final authority for all matters including those of faith and practice.

Furthermore, we affirm that only by the indwelling Holy Spirit can we fulfill the will of God for Christ Community Church. With this in mind, the purpose of this Constitution is to provide a framework to facilitate the ministry of this Church; for the Bible teaches us to do all things “in a fitting and orderly way”. (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Article I Name, Location, and Incorporation

The name of this congregation shall be Christ Community Church of Dellroy, Ohio.

The facilities are located on 20 E. Main Street, Dellroy, Ohio 44620

The mailing address is 20 E. Main Street, Dellroy, Ohio 44620.

This church is chartered as a non-profit religious organization, according to the laws of the State of Ohio.

Constitution

Article II Statement of Congregational Policy

Christ Community Church is independent and governed by a board of officers elected by the voting membership. We recognize Jesus Christ as the head of the Church while adhering to and utilizing the Bible as its source of authority in all things, free from the authority of any denomination, association, Church conference or any other governing body.

Article III Statement of Faith (Doctrine)

Each of the following that makes up Christ Community Church's Statement of Faith is called doctrine. Doctrine is theological truth, that we affirm and live by, that is outlined in scripture. Within the entirety of the Bible, God has given us many doctrines to help mankind love, understand, live for, and serve God while simultaneously loving and serving mankind so that God's Kingdom may be built. We affirm each of these doctrines to be truth and therefore they are not to be compromised but embraced.

1. We affirm the Bible to be inspired by the Triune God (God the Father, God the Son {Jesus Christ}, and God the Holy Spirit). As the Bible is the Word of God,
it holds authority over every person, is without error,
and is completely flawless.

This is the doctrine of BIBLIOLOGY or the doctrine of the WRITTEN WORD.
(2 Timothy 3:15-17, 2 Peter 1:21)

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2. We affirm that there is one God Who exists in three Persons and Who is without beginning and has no end: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit.

This is the doctrine of the TRINITY.

(Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Matthew 3:16-17)

3. We affirm that Jesus Christ is God; in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His substitutionary death that paid for mankind's sins on the cross, in His bodily raising from the dead, in His rising from Earth to Heaven to the right hand of the Father, and in His present priestly ministry.

This is the doctrine of the *DEITY, (*Godship), of JESUS CHRIST.

(Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 1:22-23, 2 Corinthians 5:21, John 3:2, Isaiah 53:4-7, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, Acts 2:32-33, Hebrews 7:21-25)

4. We affirm that personal salvation is only through Jesus Christ paying for mankind's sins on the cross through the shedding of His blood. This salvation is for all who, by God's empowering and saving grace, turn from their sin and who, by faith, turn to Christ and receive and confess Him as Lord and Savior resulting in a new life that is purposed to please God.

This is the doctrine of SALVATION.

(Ephesians 2:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Acts 3:19, Romans 10:9-10)

5. We affirm the process of the follower of Jesus to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to constantly & consistently set himself/herself apart from the actions of the sinful human nature, the world's anti-God ideals, and the devil, to the

Constitution

things of God and the overcoming & abundant life as God's design for them.

This is the doctrine of SANCTIFICATION.

(1 John 3:3-10, 2 Peter 1:3-8, 1 Peter 1:16-19, Romans 6:14-22)

6. We affirm the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the church as Comforter, our Guide into all truth, and Enabler who empowers. The Holy Spirit empowers the Church to talk about Jesus Christ in their speech and in their actions while He gives His followers supernatural gifts (Gifts from Heaven), as He wills, to effectively impact people, events and culture inside and outside of the church for the Gospel. We're able to see the work of the Holy Spirit, and the supernatural gifts, in the deeds of those who follow Jesus.

This is the doctrine of the HOLY SPIRIT.

(John 14:15-17, Acts 1:8, 2:1-4, 11:15-17, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Galatians 5:22-23)

7. We affirm that it is the responsibility of the Church to spread the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ, verbally and through its actions until He returns to the Earth. We affirm that all who are a part of the Church have the responsibility to actively work in partnership with God to build His Kingdom; Pastors shepherd, lead, delegate, and serve and the church ministers to the people.

This is the doctrine of EVANGELISM.

(Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Romans 15:17-19, 2 Corinthians 5:20, Ephesians 4:11-12, Matthew 20:26-28)

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8. We affirm the command of Baptism following repentance (turning away from sin and turning to God) and putting one's faith in Christ. We recognize that baptism does not provide forgiveness. Baptism is a symbol of salvation and a mark of obedience that a person shows to the world that they are now a follower of Jesus.

Baptism is a sacrament (An act of high worship to God because of an inward work of grace through which God blesses His Church for their participation and observance).

This sacrament is the doctrine of BAPTISM.

(Matthew 3:13-17, 28:19, Acts 8:12-13, 36-39)

9. We affirm the consistent participation of the Lord's Supper, (Communion), to be practiced in church services. Jesus Christ's body was broken for us on the cross and the blood that was shed was for the taking away of sins. To remember this great act of Jesus, we use bread and juice. The broken bread symbolizes the body of Christ and we share and eat that bread with one another. The juice we share and drink with one another symbolizes the blood of Jesus.

Communion is a sacrament (An act of high worship to God because of an inward work of grace through which God blesses His Church for their participation and observance).

This sacrament is called the doctrine of THE LORD'S SUPPER.

(1Corinthians 11:17-34)

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10. We affirm Christ's soon and personal return in power and great glory and in His and everlasting dominion.

This is the doctrine of the RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST or the SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST.

(Acts 1:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, Revelation 19:11-16, Ephesians 1:20-22)

We affirm the resurrection (raising from the dead) of those who are followers of Jesus and those who are not followers of Jesus: they who are followers of Jesus will experience the resurrection of life forever with Jesus and they who are not followers of Jesus will experience the resurrection to punishment forever.

This is the doctrine of the RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.

(Matthew 25:31-46, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, John 5:28-29, Revelation 20:15, 21:8)

11. We affirm that sexual purity is God's command for all people and requires restraining from sex outside of marriage, incest, homosexuality, bestiality, lust for sex, or other sexual relationships or practices forbidden by Scripture. Christ Community Church recognizes it as the doctrine of SEXUAL PURITY.

(Hebrews 13:4, Romans 1:21-32, 1 Corinthians 6:18, Leviticus 18:1-30)

12. We affirm that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment (binding promise) for a lifetime and is a sacred institution established by God.

This is the doctrine of MARRIAGE.

(Matthew 19:4-6)

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13. We affirm that since mankind is created in God's image, human life is priceless and significant in all its dimensions, from conception to death. This view on life is motivated by love.

Christ Community Church recognizes it as the doctrine of the SANCTITY of LIFE.

(Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139:13-14)

14. We affirm that within the boundaries of mankind, God has designed two genders only, that being male and female. We recognize and affirm that God has also blessed the two specific genders. As each person is uniquely designed by God, gender is a gift from the omniscient God.

Christ Community Church recognizes it as the doctrine of GENDER.

(Genesis 1:27, 5:1-2, Matthew 19:4, Mark 10:6, Romans 1:19)

15. We affirm that God has given the Church Elders for primary spiritual leadership and oversight of the Church. In their leadership and oversight, they are to teach and preach the Word, protect and care for the Church, visit the sick and pray, as well as judge doctrinal issues. Elders are to shepherd God's people. The Bible recognizes Elders as men.

This is the doctrine of ELDERSHIP.

(Acts 20:28, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 5:17-20, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4)

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Article IV Statement of Purpose

The purpose of Christ Community Church shall be to 1promote the interest of the Kingdom of God according to the teachings of the 2Gospel of Jesus Christ, as prophesied in the Old Testament and realized in the New Testament, to maintain public services for the worship of God and the preaching of His Word, 4to administer the Sacraments, and to seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ in accordance with His great commission.

(1 Matthew 6:33, 2 1 Cor. 1:22, Romans 10:9 & 13, Galatians 3 & 4, Psalm 122:1-4, Luke 20:1, 4 Matthew 28:16-20)

Article V Amendments

Any article or section of this Constitution and/or Bylaws may be amended only by a vote of the Voting members during a regular or special congregational meeting. Written notice of such amendment, being agreed upon by a majority of the Board, must be presented to the membership at least three weeks in advance of the regular or special congregational meeting.

A Constitutional Amendment may only be considered when at least 60% of the Voting members are in attendance. For passage of the amendment, 75% of the votes must be in favor of the amendment.

A Bylaw Amendment may only be considered when a simple majority of the Voting members are in attendance. For passage of the amendment, a simple majority of the votes must be in favor of the amendment.

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BYLAWS

Revised 10-18-2020

Section I Membership

Membership is Christ's sovereign drawing of a person to a local body of believers using the obedience of God's people to all partner together, in covenant, to fulfill the mandate of the Kingdom of God as Biblically defined in a local area. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) Membership is a valuable two-way relationship between the member and the church. A person is considered a member of Christ Community Church upon completion of the Membership Training Class and the signing of the Membership Covenant. Membership is defined in two ways at Christ Community Church; a voting member or a non-voting member (see below).

1) Voting Member

A) Any member, age 16 or older, who has completed the Membership

B) Training Class and signed the Membership Covenant.

B) Members prior to June 30, 2019. These members are encouraged, but not required, to complete the Membership Training Class and sign the Membership Covenant.

2) Non-voting Member

A) Any member who has been inactive for a period of six months or longer may become a non-voting member, with Board review and discretion.

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3) Other membership information:

- a) Any member may voluntarily request to withdraw their membership at any time by contacting the Pastor.
- b) Any member who has been absent for a period of six months or longer may have their membership dissolved, with Board review and discretion.
- c) Unresolved conflicts may also result in dissolution of membership (See Section 7 Conflict Resolution).
- d) Any required Quorum is determined using the number of voting members only.

Section 2 Board

- 1) The Board shall consist of the Senior Pastor, and no less than three Board Elders and no less than three Board Trustees.
- 2) The Board may adjust the total number of Board Elders and Board Trustees equally, according to the size and needs of the church.
- 3) The Board shall endeavor to meet at least once each month; a simple majority of board members shall constitute a quorum.
- 4) The Board shall be responsible for maintaining all paid staff, including hiring and dismissing, not including the Pastor(s).
- 5) The Moderator of the Board shall be chosen by the Board annually in January.
- 6) If the Moderator cannot attend a meeting of the Board, the board members will appoint a temporary Moderator for the meeting.
- 7) Board Elders and Board Trustees shall serve no more than six consecutive years as a member of the Board without a break of at least one year.

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- 8) If a Board Elder vacancy occurs, the group of Elders will appoint an Elder to complete the Board term. The same process will be followed in a Trustee vacancy. These appointments are subject to the affirmation of the Board.
- 9) The Christian Education Director, Treasurer, and Clerk shall be non-voting board members.
- 10) Rules of Order - Robert's Rules of Order (last revised edition) shall be the parliamentary guideline for any meeting of the Board or Congregation.
- 11) Board meetings are open and anyone is welcome to attend and observe.

Section 3 Congregational Meeting

- 1) The membership will be notified from the pulpit and in church media at least three weeks prior to any Congregational Meeting.
- 2) The Annual Congregational Meeting shall be held during the month of October.
- 3) The Annual Congregational Meeting shall include a review of the current financial report, election of Board Elders and Board Trustees of Christ Community Church and the election of two members of the Nominating Committee (the third member will be selected from the Board), in addition to any other Church business.
- 4) The Moderator of the Congregational Meeting shall be a member of the current Board.
- 5) Board Elders and Board Trustees will be elected by approval of a simple majority of the Voting members present.
- 6) The Board Elders and Board Trustees elected shall assume office January 1st following the Annual Congregational Meeting.

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- 7) A Special Congregational meeting may be called by the Board.
- 8) A Special Congregational meeting may be called by members – see Section 7 Conflict Resolution for details.

Section 4 Nominating Committee

- 1) This Committee shall accept nominations for Board Elders and Board Trustees.
- 2) A member of the Board shall serve as Chairman of this committee.
- 3) Shall consist of the Chairman and two members-at-large.
At-large members shall be elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting.
- 4) No person will serve two years in succession.
- 5) The congregation will be notified from the pulpit and in church media at least three weeks prior to the opening of the nomination process.
- 6) The congregation may nominate Elder(s) to serve on the Board from the ordained Elders who have served greater than one year as an Elder.
- 7) The congregation may nominate Trustee(s) to serve on the Board from the installed Trustees who have served greater than one year as a Trustee.
- 8) Nominations shall be received from the membership during the month of May.
- 9) The committee will present the list of potential candidates to the Board for affirmation during the June board meeting.
- 10) During July, the Nominating Committee shall meet with potential candidates giving them time to discern the Lord's will and direction.
- 11) The Nominating committee, having heard back from the potential candidates by August 20th, will then assemble a final list of candidates to be

Constitution

presented to the Board during the August board meeting.

12) This final list of candidates will be submitted in writing to the membership at least three weeks prior to the Congregational meeting giving time for the congregation to also seek the Lord's will and direction in preparation for the election.

Section 5 Officers

All officers must be a member of Christ Community Church.

(added 10/18/2020)

Pastor

- 1)** A Pastor shall be a man of high moral character and his life guided by the Holy Scriptures in its entirety.
- 2)** A Pastor shall preach the Word, administer the Sacraments, and perform various pastoral duties.
- 3)** A pastor shall serve as the shepherd to the congregation, providing visionary leadership and spiritual direction in accordance with the Scriptures.
- 4)** A Pastor shall be part of the Eldership team providing spiritual care, guidance, and leadership to the congregation.
- 5)** See formal job description on file in the church office for detailed duties.
- 6)** A team of three Elders and/or Trustees selected by the Board shall conduct an annual review of the Pastor.
- 7)** A Pastor may request that the Pastoral Relationship be dissolved by presenting his intention to dissolve the relationship to the Board in writing. The Board shall notify the membership of this request.

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- 8)** The Church membership may also request that the Pastoral relationship is dissolved, if the Pastor is not fulfilling his duties, following these steps:
- a.)** Section 7 Conflict Resolution will be the first step to address this concern.
 - b.)** The Board will consult with the Pastor.
 - c.)** If the issue(s) cannot be resolved, the Board, by majority vote, may call for a special congregational meeting at which time the matter will be presented to the congregation.
 - d.)** Removal of the Pastor may be considered only when at least 60% of the Voting members are in attendance. To remove the Pastor 75% of the votes must be in favor of removal.
- 9)** When the congregation is without a Pastor, the Board shall appoint a Pulpit Committee.
- a.)** The Pulpit Committee shall consist of at least two members of the Board and at least one voting member of the church at large, not to exceed a total of 7 persons.
 - b.)** The Pulpit Committee will recommend to the Board a candidate, and the Board will interview and evaluate the candidate.
 - c.)** With the Board's endorsement, a candidate will then be recommended to the congregation.
 - d.)** Approval of a prospective Pastor may be considered only when at least 60% of the Voting members are in attendance. To affirm the Pastor 75% of the votes must be in favor of approval.

Constitution

Elder

- 1) Elders must be born again, above reproach, a husband of one wife, disciplined, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, hold firm to the Bible's teachings, able to teach, able to give instruction in sound doctrine, rebuke those who go against Biblical doctrine, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not arrogant, not quick-tempered, not a lover of money, not greedy, manage his own household well, cares for God's church, is God's steward, his children are faithful to Christ and are not insubordinate, not a recent convert, has a good reputation with the world, a lover of good, upright, holy.
- 2) Elders will daily walk out the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 to serve Christ's Kingdom, His church, and the world.
- 3) Elders shall spiritually lead the congregation, shepherd, protect the church, rebuke, guide, exhort, admonish and encourage the congregation in accordance with the Scriptures.
- 4) Elders will be available to meet the spiritual needs of the Church.
- 5) Elders will oversee the teaching of doctrine and direct the teaching of the Church as is fitting to the Bible.
- 6) The Elders shall be available to serve as members of the Board if elected to the position of a Board Elder.
- 7) Elder candidates may be nominated by any member of Christ Community Church at any time to a current Elder or the Senior Pastor.
- 8) The Elder candidate will be interviewed and screened by the Pastor and Elders.
 - 9) The Elder candidate will be presented before the congregation during a

Constitution

Sunday Service to ensure accountability.

10) The elder candidate will complete the Elder training period, as prescribed in the Christ Community Church Elder Training Plan.

11) The Elder candidate, after completing his training successfully, will be ordained to the position of Elder during a Sunday service.

12) Once ordained as an Elder, the Elder's calling and service to Christ, the Church, and the world is for life.

13) An Elder is eligible to serve as a Board Elder only after serving as an Elder for at least one year.

14) Board Elders shall serve no more than six consecutive years as a member of the Board without a break of at least one year.

15) Should an Elder choose to vacate his position of Eldership for any reason, he will make it known to the Board in writing two weeks prior to his departure.

16) See formal job description on file in the church office for detailed duties.

17) There is no limit on the number of Elders that may serve Christ Community Church.

Acts 6:1–7, 14:21-23, 20:28, 1 Corinthians 14:33, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17–22, Hebrews 10:24, 13:17, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4, Ephesians 5:20; 5:23, Matthew 18:15-17; 25:14-30, 1 John 4:1, James 3:1, Galatians 6:1

Elder Disqualification and Restoration

1) If unrepented of, or heinous, sin is found to be in the Elder's life, disqualification from that position will be immediate.

2) Furthermore, the steps of Section 7 Conflict Resolution will be

Constitution

implemented to gain repentance of the sin. Restoration with the church family will be encouraged.

Trustee

- 1) A Trustee shall be a member in good standing, whose life is guided by the teaching found in 1 Timothy 3:8-11, Romans 12:3-8, 2 Corinthians 1:24, Ephesians 6:6 and Romans 16:1-2.
- 2) The Trustees shall assist the Elders in ministry to the congregation and community. They shall help serve in such areas as Holy Communion and Water Baptism.
- 3) Trustee candidates may be nominated by any member of Christ Community Church at any time by speaking with a current Trustee or the Senior Pastor.
- 4) The Trustee candidate will be interviewed and screened by the Pastor and Trustees.
- 5) The Trustee candidate will be presented before the congregation during a Sunday Service.
- 6) Following Trustee orientation, the candidate will be installed as a Trustee.
- 7) A Trustee is eligible to serve on the Board only after serving as a Trustee for at least one year.
- 8) Trustees shall serve no more than six consecutive years as a member of the Board without a break of at least one year.
- 9) Board Trustees shall be bonded and serve as the legal representatives of the church as a non-profit religious organization and will be authorized as directed by the Board to conduct business on behalf of the church; signing all legal documentation as required.

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- 10) There is no limit on the number of Trustees that may serve Christ Community Church.
- 11) There is no limit to the number of years a person may serve as a Trustee.
- 12) See formal job description on file in the church office for detailed duties.
- 13) The procedure for removing a Trustee from office is as follows:
 - a.) Any member may notify the Pastor or Elders of an issue in violation of the standards found in 1 Timothy 3:8-11, Romans 12:3-8, 2 Corinthians 1:24, Ephesians 6:6 and Romans 16:1-2.
 - b.) The Pastor, Elders, and Board Trustees will review the charge and meet with the Trustee in question.
 - c.) If the violation is substantiated, the violation will be brought to the Board.
 - d.) The Board, by majority vote (excluding said Trustee if a Board Trustee), may remove Trustee from the position.
- 14.) Should a Trustee choose to vacate the position for any reason, he/she will make it known to the Board in writing two weeks prior to his/her departure.

Section 6 Support Roles (non-voting members of the Board)

Christian Education Director

- 1.) The Christian Education Director shall be appointed annually by the Elders and confirmed by the Board.
- 2.) The Christian Education Director shall work in collaboration with the Elders.
- 3.) The Christian Education Director shall oversee all education within the church including but not limited to Sunday School and youth programs.
- 4.) See formal job description on file in the church office for detailed duties.

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5.) The Christian Education Director may be removed from this position at his/her request or by action of the Board.

Treasurer

- 1) The Treasurer shall be appointed annually by the Trustees and confirmed by the Board.
- 2) The Treasurer shall work in collaboration with the Trustees and shall keep an account of receipts, expenditures, and all transactions in conformity with accepted bookkeeping practices.
- 3) His/her signature shall be recorded at the bank.
- 4) The Treasurer shall be bonded.
- 5) The Treasurer shall report regularly to the Board and annually to the congregation.
- 6) The financial records of Christ Community Church shall be bi-annually audited by an internal audit committee, under the supervision of the Trustees. An internal audit will be performed when a Treasurer leaves office for any reason. An internal or external audit may be requested at any time by the Board.
- 7) See formal job description on file in the church office for detailed duties.
- 8) The Treasurer may be removed from this position at his/her request or by action of the Board.
- 9) The fiscal year of Christ Community Church shall correspond with the calendar year.

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Clerk

- 1) The Clerk shall be appointed annually by the Trustees and confirmed
- 2) by the Board.
- 2) The Clerk shall keep an accurate record of all Board and Congregational meetings.
- 3) See formal job description on file in the church office for detailed duties.
- 4) The Clerk may be removed from this position at his/her request or by action of the Board.

Section 7 Conflict Resolution

- 1) The Bible warns that people in the church may have difficulties
- 2) with conflict.
- 2) Some conflict can be used to improve the ministry of the church (Acts 6:1-7).
- 3) There are various reasons for conflict, but in every case, it is the offended believer's responsibility to seek to resolve conflict and work toward peace (Romans 12:18).
- 4) Christ Community Church and its members will strictly adhere to the path that Jesus teaches us to follow in Matthew 18:15-20.

Matthew 18:15-20 (ESV)

¹⁵ If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three

Constitution

witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

5) If, after following all these steps, there is still unresolved conflict, any of the parties involved may request a Congregational meeting. To request a Congregational meeting the parties must advise the Board in writing of their request. The Board must then follow the proper steps spelled out in Section 3, Congregational Meeting, to call a Congregational meeting.

Section 8 Use of Christ Community Church Property

The use of any and all Christ Community Church property will only be granted to individual people or groups that adhere to the beliefs stated in the Constitution. The Trustees will have final approval concerning any use of Christ Community Church property.

FAQ's (frequently asked questions)

How do I become a member of Christ Community Church?

Simply read the entirety of this packet, and set an appointment with the pastor or an elder to ask any questions you may have. Afterward, should you agree with what's entailed in the Membership Packet and sign the covenant, the Church will welcome you as a member during a Church service.

What's the necessity of signing a covenant for Church membership?

Signing a covenant lets those who belong to the church know that you can be counted on, that you're committed to them, and you're also committed to what the church believes. But most importantly, it lets the Church know that you are committed to Jesus Christ and what He favors. When we hold one another accountable, we are reminded that we are in covenant with Christ and one another. This helps us to grow in grace. If we all know the level of one another's commitment, we're able to grow in grace with one another and build God's Kingdom together in confidence.

Why is church membership important and is there Biblical proof of it?

~ Church letters of membership

Acts 18:27 (ESV), 'And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace,'

Colossians 4:10 (ESV), 'Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him);'

2 Corinthians 3:1 (ESV), 'Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we

FAQ's (frequently asked questions)

need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you?’

(Why is church membership important and is there Biblical proof of it? continued)

~ Church Care and Church Discipline

It is the Lord’s desire for the Church to stay together (locally and globally), care for one another, and to keep the Church pure. As Christians, we battle sin everyday but the Bible puts the battle of sin in the context fighting that battle with the togetherness, care, and holiness within the local church body. As the Bible says, in 2 Corinthians 12:24-26 (ESV), ‘24 whereas our more presentable members have no such need. But God has so composed the body (the Church), giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.’ Also, we see the mark of holiness, help, and reconciliation for the sinning Christian in Matthew 18:15-20. All of these components cannot happen when Christians separate themselves for the local body. But when we’re together, an environment of care, togetherness, and holiness is created and sustained as is pleasing to the Lord.

(Why is church membership important and is there Biblical proof of it? Continued)

~ Healthy Spiritual Growth and Transparency for the Christian

Proverbs 27:17 (ESV), ‘Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.’ Where there is a local church, you will find commitment to and for one another. The Bible continually shows the benefits of being transparent, (which decreases hypocrisy and increases authenticity), and the benefits of spiritual growth. In the arena of healthy spiritual growth and transparency, church membership communicates

FAQ's (frequently asked questions)

that there is a strong level of being there for one another. No matter what reasoning we use, the Bible shows that we cannot accomplish healthy spiritual growth and transparency alone. As Ecclesiastes 4:12 (ESV) says, 'And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can stand against him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.'

(Why is church membership important and is there Biblical proof of it? Continued)

~ The Trinity provides a pattern and template of unity.

The Bible clearly shows that God is a Triune Being in Matthew 28:19 (LSB), '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,'; also in 2 Corinthians 13:14, Matthew 3:16-17, and various other places in Scripture. The Bible also shows that God is perfect in all ways, Deuteronomy 32:4, Psalm 18:30, and Matthew 5:48. So God is perfectly in unity not only locally (in that He's three persons in One), but also perfectly in unity in that He is together in purpose and in essence. Whatever God displays, He shows as a pattern. In light of the trinity, God's pattern is that He is together and is in unity with Himself at all times. A pattern, or a template, is shown so that someone will follow. That pattern shows localized unity and that someone is us. Simply put: since God being three Persons is One and is together, we the Church being His people should follow God's pattern of being together locally with the same purpose. We are God's image bearers collectively and individually. A local Church, starting with membership, accomplishes showing what being a true image bearer of God looks like while being together and having the same purpose.

(Why is church membership important and is there Biblical proof of it? Continued)

FAQ's (frequently asked questions)

(Why is church membership important and is there Biblical proof of it? Continued)

~ Church Membership is shown in the very Churches and Tribes in the whole of the Bible.

Jesus recognized the fact that the 12 Tribes of Israel (seen in the Old Testament), were in fact tribes (a local people group committed to one another under God's headship with their own unique distinction) in Matthew 19:28 (LSB), 'And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the generation when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'"

Also, we see Church membership as each individual church is addressed in the New Testament and in the very titles of the books of the Bible: Ephesians 1:1 (LSB), 'Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:' Colossians 1:2 (LSB), 'To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.' We continue to see this pattern in 1st & 2nd Corinthians, 1 Peter 5:13-14 (Rome), Galatians 1:2, Philippians 1:1, and the letters to the Thessalonian Church. Paul gives a prime example of a people, being together, representing a specific location (cities). This shows in that time period that each individual city had it's own local church; which displays togetherness and commitment to one another. And, again, clearly it shows a local people group committed to one another under God's headship with their own unique distinction.

One other example of local Churches mentioned by their location is in Revelation 1:11 (LSB), 'saying, "Write in a scroll what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.'"

FAQ's (frequently asked questions)

(Why is church membership important and is there Biblical proof of it? Continued)

~ The Christian's salvation gives evidence to God's desire for the Church's unity.

When a Christian is saved, the Lord welcomes that person into the covenant, (promise), He has made to them. The Christian and God are together bound by a blood covenant that was made when Jesus bled and died on the cross for your sins; our Heavenly Father approved of this covenant (Isaiah 53:10). And, the Holy Spirit lets us know of His commitment to us in Ephesians, 1:13-14 (LSB), '13 In Him, you also, after listening to the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, unto the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.'. Again, the Lord and the Christian are together, not separate. This holy union gives a pattern to what God desires within the whole of His Church. Since we as Christians are together with God, why would be apart from one another and thus being unconnected and uncommitted to one another? The Lord wants us in unity and the local Church, committed and connected, is one of the best expressions of that.

If it was the heart of the Lord to save people and then not have them to gather together in local committed groups, He would have stated that in His Word and He would have shown that in patterns in the Bible. But as it is, there is no evidence to show that God condones, commands, or approves of lone Christians or the practice of isolated Christianity. Conversely, God shows the opposite. Thankfully, God shows His love and care to the whole universal visible Church by sovereignly gathering them together in committed, caring, loving, local groups of people to accomplish His purpose.

FAQ's (frequently asked questions)

Does Church membership make you a Christian?

No. Only God by His sovereign miraculous work causes you to be a Christian. (Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Matthew 27:32-56, Luke 24, John 3:1-21, Romans 10:9-13, Acts 3:19)

Do I have to be a Christian (born again, saved) to join Christ Community Church?

Yes. What is true of the visible universal (global) Church is true of the local church which makes up the universal Church. Only believers in Jesus Christ are a part of God's Church. (John 3:1-21 and Ephesians 5:23b-24a (LSB), '... 23b Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24a But as the church is subject to Christ...').

Do I have to be baptized to join Christ Community Church?

No. We don't see any Biblical evidence that shows or suggests that a person has to be baptized to join a local church. About Baptism, the Bible only teaches that it is an obedient act showing the inward change of being born again after a person has become a Christian (Acts 8:26-40).

Once a person is a member of Christ Community Church, what then?

God's purpose for us is to love and glorify Him and love & serve others. We love and glorify Him by obeying His commands, loving & serving Him, loving & serving our family, loving & serving the church, and loving & serving the local community with the spiritual gifts He has given us. We also proclaim the full counsel of God and His Gospel to our local, regional, and global community. So, as it has to do

FAQ's (frequently asked questions)

with serving, the three questions to ask would be, “What has God commanded me to do?”, “What am I gifted to do in my family, church, and local community?”, and, “What needs can I meet for others?”. As it has to do with proclaiming the Gospel to others, Christ Community Church will equip you via sermons, Sunday School teaching, and other resources. Set an appointment with the pastor, an elder, or a team leader to help you find God’s purpose for you. In short, we love, serve, and glorify God/love & serve others.

I have other questions; how can I get them answered?

Any question is valid and legitimate. So, any questions you have about church membership at Christ Community Church, about the Church, or about what is taught to the Church, we want to answer those questions. When you set an appointment with an elder or the pastor to go over the membership packet, feel free to bring those questions to us. A question sheet has been provided in the back of this packet for your convenience.

We know this is an important decision and we want to be as helpful to you as we can be.

Bible versions used: ESV (English Standard Version), LSB (Legacy Standard Bible)

Membership Covenant

The following is a copy of the Christ Community Church Covenant.

Within it you'll see that it's very basic but meaningful. Signing it means that you're a part of the Christ Community Church family and that you've chosen to be a part of God's Church locally. It means that you've chosen to be committed to something not only bigger than yourself, but also to something that is ordained by Christ Himself and is eternal. As we said before, becoming a part of a local church is one of the most important decisions you'll ever make.

Becoming a part of a local body of believers in Christ also means that you're sharing the same values and that you're a part of a community that loves you and is for you. We see a picture of this community in Christ in the book of Acts in Acts 2:42-47, '42 And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. 43 And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were dividing them up with all, as anyone might have need. 46 And daily devoting themselves with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number daily those who were being saved.'

After reading this membership packet, meeting with the pastor or an elder to go over any questions, and getting to know one another, you believe that you would like to be a part of the Christ Community Church family, the following will happen:

- You'll sign a membership covenant.

Membership Covenant

- Soon after you sign the covenant, we'll set aside a Sunday for you to come before the church to be received by them as a member and to be prayed for by the church.

A sample of the Christ Community Church Covenant is located below and on the following pages.

The Christ Community Church Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and being in agreement with the values and ideas presented in the PIPELINE Follow & Connect Class, I now covenant with Christ Community Church as my church family. I commit myself in the power of the Holy Spirit to my fellow members of Christ Community Church to do the following:

Titus 2:11-14, ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.'

1. I will maintain the unity of Christ Community Church by:

- fulfilling the great commandment in the power of the Holy Spirit.

(LOVING: Biblical unity with God & others)

Membership Covenant

Matthew 22:37-39, ³⁷ And He (Jesus Christ) said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

2. I will take ownership of the responsibility of Christ's call on my life and by sharing in Christ's call on Christ Community Church by:

- fulfilling the great commission.

(REACHING: Evangelism & Discipleship)

Matthew 28:18-20, ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

3. I will upkeep my Christian testimony and Christ Community Church's testimony by:

- living a Biblical life and continuing in spiritual growth.

(GROWING: Sanctification)

2 Timothy 2:21, 'Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.'

Membership Covenant

4. I will serve as God has equipped me by:

- Discovering my spiritual gifts and using them to serve God and others in the entirety of my life.

(SERVING: Servanthood)

1 Peter 2:16, 'Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.'

_____/_____/_____
Name(Printed) Name(Signed) Date

Thank you for reading Christ Community Church's Membership Packet. If you have any thoughts or questions, or you would like to take the next step and set a meeting with the pastor or an elder to discuss membership further, let us know at 330-735-2127 or cccmsa@loveled.org and we'll be happy to meet with you.

