

Triumphant 101

Discover Your Membership in Christ and His Church

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,” Eph. 2:19

Purpose

To help you become a member of Christ’s Body and functioning and fulfilled member of Las Cruces Foursquare church (Triumphantlife Church).

- Session 1: Seminar Introduction
Our Salvation:
“What God has done for us.”
- Session 2: Our Statement
“Why we exist as a church.”
- Session 3: Our Strategy:
“How we fulfill our purpose.”
- Session 4: Our Structure:
“When and where we fulfill our purpose.”

All Scripture New King James Version unless otherwise noted

INTRODUCTION

We are thrilled you have chosen to find out more about Triumphantlife Church! This seminar is the basic introduction to our church family. Sincerely, we have members from many different church backgrounds, this seminar was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is:

The basis for this seminar:

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” Eph. 2:19

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 seminar:

...That I will commit myself to **Jesus Christ** and to the **Church Home**.

WHAT MAKES TRIMPHANTLIFE A FAMILY?

Four Things Unite Us:

- Our Salvation: “What God has done for us”
- Our Statement: “why we exist as a church
- Our Strategy: “How we fulfill our purpose”
- Our Structure: “When and where we fulfill our purpose”

SESSION 1: OUR SALVATION

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
Galatians 3:26-28

What Does It Mean To Be a Christian?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “why?” They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “what is the meaning of my life?”

Everyone wants to be happy. Some look for happiness...

...by acquiring Possessions

...by experiencing Pleasure

...by gaining Prestige or Power

But real happiness comes from understanding your Purpose in Life

I. Why Am I Here?

1. God made me to Love me!

God says, “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love” Jer. 31:3

“Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will”
Eph. 1:4,5

2. We were created to Have and Enjoy a personal relationship with God and to Manage all of the rest of God’s creation!

This makes us special!

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Gen. 1:27-28

“Jesus said, ‘I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.’” John 10:10

3. When we know and love God, and live in harmony with His purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our life.

Clear conscience

Rom. 8:1

Life and Peace

Rom. 8:6

Help with Weakness

Rom. 8:26

Purpose

Rom. 8:28

Confidence

Rom. 8:31

Security

Rom. 8:39

Power and Strength

Phil. 4:13

Fulfillment

Phil. 4:19

Freedom

John 8:32, 36

This is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live. Why then aren't most people really happy?

II. What's The Problem?

1. Man has a natural desire to **be Selfish** and to ignore God's principles for living.

“Look out for #1. Do your own thing.”

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

“It's my life and I'll do what I want to!”

2. The Bible calls this attitude **Sin**.

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way.”
Isa. 53:6

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”
1 John 1:8

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

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God” Isa. 59:2

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Rom. 3:23

3. When our relationship to God is not right, it causes problems in every area of our lives – marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc...

When people have problems, they often try many different ways of coping before turning to God.

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”
Prov. 16:25

4. Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him.

“My mother was a Christian so...”
“It doesn’t matter what you believe, just be sincere.”
“I’ll give up all my bad habits.”
“I will work real hard and earn it.”
“I will be religious and go to church.”

III. What’s The Solution?

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6

1. God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The way is a person!
2. Jesus has already taken care of your Sin problem.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom. 6:23

3. God did this for us because he loves us and wants us to know Him.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Rom. 5:8

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.” 1Tim. 2:5

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He had done for us.

IV. What's God Want me To Do?

1. **Admit** that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1John 1:9

2. **Believe** that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again on Easter, and is alive today.

"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Rom. 10:9

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

3. **Accept** God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it!

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Eph. 2:8,9

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

4. **Invite** Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director (Lord) of your life.

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12,13

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." Rev. 3:20

"For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom. 10:13

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

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: Water Baptism and the Lord’s supper.

Why should I be Baptized?

1. To follow the example set by **Christ**.

“It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” Mark. 1:9

2. Because Christ **Commands** it.

Jesus said, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Matt 28:19,20

3. It demonstrates that I really am a **Believer**.

“...And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.”
Acts 18:8

“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.”
1 John 2:3

What is the Meaning of Baptism?

1. It illustrates Christ’s **Death** and resurrection.

“... Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,” 1Cor. 15:3,4

“buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.” Col 2:12

2. It illustrates my **New Life** as a Christian.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2Cor. 5:17

Baptism does not make you a believer – it shows that you already are a believer. 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 by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Eph. 2:8,9

Why be Baptized by Immersion?

1. Because **Jesus** was baptized that way.

“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water;...”
Matt. 3:16

2. Every baptism in the **New Testament** was by immersion.

(example) *“...And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water...”* Acts 8:38,39

3. The word “baptize” means to **Dip Under** water.

4. It best symbolizes a **Burial** and **Ressurrection**.

“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Rom. 6:4

Who Should be Baptized?

Every person who has **Believed** in Christ.

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized...” Acts 2:41

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

At Las Cruces Foursquare Church (Triumphantlife Church), we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make their own personal confession of 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. Therefore we encourage all of the members and friends of Las Cruces Foursquare Church, to be baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of you may have been “confirmed” as a child.

THE MEANING OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

What Is The Lord’s Supper? (1Cor. 11:23-26)

1. It is a **Simple Act**.

“...Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread...” v.23

2. It is a **Reminder**.

“...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’” v.24

3. It is a **Symbol**.

“In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’” v.25

4. It is a **Statement of Faith**.

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.” v.26

Who Should Take the Lord’s Supper?

1. Only those who are already **Believers** (Mark 14:22-26)

“For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.” 1Cor. 11:29

How Do I Prepare Myself for the Lord's Supper?

“Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” 1 Cor. 11:27,28

1. Prepare by...
 - Self-examination (1Cor. 11:27)
 - Confessing my sins (1John 1:9)
 - Recommitment of my life (Rom 12:1)
 - Restoring relationships (Matt 5:23)

When and How Often Should We Observe the Lord's Supper?

1. Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe it, he only told us how.
2. Here at Las Cruces Foursquare we typically celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of a month.

SESSION 2: THE LAS CRUCES FOURSQUARE STATEMENTS

“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

1Cor. 1:10

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

“Triumphantlife Church will provide a family friendly atmosphere where Christians of all ages are educated in God’s word, encouraged to reach their full potential in the Body of Christ, and empowered to proclaim the message of God’s grace and love to the families of the world.

Las Cruces Foursquare (Triumphantlife Church) exists to bring people into an encounter with Jesus Christ”

Our purpose is rooted in two passages of Scripture

The Scriptures

1. A Great **Commandment**

“Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matt. 22:37-40

2. A Great **Commission**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matt. 28:19,20

We believe A Great Commitment

To the Great Commandment

And the Great Commission

Will grow a Great Christian

And grow a Great church!

LAS CRUCES FOURSQUARE'S FIVE KEY VALUES

1. **Worship** - an encounter with God that produces hope
2. **Wisdom** - an encounter with the scriptures that produces balance
3. **Wholeness** - an encounter with the Holy Spirit that produces healing
4. **Witness** - an encounter with the world that produces disciples
5. **Warfare** - an encounter with the enemy that produces victory

Worship: **Expressing Love to God**

"...You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve..."
Matt. 4:10

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
John 4:23,24

Expressions of Worship

Lifting Hands Ps. 63:4	Singing Ps. 47:6	Instruments Ps. 150:3-5
Shouting Ps. 47:1	Dancing Ps. 149:3	Tongues 1Cor. 14:14
Clapping Ps. 47:1	Kneeling Ps. 95:6	Being Silent Ps. 46:10

1. Praise invites God's **Presence**

"But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel." Ps. 22:3

2. Praise unleashes God's **Power**

"But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed." Acts 16:25,26

Wisdom: **Helping Believers Grow Spiritually**

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection...” Heb. 6:1

“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever.” 2 Pet. 3:18

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Eph. 4:11-13

Wholeness: **Meeting Needs in Love**

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35 (1John 3:16,17; Matt. 25:34-40; Heb. 13:16; Rom 12:13)

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit... There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord... Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.” 1Cor. 12:4,5,27

1. Every member is a **Minister** and every task is **Important**
2. Every member is a “10” in **Some Area**

Witness: **Sharing the Good News**

“...to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places...” Eph. 3:10 (Acts 1:8)

“... And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” Rom 10:14

Why Las Cruces Foursquare Must Never Stop Growing

1. Because **God Loves People**

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” 2Pet. 3:9 (2Cor. 5:14; Luke 15:3-10; Matt. 9:12,13)

2. Because **God Commands us to**

“Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’” Luke 14:23 “...and you shall be witnesses to Me.” Acts 1:8

3. Because **Growth is God's Will**

“and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.” Col. 2:19 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” Matt. 16:18

Warfare: Overcoming the Darkness

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Eph 6:11,12 (note verses 13-18)

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” 2 Cor. 10:3-5

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

- In essential beliefs we have **Unity**

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all.” Eph 4:4-6

- In non-essential beliefs we have **Liberty**

“Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.” Rom. 14:4

- In all of our beliefs we show **Charity**

“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” 1Cor. 13:2

1 THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe the Bible is God-inspired (2 Tim. 3:16,17)

2 THE ETERNAL GODHEAD

We believe God is Triune: Father, son and Holy Ghost (2Cor. 13:14)

3 THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but that by voluntary disobedience he fell from perfection (Rom. 5:12)

4 THE PLAN OF SALVATION

We believe that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us, signing the pardon of all who believe on Him (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8)

5 SALVATION THOROUGH GRACE

We believe that we have no righteousness and must come to God pleading the righteousness of Christ (Eph. 2:8)

6 REPENTANCE & ACCEPTANCE

We believe that upon sincere repentance, and a whole-hearted acceptance of Christ, we are justified before God (1John 1:9)

7 THE NEW BIRTH

We believe that the change which takes place in the heart and life at conversion is a very real one (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 2:20)

8 DAILY CHRISTIAN LIFE

We believe that it is the will of God that we be sanctified daily, growing constantly in the faith (Heb. 6:1)

9 BAPTISM AND THE LORD’S SUPPER

We believe that baptism by immersion is an outward sign of an inward work (Matt. 28:19). We believe in the commemoration of the Lord’s Supper by the symbolical use of the bread and juice of the vine (1Cor. 11:24,25)

10 BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to endue the believer with power; and that His incoming is after the same manner as in Bible days (Acts 2:4)

11 THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

We believe that it is the will of God that we walk in the Spirit daily (Eph. 4:30-32)

12 THE GIFTS & FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit has gifts to bestow upon the Christian; and that we should show spiritual fruit as evidence of a Spirit-filled life (1Cor. 12:1-11; Gal 5:22)

13 MODERATION

We believe that the experience and daily walk of the believer should never lead him into extremes of fanaticisms (Phil. 4:5)

14 DIVINE HEALING

We believe that divine healing is the power of Christ to heal the sick in answer to the prayer of faith (James 5:14-16)

15 THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe that the second coming of Christ is personal and imminent (1Thess. 4:16,17)

16 CHURCH RELATIONSHIP

We believe it is our sacred duty to identify ourselves with the visible church of Christ (Acts 16:5; Heb. 10:25)

17 CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that rulers should be upheld at all times except in things opposed to the will of God (Rom. 13:1-5)

18 THE FINAL JUDGMENT

We believe that all shall stand some day before the judgment seat of God; and there receive eternal life or death (2Cor. 5:10)

19 HEAVEN

We believe that heaven is the glorious eternal home of born-again believers (John 14:1-3; Rev. 7:15-17)

20 HELL

We believe that hell is the place of eternal torment for all who reject Christ as the Savior (Rev. 20:10,15)

21 EVANGELISM

We believe that soul winning is the most important responsibility of the church (James 5:20)

22 TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We believe that the method ordained of God for the support and spread of His cause is by giving of tithes and free-will offerings (Mal. 3:10; 2Cor. 9:7)

SESSION 3: OUR STRATEGY

“to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.” 1Cor. 9:22,23

JOE LAS CRUCES (The likely Mr. Dona Ana County)

- He is well educated
- He likes where he lives
- He values his time and space
- He would rather be in a large group
- He likes contemporary music
- He is self satisfied
- He likes his job
- He prefers the casual and informal over the formal
- Health, fitness and recreation are high priorities for him
- He is skeptical of organized religion
- He is over-extended in both time and money

FIVE LEVELS OF COMMITMENT

Community – Unchurched and Occasional Attenders

Crowd – Regular Attenders

Congregation – Members

Committed – Maturing Members

Core Ministers

Las Cruces Foursquare’s objective is to encourage people to continually deepen their level of commitment. Specifically, we call people to four basic commitments:

THE FOUR LAS CRUCES FOURSQUARE COVENANTS

1. The Membership Covenant

This is a commitment to **Christ** and **Triumphantlife Church**

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” Eph 2:19

2. **The Maturity Covenant**

This is a commitment to the **Habits** necessary for spiritual growth.

“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
2Pet. 3:18

“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.” 1 Tim 4:14,15

3. **The Ministry Covenant**

This is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in **Serving** God and others.

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” 1Pet. 4:10

4. **The Missions Covenant**

This is a commitment to **Sharing** the Good News with others.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;” 1Pet. 3:15

Why Do We have These Covenants?

Because we will become what we are **Committed To**

SESSION 4: THE LAS CRUCES FOURSQUARE STRUCTURE

“For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. ...Let all things be done decently and in order.” 1Cor. 14:33,40

How Our Church Is Structured

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

The Nature of the Church Determines It’s Structure

1. The Church is a Fellowship

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Acts 2:42

A top priority of fellowship is Harmony and Unity

“endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Eph 4:3

“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.” Rom. 14:19

A good structure promotes unity and downplays Differences

“Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.” 1Cor. 11:17,18

2. “Voting” tends to Create Disharmony Any voting that may be done by the Church Council is by majority decision only.

NOTE: The Church Council is the only elected body of Las Cruces Foursquare Church. It is made up of four individuals who serve two year terms elected on a rotating basis each year. They serve with the Senior Pastor in providing oversight into providing integrity and excellence in all fiscal matters.

Along with the Church Council there is an expanded Leadership Community made up of pastoral Staff, Ministry Leaders and key Support Staff. They serve in an advisory capacity to the Senior Pastor in helping to refine and implement the overall vision of Las Cruces Foursquare.

3. The Church is a **Family**
(1Cor. 12:27; Eph. 5:23; Eph 1:22,23; Col 1:18; Col 2:19)

We are a Body – not a business! We are an organism – not an organization!

Therefore we function on the basis of **Relationships** not **Rules**

“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith.” Rom. 12:4-6

In an organization “maintenance” becomes the focus

But in an organism “ministry” is the focus

Here at Las Cruces Foursquare we have a simple structure so we can maximize

Ministry and minimize **Maintenance**

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,” Eph. 4:11,12

OUR STRUCTURE

The people are the **Ministers**

The Pastors are the **Equippers**

4. The Church Is a **Flock**

(This was Jesus’ favorite description of the church: John 10:1-30; Matt. 25:31)

Therefore it is cared for and led by **Shepherds**

“He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.”” John 21:16,17

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

- “Poimen”^{Gk} **Pastor**
- “Presbuteros”^{Gk} **Elder**
- “Episcopos”^{Gk} **Overseer**

“The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;” 1Pet. 5:1,2

More About Foursquare Churches!

The name “Foursquare” is unique when compared to those usually given to churches. That’s because it was born out of an unusual move of God during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Those years were significant in human history because of revolutionary changes in the world. At the same time, they marked a spiritual revolution in the hearts of men and women.

Great revivals shook the western world as the 1900’s began. The full impact was felt when a number of Christians in different locations were “filled with the Spirit.” The experience was similar to the event that took place in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost. It was the start of what we now call the “Pentecostal Movement.”

By the 1920’s, some felt that the Pentecostals were extreme in their beliefs... a separation seemed to be taking place between older denominations and the groups that were forming from revival meetings. It was into this strained setting that a woman evangelist, Aimee Semple McPherson, began preaching the Foursquare Gospel. Her message and her manner seemed to appeal to many Christians who had questioned the experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit. Thousands from every denomination joined many more without church backgrounds to attend her meetings. Those whose lives were changed felt a part of the Foursquare family – the closeness was illustrated by the endearing name of “Sister” by which they referred to Aimee Semple McPherson.

But in truth, it was the message that drew people to Christ. The relationship that they found with each other made them a church that became known as “Foursquare.” Today, the message and the impact it has on people’s relationship keeps the Foursquare movement growing with thousands of churches in over 60 nations around the world.

Here it is... the simple message of our loving and powerful Savior, JESUS CHRIST.

THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL

JESUS CHRIST - Savior

The only Hope of mankind

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:...But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometime were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.” (Eph. 2:8,13; Rom 10:9) KJV

JESUS CHRIST – Baptizer

The Baptizer with the Holy Spirit

“John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.” (Luke 3:16; Luke 24:49) KJV

JESUS CHRIST – Healer

The Healer

“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” (1Pet. 2:24; Is 53:5) KJV

JESUS CHRIST – Soon Coming King

The Soon-coming King

“Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11; 1Thess. 4:16,17) KJV

What It Means To Be A Member

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

Commitment

At Las Cruces Foursquare, 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

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.” Eph. 5:25

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

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 payroll. 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 are not committed to any specific church family.

What Is Expected Of Me As A Member?

At Las Cruces Foursquare 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 LAS CRUCES FOURSQUARE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior, and being in agreement with Las Cruces Foursquare's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Las Cruces Foursquare 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

"Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God." Rom 15:7

"Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus." Rom 15:5

"Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart."
1 Pet. 1:22

"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." Eph. 4:29

"Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you." Heb. 13:17

2. I will share the responsibility of my church

- ...by praying for its growth
- ...by inviting the unchurched to attend
- ...by warmly welcoming those who visit

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers." 1Thess. 1:2

"Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'" Luke 14:23

"Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us to the glory of God." Rom. 15:7

3. I will serve the ministry of my church

...by discovering my gifts and talents
...by being equipped to serve with my Pastors
...by developing a servants heart

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” 1 Pet 4:10

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Eph. 4:11,12

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others... but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.” Phil. 2:3, 4, 7

4. I will support the testimony of my church

...by attending faithfully
...by living a Godly life
...by giving regularly

“...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” Heb. 10:25

“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” Phil. 1:27

“On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.” 1Cor. 16:2

“As soon as the commandment was circulated, the children of Israel brought in abundance the first fruits of grain and wine, oil and honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything.” 2 Chron. 31:5