



HUNTINGTON
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Meet HCC

Meet HCC Sessions

Session 1 — *Who is HCC?*

- Our Vision/Mission
 - Our Core Values
 - Where You Fit In
 - Member Expectations
 - Membership Benefits
 - Ministry Teams
 - Ministry Partnerships
-

Session 2 — *Core Convictions*

- What We Believe
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 - How To Join HCC
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Who is HCC?

Our Vision/Mission

Vision/Mission

Huntington Community Church exists to glorify God by worshipping Him, loving our neighbors and making disciples in our city, on our campus, and among the nations.

Discipleship Pathway

We equip disciples of Jesus to:

KNOW GOD

FIND COMMUNITY

MAKE DISCIPLES

CHANGE THE WORLD

Know God.

Personal Relationship With Him

HCC Members will commit their lives to growing in a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The way God designed us to know Him is through the gift of spiritual disciplines.

Public Worship, Teaching, and Training

HCC Members will prioritize worshipping Jesus every Sunday with their church family. We were created to be a people marked by gathering to sing, pray, and hear the Word of God preached. In addition to our regular worship services, we have extra training sessions that further equip us to know God.

Find Community.

Belonging To The HCC Family

HCC Members will know that Church Family is family. We work hard to show up early and stay late to our gatherings so that we can connect deeply with our brothers and sisters in Christ as we practice loving one another and bearing each other's burdens.

Joining A Community Group

HCC Members will join a Community Group to develop a deeper family connection with a group of brothers and sisters. These groups will meet for one year with a focus on studying the Bible, serving on mission, and walking through life together.

Make Disciples.

Making Disciple-making your primary ministry.

HCC Members will live out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) with their lives. HCC Members are expected to work hard at developing an effective personal ministry of disciple-making as their primary ministry in and through HCC.

Being In A Discipleship Group (D-Group).

HCC Members can form a D-Group with 3-5 brothers or sisters who are committed to a season of increased effort toward spiritual growth and missional living. D-Groups focus on accountability, personal ministry, and multiplication.

Change The World.

Missions

HCC Members realize that getting the gospel to every nation is the incredible task given to the Church. In response to this, we will always be sending and be ready to go — starting in our city and on our campus.

Ministry Teams

HCC Members will be servants. Joining a ministry team is one of the best ways to start serving the Church and shows that our lives are not about us.

Prayer and Evangelism

HCC Members will see prayer and evangelism as the main responsibility for every member. We strive to make inviting people to respond to the good news of Jesus and praying for the lost a normal part of our everyday lives.

Who is HCC?

Our Core Values

1) RISK - We are not afraid to take risks for the kingdom of God. We would rather fail than miss an opportunity to see God work. We realize that change is a normal part of growth for a healthy church family.

2) MISSION - We are called to be a gospel witness where we work, live, and play. We know that wherever we find ourselves in life is our mission field. The way we serve and love our neighbors should let the world know that we belong to Jesus and that He can save them.

3) GIVE - We live like everything we have belongs to God. We know that our time, talent, and treasure has all been given to us by God for God's mission. We want to live with open hands to whatever He would ask of us.

4) FAMILY - We know that church family is family. We know that because of what Jesus has done, anybody can get it on this. No matter what our background is, we know that our church family isn't like a family, it is a family.

5) DEVELOP - We work hard to discover, develop, and deploy new ministry leaders. As we gather, grow, and scatter, we will make sure our best efforts are used to equip the next generation for God's mission of planting more churches.

6) CELEBRATE - We celebrate God's stories of rescue and restoration in people's lives. We understand that we celebrate what we find most important. As a church family, we want to always keep what God is doing in the lives of our people in front of us so we can celebrate His faithfulness.

7) FOCUS - We say no so we can say yes. We believe that God has given our church a very specific mission. We recognize that we will be most effective when we give all of our efforts toward that mission.

Who is HCC?

Where You Fit In

We see membership with HCC as a serious commitment to partner with the HCC Family to live out the mission that God has called us to in our city, on our campus, and to the nations.

As members of a local church, we are called to something much bigger than ourselves. Our responsibilities as church members are vital to the way God is using us to reach people who have yet to follow Jesus. The local church is God's Plan A to reach the nations with the gospel, and He invites us to be a part of it through local church families.

Membership with HCC is renewed every year to ensure that we all stay committed, accountable, and ready to do what God has called our church to do.

Membership Expectations

Know God

- to make attending Sunday Morning Gatherings a priority
 - to be pursuing growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ
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Find Community

- to join and actively participate in a Community Group
 - to actively pursue close relationships with other HCC Members
 - to welcome each other in love concerning issues of conscience
 - to work hard to bring people not in our church family into our family
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Make Disciples

- to be willing to move your life toward multiplication of disciples
 - to be willing to pursue joining a D-Group
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Change The World

- to be actively engaged in missions by sending or going
- to join at least one ministry team
- to make prayer and evangelism a part of your everyday life
- to sacrificially give of your income toward our church's mission

Who is HCC?

Where You Fit In

Membership Benefits

It commits you, the Christian. It's good to commit yourself to love and serve others. You will grow as a Christian as you commit to encourage, build up, strengthen, serve, rebuke, and pray for other Christians. By becoming a member, you are able to serve on committees and ministry teams.

Others are committed to you. Becoming a member of a church means joining with an entire group of Christians who have now covenanted to watch over *you* spiritually. If you're a member of a church you have an entire church full of people who are publicly committed to loving *you* and serving you and watching over you.

Elder protection. If you're a member of a church, that church's elders and pastors should care for you, pray for you, and personally counsel and teach you. As a member of their church, they are accountable to God for how they lead you (Heb. 13:17). College students can benefit through a student membership that puts them under the watch-care of elders while keeping their home church membership.

Safety net. Being a church member means that a whole church full of people are committed to helping you live a life that's pleasing to God, even to the point of excluding you from the church if you stop repenting of sin. While this sounds harsh to some, to those of us who know the deceitfulness of sin, this is an immensely comforting and encouraging reality (Heb. 3:12).

Assurance. Membership is the church's affirmation of the validity of someone's profession of faith (Matt. 16:19, 18:18). The church looks at a person's life, hears their explanation of the gospel and how they came to believe it, and says, "You look like a Christian to us. So join us. Watch over our lives and we'll watch over yours." So while membership in a church doesn't guarantee that someone is a Christian, it should assure believers of the genuineness of their faith.

Additional Benefits. As a member of this church, you have the opportunity to guide the direction of the church through voting privileges and receive financial support for mission trips and/or financial needs.

Student Membership. If you want to keep your membership with your home church while you commit to us during your time in Huntington, student membership is the best path for you. You will have all of the same membership expectations and benefits, except for voting privileges or the ability to serve as an officer or on a committee.

Who is HCC?

Where You Fit In

Ministry Teams

- 1) Community Groups
- 2) Campus Collective
- 3) HCC Kids
- 4) Biblical Counseling
- 5) Hospitality Ministry
- 6) Fellowship Ministry
- 7) Worship Band Ministry
- 8) A/V Ministry
- 9) Media Ministry
- 10) For The City Ministry
- 11) Security Team
- 12) Youth Ministry

Developing Ministry Leaders

At HCC, we will seek to **discover**, **develop**, and **deploy** new ministry leaders by training you at every level of our ministry leadership pipelines.

As you get involved with one (or more) of these ministry teams, you will receive ministry training that will equip you to be more effective in helping other people worship God, love their neighbors, and make disciples.

As we continue to grow, these ministry teams and pipelines will help provide a framework to help us be ready to plant churches.

Who is HCC?

Ministry Partnerships

Southern Baptist Convention

International Mission Board (IMB)

North American Mission Board (NAMB)

Seminaries:

- Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Ethics and Religion Liberty Commission (ERLC)

LifeWay Christian Resources

The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists (WVCSB)

Ministries We Support

Camp Cowen

BCM (Baptist Campus Ministry)

Core Convictions

What We Believe

We would love for you to read our full Statement of Faith before joining our church family. It can be found on our website under the About Us tab.

Doctrine of Revelation

God has made Himself known to the world in Jesus Christ, the Scriptures and creation.

Doctrine of God

We believe in one God eternally existing as one essence and three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, each of whom is fully God, yet there is one God.

Doctrine of Creation and Providence

We believe that God created the world from nothing and governs all things at all times in all places.

Doctrine of Humanity

We believe that all humanity is created in the image of God and possesses intrinsic dignity and worth. We believe that God made humanity in two sexes/genders: male and female. We believe that a human life begins at conception. We believe that any sexual intimacy outside of the one-flesh union of marriage between one man and woman is sinful and outside of God's design for human flourishing.

Distinctive | Complementarianism

Men and women are absolutely equal in essence, dignity and value but are distinct by divine design. As part of God's good created order, men and women are to have different yet complementary roles and responsibilities in the home and church. As it relates to the church, men and women are both expected to lead; however, the office of elder is reserved for qualified men (1 Tim. 3; Titus 1). For more on this distinctive, read our Vision for Complementarian Ministry document, found on our website.

Doctrine of Sin

We believe that sin has fractured all things, leaving the world in desperate need of salvation. Human beings are sinful by nature and choice, and live in rebellion to God apart from Christ.

Doctrine of Salvation

We believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

Distinctive | Sovereignty of God in Salvation

The salvation of humanity is fundamentally the work of God. Before the foundation of the world, God elected His people, setting His affection and grace upon them (Rom. 8:29-30). In love God predestined His people for adoption (Eph. 1:4-6). Faith is a gift of grace that is given by the mercy and pleasure of God, so that no one may boast. Apart from the intervention of God, humanity cannot choose of his own accord to worship God and pursue righteousness (Rom. 3; Eph. 2:1-3). God's sovereignty in salvation is comprehensive: from first to last, all of salvation is the work of God.

Doctrine of the Church

We believe that the Church is the body of Christ sent into the world to shine forth the glory of God.

Distinctive | Baptism by Immersion

The precedent we find in the New Testament is baptism following conversion by immersion into water. Baptism by immersion is meant to symbolically depict the believer's real union to Christ in His death and resurrection (Rom. 6:1-14). For more on this distinctive, consider setting up a meeting with an Elder or a member of the HCC Staff.

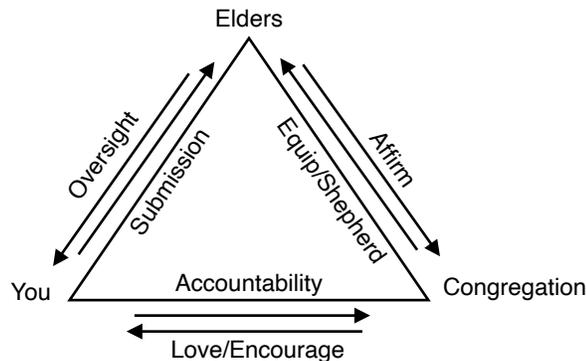
Doctrine of Resurrection and Consummation of the Kingdom of God

We believe that Jesus Christ is returning to the world in the future to judge the living and the dead.

Core Convictions

Church Structure

Our church family is congregation-ruled and elder-led. This means that the members of HCC have ultimate authority (under the Word of God) on matters of doctrine and church discipline. However, we believe that our plurality of elders have been called by God to lead by sacrificially shepherding, equipping, and overseeing the members in a way that glorifies God while the deacons and deaconesses have been commissioned to care for the needs of the members.



Ministry Committees

- **Missions Committee** - this committee is responsible for overseeing our resources and ministries deigned to reach our city, our campus, and the nations.
- **Budget and Finance Committee** - this committee is responsible for stewarding the financial resources that God has given us
- **Trustees** - this committee is responsible for stewarding the physical property that God has given us.

HCC Offices/Roles

- Shepherd/Elder/Pastor (Must meet qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
- Deacon/Deaconess (Must meet qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:8-13)
- Ministry Committee Members (must be people of good character and competence)

Basic Rules

1. A person must be a member of HCC for at least one year in order to serve on a committee.
2. A person must be a member of HCC for two years in order to be a deacon/ deaconess.
3. A person must be a member of HCC for three years in order to be a lay elder.
4. Personnel rotates every three years for an office or role.

Next Steps

How To Join HCC

1. Profess faith in the Lord Jesus.

Evaluate your own heart before God. Have you truly repented of your sins and believed the gospel?

2. Be biblically baptized.

We believe that biblical baptism should happen after a person believes the gospel. As an outward expression of an inward change — that person is immersed in the water to represent the death and resurrection of Jesus.

3. Read over and affirm HCC's Constitution and Statement of Faith.

Joining our church family is committing to our constitution and our statement of faith in belief and practice. If you have any questions or hesitations on either of these documents, it is important that you talk to an elder or church leader before joining HCC.

4. Pray about what church God is leading you to join and make a decision.

Joining a local church is a very important decision. We can't wait for you to join HCC's mission, but we want you to be sure this is where God wants you. Please seek after His will in this matter. We will be happy to pray with you. But we also caution you against prolonged non-membership.

5. Write your faith story and submit it to the elders.

We will have more information on your faith story on the next section of this packet.

6. Be affirmed by the HCC Church Family.

All new members will be formally presented to the church on a Sunday morning TBA.

Next Steps

Writing Your Faith Story

One of our elders' functions is to recommend new members to our congregation. Since it would be difficult for each new member to sit down and have a discussion with each of our elders, we request that each prospective member take the time to give some information about themselves so we might get to know you better. Unless we are given permission, the information you give on this sheet will remain confidential.

Please take some time to relate your personal story including:

1. The major events in your life
2. The circumstances and approximate time involving how you came to know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior
3. How your faith has developed since that point of salvation
4. Your baptism status (If you have been baptized by immersion, please let us know the time and place it occurred. If you have not been baptized by immersion, you may inform us of your desire to be baptized.)
5. Why you are interested in becoming a member of HCC

Please know that we are not concerned about your eloquence or grammar but that we simply want to know you better and hear your heart. Your Faith Story does not have to be long though we do want you to give thoughtful consideration of the five things outlined above. Typically, one single-spaced page is sufficient.

We prefer that you type your faith story and submit it electronically. Uniformity on this helps with organization. If you are unable to do this, please let us know!

Faith Story Template

Please email your Faith Story to
huntingtoncommunitychurch@gmail.com

1. Major Events In My Life

2. Circumstances Involving Your Conversion To Christ

3. How Your Faith Has Developed Since Salvation

4. Have you been baptized by immersion and have you read the Statement of Faith and Constitution of HCC? Please let us know here if you need clarification on these documents.

5. Why You Want To Join HCC + What Type Of Membership You Will Have

Next Steps

If You Leave HCC

Before You Decide to Leave

1. Pray.
2. Let your pastors know about your thinking before you move to another church or make your decision to relocate to another city. Ask for their counsel.
3. Weigh your motives. Is your desire to leave because of sinful, personal conflict or disappointment? If it's because of doctrinal reasons, are these doctrinal issues significant?
4. Do everything within your power to reconcile any broken relationships.
5. Be sure to consider all the “evidences of grace” you’ve seen in the church’s life-places where God’s work is evident. If you cannot see any evidences of God’s grace you might want to examine your own heart once more (Matt. 7:3-5).
6. Be humble. Recognize you don’t have all of the facts and assess people and circumstances charitably (give them the benefit of the doubt).

If You Go

1. Don’t divide the church body.
2. Take the utmost care not to sow discontent even amongst your closest friends. Remember, you don’t want anything to hinder their growth in grace in this church. Deny any desire to gossip (sometimes referred to as “venting” or “saying how you feel”).
3. Pray for and bless the congregation and its leadership. Look for ways of doing this practically.
4. If there has been hurt, then forgive — even as you have been forgiven.