



COVENANT PARTNER INFO & QUESTIONS

www.goodnewschurchga.com

ABOUT US

VISION, MISSION, VALUES & BELIEFS

Vision – The vision of Good News Church GA is *“to experience and express LOVE from God and to others.”* The verse that undergirds our vision is, Galatians 5:6b, *“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”*

Mission – Our mission is *“to connect with people and build relationships through community workshops, neighborhood-focused ministry, serving local needs, mentoring, and worship.”*

Values

- **Being yourself** - No need to pretend to have it all together. None of us do, so come as you are and be yourself. You're among strugglers and friends.
- **Relationships** – Growing relationally with God (personal prayer and Bible reading), each other (discipleship), our neighbors, and in our community (mission and evangelism).
- **Conversation** - We can all learn from and be encouraged by one another. It's important that everyone has an opportunity to share in the conversation.
- **Discomfort** - It's how we grow. Plus, when we're willing to be uncomfortable (by sacrificing our personal preferences), others are enabled to experience comfort who may need it more than us.
- **Hospitality** - Opening ourselves and our space to our neighbors is the best way to experience and express love.

Beliefs (brief summary)

- I'm really broken and I need help.
- Jesus is perfect and He is my help.
- Jesus is the only way to healing in my relationship with God.
- The Holy Spirit is my power to live as a follower of Jesus.
- God calls me to submit to His authority and to serve His Church

For more details and scripture references, see Addendum 1: What We Believe.

ABOUT YOU

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

In trying to get to know you better, share a little about yourself:

1. Your family (i.e., spouse, children, etc.)
2. What do you do vocationally? Why did you choose that profession?
3. How did you find Good News Church? How has Good News Church been instrumental in your spiritual growth? How have you been involved?
4. Where did you grow up? Where do you live now?
 - Was faith a part of your family growing up? What did that look like?
 - Were there any difficult family challenges growing up?
5. How did you come to understand the gospel and faith in Christ? Are there any “turning point” times in your life where God met you in a significant way?
6. If someone were to ask you, “What is the gospel?” what would you say (see Addendum 2: What is the Good News)?
7. Do you answer affirmatively to the 5 Questions for Covenant Partnership (next page)?
8. Are you familiar with and agreeable to the vision, mission, and values?
9. Are there any struggles and/or practices in your life that might conflict with your desire to live as a follower of Jesus?
10. Have you been baptized? If not, are you willing to be baptized?

5 QUESTIONS FOR COVENANT PARTNERSHIP

1. **Sin (Bad News)** - Do you affirm the Bible's teaching of the human condition that *"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23) such that, outside of relationship with Christ, we are without hope and under the curse and judgment of sin (John 8:24), which is condemnation of death (Romans 5:12) and separation from God (Isaiah 59:2)?
2. **Savior (Good News)** - Do you affirm that Jesus Christ, in His life, death, and resurrection, has accomplished everything necessary to reconcile us to God (Hebrews 9:11-15), to rescue us from sin and death (Romans 7:24, 25, Hebrews 7:24-28), and to graciously give us His reward of perfect righteousness (2 Corinthians 8:9) and life everlasting (Colossians 1:13-14)?
3. **Salvation (Freedom)** - Do you affirm the Bible's teaching and Jesus' own words that He is *"the way, the truth, and life"* (John 14:6), offered to all people (John 3:16, Titus 2:11) as God's only and all-sufficient provision for our salvation (Acts 4:12)?
4. **Spirit (Power)** - Do you embrace, surrender, and submit to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9-10) and will You seek to follow after him in love and obedience (Matthew 16:24-25), not in your own power and strength (John 6:63), but in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:24-25, Romans 8:1-17)?
5. **Submission (Community)** - As you embrace and seek to follow Jesus, do you commit to being an active part of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) and submit to the wisdom, community, and leadership of the local church (1 Peter 5:1-7)?

Addendum 1: What We Believe

This document contains the doctrinal beliefs of Good News Church GA, both in summary paragraphs of the beliefs of the early church and in the Nicene Creed, as well as, in essential and specific beliefs as relates to Truth, the Bible, Jesus, Mankind, Sin, the Good News, Faith, Grace, the Holy Spirit, Baptism, Communion, and Hope. For more information, contact Pastor Drue Warner at drue@goodnewschurchga.com or 404-906-9117 (cell). Visit our website at www.goodnewschurchga.com.

Summary:

- **Early Church (53 A.D.)** - We embrace the doctrinal beliefs of the Early Church, as are summarized in 1 Corinthians 15:3-7, ³ *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,* ⁴ *that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,* ⁵ *and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.* ⁶ *After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.* ⁷ *Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,* ⁸ *and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*
- **Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)** - I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Essentials:

- **Truth** is the compass to life. It shows us the direction of “true north” and keeps us from getting lost in the woods. Just as the “N” on a compass doesn’t change according to elevation and surroundings, truth also doesn’t change. There’s nothing more important to life than truth. *Scripture: Psalm 1:1-6, Proverbs 12:19, John 4:24, John 17:17, Ephesians 6:14*
- **The Bible** (Old and New Testament scriptures) is our only source of Truth. The Bible is the inspired (Spirit of God-breathed) infallible (unfailing), inerrant (without error) very Word of God. There are excellent reasons to believe that the Bible is Truth including: archaeology, manuscript preservation, fulfilled prophecy, beliefs of the historical church, and undeniable personal life change. *Scripture: Psalm 119:105, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12*
- **Jesus** is the living, breathing, in the flesh, Word of God and is the embodiment of Truth. Truth is a person, and His name is Jesus. Jesus is a real person who walked on the earth 2,000 years ago. Jesus was and is both fully God and fully human and is the only acceptable Mediator between God and mankind. Jesus is not only the cure to sin, but He’s the only cure to sin. Jesus is the second person of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). *Scripture: John 1:14, John 8:58, John 14:6, John 10:30, Colossians 2:9, 1 Timothy 2:5*
- **Mankind** is created in the image of God, and at one time, was in perfect union and relationship with God. But, when Adam & Eve rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden, sin entered the world and stained everything in it, including human beings. From that point on, every person has been conceived is born into a state of sinful rebellion to and separation from God. *Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 139:14, Ephesians 2:10,*
- **Sin** is a term used in the Bible to describe the state of mankind. While God is holy (perfectly just and upright), mankind is sinful (totally corrupted). Not only does mankind not want to obey and please God (i.e., Ten Commandments), because our very nature has been corrupted by sin, mankind does not have the ability to obey and please God. Thus, all mankind is enslaved and separated from God by sin. *Scripture: Genesis 3:1-24, Psalm 51:5, Jeremiah 17:9-10, Romans 3:23, Hebrews 11:6*
- **The Good News** is that God devised a rescue mission to save us from the consequences of our sin, which is death. God “bought us back” (i.e., ransomed) from death, not with money, but with the precious blood of Jesus, who being the eternal Son of God, became a man. Jesus lived the perfect life we could not live and died the death that we deserved. In approval of Jesus’ sacrificial payment of His life for ours, God raised Him from the dead and conquered the power of sin and death, forever. When a person places their trust in Jesus as their Advocate, Savior, Rescuer, they are no longer separated from the love of God, but adopted into His family and loved unconditionally as His beloved child.

Scripture: John 1:12-13, John 3:16, Romans 4:5, Romans 8:14-17, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 2 Corinthians 8:9, Galatians 2:15-16, Galatians 4:4-7, Ephesians 1:3-10, Ephesians 2:1-10, Titus 3:3-6, 1 John 4:9-10

- **Faith** is what bridges the work of Christ to our individual lives. Faith is necessary for salvation (i.e., being set free from the power and consequences of sin). Faith is not something we can muster up ourselves. Faith is a gift of God. *Scripture: John 3:16, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Peter 1:1, Hebrews 12:2,*
- **Grace** is the reality that, while we were rebellious sinners deserving and wanting nothing good from God, He (God) sent His only Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin and death. Justice is getting what you deserve. Mercy is not getting what you deserve. Grace is getting what you don't deserve. *Scripture: Genesis 3:21, Romans 4:5, Romans 5:8, Titus 3:5*
- **The Holy Spirit** is the Spirit of God that applies and activates faith in the hearts of people. The Holy Spirit teaches, instructs, convicts, comforts, empowers, and heals. The Holy Spirit is the power of God that lives inside of those who follow God and works to actively transform their hearts, minds, intentions, and actions such that they begin, more and more, to look like Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). *Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20, John 16:13, Romans 8:9-17, Ephesians 1:17*
- **Baptism** represents individual commitment to Christ and God's covenant promise to His people. Baptism is a spiritual sign (sacrament) ordained by God for the purpose of identifying those who are followers of Jesus Christ (like the purpose of a wedding ring). Infants and children of followers of Jesus are to be given the sign of baptism because baptism also represents God's promise to be faithful to those in His family (like the purpose of an engagement ring). Baptism replaces the sign of circumcision, which was found in the Old Testament. *Scripture: Genesis 17:7, 10-14, 1 Corinthians 1:16, Acts 2:38-39, Acts 16:15, 30-34, Colossians 2:11*
- **Communion** represents congregational community with Christ. Communion (i.e., The Lord's Supper, Eucharist, The Table) is a spiritual sign (sacrament) ordained by Jesus as a way of experiencing His supernatural presence, in a spiritually mystical and powerful way, in the community of faith. Communion replaces Passover (which was in the Old Testament) as God's covenant meal with those in His family. *Scripture: Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:20-30*
- **Hope** is believing that what is unseen will one day be seen. The hope of the Christian is rooted in Jesus, His promised return, and the promise to "wipe away every tear" and "to make all things new." The Bible is very clear in its teaching that human beings will live for all eternity, that heaven is real, and those in Christ will one day be united with and seated with Him in the heavenly realms. The Bible is also very clear that, at Christ's return, there will be "a new heaven and a new earth." All things will be restored to its former glory, and those in Christ will be transformed, even receiving a new, glorified body. In Christ, we have incredible hope. *Scripture: Psalm 84:11, Romans 5:5, 1 Peter 1:13, Colossians 1:27, Ephesians 1:18, Revelation 21:1, 4*

Addendum 2: What is The Good News?

As we begin this new adventure of starting Good News Church, we may be asked the question, "What is the Good News?" If so, this will be a helpful resource for all of us. "Good News" comes from the Greek word "euaggelion" (pronounced yoo-ang-ghel'-ee-on), which means "Gospel" or... "Good News."

What is the Good News? **G.R.A.C.E. = God's Riches At Christ's Expense**

The Bible tells us that we were lost, rebellious, and dead, separated from God and condemned in our sins with no ability to save ourselves. "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love for us, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in sin—it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." (paraphrase of Ephesians 2:1-10).

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." – *John 3:16-17*

"God made him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." – *2 Corinthians 5:21*

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." – *2 Corinthians 8:9*

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." – *1 John 4:9-10*

UNDERSTANDING THE GOOD NEWS *in one and two word answers*

1. The message of the Bible can best be summarized in two words... **Good News.**
2. The Good News can best be summarized in one word... **Rescue.**
3. God's primary message to us in the Bible can be summarized in two words... **Trust Me.**
4. The essence of Jesus' message of Good News can be summarized in one word... **Love.**
5. The Christian life can best be summarized in one word... **Freedom.**
6. The greatest tool that the enemy uses to keep us from God is... **Distraction.**
7. The sin above all sins that keeps us from God is... **Pride.**
8. Everything that the Good News provides can be summarized in one word... **Rest.**
9. True rest, and all the benefits that spring from it, can only be found... **In Christ.**
10. The result of being in Christ is... **Joy.**