

# CCC MEMBERSHIP CLASS

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- **Introductions**
- **Membership at CCC**
  - Why membership?
  - Pre-requisites of membership
- **Prerequisite #1: Salvation**
  - Salvation
  - Response #1
- **Prerequisite #2: Baptism**
  - Baptism
  - Response #2
- **Prerequisite #3: Agreement in Beliefs**
  - Core beliefs
  - Distinctive beliefs
  - Doctrinal questions & “hot topics”
  - Response #3
- **Prerequisite #4: Agreement in Purpose, Mission & Values**
  - What is our purpose?

- What is our mission?
- What are our values?
- What is our process?
- What is our leadership structure?
- Response #4
- **What are the expectations of membership?**
  - What are the steps of membership?
  - What if I'm not ready to join?
- **Prepping for your membership interview**
- **Questions**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Brief History of Cocalico Community Church.....	4
Why Church Membership? .....	6
What Are the Prerequisites for Membership? .....	7
PREREQUISITE #1: SALVATION .....	9
The “Do vs. Done” Explanation.....	9
The Gospel in Five Words .....	10
The Cross Explanation .....	11
Response #1 .....	12
PREREQUISITE #2: BAPTISM .....	13
What is the Significance of Baptism?.....	13
Who Should Be Baptized?.....	14
Why Should You Be Baptized?.....	14
How Should You Be Baptized? .....	14
When Should You Be Baptized? .....	15
Response #2 .....	16
PREREQUISITE #3: AGREEMENT IN BELIEFS .....	17
Core Beliefs.....	18
Distinctive Beliefs .....	20
Response #3 .....	22
Doctrinal Questions & Hot Topics.....	23
PREREQUISITE #4: AGREEMENT IN PURPOSE, VALUES & MISSION .....	24
Our Purpose .....	25
Our Values.....	25
Our Mission .....	26
Our Pathway.....	26
Our Leadership Structure .....	27
Response #4 .....	28
What Are the Expectations for Members? .....	29
What Are the Steps to Joining CCC?.....	30
Prepping for Your Membership Interview.....	31

# CCC – A BRIEF HISTORY

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The idea of a church doing things differently became rooted in me (Jon) during my teenage years. When sitting next to visitors, or inviting new friends to church, I often noticed their struggle to differentiate the hymnal from the Bible. I wondered if the ideas and concepts coming from the pulpit were communicated in a way someone new to church could grasp and understand. At this point in my life, **God planted a seed** in me.

I also witnessed individuals who would "play church," going through the motions on Sunday morning but **living messy and broken lives** during the week. No one discussed it. No one prayed about it. Eventually, those people disappeared. I longed for a church in which people were challenged to follow after Christ while being **transparent in the struggle**.

During my graduate training, Christine and I were assigned to complete our intern training at High Point Baptist Chapel. We quickly discovered the church's interest in recruiting individuals to plant new churches. **God's answer** to my teenage vision came when our first meeting as Cocalico Community Chapel was held with a small group of five people in our home in September of 1991. After outgrowing our living room, a dozen adults launched our first worship service on Sunday, March 27, 1992, at the Comfort Inn in Denver, PA. After meeting for five months, God provided a chapel in Fivepointville for our new home. We continued to meet in Fivepointville for five years until we outgrew this building and **God provided** Gehman's Mennonite School. This would be our home for the next 17 1/2 years. Teams of people set-up and tore down each week, and this gracious Membership allowed our church to expand through a season of adding staff, a second service and various ministries.

In the fall of 2007, knowing we would one day need our own facility, a team formed to search for land. This search ended with the purchase of a 40 1/2-acre farm across the street from Gehman's Mennonite School. We paid off the land in 10 months and began to make plans to build. Raising funds was a slow process and we wondered when a building would become a reality. In the spring of 2014, a realtor contacted our facility team and told us of a church building about to be put on the market. This news resulted in a flurry of activity as our facility, staff and elder team evaluated this possibility. As they **sensed God leading** in this direction, with the support of our Membership, the building was purchased in August of 2014. After eight months of renovations, we moved into our new facility on Sunday, June 7, 2015. We then spent another year

renovating the sanctuary. Our grand opening was Sunday, November 20, 2016. It is remarkable how **God directed our steps** in providing the right place for our church for each season to impact our community.

Through a series of set-ups and tear-downs, packing and unpacking, God has allowed my teenage vision to come to life at CCC. It has become a place that gives people the time and space to investigate Christianity. We have seen **God reach out and draw people to Himself**. We have seen Cocalico become a place where we lead people to **Love God Fully and Love Others Deeply**.

# WHY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

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Church Membership is a way for an individual to officially identify with a local group of Christ followers (a church)

## Reasons People Don't Become a Church Member

- 1) They were never encouraged to or given reasons to join a church.
  - This class will change that. We want to encourage you to join and give you reasons to join.
- 2) There is no direct \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible to formally join a church.
  - That is true; there is no command.
  - BUT – Acts 2:41, 4:4, 5:14; 1 Corinthians 14:23
  - They knew who was part of the church and who wasn't.
- 3) They see membership as a formality.
- 4) They have an issue with \_\_\_\_\_
  - Becoming a member puts you under the oversight of church leadership
  - Abusive church leadership can take a long time to recover from and a long time to trust other church leaders.
  - Abusive or absent father figures can cause a person to view the church leadership in the same way.

## Reasons to Consider Becoming a Church Member

- 1) Because of how Christ feels about His \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 5:25-32).
  - Jesus loved the church enough to die for the Church.
  - If Christ died for the church – it seems we should do all we can to show our commitment to Her.
  - A purpose of marriage may be to illustrate Christ's love for the church
- 2) Because church membership helps the \_\_\_\_\_ lead the church (Hebrews 13:17).
  - 1 Timothy 5:17 / 1 Thess. 5:12-13
    - We need to know who it is we are leading (who we will give an account for).
    - It defines who is really part of the church and who can be counted on.
    - Certain ministries are limited to members.
    - It allows us to best care for members.
- 3) Because church membership is an excellent way to help you continue to \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ and to \_\_\_\_\_ you from straying (Ephesians 4:11-13).
  - Spiritual Protection – Membership places you under the spiritual protection of elders
  - Personal Accountability – Membership is your request for accountability
- 4) Because church membership gives you a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ in the decisions of our church.

- We are a congregationally governed church, elder protected and staff directed church
- 5) Because church membership invites you to be part of something bigger than yourself.
- They want to make a difference
  - They want to be part of something bigger than themselves

# WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITES FOR MEMBERSHIP?

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## Four Prerequisites for Membership

- Salvation
- Baptism
- Agreement in Beliefs
- Agreement in Purpose, Values & Mission



# PREREQUISITE #1: SALVATION – Do vs. Done

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The most important thing for you in the universe is to know that you have a relationship with God through Christ. This section of the class is designed to help you clearly understand what that means and how it happens.

What does this mean?

- To be saved means to “to deliver and rescue”
- What do you need to be saved from?

*Romans 6:23 - “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

Two words explain the primary means people pursue being saved

- Religion is spelled \_\_\_\_\_
- Biblical Christianity is spelled \_\_\_\_\_

How do you spell Religion?

- Religion is spelled \_\_\_\_\_
- How do you know if you have done enough?
- The Bible opposes the “works” system

*Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For 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.”*

How do you spell Christianity?

- Biblical Christianity is spelled \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jesus died on the cross in my place for my sins
  - I don’t have to earn it, I can receive it
  - You have to transfer your trust to believe it

*Acts 20:21 – “I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.”*

How to embrace the DONE system of Biblical Christianity

- \_\_\_\_\_ – turn from living your way to God’s way.
- Trust in the Lord Jesus to be your forgiver of your sins and the leader of your life.

To be saved is to ask and trust Jesus to be the forgiver of your sins and the leader of your life.

Question – Have you ever crossed the line from the “DO” system of religion to receive what Jesus has “DONE” for you?

## The Gospel – in 5 Words

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

This is why we need the Gospel (good news). We all have sinned.

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

Our sin creates an irreconcilable gap between us and God with a future of eternal separation from him.

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

Jesus Christ died to fix this problem of our sin and separation from God.

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

We must place our faith in Christ as the forgiver of our sins and leader of our life.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

After we come into relationship with Christ, we submit our lives to him for obedience.

# THE CROSS EXPLANATION

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# PREREQUISITE #2: BAPTISM

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Acts 2:37-41 – “When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”

Baptism is not what you do to get saved, but it’s what you do once you are saved.

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## Five Questions Concerning Baptism

### 1. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM?

- We believe baptism is an \_\_\_\_\_ physical picture of an \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual reality.
  - Romans 6:3-4 – “Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”
  - Baptism is a picture of what happens at salvation. It is the way that we identify with what Jesus did on the cross.

<u>Romans 6</u>	<u>The spiritual act</u>	<u>The physical act</u>
✓ Verse 3	died with Christ	put into the water
✓ Verse 4	buried with Christ	under the water
✓ Verses 4-5	raised with Christ	taken out of the water

- It is \_\_\_\_\_ with your faith in Christ.

### 2. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

- \_\_\_\_\_ who has chosen to follow Jesus
- The New Testament order is always to \_\_\_\_\_ and then to be baptized.
  - Matthew 28:19 – “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”

- *Acts 8:35-36 – “The Phillip began with that very passage and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?””*
- *Acts 10:47-48 – ““Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”*
- Even a cursory reading of the New Testament clearly would demonstrate that baptism is for followers of Jesus.
- Baptism always followed \_\_\_\_\_; it did not precede it.

### 3. WHY SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

- It is \_\_\_\_\_ for all believers
  - *Matthew 28:19-20 – “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.””*
  - *Acts 2:38 – “Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*
- It was demonstrated by the early church

### 4. HOW DO WE BAPTIZE?

- First three questions are most important – What, Who and Why? This question is not as important but here is an explanation why we baptize using this mode.
- We baptize by fully immersing in the water. There are three main reasons we baptize in this way.
  1. The Greek term for baptize (baptizo) literally means to submerge or immerse. The word is “transliterated” from Greek into English. If it were to be translated, it would be translated as submerge or immerse.
    - So why did they not translate the word?
    - Word means – “dip, translate or immerse” in any Greek/English dictionary
    - When the Scriptures were translated into English, to use the word immerse or dip would have caused immense conflict in the church culture of the day. In the churches when the Bible was translated, they did not immerse, they dipped or poured. This had become the practice over time out of convenience and deathbed baptisms. Instead, they just used the Greek word to avoid the controversy to change.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the best picture of the spiritual reality of baptism (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12).
    - *Romans 6:4 – “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”*

- *Colossians 2:12 – “having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.”*
3. The New Testament models immersion as the mode of baptism in the early church.
- *Mark 1:9-10 – Notice the phrase “coming up out of the water.” – “At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.”*
  - *Matthew 3:6 – “in the Jordan River” indicates immersion – “Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.”*
  - *John 3:23 – Notice the need for “plenty of water.” – “Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized.”*
  - *Acts 8:36-39 – Notice they “came to some water” instead of water coming to them. Also, notice the phrases, “down into the water,” and “came up out of the water.” – “As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.”*

## 5. WHEN SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

- As soon as \_\_\_\_\_
- *Acts 2:41 – “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number **that day**.”*
- *Acts 8:35-38 – “Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?’ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.”*

More information about baptism can be found on our church website – [www.cocalico.church](http://www.cocalico.church)

Go through the following steps:

- Go to the “Next Steps” tab
- Go to “Baptism” and listen to the message on baptism
- Complete the application and submit it to the church office





# PREREQUISITE #3: Agreement in Beliefs

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## IMPORTANCE OF BELIEFS/DOCTRINE

Doctrine is of central importance. Holding the wrong doctrine can have eternal consequences. Our attempt is to simply ask the question:

What does the \_\_\_\_\_ say?

Our goal is to believe what the Bible says, obey what the Bible commands, and show grace where the Bible is unclear.

## TWO CATEGORIES OF CHURCH BELIEFS/DOCTRINE

Truth is very important to us at CCC. Unity is also important. The beginning of church unity is doctrinal unity. Yet we recognize that many Christians interpret parts of the Bible differently. We put our doctrine into two major categories:

### 1. CORE BELIEFS

Core truths are central to our understanding of Scripture regarding the Christian faith and must be agreed upon by all members of CCC. If you disagree with our core truths, we are not the best church for you.

### 2. DISTINCTIVE BELIEFS

Distinctive beliefs demonstrate our interpretation of the Bible in several areas. These distinctive beliefs are not universally held by all followers of Christ. Members of CCC may differ in their interpretation of Scripture regarding our distinctive beliefs yet for the sake of unity they choose not to cause division or recruit others to their position.

Most distinctive beliefs do not need to be embraced for one to become a member, but the following considerations need to be made:

- If you become a member of CCC, you must be willing to submit to the spirit of the distinctive beliefs.
- If you attend CCC, you choose to not allow your difference of view to impact the unity of our church.
- You do not actively recruit people to your position.
- If you find that you disagree with several of our distinctive beliefs, we believe you will be frustrated in your ongoing engagement at CCC. We will encourage you to find a church that is a better fit for your beliefs.

# OUR CORE BELIEFS

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The following statements constitute the core beliefs of CCC. They are central to our understanding of the Bible regarding our Christian faith and must be agreed upon by all members of CCC:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ – We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God written by human authors under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the ultimate source of truth for Christian belief and living. The Bible is true and without error in the original manuscripts. God has preserved his word through the centuries for us today.

2 Peter 1:20-21, 1 Corinthians 2:13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 119:105

2. \_\_\_\_\_ – We believe in one God who is the Creator and Ruler of the Universe. He has eternally existed in a loving unity of three equally distinct persons: the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His glory.

Genesis 1:1, Ephesians 3:14, Matthew 1:22-25, 28:19, 1 Peter 1:12, 2 Corinthians 13:14

3. \_\_\_\_\_ – We believe Jesus is the second member of the Trinity (the Son of God). He was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He revealed God to humanity as he lived a sinless life. He was crucified to become the Savior of the world. He rose bodily from the dead and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our Advocate.

Luke 1:27-31, John 1:3, 1 Peter 2:24, Matthew 28:5-7, 1 John 2:11

4. \_\_\_\_\_ – We believe the Holy Spirit is the third member of the Trinity. He convicts the people of their guilt, transforms the lives of those who admit their sinfulness, and places them as heirs in the family of God. He lives with, directs, encourages, and empowers Christ followers to become more like Jesus.

Acts 5:32, John 3:3-6, Ephesians 4:30, Romans 8:9, 8:14

5. \_\_\_\_\_ – We believe God created all people in his image with the desire to have a relationship with mankind but because of sinful disobedience all people have become alienated in that relationship. As a result, we are incapable of regaining a right relationship with God through our own efforts.

Gen 1:26-27, 2:16-17, Colossians 1:21, Isaiah 59:1-2

6. \_\_\_\_\_ – We believe because of our sinful nature we all fall short of God's perfect standard. God solved this problem by sending his Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for the sins of humanity. Those who trust in Jesus' payment for their sins are forgiven and receive eternal life as a free gift from God.

Romans 3:22-26, 5:9-18, 10:9, John 3:16-17, 10:28

7. \_\_\_\_\_ – We believe the church to be symbolically described in the Bible as the body of Christ of which Jesus Christ is the head. The members of the church are all people who have trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. The purpose of the church is to give him glory by loving him fully and making him known to the lost world.

1 Cor. 12:12-14, 12:27; Ephesians 2:20, 4:11-12, Matt 28:19-20

# OUR DISTINCTIVE BELIEFS

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The following distinctive beliefs demonstrate our interpretation of the Bible in several areas. All Christ followers do not universally hold these distinctive beliefs. Members of CCC may differ in their interpretation of Scripture regarding our distinctive beliefs yet for the sake of unity are committed to not cause division or recruit others to their position:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ – Predestination claims that God has determined the course of all human events while not removing human responsibility. Free will claims that within God’s eternal plan and predetermined course, people can make some choices including their own spiritual destiny. We believe that God has chosen before time began those who will enter a loving relationship with him. We will urgently share the gospel with those far from God and hold to the sovereign control of God over our lives.

Romans 9:16, 20-24, Ephesians 1:4-5

2. \_\_\_\_\_ – We believe that once you are saved it is impossible for you to lose your salvation. You are secure in your salvation by the power of God through faith. If you wander away from God either God will lovingly bring you back or you were never truly a Christ follower.

John 5:24, 10:28-29, Romans 8:1, Hebrews 5:9, 9:12

3. \_\_\_\_\_ – We believe spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to the body of Christ for the growth of Christ followers. We believe that these gifts were primarily used in the early church to confirm the message of the gospel. The gifts considered “sign gifts” include speaking in unlearned languages, miraculous healing and speaking prophetically about the future. While God could still choose to use them in this day, it would have to be within the parameters outlined in the Bible. For the sake of unity, we do not practice or teach that these gifts should be used by our church family. We ask those who are attendees at CCC do the same.

1 Corinthians 12-14, 12:28, Hebrews 2:4

4. \_\_\_\_\_ – We believe the Bible teaches there is equality between men and women before God, yet there are distinctions in roles for men and women in the home and the church. Every leadership role is open to women except the role of elder and primary teachers to the entire church. The Bible establishes these limits.

Galatians 3:28, I Timothy 2:11-12, 3:1-12, Titus 1:6-9

5. \_\_\_\_\_ – We believe baptism is an outward sign of a person’s internal decision to follow Jesus. It demonstrates a devotion and allegiance to Jesus as the ruler of their life. The example in the Bible is that it always follows salvation. The Bible commands baptism as an act of obedience. Baptism by immersion demonstrates a symbolic connection with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. We will baptize by immersion at CCC. We will accept into Membership those who have been baptized by another mode if it follows, not precedes, their decision to give their life to Christ.

Matthew 28:19, Acts 8:12-13, 36, 38, Romans 6:1-10

6. \_\_\_\_\_ – We believe marriage is the union of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship. Marriage is the only biblical setting for the expression of sexual intimacy. The husband and wife are of equal worth in God's eyes and should exist in a mutually submissive relationship with each other. We believe any sexual union outside of marriage is sinful.

Genesis 2:23-24, Matthew 5:23-24, 1 Corinthians 5:9, 6:15-20, Galatians 5:19-21

7. \_\_\_\_\_ – We believe in the personal, premillennial return of Christ. The dead will be raised and those alive on the earth will be reunited with Christ instantly in heaven. He will bring history to its conclusion ending with the millennial reign on the earth, the final judgment, and the eternal state.

1 Thessalonians 4:16, Isaiah 9:6-7, Revelation 20:6-7, 11-15, 22:1-7



# DOCTRINAL QUESTIONS & “HOT TOPICS”

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Notes:

# **PREREQUISITE #4: Agreement with our purpose, values and mission**

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This fourth prerequisite is not nearly as important as the first three prerequisites. Yet, for the sake of church unity, agreement with our purpose is very important and should be embraced by all who intend to become members of CCC.

To best understand our purpose – we will consider the following categories:

- Our Purpose
- Our Values
- Our Mission
- Our Pathway
- Our Leadership



# OUR PURPOSE

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## OUR PURPOSE EXPLAINS THE REASON WE EXIST.

Jesus expressed this as the first two most important commandments

- Matthew 22:37-39: “Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

To state it simply, our purpose is to:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# OUR VALUES

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Our values are the abiding principles that we hold deeply and passionately to at CCC.

\_\_\_\_\_ : Having experienced God's love, our challenge is to extend gracious acceptance to the people God brings into our lives. It is our desire to follow the example of Jesus who walked past cultural, relational, and religious boundaries to graciously accept people very different from him.

\_\_\_\_\_ : We're designed for relationships. Unfortunately, our life experience is filled with broken and shattered relationships. We are committed to walk toward the cultivation of healthy, growing relationships that balance grace and truth.

\_\_\_\_\_ : Serving looks different to each person, based on his or her God-given gifts. We will explore with you God's unique design and purpose for your life and then help you express that by serving others both inside and outside the local church.

\_\_\_\_\_ : All of life exists with rhythm. From the changing of the seasons to our heartbeat, everything has a sense of rhythm. God's design is for us to have rhythms of silence, time with him, activity and engagement and then rest through honoring the Sabbath.

\_\_\_\_\_ : To walk forward in our faith journey often requires us to turn around and carefully process the life we have experienced. In going backwards, God can give us clarity about the story that he is writing throughout our lives, enabling us to live out the purpose he has for us.

# OUR MISSION

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Our mission is the focus of every part of our church that is working together to accomplish the glory of God. While every church has a similar purpose, churches have a distinct mission.

**Lead \_\_\_\_\_ who are searching for something more into a \_\_\_\_\_  
relationship with \_\_\_\_\_**

- Lead people –
- Who are searching -
- for something more -
- Life changing relationship with Jesus –

# OUR PATHWAY

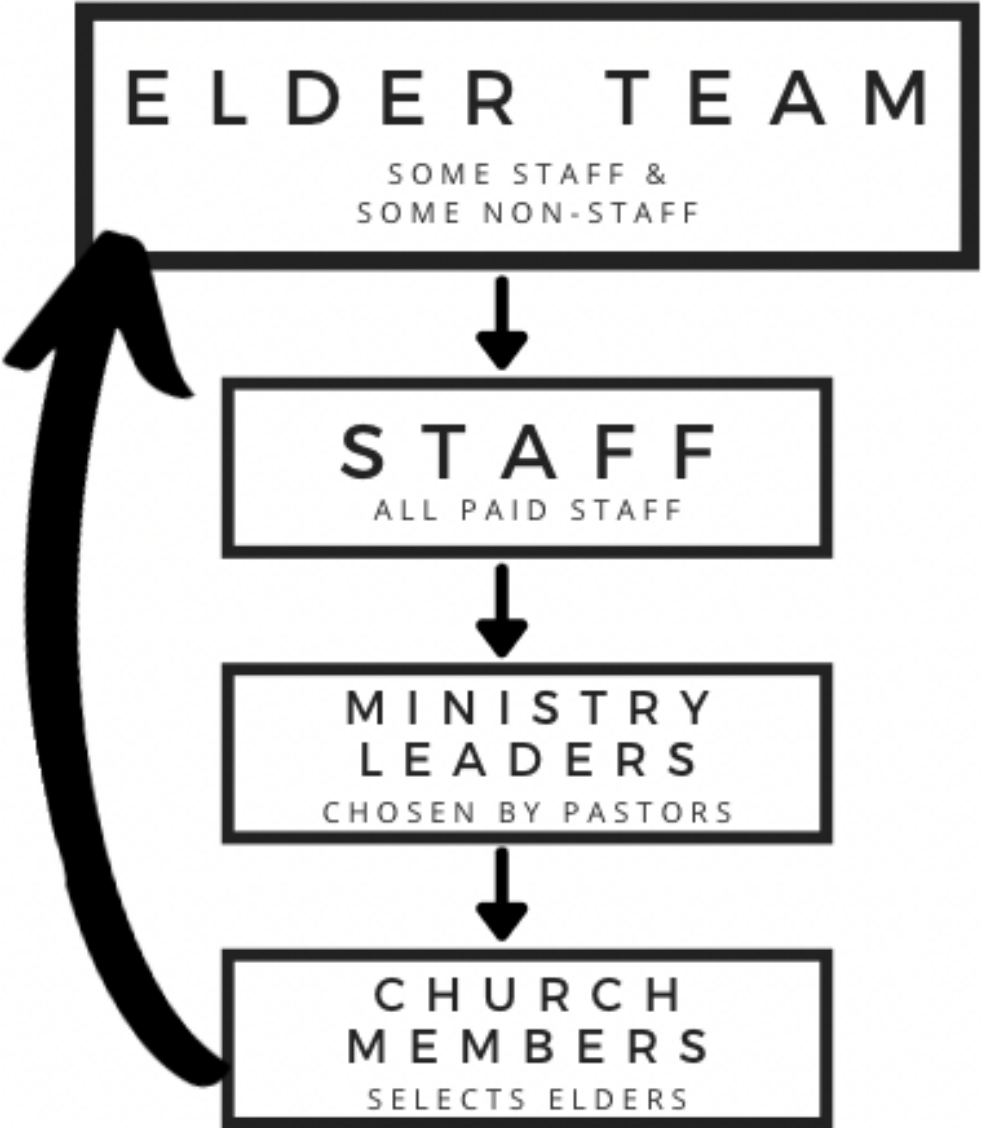
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Our pathway lays out trail markers we encourage those who are committed to CCC to follow as steps that will help them grow in their love and devotion to God and opportunities to share this love with others.

- Engage with \_\_\_\_\_
  - Daily meet with God reading the Bible and prayer
  - Weekly gathering for worship and teaching
- Connect to \_\_\_\_\_
  - Use your gifts to serve
  - Connect with others in a group
- Invest in a \_\_\_\_\_
  - Weekly ongoing commitment with a group of men/women
- Move into our \_\_\_\_\_
  - Share Jesus with family and friends
  - Invite others to join us
  - Make a difference in our world
  - Give generously

# OUR LEADERSHIP

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# RESPONSE #4

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Please complete this response form in preparation for your Membership interview

1. I have read through the whole church constitution. Yes      No
2. Are you in agreement with and committed to CCC's purpose?
3. Are you in agreement with and committed do CCC's values?
4. Are you in agreement with and committed to CCC's mission?
5. Are you willing to engage in CCC's pathway?

# WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS FOR MEMBERS?

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## WHAT DO “EXPECTATIONS” MEAN?

- These expectations are not requirements
- We think they are \_\_\_\_\_.
- We think they are \_\_\_\_\_.
- We don't require that you do these through our ministry programs.

## WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS?

- Our members are committed to worship regularly with us
- 
- We expect members to worship with us.
- We expect members to be part of a small community of believers functioning biblically.
- We expect members to be committed to their own spiritual growth.
- We expect members to serve Christ in and with this body.
- We expect members to give to the financial needs of the church.
- We expect members take our mission personally.

# WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO JOINING CCC?

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## THE STEPS:

- ✓ Attend CCC Membership class
- ✓ Read “Church Constitution”
- ✓ Complete the membership application online or submit a paper copy to the church office
- ✓ Meet with one of our elders for an interview

# PREPPING FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP INTERVIEW

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1. Be prepared to answer the question: What is the gospel?

The Gospel can be summarized in five words:

- Sin – we were born and are sinners
- Separation – that sin separates us from God
- Savior – Jesus died and rose to solve our sin problem
- Trust – We place our faith in the work of Christ and ask him to be our forgiver
- Submission – Following that act of trust, we submit to Jesus as our leader

The Gospel cannot be understood without the first four words (sin, separation, Savior, and trust). As you write your answer, check to be sure it covers at least these four areas.

2. Be prepared to share how you would explain to someone how they can place their faith in Christ.

This is a similar question to the first one but allows the interviewer to verify that you have a firm understanding of having a relationship with Christ.

3. Be prepared to share when you placed your faith in Christ.

Simply share when you believe you crossed the line of faith and asked Jesus to be the forgiver of your sins and the leader of your life. Give as many of the details as you can remember.

4. Be prepared to share what baptism means.

Baptism is a picture of us being united with Christ in His death and resurrection. It is our opportunity to “go public” with our faith in Christ. In no way does baptism give us a right relationship with God. But it is a demonstration of our right relationship with Him.

5. Be prepared to share any questions, concerns, or differences you have with our doctrinal statement.

As you read the doctrinal section of the constitution, note any areas of disagreement so you can be prepared to share those with your interviewer.

6. Be prepared to share your small group experience.

Small groups are crucial to our philosophy and our ability to properly care for you.

7. Be prepared to share where you are serving or where you have an interest to serve.

We expect members to serve each other. They may ask you where you are serving or where you are interested in serving.

## Membership Class Evaluation

1. I especially enjoyed

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2. I wish we would have

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3. As a result of this class, I have grown in the following areas

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4. Overall, I'd rate this class