

***DISCOVERING  
CHURCH  
MEMBERSHIP***

***Chester Avenue  
Community Church***

***1509 South Chester Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93304***

***661.831.7312***

***[cacc.churchtrac.com](http://cacc.churchtrac.com)***

***[seccacc1509@gmail.com](mailto:seccacc1509@gmail.com)***

## OUR STAFF

### PASTORS

LUIS CARRABALLO LEADING PASTOR  
BRODY HART SPIRITUAL FORMATION PASTOR  
REV. KEITH FULTZ MENTORING PASTOR

AUDREA (CLOUDIE) JUAREZ SECRETARY

### ELDERS

RONNIE MCLEAN (HEAD)  
DONNA BROWN  
DIANNA TUGWELL  
PETER PALAMO (APPRENTICE)  
ANTHONY LAZANO (APPRENTICE)  
PASTORS

## Welcome to Discovering Church Membership

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Chester Avenue Community Church! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members with no church background as well as others from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly cover what we think are the basics for a follower of Jesus, our beliefs, lifestyle, goals and structure for our church.

**Discovering Church Membership** is divided in four sections and is taught by our pastor since 1990. Rev. Keith W. Fultz. Other pastors, elders and leaders may assist in teaching some of the sessions.

### THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS:

*Ephesians 2:19 (ESV)*

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household (family) of God,*

### KEY TRUTHS

1. The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_
2. God expects you to be a \_\_\_\_\_ of a church family.
3. A Disciple of Jesus without a church family is an \_\_\_\_\_.

## THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

That I will commit myself to the \_\_\_\_\_

and to the \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT MAKES C.A.C.C. FAMILY?

- Our \_\_\_\_\_ (What God has done for us)
- Our \_\_\_\_\_ (Why we exist as a church)
- Our \_\_\_\_\_ (How we fulfill our purpose)

## SECTION ONE

OUR \_\_\_\_\_

### I. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A \_\_\_\_\_ OF JESUS

A. God made me to \_\_\_\_\_ me!

*John 3:16 (ESV)*

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

B. We were created to have a personal \_\_\_\_\_  
with God and to \_\_\_\_\_ all of God’s creation!

*Matthew 22:37–39 (ESV)*

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

C. We were created to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God.

*Romans 12:1 (NKJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

*2 Corinthians 5:9 (ESV)*

*So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.*

D. We were created to live an \_\_\_\_\_ life

*John 10:10 (ESV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

**ABUNDANT LIFE is producing the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.**

*Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV)*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

**E. When we know and love God, and live in harmony with his purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.**

**Clear conscience**

Romans 8:1

**Life & Peace**

Romans 8:6

**Help with weakness**

Romans 8:26

**Purpose**

Romans 8:28

**Confidence**

Romans 8:31

**Security**

Romans 8:39

**Power & Strength**

Philippians 4:13

**Fulfillment**

Philippians 4:19

**Freedom**

John 8:32, 36

## **II. WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?**

**We have a natural desire to be our own \_\_\_\_\_.**

**THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE \_\_\_\_\_**

*1 John 1:8 (ESV) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

*Romans 3:23 (ESV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

*Isaiah 59:2 (ESV)*

*your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,*

## **III. WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?**

\_\_\_\_\_ has taken care of our sin problem.

*John 14:6 (ESV) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

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

**Jesus lived the life we should have lived and died the death that we should have died.**

*Romans 5:8 (ESV) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV) For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*

Although we have offended God, Christ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us to God.

*2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;*

#### IV. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ that God has not been first place in your life and ask him to forgive your sins.

*1 John 1:9 (ESV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and he rose again and is alive today.

*Romans 10:9 (ESV) because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ God's free gift of Salvation.

*John 1:12-13 (ESV) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the Director /Manager ("Lord") of your life.

*Revelation 3:20 (ESV) Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God:

*“Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me;  
even when I’ve ignored you and gone my own way.  
I need you in my life and I’m sorry for my sins.  
I ask you to forgive me.  
Thank you for dying on the cross for me.  
Please help me understand it more.  
As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on.  
Please come into my life and make me a new person inside.  
I accept your gift of Salvation.  
Please help me grow now as a Disciple of Jesus.”*

*Romans 10:13 (ESV) For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

### I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To follow the example set by \_\_\_\_\_

*Mark 1:9 (ESV) In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.*

2. Because Christ \_\_\_\_\_ it.

*Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

3. It demonstrates to the world that I really am a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 18:8 (ESV) And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.*

### II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It illustrates Christ's \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*Colossians 2:12 (ESV) having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.*

2. It illustrates my \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

3. It illustrates my \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ as a Believer.

*Acts 22:16 (ESV) And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'*

*Titus 3:5 (ESV) He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.*

### III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. Baptisms in the New Testament were by \_\_\_\_\_.

*Acts 8:38-39 (ESV) ... they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, ..., and went on his way rejoicing.*

The Greek word for BAPTIZE means TO \_\_\_\_\_

### IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every one who has \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

*Acts 8:12 (ESV) But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

### V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As \_\_\_\_\_ as you have believed!

*Acts 2:41 (ESV) So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*

*Acts 8:35-36 (ESV) Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" eunuch went down to the water and Phillip baptized him." Acts 8:35-38*

Can my family be baptized together?

YES!

Will I have to say anything?

You will be asked, "Are you here to proclaim your trust in Christ?" You will be expected to say, "Yes." And you will have the opportunity to share more if you desire. But you are not expected to say anything more.

Special Note?

Any Member of the church you desire can perform the baptism.

Under special circumstances we can arrange for alternate baptismal methods.



## THE MEANING OF COMMUNION

Jesus never asked disciples to remember his birth. But he did instruct them to remember his death and resurrection and his coming again. The Lord's supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

### MANY NAMES

The Lord's \_\_\_\_\_

The Lord's \_\_\_\_\_

HOLY \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_

Breaking \_\_\_\_\_

### ORIGINAL SETTING

#### JESUS IS CELEBRATING PASSOVER WITH HIS DISCIPLES

John 13:1-35

*Matthew 26:26–29 (ESV)*

*Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."<sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you,<sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.<sup>29</sup> I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."*

#### JESUS GIVES NEW UNDERSTANDING TO THE PASSOVER

JESUS IS THE SACRIFICIAL \_\_\_\_\_

JESUS IS THE DELIVERER AND \_\_\_\_\_

The BREAD is a symbol of Christ's \_\_\_\_\_

The WINE is a symbol of Christ's \_\_\_\_\_

WE ARE TO \_\_\_\_\_

THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRIST FOR OUR SINS

THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRIST

THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRIST

WITH \_\_\_\_\_

## HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNION?

1. \_\_\_\_\_?

The first Communion took the place of PASSOVER which was once a year.

2. \_\_\_\_\_?

Many churches observe Communion monthly

3. \_\_\_\_\_?

The early church seemed to BREAK BREAD on a weekly basis.  
The Church of Christ and Catholics observe Communion weekly.

4. \_\_\_\_\_?

Giving Thanks or saying “Grace” at every meal stems from the concept of Communion

*1 Corinthians 11:17-26 (NIV2011)*

*In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God’s approval. So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord’s Supper you eat, for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. Don’t you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter! For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.*

**We encourage you to practice COMMUNION at every meal.**

**We encourage families, groups of friends, small groups and individuals to practice COMMUNION on a regular basis.**

**We try to have Communion a central part of every meal gathering at the church and on irregular occasions in the Worship Celebration.**

## SECTION TWO OUR STATEMENTS

WE VALUE \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV) I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*

KEY WORDS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WE VALUE \_\_\_\_\_

*Romans 14:1 (ESV)  
As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.*

Respectful disagreement is not only \_\_\_\_\_,  
it is \_\_\_\_\_.

### BALANCING UNITY AND OPINIONS

• IN ESSENTIAL BELIEFS - WE HAVE \_\_\_\_\_

*Ephesians 4:4-6 (ESV) There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

• IN NON- ESSENTIAL BELIEFS - WE HAVE \_\_\_\_\_

*Romans 14:2-5 (ESV)  
One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. <sup>5</sup> One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.*

• IN ALL OUR BELIEFS - WE HAVE \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Corinthians 13:2 (ESV) And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

# THE ESSENTIALS

## OUR PURPOSE:

Why we exist

THE GREAT \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 22:37-39 (ESV) And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

THE GREAT \_\_\_\_\_.

*Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

## OUR VISION:

\_\_\_\_\_ GOD  
\_\_\_\_\_ OUR LIFE  
\_\_\_\_\_ THE WORLD

## OUR MISSION:

\_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLES WHO \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLES

## OUR GOALS:

BUILD BIG \_\_\_\_\_ RATHER THAN BIG CHURCH

BE \_\_\_\_\_ NOT JUST INFORMED

# OUR ESSENTIAL STATEMENTS OF FAITH

## What we believe

### 1. About \_\_\_\_\_ THE \_\_\_\_\_

God is the creator and ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is one essence and distinct in person. He is beyond our ability to fully comprehend.

*Genesis 1:1 (ESV) In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

*Matthew 28:19 (ESV) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father ... the Son ... and the Holy Spirit,*

*2 Corinthians 13:14 (ESV) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

*Exodus 34:6–7 (ESV) The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”*

### 2. About \_\_\_\_\_ CHRIST, THE \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus is the Savior and Lord. He was born of the virgin Mary. Being fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people and dying on the cross. He was raised from the dead after three days to prove his power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven and will return someday to the earth to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

*Matthew 1:23 (ESV) “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).*

*John 1:1–5 (ESV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*John 1:14 (ESV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (ESV)** *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*

**Titus 2:13 (ESV)** *... waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,*

### **3. About GOD THE \_\_\_\_\_**

The Holy spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus. He lives in every believer from the moment of salvation. He is the Helper and Comforter and Counselor for every Disciple. He is the Disciple's source of power for living, wisdom, spiritual truth and guidance. He empowers the believer for service in the kingdom and family of God. Disciples of Jesus are instructed to live in the Spirit and to be filled with the Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 3:17 (ESV)** *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

**John 16:7–13 (ESV)** *Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. <sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

**Acts 1:8 (ESV)** *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

**1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV)** *Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*

### **4. About THE \_\_\_\_\_**

The Bible is inspired by God the Holy Spirit. It is a infallible revelation to man through men. It is our supreme authority and is sufficient as our only rule of faith and practice.

*John 5:39 (ESV) You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,*

*2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

*Hebrews 4:12 (ESV) For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

## 5. About \_\_\_\_\_

We are made in God's image. We were designed to be like him in character. People are the supreme object in God's creation. All of us are marred by our disobedience toward God. This is called "Sin." People have a "sinful" nature which separates us from God and causes many problems in our lives. All people are to be treated and honored as people created in His image. We are in the process of transformation or restoring the marred image/nature of God through the power of the Holy Spirit

*Genesis 1:26–27 (ESV) Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

*Psalms 8:3–6 (ESV) When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,<sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.<sup>6</sup> You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,*

*Isaiah 53:6 (ESV) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*Romans 3:23 (ESV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

*Isaiah 59:1–2 (ESV) Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;<sup>2</sup> but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*

## 6. About \_\_\_\_\_

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement, good intentions 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 in faith, are we saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Christ into his life by faith, demonstrated by repentance, confession, forgiveness, and submission to Christ as Lord.

*Romans 5:1 (ESV) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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

*Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

*John 1:12 (ESV) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*

*Titus 3:5 (ESV) he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,*

## 7. About \_\_\_\_\_

We were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through repentance, forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be with God eternally is to be in heaven eternally. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence.

*John 3:16–17 (ESV) “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

*1 Corinthians 2:9 (ESV) But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—*

*Revelation 20:15 (ESV) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*



## OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

### What we practice

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based upon what the Bible teaches, we are committed to living out the following realities:

#### 1. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF JESUS Spirit - led living

The only way to live a Disciple's life is through God's power. We seek to practice a daily surrendering, abiding, infilling and dependence upon the Holy Spirit to enable us to do what is right and to accomplish the work of the kingdom of this world.

*John 15:5 (ESV) I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

#### 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture

Since the scriptures are the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a problem is "What is God's heart and mind on this matter?" God's heart and mind are best expressed through scriptures. Therefore, we practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

#### 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of every Believer

The Bible teaches that every Disciple is called to full time ministry, regardless of his/her vocation. Every believer is a minister. Every believer has direct approach to God through prayer and the right of private interpretation of scripture.

*1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

#### 4. Baptism for \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism is a symbolic act of initiation for believers followers of Jesus. We practice Baptism by immersion under water, because we believe this is the way Jesus was Baptized and the way the Bible commands.

*Colossians 2:12 (ESV) having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.*

## 5. A \_\_\_\_\_ Church Membership

You can only be a member through confession in Jesus Christ as Lord and savior demonstrated by Believers Baptism. You may transfer from another evangelical church if you were baptized. If you are already a believer and previously Baptized we will accept you on your personal statement of Discipleship experience.

***Romans 10:9-10 (ESV) because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.***

## 6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the local church

Christ is recognized as the head of the church. No person, group or religious organization holds control over the church. We recognize the value of associating, cooperating and maintaining fellowship with other churches. We value independence and inter-dependence. We value the church as a self governing organism and organization, independent from any denominational control.

***Colossians 1:18 (ESV) And he is the head of the body, the church.***

## 7. The spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of Believers

Anyone who claims Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior is our brother and sister in Christ. We are family. We seek to be in unity with what God is doing in the life and fellowship of other believers.

***John 17:23 (ESV) I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.***

## 8. The \_\_\_\_\_ of church and state

Believers were fundamentally instrumental in the democratic formation of our nation and principle that the government should in no way promote or restrict any religious group. We affirm this principle. We encourage people to be involved in government, but we don't want to use the government to further the cause of Christ or any other religious beliefs.

***Romans 13:1 (ESV) Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.***

**9. About \_\_\_\_\_:**

We encourage everyone to practice tithing for support of God's body, the Church. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is a biblical standard of giving. We practice this as members and as a church. 10% of our tithes and offerings go to missions outside of our church for evangelism.

*Leviticus 27:30 (ESV) "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD."*

*Malachi 3:10 (ESV) Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

*2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV) Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

*Luke 6:38 (ESV) Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."*

**10. \_\_\_\_\_ Christ with the world**

It is the responsibility of every believer to share the Good News with those which God brings us into relationship. We practice sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church. We speak blessing on every one we meet. We support missions work to unsaved peoples throughout the world. We support International Ministries and Transformation Ministries and a variety of local and foreign missions.

*Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

*Luke 10:2-9 (ESV) And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'*

**SECTION THREE**  
**OUR STRUCTURE**  
(How we fulfill our purpose)

*1 Corinthians 14:33 (ESV) For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,*

*1 Corinthians 14:40 (ESV) But all things should be done decently and in order.*

**HOW THE CHURCH IS STRUCTURED**

**I. THE CHURCH IS A \_\_\_\_\_**

*Acts 2:42 (ESV) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

A top priority in a fellowship is \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_

*Ephesians 4:3 (ESV) eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

*Romans 14:19 (ESV) So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.*

Any attitude or behavior that causes disunity is \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV) I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*

*1 Peter 3:8 (ESV) Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.*

*Romans 12:18 (ESV) If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*

**GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*1 Corinthians 11:17-18 (ESV) But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you.*

## GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS

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“Voting” tends to \_\_\_\_\_

At CACC we only vote on:

- Annual Budget
- Confirmation of Elders
- Purchase of land or buildings
- Calling of Senior Pastor
- Changes in church constitution

## II. THE CHURCH FAMILY IS A \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Corinthians 12:27 (ESV) Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

THE CHURCH BODY IS MORE \_\_\_\_\_  
THAN \_\_\_\_\_

*Romans 12:4-6 (ESV) For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;*

ORGANIZATIONS FOCUS ON \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANISMS FOCUS ON \_\_\_\_\_

OUR GOAL IS TO MAXIMIZE \_\_\_\_\_ AND  
MINIMIZE \_\_\_\_\_

## IV. THE CHURCH IS A \_\_\_\_\_

*John 10:27 (ESV) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.* (Jesus’ favorite description of the church)

*Matthew 26:31 (ESV) <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’”*

**THE CHURCH IS AND CARED FOR AND LED BY \_\_\_\_\_**

*John 21:15-17 (ESV) When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, 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 John, 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 everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.*

**BIBLICAL TERMS FOR LEADERS**

- “POIMEN”
- “PRESBYTEROS”
- “EPISCOPOS”

*1 Peter 5:1-3 (ESV)*

*So I exhort the elders (presbyteros) among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd (poimen) the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, (episkopos) not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.*

ELDERS = OVERSEERS = BISHOPS = SHEPHARDS = LEADERS

**OUR STRUCTURE**

**1. ELDERS AND PASTORS ARE THE \_\_\_\_\_**

**QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A PASTOR OR ELDER**

**A Tithing Member of the church  
Life is aligned with following scripture**

*1 Timothy 3:2–7 (ESV)*

*Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup> He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, <sup>5</sup> for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church? <sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup> Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*

*Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,*

**2. DEACONS \_\_\_\_\_ THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY**

**QUALIFICATION OF DEACONS**

**A Member of the Church**

**Life is aligned with following scripture**

*1 Timothy 3:8–12 (ESV)*

*Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup> They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup> And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. <sup>11</sup> Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. <sup>12</sup> Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.*

**QUALIFICATION FOR TEACHERS**

**Same as Deacons**

**QUALIFICATION FOR HELPERS**

**New or inexperienced believers**

**Open to growth and instruction**

**Supportive of the church Statements and Lifestyle**

**3. THE MEMBERS ARE THE MAIN \_\_\_\_\_**

*Acts 2:42–44 (ESV)*

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common.*

**4. THE \_\_\_\_\_ IS A \_\_\_\_\_  
THAT GUIDES US IN HOW WE HAVE AGREED TO MAKE  
DECISIONS TOGETHER AS A FAMILY**

**In order to conserve paper costs, we prefer sending copies in digital form, but will provide hard copies upon request**

## **OUR AFFILIATION**

**TRANSFORMATION MINISTRIES**  
**970 Village Oaks drive**  
**Covina, Ca. 91724-3679**

### **WHY NOT JUST BE AN INDEPENDENT CHURCH?**

We celebrate our Baptist roots, however, our highest identity is that we are children of God and people of the Kingdom of God.

We are independent, yet interdependent! Every TM church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs.

For example:

- EVERY TM church chooses its own Pastor
- EVERY TM church owns its own building and assets
- EVERY TM church determines its own ministries
- EVERY TM church determines its own level of support for Transforming Ministries.
- EVERY TM church supports the missions of its choice.



## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

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

**At CACC we recognize the need for formal membership.  
We ask you to commit to membership for 3 reasons:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **REASONS: Christ is committed to the church**  
(Ephesians 5:25) “... Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her”

\_\_\_\_\_ **REASONS: 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 counts on voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

\_\_\_\_\_ **REASON: It produces spiritual growth**  
The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Disciples to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You can not be accountable when you are not committed to a specific church family.

### **What is expected of me as a church member**

At CACC 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 Disciple to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the **membership covenant**

## THE CACC MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

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

1. I WILL \_\_\_\_\_ THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH  
By acting in love toward other members  
By refusing to gossip  
By following the leaders

*Acts 2:42 (ESV) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

*Romans 15:5 (ESV) May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,*

*1 Peter 1:22 (ESV) Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,*

*Ephesians 4:29 (ESV) Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

*Hebrews 13:17 (ESV) Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

2. I WILL \_\_\_\_\_ THE PURPOSE OF MY CHURCH  
By praying for its growth  
By inviting the unchurched to attend  
By warmly welcoming those who visit

*1 Thessalonians 1:2 (ESV) We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly*

*Luke 14:23 (ESV) And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. mentioning you in our prayers,*

*Romans 15:7 (ESV) Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

**3. I WILL \_\_\_\_\_ THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH**

- By developing a servants heart
- By discovering my gifts and talents
- By being equipped to serve by my leaders
- By looking for opportunities to do good

*1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:*

*Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,*

*Philippians 2:3-7 (ESV) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*

**4. I WILL \_\_\_\_\_ THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH**

- By attending faithfully
- By living a godly life
- By giving regularly

*Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

*Philippians 1:27 (ESV) Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel"*

*1 Corinthians 16:2 (ESV) On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.*

*Leviticus 27:30 (ESV) "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD."*



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
***CHESTER AVENUE COMMUNITY CHURCH***  
**FOUR REQUIREMENTS**

1. Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trust him as your salvation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
When \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

in this class?

2. Have you ever been baptized after you committed your life to Christ?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
When \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be Baptized at CACC

3. Have you completed *Discovering Church Membership*,

Yes Date \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you desire to live by the CACC Membership promise?

Yes, I do!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY!**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:     Male     Female

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Single     Married     Widowed     Divorced

My occupation is \_\_\_\_\_

I have been active in a church for     0-1 yr     2-5 yrs     6-10 yrs     11+

How would you describe your relationship with Christ?

New Disciple

Committed Disciple

I've been a Disciple for a while but I need to grow closer

**FAMILY MEMBERS**

Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_ date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Does your spouse attend CACC?     Yes     no

Children:

First name	Last name	birth date	lives w/you	attends CACC
_____	_____	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
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