

NEW MEMBERS

DISCOVER LIVING WATER

NEXT STEPS – GETTING TO KNOW LIVING WATER CHURCH



PART 1: OUR PURPOSE

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT: WHY WE EXIST AS A CHURCH

Living Water exists for people to Encounter God, Experience Hope, Engage in Mission and Excel in Love

- 1. Engage - We must engage the Father and our Neighbor**
- 2. Equip - We must be prepared to do the ministry**
- 3. Serve - We must have a heart to serve**

We believe in life change through Jesus Christ as He is the Living Water.

THE GREAT COMMISSION:

"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe...' Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it."

Mark 16:15-20

PART 2: OUR BELIEFS

"Watch your life and your doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."

1 Timothy 4:16

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH: WHAT WE BELIEVE

- **In essential beliefs, we have unity.**
- **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

- **In all our beliefs, we show charity.**

"If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing."

1 Corinthians 13:2

The Essentials We Believe:

1. **The Bible is the Word of God**
2. **Jesus is the Son of God**
3. **You must be born again**
4. **Believers can and should be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led**

- (a) *The sole basis for our belief is the Bible, which is uniquely God-inspired, without error, and the authority on how we determine matters on which it speaks. As the Bible teaches, there is one God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each possessing all the attributes of deity.*
- (b) *God created humans to have fellowship with Him, but they defied God by sinfully going their own way. As a result, we need God's saving grace to end our alienation from Him. Salvation comes only through God's grace - not human effort - and must be received personally by repentance and faith.*
- (c) *Jesus Christ, second Person of the Trinity, lived a sinless life on earth and voluntarily paid for our sin by dying on the cross as our substitute. This accomplished salvation for all who receive grace by trusting in Him alone. He rose from the dead and is the only mediator between God and us. He baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit. He will return to earth to consummate history.*
- (d) *The Holy Spirit draws sinners to Christ and equips believers for personal growth, witness, and service to the church. The church's role is to glorify God and serve those in need. At the end, everyone will experience bodily resurrection and the judgment. Those who commit their heart to Christ will enjoy eternal fellowship with God.*
- (e) *As described in the story of the Gospel, the perfect message of Jesus was left in the imperfect hands of God's most beloved creation (humans) to play a significant role. Each follower of Jesus is uniquely gifted to carry out the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16), and to obediently participate in the story of God's plan as the Kingdom of God is established on earth as it is in heaven. The context of this participation is found in the practice of active involvement in the local church body.*
- (f) *See separate Statement on Human Dignity.*

PART THREE: OUR STRUCTURE

"For God is not a God of disorder; but of peace... Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way." 1 Corinthians 14:33 & 40

Believers who invest their hearts, time, families, and finances in the building of a local church deserve to have confidence in church leadership. People are looking for leaders who conduct themselves with integrity and respect when making decisions that affect their lives.

1. GUIDED BY Leadership Board.

The Leadership Board works with the pastoral team led by the Senior Pastor. This team oversees the day-to-day ministry and operations of the church. These leaders serve the

congregation and are responsible for the development of the spiritual life of the church.

Our Leadership Board is made up of members nominated by the congregation and covenant together with the congregation and the Senior Pastor for the development of the spiritual life of the church.

All Board Members are responsible to model a Godly lifestyle, provide a prayer shield for the members, defend and protect the integrity of the church, pray for the sick, mediate disputes, counsel, and represent the church to the community.

2. PROTECTED BY Stewardship Team.

The Stewardship Team are members of the congregation, appointed by the Senior Pastor to oversee the finances and direct the provision of the facilities needed by the church. They provide counsel to the Senior Pastor regarding the major financial commitments of the church.

3. CHURCH FINANCES

“A tithe of everything you... produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.”

Leviticus 27:30

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

Many people love to give to God but need to have confidence in the methods and purposes used by organizations to which they give. Therefore, there are a great number of people willing to give if they are able to see honesty, integrity, and genuine spiritual values reflected in the lifestyles of their church leaders.

The giving of tithes and offerings is worship to Jesus Christ and is an expression of the relationship between the individual giver and the Lord. Funds are not “income only,” they are worship, and must not be considered as a business transaction, but as an expression of gratitude toward God.

PART FOUR: OUR HOPE FOR YOU

“...We hope that your faith will grow and that our work among you will be greatly enlarged.”

2 Corinthians 10:15 (NLT)

I. THE NEXT STEPS

1. Interact (involved in community)

2. Involved (using your gifts to serve others)
3. Invest (treasure and time)
4. Invite (natural growth)

LIVING WATER CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and being in agreement with the values and ideas presented in the Church 101 class, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Living Water 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 14:19 (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 other believers, love one another earnestly with all your heart.”

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

“The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.” Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning. I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

1 Timothy 5:17-21

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.

“To the church...we always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.” 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2

“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that the 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 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 to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...by taking on the very nature of a servant.”

Philippians 2:4-5, 7

4. I will support the testimony of my church:

By attending church and small groups faithfully.

By living a godly life.

By giving regularly.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Acts 2:42

“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 Name

Date