



NEW MEMBER CLASS

THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS:

"...You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong to God's household with every other Christian." **Ephesians 2:19** (LB)

Key Truths:

1. The church is a family.
2. God expects you to be a member of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is a contradiction.

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS: that I will commit myself to God and to the church.

WHY SHOULD I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

1. Each of us was created by God.

Psalm 100:3 *Know that the Lord Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves.*

2. Each of us was created for God.

Colossians 1:16 *All things have been created through Him and for Him.*

- We long for a love that only God can give us. We long to be fully known and perfectly loved. No person can love us like we want to be loved.
- We long for more because we were made for more. We long for a perfect environment because we were created for heaven.

3. There is someone God made you to be. He wants to fill your personality with His character.

Romans 8:29 *Those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son.*

4. There are some things that God made you to do.

Ephesians 2:10 *We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

- Genuine success is simply becoming who God made you to be and doing what He made you to do. Nothing else will matter the day we stand before Him.

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

- To be disconnected from God is to be out of touch with *real* life.

John 1:4 *In Him was life.*

John 10:10 *I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*

Galatians 5:22 *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.*

WHAT BEING A CHRISTIAN IS NOT:

1. Being a Christian is not primarily about missing hell or going to heaven when you die.
2. Being a Christian is not about something you once did but rather who you now are.
3. Christianity is not a religion; it is a relationship.

John 17:3 *This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

What the Bible says about being a Christian:

1. Each of us is born a sinner.

Romans 3:23 *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

We are not sinners because we sin, we sin because we are sinners.

2. Each of us stands condemned before a holy God.

John 3:18 *He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

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

3. Even though God is holy and we are sinners, He still loves us.
John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*
Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
4. Jesus Christ is the only way to God.
John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."*
5. Christ died on the cross in our place for our sin so that we could be forgiven by God and have a relationship with Him.
1 Peter 3:18 *Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God.*
2 Corinthians 5:21 *He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
6. Eternal life is a relationship with God, not something that we once did or now do.
John 17:3 *This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*
7. Knowing facts about God and Scripture does not make a person a Christian.
Mark 12:28 *One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?"* **29** *Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; 30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."* **32** *The scribe said to Him, "Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that He is One, and there is no one else besides Him; 33 and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as himself, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."* **34** *When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."*
8. Salvation is a gift of grace that we receive, not a reward that we earn.
Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
9. We receive God's gift by making Christ Lord of our lives.

Romans 10:9 *If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

Mark 8:34 *He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. 35 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?"*

10. Many people are deceived about their faith.

Matthew 7:21 *Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?" 23 And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness."*

11. The proof of salvation is a changed life, not a past act or decision.

John 10:27 *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them.*

John 14:21 *He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.*

1 John 2:3 *By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

12. Christians belong to God.

1 Corinthians 6:19 *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

2 Corinthians 5:15 *He (Jesus) died for all, so that they who live (those who are born again) might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.*

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

**Acknowledge my sin. Trust what Christ has done for me.
Give myself completely to Him.**

HOW TO KNOW YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN

Anyone can claim to be a Christian. How can I be sure? Assurance must be based upon what the Bible says, not what I think or how I feel.

The Bible teaches the "security" of the believer. In other words, once you are genuinely saved, you can never again be *lost*. Once you are really a child of God, you can never cease to be one.

WHY ARE WE ETERNALLY SECURE?

1. Our salvation is not based upon our works for God, but upon His work for us.

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy." **Titus 3:5**

"A man is not justified by the works of the Law, but through faith in Christ."
Galatians 2:16

2. Salvation is a gift.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith...it is the gift of God, not as a result of works." **Ephesians 2:8-9**

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy." **Titus 3:5**

If you did not earn or deserve it, then you cannot cease to deserve it and lose it.

3. The life that God gives is eternal life.

Jesus said, *"I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. And no one shall snatch them out of the Father's hand."* **John 10:28-29**

HOW CAN WE BE SURE?

1. Did you know what you were doing and did you really mean it when you gave your life to Christ?

"Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." **Acts 2:21**

"If you confess with your mouth 'Lord Jesus' (literally), and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."

Romans 10:9-10

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him." **Revelation 3:20**

2. Have you experienced a changed life?

"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature." **2 Corinthians 5:17**

3. What does your lifestyle indicate?

"You will know them by their fruits." **Matthew 7:16**

"Faith without works is dead." **James 2:26**

"He (Jesus) died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."

2 Corinthians 5:15

"We can be sure we know Him if we keep His commands." **1 John 2:3**

Works do not save a person, but they do reveal that a person has been saved. Works are the evidence of a changed heart and life.

NOTE: Some of you made professions of faith and were baptized years ago. You eventually dropped out of church and lived completely apart from the Lord. If there is a significant "gap" in your life when you honestly had no interest in spiritual things, then you most likely were *not* saved. We suggest that you commit your life to Christ NOW and be baptized as a *believer*. You cannot be sure about THEN, but you can be sure about NOW.

Let the Pastor or someone on staff know if you are making this decision now and we can help you and talk about baptism.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY JESUS.

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.” Mark 1:9

2. BECAUSE CHRIST COMMANDS IT.

Jesus said, “Go then, to all people everywhere and make them My disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-20

3. IT’S A PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION THAT I BELIEVE.

“...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8
“We can be sure we know Him if we keep His commands.” 1 John 2:3

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST’S BURIAL AND RESURRECTION.

“Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” Colossians 2:12

2. IT ILLUSTRATES MY NEW LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN.

“When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside.

The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

“By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life!”

Romans 6:4

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. 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 in your heart.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. JESUS WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” Matthew 3:16

2. EVERY BAPTISM IN THE BIBLE WAS BY IMMERSION.

(Example) *“...then both Philip and the man **went down** into the water and Philip baptized him. When they **came up** out of the water...” Acts 8:38-39*

3. THE WORD “BAPTIZE” MEANS “TO DIP UNDER WATER.”

The Greek word *baptizo* means “to immerse or dip under water.”

IT BEST SYMBOLIZES A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!

The founders of denominations agree:

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

Presbyterians: John Calvin... “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

Methodists: John Wesley... “Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

...EVERY PERSON WHO HAS BELIEVED IN CHRIST.

“Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized...” Acts 2:41

“Simon himself believed and was baptized...” Acts 8:13

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” Acts 8:12

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the 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 to Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed.

This is **different** from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

At TCAR, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed” as children.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED? ...SOON AFTER I HAVE BELIEVED!

“Those who believed...were baptized...that day!” Acts 2:41

“Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, ‘Look, here is water! Why shouldn’t I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip 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 and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect,” you’ll never feel “good enough”!

Baptism at TCAR can be scheduled or you may be Baptized when invited to do so during a service after counseling. We hold our Baptismal services in various locations (here at the church, in a swimming pool, etc...) at intervals during the year.

THE MEANING OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two

visible symbols (called “ordinances”) as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

WHAT IS THE LORD’S SUPPER? (1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26)

1. IT IS A SIMPLE ACT, NOT AN ELABORATE CEREMONY.

“The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread...” (vs.23)

2. IT IS A REMINDER.

“...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is My body, which is broken for you; eat it in remembrance of Me.’” (vs. 24)

3. IT IS A SYMBOL.

“In the same way, He took the cup, saying “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; drink it to remember Me.” (vs. 25)

4. IT IS A STATEMENT OF FAITH.

“For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes back.” (vs. 26)

WHAT WE BELIEVE AT TCAR

1. In essential beliefs - we have UNITY.

“There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one Faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...” Ephesians 4:4-6

2. In non-essential beliefs - we have LIBERTY.

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.”
Romans 14:1,4,12,22

3. In all our beliefs - we show LOVE.

“If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have faith that can move mountains - but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.” **1 Corinthians 13:2 (PH)**

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

1. ABOUT GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 1:1-3

2. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven’s glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13.

3. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the

Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer at least one spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily.

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

4. ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5.

5. ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

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

6. ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement 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 as Lord, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment a person receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Romans 6:23, 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12, 14:6; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26.

7. ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" your salvation. It is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian.

John 10:28-29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5.

8. ABOUT ETERNITY

People were created to live eternally. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16, 2:25, 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; Matthew 1:8, 2:44-46.

WHAT WE PRACTICE

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

Bible as our sole authority.

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right.” **2 Timothy 3:15**

God’s Word is the only truthful authority, we accept it as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is “What does the Bible say?” We should practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

Autonomy of each local church.

“Christ is the head of His Body, the church. He is the source of the Body’s life...”
Colossians 1:18 (GN)

Christ is the recognized head of our church... not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control. TCAR financially supports and cooperates with the religious organizations listed below.

TCAR IS AFFILIATED WITH:

1. The Southern Baptist Convention: headquarters in Nashville, TN.
 - The International Mission Board (formerly known as the Foreign Mission Board) has over 5,600 missionaries serving nearly 1,500 countries. These missionaries do work in evangelism, church-planting, education, medicine, agriculture, etc. Check out www.imb.org
 - The North American Mission Board (formerly known as the Home Mission Board) has over 5,100 missionaries who serve in the U.S. and Canada. They do many of the same ministries of the IMB as well as work in inner cities and resort areas. Check out www.namb.net
 - The SBC has six seminaries: Southern in Louisville, KY; Southeastern in Wake Forest, NC; New Orleans in LA; Midwestern in Kansas City, MO; Southwestern in Fort Worth, TX; and Golden Gate in San Francisco, CA. Another Southern Baptist seminary that does not receive convention funding is Mid-America in Memphis, TN.
 - Lifeway Christian Resources provides convention churches with materials and actually contributes financially to the SBC. Check out www.lifeway.com
 - The SBC owns and operates two large conference centers: Ridgecrest in Asheville, NC and Glorietta outside of Santa Fe, NM.

2. The Tennessee Baptist Convention: headquarters in Brentwood, TN.
 - The TBC has three colleges: Carson-Newman in Jefferson City, Belmont in Nashville, and Union in Jackson King's Academy (formerly known as Harrison-Chilhowee) is a TBC elementary through high school in Seymour.
 - The TBC owns and operates two camps: Camp Carson in Newport and Camp Linden in Linden.
 - The TBC provides training, materials, and support for churches. They also staff Baptist Student Unions on 35 college campuses across the state.
 - The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes provides adoption services as well as ministry to orphans, troubled kids, abandoned children, unwed mothers, and victims of abuse in multiple locations throughout the state.
 - Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes operates four retirement homes and two homes for mentally retarded adults.
 - The TBC provides disaster relief throughout the southeast. Volunteers use convention-provided vans and supplies to aid those devastated by natural catastrophes.
 - Check out www.tnbaptist.org

3. The Grainger County Baptist Association.
 - The local association provides training, materials, and support to local churches.
 - The association is a means by which we cooperate with those around us for Kingdom causes.

4. Church Planting
 - We currently seek out opportunities to plant churches throughout Tennessee and North America and the world.
 - We have supported 2 church plants over our 13 years in existence in Tennessee directly, and several others through the former East Tennessee Church Plant Network. We also support churches in Honduras.

5. Honduras
 - University Baptist Church in Tegucigalpa
 - House Church “Rose of Sharon Baptist Church” on outskirts of Tegucigalpa.
 - Church planting in Honduras – Focus area: Mata de Platano, Zinguizapa. We support 2 pastors for this area and a seminary to train pastors in this region. We currently have 30 students in the seminary.

5. Willow Creek Association
 - Founded in 1992, Willow Creek Association (WCA) serves pioneering pastors and leaders through world-class leadership experiences and resources. WCA is committed to a singular idea: that inspired, encouraged, and equipped Christian leaders create thriving local churches that redeem their communities for Christ.

Financial Support

TCAR financially supports the two conventions, the associations listed above, and church plants and ministries listed above. Each month we send a predetermined budgeted amount to each including the Grainger County Baptist Association and to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The TBC forwards 37% of its check to the Southern Baptist Convention. This stewardship plan is called the “Cooperative Program.” Each time you make an undesignated offering to TCAR, you are supporting all of these ministries and more.

Many SBC churches receive other special offerings throughout the year to support missions. These include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for

Home Missions, the Golden State Offering for State Missions, the Mother's Day Offering for the TN Baptist Children's Homes, and a World Hunger Offering. These special offerings account for as much as 50% of the budgets for those ministries.

Because of our people's sacrifices and because unchurched people think that churches are only interested in their money, we have do not conduct large public pleas for these seasonal offerings. You are by all means encouraged to contribute to each of these specific ministries by designating offerings *above your tithe* through the church. You may give to **any** of these efforts by simply designating to whichever cause you desire on the offering envelope.

Priesthood of every believer.

"Christ loves us, and by his death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God..." **Revelation 1:6** (GN)

"You are...the King's priests... God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God." **1 Peter 2:9** (GN)

As a "priest," you can talk to God and He can talk to you. The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full time" Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. Every believer is a minister and is to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

Tithing

"A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." **Leviticus 26:30**

At TCAR we practice tithing for the support of Christ's Body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income to the church is the Biblical standard.

(see **Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3:7-12; Luke 6:38, 12:48b**)

Immersion.

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ..." **Colossians 2:12** (GN)

We practice baptism by immersion - the way Jesus was baptized, and the way the Bible commands.

Spirit-led living.

(Jesus said) *"I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from Me you can do nothing."* **John 15:5**

We believe that the only possible way to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right. (**Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 5:18**)

Telling others about Christ.

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." **1 Peter 3:15**

"...you will be My witnesses" **Acts 1:8**

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with others. Our evangelistic strategy is for members to build caring relationships with unchurched people with the goal of helping them to say "yes" to God. The morning worship services are designed to reach the people that our members bring.

CHURCH STRUCTURE

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions. What do the following things have in common: Committee, Board, ballot, vote, Business Meeting, election, officers, Parliamentary Procedure, and majority rule? NONE of these are in the Bible. These are man-made inventions that are not necessarily wrong, but they are *not* Biblical.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE:

1. THE CHURCH IS A FELLOWSHIP.

“They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship...” Acts 2:42 (PH)

A top priority in a fellowship is harmony and unity.

*“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”
Ephesians 4:3*

“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.” Romans 14:19 (PH)

IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS DIFFERENCES.

*“(Often)... your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you...”
1 Corinthians 11:17-18*

Voting tends to divide people. Every time people vote, someone wins and someone loses. We are a staff-led church that operates through leaders and teams by building consensus. TCAR has business sessions as needed. The church votes on the annual budget, borrowing money, purchasing property, and major capital improvements, but little else.

2. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY.

“You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” 1 Peter 3:8 (LB)

Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 2:10-12; 1 Peter 4:17

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF RELATIONSHIPS MORE THAN RULES.

“Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, to the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters.” 1 Timothy 5:1-2

“(A Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his family, how can he take care of God’s church?” 1 Timothy 3:4-5

3. THE CHURCH IS A BODY.

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!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION MORE ON THE BASIS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS THAN ELECTED OFFICES.

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us.” Romans 12:4-6

In an organization “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism “ministry” is the focus.

WE WANT A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO AS TO MAXIMIZE MINISTRY AND MINIMIZE MAINTENANCE.

“God gave... some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” Ephesians 4:11-12

OUR STRUCTURE:

- The People are the “MINISTERS.”
- The Pastors are the “ADMINISTERS.”

The role of the paid staff of the church is to lead the entire membership as it does the ministry. Every member is gifted and “called” to minister to others; this is not *just* the job of the pastors.

4. THE CHURCH IS A FLOCK.

(Jesus’ favorite description of the Church)
John 10:1-30; Matthew 26:31, 25:33

THEREFORE IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY SHEPHERDS.

Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Do you really love me?” “Yes, Lord,” said Peter. “Then take care of my sheep.” John 21:16-17

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer **to the same church leaders:**

POIMEN	Pastor/Shepherd	-Caring	-Welfare of the Church
PRESBUTEROS	Elder	-Maturity	-Worship of the Church
EPISCOPOS	Overseer/Bishop	-Management	-Work of the Church

To the **elders** I say, “Be **shepherds** of God’s flock, serving as **overseers**...”
1 Peter 5:1-2

“Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the church. When they arrived he said to them...Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be **pastors** of the church of God...” **Acts 20:17-18, 28**

See also **Titus 1:5-7; 1 Timothy 5:17**

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word: COMMITMENT. Attenders are consumers; members are contributors. There will always be people who will attend a church without contributing or really becoming involved. Based upon what you have learned in this study, we do not believe this to be God’s will. There are scores of commands in Scripture about what we are to do for “one another.” These commands cannot be obeyed by people who are isolated and detached. When a person becomes a member of TCAR, he/she crosses a commitment “line.” This church becomes *his/her* church. The ministry becomes *his/her* ministry. The responsibility becomes *his/her* responsibility. When you join TCAR, this church is as much yours as a member of fifty years.

At TCAR we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

1. A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

“...Christ loved the church, and He gave his life for it.” Ephesians 5:25

2. A Cultural Reason: It is an antidote to our society.

We live in an age where very few 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 swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

3. A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted on.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a staff. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

4. A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A MEMBER?

At TCAR 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 Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant.

THE TCAR MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

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

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

...By acting in love toward other members

...By refusing to gossip

...By following the leaders

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony and on the growth of our fellowship together." Romans 15:19 (PH)

"Live in complete harmony with each other - each with the attitude of Christ toward each other." Romans 15:5 (LB)

“Have a sincere love for your fellow believers; love one another earnestly with all of your hearts.” 1 Peter 1:22 (GN)

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...” Ephesians 4:29

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17

2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY CHURCH

...By praying for its growth

...By inviting the unchurched to attend

...By warmly welcoming those who visit

“To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.”

1 Thessalonians 1:2

“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full.” Luke 14:23 (LB)

“So warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” Romans 15:7 (LB)

3. I WILL SERVE IN THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

...By discovering my gifts and talents

...By being equipped to serve by my pastors

...By developing a servant’s heart

“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you...”

1 Peter 4:10 (PH)

“God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” Ephesians 4:11-12

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ... who took on the very nature of a servant...” Philippians 2:3-4,7

4. I WILL SUPPORT THE WORK OF MY CHURCH

...By attending weekly unless legitimately hindered

...By living a godly life
 ...By giving regularly

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another.” Hebrews 10:25

“But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Philippians 1:27 (PH)

“Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering.”
 1 Corinthians 16:2

“A tenth of all you produce is the Lord’s and it is holy.” Leviticus 27:30

Members are a walking billboard for a church.

THE CHURCH AT RUTLEDGE CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this constitution for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and so that this body may be governed in an orderly manner.

NAME

The official name of this family of Christ-followers is The Church At Rutledge of Rutledge, Tennessee. It will also be known as TCAR.

MISSION

TCAR exists to help people say “yes” to God. Its five tasks are to provide worship, engage in ministry, perform the work of evangelism, bring believers into community, and to involve members in discipleship. These tasks are given to the church in the Great Commandments (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). TCAR’s purpose is to help people discover and experience the life for which they were created. There is someone God made us to be (Romans 8:29) and there are some things God made us to do (Ephesians 2:10).

TCAR's vision is to build a church true to the heart of God through accountability and growth of the members. We will meet needs in the community and reach out to others through developing relationships and creating an atmosphere that is casual and inviting. We will encourage one another and experience God together as we celebrate His presence.

CORE VALUES:

The Church at Rutledge is committed to being *Authentic*, building *relationships*, and communicating biblical truth in a *relevant* way. We strive to do ministry with *excellence* because people matter to God and to us. We will provide a *warm* and inviting atmosphere where people can *grow*.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

The Baptist Faith and Message Adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention June 14, 2000.

GOVERNMENT

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes Kingdom benefits of mutual cooperation with other churches. Oversight is given to its Board of Directors and its President.

OFFICERS

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors at TCAR is composed of its ordained Pastoral staff members and its Deacons. Pastors are called by God and either elected or appointed by the church to lead its efforts in accomplishing its God-given mission. As modeled by Jesus Christ, pastors are to be servant-leaders. The Deacons are also servants who assist the pastors in leading the church to accomplish its mission. Deacons will be nominated by the Board and affirmed by the church. The Board will meet at least six times during the calendar year. The Board will divide itself into sub-groups for the focused oversight of various areas of church life. The Officers and sub-groups within the Board may solicit the help of members outside of the Board for involvement in their specific areas of oversight.

Chairman of the Board

The Chairman of the Board will be the Chairman of the Deacons. His responsibility will be to serve the Board and the church by overseeing the Board, its meetings, and its activity. He will be elected by the Board at its December meeting and will serve in that capacity for the next calendar year.

Treasurer

The Treasurer will have the responsibility of serving the Board and church by overseeing its finances. He will be elected by the Board at its December meeting and will serve in that capacity for the next calendar year.

Secretary

The Secretary will serve the Board and the church by recording the minutes and activity of the Board of Directors. He will be elected by the Board at its December meeting and will serve in that capacity for the next calendar year.

President

The President of the corporation will be the Senior Pastor. He will serve the church by overseeing its staff and all of its daily operations. He will lead the church, cast God's vision for the church, and be the primary teacher of the congregation. The President/Senior Pastor is to possess a divine call to lead TCAR, will be recommended to the church by a team appointed by the Board for that task, and must be elected by at least an 80% vote of church members. The President will continue his responsibility until his death, retirement, resignation, or removal from office. The President can be removed from office by a majority vote of church members if and when such action is initiated by the Board of Directors. (Members age eighteen and above have voting privileges in church business matters at TCAR.) The President (or his designee) will act as the moderator of church business sessions. When there is no Senior Pastor or his removal is being considered, the Board of Directors will appoint a moderator for business sessions and assist the staff with the normal duties of the Senior Pastor.

CHURCH BUSINESS SESSIONS

The ongoing business of the church will be handled by the President and the Board of Directors. An annual business session will be held by the second week of December to adopt the budget for the upcoming year.

Special Called Business Sessions: The President or the Board may call for Special Business Meetings as needed with the particular object of the meeting being clearly stated. Notice of these special meetings must be made on a Lord's Day preceding the special meeting. The earliest a special meeting can be held will be after one week in the evening following the notice given on Sunday. Only matters pertaining to the special meeting shall be in order.

Quorum: A quorum shall consist of those church members who attend the regular Business Meeting or a properly called special Business Meeting.

Parliamentary Rules: Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall be the authority for parliamentary rules or procedure for all business meetings of the Church.

MEMBERSHIP

The Meaning of Membership

TCAR is a church, not a club. Therefore, the emphasis is not upon the "rights" of members but rather the "responsibilities" of members. All believers are called to be in relationship with other Christ-followers (Hebrews 10:24-25; Romans 12:5). The New Testament is full of "one another" commands (Mark 9:50; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:10,16; 14:19; 15:5,7,14,16; 1 Corinthians 12:25; 15:20; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:2,25,32; 5:19,21; Colossians 3:9,13,16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9,13; 5:11,13,15; Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25; James 4:11; 5:16; 1 Peter 1:22; 4:8-10; 5:5,14; 1 John 1:7; 3:11,23; 4:7,11; 2 John 1:5) that can only be obeyed when members experience community with other Christians. To follow Christ is to be a participating member of

a church. At TCAR, all members are also expected to discover their gifts and to become involved in the ministry of the church. Only members of TCAR who are eighteen and older may vote on matters of business during church business sessions.

Becoming a Member

Individuals become members of TCAR by attending New Member Class #101, completing the Membership Application, and by signing (and thereby agreeing to abide by) the Membership Covenant. To become a member, one must have experienced the new birth and been baptized by immersion *after* coming to Christ. A person may join by:

1. **Baptism:** being baptized at TCAR by one of its pastors.
2. **Letter:** transferring membership from another Baptist Church.
3. **Statement:** moving membership from a non-Baptist Church that has the same beliefs about God, the Bible, salvation, and security. This person must have been baptized by immersion *after* conversion.

Ending Membership

Membership at TCAR may be ended in the following ways:

1. **Transfer of Letter:** Membership ends when another Baptist church requests a transfer of membership by letter. TCAR will only "transfer" letters to other Baptist Churches. Any other church will be sent a letter notifying that church that we will be removing them from our membership records.
2. **Request for a Release from Membership:** Membership may end by a member requesting a release from membership responsibilities in writing to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will respond in writing to confirm the end of membership.
3. **Forfeiture of Membership:** A member forfeits his or her membership when he or she fails to participate in the life of the church for a one-year period. Participation is determined by physical attendance to worship services *or* by attending a discipleship ministry of the church *or* by financially supporting the church. *Any* of these three criteria constitutes involvement in the church. Those who are physically unable to participate in the activities or ministries of the church are granted an exception.

ANNUAL SURVEY: The Deacons will conduct an annual survey to discuss members' spiritual and membership status and to ascertain any unknown needs of members. If an individual has ceased to participate in the life of the church, then the contacting Deacon will notify the entire Board. The church will then notify the uninvolved member in writing of his or her forfeiture of membership. TCAR believes that a person who has no desire to participate in the life of the church gives evidence that they are not true believers (which is a requirement of church membership). Members are told in New Member Class #101 that attendance and financial participation is expected of members. Support verses include Matthew 7:16-23; John 3:36; 10:27; and 1 John 2:3-6,15,19.

4. **Death:** Membership ends at the death of the member.
5. **Search and Rescue Forfeitures:** Members who fall into a sinful lifestyle will come under the Search and Rescue process of the church (based upon Matthew 18:15-18; described below). The goal of the Search and Rescue process is *always* redemption and reconciliation. Should a member under Search and Rescue refuse to repent, that member will forfeit his

membership. If any member seeks to end membership who is involved in a Search and Rescue process, the church reserves the right to notify that individual's next church that they were not in good standing with the church upon their departure.

Search and Rescue Policy

The Necessity for Search and Rescue

Jesus Christ was full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Search and Rescue seeks to balance both. Truth must not be compromised and sin must not be tolerated. At the same time, people must be led with a pervading spirit of grace. The church, the Body of Christ, has the responsibility of Search and Rescue. God uses His people under the leadership of spiritual leaders to restore sinners to obedience (1 Corinthians 5:3-5). Search and Rescue rests upon the divine authority of Scripture and is vital to the purity, power, progress, and purpose of the church. Its goal is not punishment but redemption. Search and Rescue is designed to restore and train. God's desire is for His church to be holy and set apart unto Him. When the lives of church members are no different than the lives of the unchurched, the church loses its credibility and fails to reach its full redemptive potential. Its mission gets compromised and/or forfeited.

The Purpose of Search and Rescue

1. To bring glory to God and to enhance the testimony of the church.
2. To restore, heal, and build up sinning believers (Matthew 18:15; Galatians 6:1).
3. To set an example for others and to promote Godly fear (1 Timothy 5:20).
4. To protect the church from loss of purity (1 Corinthians 5:6-7a), loss of power from grieving the Holy Spirit, loss of progress in our ministry to the lost (Revelation 2:5 & 3:16), and loss of purpose (1 Peter 1:14-16, 2:9-15).

The Spirit of Search and Rescue

1. Search and Rescue must be done by those who are spiritual, led by the Holy Spirit, and growing in the Lord (Galatians 6:1). The Board of Directors, Deacons, or those assigned by them will carry out the Search and Rescue process at TCAR.
2. Search and Rescue must be done in the Spirit of humility, gentleness, and patience. (Galatians 6:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).
3. Those who walk in a disorderly manner are to be admonished, warned and appealed to in love (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15; 1 Timothy 5:1-2; Ephesians 4:15; and 2 Timothy 4:2).

The Reasons for Search and Rescue

Key issues that guide the Search and Rescue process include actions by members that reflect upon God's holy character, the testimony of the church, the effect upon the unity and purity of the church, and the edification and restoration of the individual.

1. General Causes: disorderly conduct, conduct clearly out of line with the prescribed commands of Scripture which negatively impacts the testimony and unity of the church (1 Corinthians 5:11; 6:9-11; and Galatians 5:19-21).
2. Specific Causes:
 - a. Relational or financial difficulties between members (Matthew 18:15-17).

- b. Divisive actions or words that hurt the unity of the church (Romans 16:17-18; Titus 3:9-11).
- c. Immoral conduct; sins of the types mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5 and 6.
- d. False teaching; erroneous teaching, and views which concern the fundamentals of the faith (2 Timothy 2:17-18; Romans 16:17-18).

The Search and Rescue Process

The scriptural procedure is clear in Matthew 18:15-17 and Galatians 6:1.

1. First, individual members who first become aware of the problem are to seek private correction and/or reconciliation with the offender (Matthew 18:15).
 - a. When the problem involves one believer sinning against another, the goal is repentance, restitution, and reconciliation (Matthew 5:23-24).
 - b. When the problem involves a believer overcome by some sin (as was the case in Galatians 6:1) the goal is repentance and restoration.
2. If the first step fails, one or two others are to become involved to strengthen the the exhortation (preferably spiritual leaders; Matthew 18:16; Galatians 6:1).
3. If the second step fails, repentance and restoration is to be sought by the Board of Directors acting on behalf of the entire church family (Matthew 18:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15; 1 Timothy 5:20).
4. If these three Scriptural steps fail, the church will remove the unrepentant sinner from church membership and its fellowship (1 Corinthians 5:11).
5. The removal from membership will be made known verbally at a church service. In keeping with Scripture (Proverbs 25:2a) and privacy laws, the reasons for removal will not be given. The removed member will be notified of the church's action by Registered Mail.

The Procedure for Restoration

1. Forgiveness. In keeping with the goal of restoration, the role of the church must change once there is repentance. This means restoring the offender to community in the church (2 Corinthians 2:7-8). Genuine repentance will make itself evident by deeds and attitudes. The repentant person must:
 - a. Acknowledge his/her sin (1 John 1:9, Proverbs 28:13).
 - b. Cease from the wrong behavior that warranted Search and Rescue or seek help (in the case of a life-dominating pattern; Proverbs 28:13; James 5:19-20).
 - c. Ask forgiveness and make restitution when necessary (Matthew 5:23-24).
 - d. Demonstrate a genuine change of heart, a real concern and godly sorrow over sinful actions (2 Corinthians 7:9-11; Psalms 51:17).
 - e. Begin to manifest the fruit of the Spirit and a concern for the things of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26).
 - f. Bear spiritual fruit (Luke 3:8a).
 - g. Have deeds appropriate to repentance (Acts 26:20).
2. Comfort. The church is to reach out, support, encourage, exhort, and challenge the repentant member to move past his sin and forward with Christ (2 Corinthians 2:7).
3. Community. The church is to restore the member to its community, draw him close, doing for him that which will aid in his growth and complete recovery (2 Corinthians 2:8).

REVISIONS

Revision of this constitution may only be effected in the following manner.

1. The revision will be presented to the church by the Board of Directors.
2. A written copy of the proposal will be made available to members. This proposal will include the present wording, the proposed changes (or addition), and an explanation of why the changes are necessary.
3. The Board may provide a forum for members to voice any concerns or to recommend any alteration of the proposal. All discussion on the proposal will take place during this forum.
4. The Board will announce the time of the vote to be taken at the close of a service(s). An 80% vote will be required to adopt the revision.

THE CHURCH AT RUTLEDGE HISTORY

The church at Rutledge was an intentional church plant sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and our mother church, Corryton Church. We have existed since July of 2002 when we started organizing at our mother church. Our small groups (Home Teams) began in February of 2003, and services started at the Tomato Festival July 27, 2003 and then in Kingswood Chapel on August 10, 2003. We purchased 12 ½ acres next to Grainger High School in 2006/2007 and have built our first facility which we now hold services at as of August 25, 2013. As of August 2015 we have purchased an additional 2 ½ acres.

Marty Shelton has been in ministry for 18 years and is the Church Planter and Senior Pastor of the church. He has served in full-time ministry at TCAR for 14 years, previously as a full time youth pastor for 2 ½ years, and 2 years prior as a volunteer youth pastor. We have recently expanded our staff which now includes a Part Time Children's Director (Nickie Shelton), Full Time Youth Pastor (David Noe), Part Time Worship Leader (Tyler Johnson) and a Bi-Vocational Team Minister (Rita Hillhouse). The staff and deacons make up what is called our Board of Directors. Currently at TCAR our deacon board consists of 2 members (Tony Day, Brady Howerton) and our lay leadership team consists of leaders from 9 ministry teams.

Home Teams

Prayer Team

Praise Team (+Tech Team/Drama Team)

Impact Team

Kid's Team

Student Team
 Campus Care Team
 Financial Team
 Safety Team (First Responders/Medical and Security)

OUR CORE VALUES

<p>AUTHENTICITY Commitment</p> <p>RELATIONSHIPS Family</p> <p>EXCELLENCE Giving and doing the best possible in all aspects</p> <p>GROWTH Individual and Corporate</p> <p>RELEVANCE An ever-changing approach to a never changing message</p> <p>WARMTH A place of shelter where people feel welcome</p>

OUR VISION

- Build community on the foundation of Jesus
- Make disciples who serve
- Reach as many as possible, wherever we are called, for the glory of God

OUR PURPOSE

To reach unchurched people, win them to Christ, and disciple them so that they become mature Christians. At TCAR, we call this *helping people say “yes” to God.*

OUR MISSION 2017

1. Each family connected
2. Each family growing, serving, and giving
3. Each family reaching a family

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Our church is specifically and strategically aiming to reach the unchurched. This makes our style and methods different from other churches. Most churches are designed to appeal to “churched” people. A recent survey showed that 87% of people who do not come to Christ by the age of eighteen...never will. Therefore, we target young couples, teenagers, and children with our style of ministry. God’s message is eternal and unchanging, the methods are not. Purposes never change, but programs will change.

THE FIVE TASKS OF THE CHURCH

based upon the...

Great Commandments: Matthew 22:36-40

Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20

1. *“Love God with all your heart.”*
2. *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”*
3. *“Go and make disciples.”*
4. *“Baptize them.”*
5. *“Teach them to observe.”*

A CHRIST-LIKE DISCIPLE CAN BE DESCRIBED WITH FIVE WORDS:

1. - He has a vital love-relationship with God.
2. - He follows Christian values in all areas of his life.
3. - He lives in the “Word” (Bible Study).
- He gives the Lord His “Day” (Sunday).
- He gives the Lord His “Tenth” (Tithing).
4. - He serves God through the church with his spiritual gifts.

5. - He recognizes that his life exists for God's purposes.

People fall into one of five categories:

1. The - Uncommitted
2. The - Committed to Attendance
3. The - Committed to Membership (#101)
4. The - Committed to Maturity (#201)
5. The - Committed to Ministry (#301)

Our objective is to move people from community to crowd to congregation to committed to the core. We want our audience to become an army.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
The Church At Rutledge
Four Requirements

- 1. Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ as Lord and trusted Him alone for your salvation?**

when?

where?

- 2. Have you been baptized by immersion *after* you committed your life to Christ?**

when?

where?

OR "I want to be baptized at TCAR."

- 3. Have you completed the Church Membership Class 101?**

Date of Completion: _____

- 4. Do you agree to abide by the TCAR Membership Covenant and Constitution and in so doing move from "consumer" to "contributor"?**

(Please check each box to acknowledge your agreement with each)

- I will abide by the TCAR Membership Covenant and Constitution.
- I will attend weekly unless out of town, working, or sick.
- I will financially support the church on a regular basis.
- I will seek to live a life that honors God and His church.

Please sign your name and date

**WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY!
We Want To Get To Know You!**

Name _____

Date _____ Address _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Anniversary _____ Sex _____ Date of Birth _____

Circle one:

Single

Married

Widowed

Divorced

My occupation is: _____

Business: _____

I have the following expertise:

If you were active in any churches in the past, please complete the following:

Years involved Name of church Where Member? Position of service

Current membership: _____

Address: _____

Information on Family Members

Spouse's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Does your spouse attend TCAR? _____

Children:

First name	Last name	Birth-date	Lives w/you?	Attends TCAR?
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____