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ROCK CREEK CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEET OUR PASTOR

1

WHY MEMBERSHIP?

2

CHURCH HISTORY

3

VISION AND VALUES

4

BELIEFS

5

STRUCTURE

7

TEAM

8

EXPECTATIONS

9

LIVING OUT MEMBERSHIP

10



MEET OUR PASTOR

Sam Hall

SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Sam is the youngest of five children and grew up deeply immersed in ministry, inspired by his father, who has faithfully pastored for over 50 years. From an early age, he developed a deep love for the local church and a passion for serving God's people.

In 2010, Sam married his wife, Emily, and together they are blessed with four wonderful sons: William, Jackson, Caleb, and Micah.

With over fifteen years of ministry experience, Pastor Sam has served in a variety of roles, including worship pastor, youth pastor, associate pastor, and senior pastor. He holds a degree in Biblical and Theological Studies from Regent University, which has provided a strong foundation for his teaching, leadership, and pastoral ministry.

In 2023, Sam and Emily answered God's call to move from Wisconsin to Georgia, beginning a new chapter of ministry and service. Pastor Sam is passionate about preaching God's Word, building meaningful relationships, and serving the church in every aspect of ministry.

In July, he will also be returning to school to pursue his Master of Divinity (MDiv), continuing his commitment to grow in theological training and pastoral leadership for the benefit of the church.

When he's not serving in ministry, Pastor Sam enjoys playing guitar, coaching his sons in baseball, playing pickleball, and most of all, making memories with his family.

WHY MEMBERSHIP?

We believe there are many reasons to have a formal church membership. We have outlined three of those reasons below. There are two types of “membership.” Each person who receives salvation through Jesus Christ becomes a “member” of the family of God as seen in 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Ephesians 2:13-22, and Ephesians 4:3-6. This is called **positional** membership.

The Bible urges believers to continue growing by becoming **participating** members of a specific local church through active involvement in building that church body as seen in Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, 14:12, and Hebrews 10:24-25.

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Membership in a local church is a biblical concept. The term church member is not in the New Testament, but you do clearly see that believers identified themselves with a specific local church where they were called to become committed participants.

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By having a membership core helps the pastors and other leaders in their God-given task of shepherding. Every church should attract people who are uncommitted, seekers, observers, or guests. However, it is important for church leaders to be able to identify those who are the core participants that can be counted on to sustain and build the ministries of the church.

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Membership does benefit you as an individual. Membership can be an important step that moves believers from the haziness of good intentions to clear, committed participation. It is an individual challenge to stand and be counted for Christ in relationship to this particular local church and can aid in your personal discipleship journey.

CHURCH HISTORY

TIMELINE

MARCH 2006

ORIGINALLY CALLED SOUTH LEE COUNTY METHODIST CHURCH, OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED ON MARCH 5, 2006 WITH PASTOR BRYAN GERSTEL AS THE FOUNDING PASTOR. A CHURCH PLANT FROM PORTERFIELD AND ALBANY FIRST UMC.

2006 - JANUARY 2007

THE CHURCH LAUNCHED AND WAS QUICKLY REFERRED TO AS THE CONTEMPORARY PORTABLE CHURCH WITH A NEW NAME OF THE POINTE UMC AND NICKNAMED THE CHURCH AT THE ZOO AS CHEHAW PARK WAS THE FIRST MEETING PLACE. THE POINTE CONTINUED GROWING AND MET AT THE LOCAL MOVIE THEATER.

JUNE 2012

THE FIRST PASTORAL TRANSITION BEGAN IN JUNE OF 2012 WITH AN INTERIM PASTOR SERVING BEFORE PASTOR CARL BARNHARDT BEGAN.

2015

A MAJOR RENOVATION WAS DONE ON THE BUILDING ON CEDRIC STREET WHERE THE STAGE WAS MOVED, NEW AIR CONDITIONING INSTALLED, AND FLOODING ISSUES RESOLVED.

2022

ANOTHER PASTORAL TRANSITION WOULD BEGIN AS CARL RETIRED. BIBLICAL ISSUES WITHIN THE METHODIST DENOMINATION STARTED THE NEED TO DISAFFILIATE. ONCE THE DISAFFILIATION WAS COMPLETED, A NEW NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH CALLED THE POINTE OF LEE COUNTY WAS FORMED.

2022-2023

PASTOR CHRIS CARTER BEGAN IN THE END OF 2022 AND LEFT IN MAY OF 2023.

THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE RESTARTED ANOTHER SEARCH AND GOD BROUGHT PASTOR SAM HALL AND HIS FAMILY FROM WISCONSIN TO PASTOR.

2024

WITH A NEW PASTOR IN PLACE, THE POINTE OF LEE COUNTY WAS RENAMED AS ROCK CREEK CHURCH AS THE FINAL STEP IN THE DISAFFILIATION PROCESS.

2025

SINCE RENAMING, RCC HAS CONTINUED TO GROW IN MANY AREAS, INCLUDING BECOMING DEBT FREE IN NOVEMBER.

OUR VISION AND VALUES

Rock Creek Church is a non-denominational church where our foundation is built on the Rock of Christ. We desire to present ourselves holy and acceptable to Christ because of our love for Him. We individually and corporately at Rock Creek Church will always be first and foremost obedient with the call that we have heard for this ministry. In a time of continuous compromise, we are determined to always point back to Scripture as our final authority on every matter. In following the call, we have determined that our core values are:

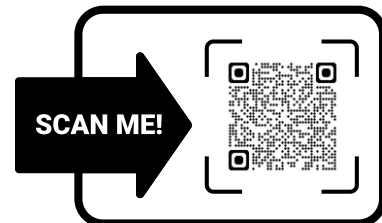
LIVING ON MISSION

LIVING ON MISSION MEANS WE INTENTIONALLY AND PURPOSEFULLY LIVE OUT GOD'S MISSION.



RAISING UP DISCIPLES

RAISING UP DISCIPLES MEANS WE EQUIP AND EMPOWER BELIEVERS TO WALK OUT THEIR GOD GIVEN CALLING.



BUILDING THE KINGDOM

BUILDING THE KINGDOM MEANS WE SET OUR SIGHTS ON THE EXPANSION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.



WHAT WE BELIEVE?

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

HOLY BIBLE The Bible is inspired, infallible, inerrant, and the only source for truth and practice that is fully reliable and relevant for today.
II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26

TRINITY There is one God eternally existing in three persons, namely God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
I John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17,28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7-11

FATHER God the Father is an infinite, eternal, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. He concerns Himself with the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all those who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ.
Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalms 90:2; Psalms 102:27; John 3:16 and 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17; Titus 1:3

JESUS CHRIST God the Son is the Lord Jesus Christ, both 100% God and 100% man, is the only One who can reconcile us to God. He was born of a virgin. He lived a sinless and exemplary life, died on the cross in our place, and rose again. One day, He will return to earth the same way He ascended into Heaven.
John 1:1,14, 20:28; I Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; I Timothy 2:5; Matthew 24:30, 26:63-64; Acts 1:9-11; I Thessalonians 4:15-17; II Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation 1:7

HOLY SPIRIT God the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and that He is our abiding Helper, Teacher, and Guide. We believe in the filling or the empowering of the Holy Spirit for ministry today. The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the church, demonstrating the validity of the resurrection and confirming the power of the Gospel. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters.
Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12 :4-8; Ephesians 4:16; I Timothy 4:14; II Timothy 1:6-7; I Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; I Peter 4:10

SALVATION All have sinned and come short of the glory of God; thus, through repentance (commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives), we receive forgiveness of sins. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or human efforts.
Acts 2:21, 3:19, 16:31; I John 1:9; Genesis 1:26-29, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21, 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 9:22

SANCTIFICATION Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ within us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life.
I Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; II Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18; II Thessalonians 2:1-3, Romans 8:29, 12:1-2; Hebrews 2:11

WHAT WE BELIEVE?

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE CHURCH

The church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission. Every person who is born of the Spirit is an integral part of the church as a member of the body of believers. There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 1:22, 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23; John 17:11, 20-23; 1 Peter 2:4-8

WATER BAPTISM

Following coming to faith in Jesus Christ, new believers demonstrate their coming to faith through water baptism. In water baptism by immersion, all that repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-38, 10:47-48

SANCTITY OF LIFE

Life was created by God for His glory, begins at conception, and continues until natural death. God has created man in His image and values each life as sacred and holy. Any attempt to end life after conception is against God's design.

Genesis 1:27, 9:6; Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Exodus 20:13

MARRIAGE

God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union.

Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:5-6; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:18, 7:2-5

HEAVEN AND HELL

We believe that Heaven and Hell are both very real. It can be scary to think about what will happen after we die. However, we know that those who put their faith and trust in Jesus and make Him the Lord of their lives will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. Unfortunately, those who do not choose Jesus as their Lord and Savior will spend eternity separated from God in Hell.

Heaven - 1 Corinthians 2:9; 2 Corinthians 5:1; John 3:16, 14:2; Revelation 21:4; Matthew 6:19-20; Philippians 1:21-23, 3:20-21

Hell - Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 14:9-11, 20:12-15, 21:8

OUR STRUCTURE

Rock Creek Church is an autonomous church, meaning we are not part of a denomination or affiliated with another governing authority. Our church is non-denominational and we are self-governing.

PASTOR-LED

The role of a pastor in the Bible is compared to that of a "shepherd." A major part of what shepherds do is to lead their sheep to food, safety, and new places. So, as shepherds, the leadership of the local church is a huge part of what pastors are called to do. However, pastors are called to follow Jesus' example and lead as servant leaders. Pastors serve the local church primarily by leading them to obey God's Word. A pastor's only source of authority is God's Word. He is responsible to God to guide the local church to obey God's Word in every way.

(1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:1-9; 1 Pet 5:2, 5:1-4)

ELDERS

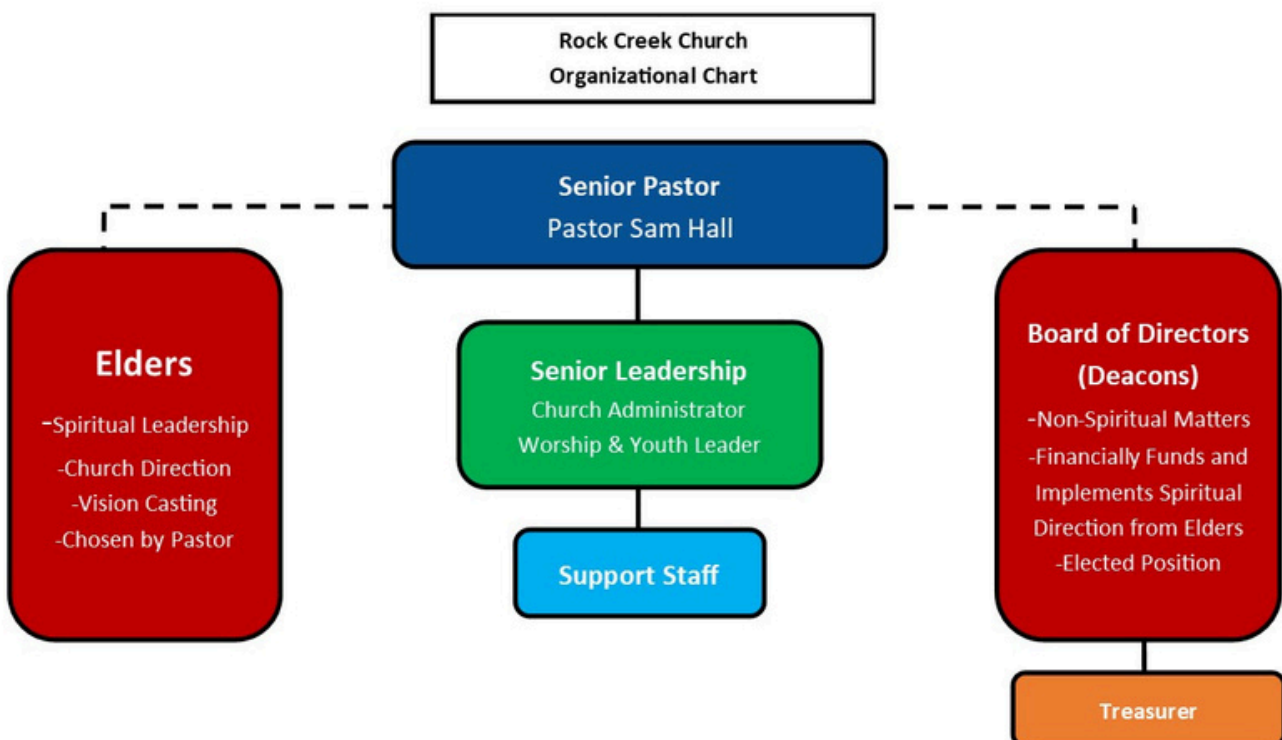
Elders are appointed by the Senior Pastor and help the Senior Pastor with spiritual leadership of the church, casting vision, and overall church direction. Once appointed by the Senior Pastor, the Elders do not have a term expiration and serve for the term of the Senior Pastor.

(1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:1-9)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/DEACONS

The Board of Directors are nominated by the Senior Pastor and Elders and brought to the membership for election annually if a vacancy is open. The Board of Directors serves as a Deacon role, offering guidance in non-spiritual matters. They help serve by implementing the spiritual direction casted by the Elders. Board of Directors serve a two-year term with the ability to serve three successive terms before needing to take a year off from service.

(1 Tim 3:8-13)



ROCK CREEK LEADERSHIP TEAM



ROCK CREEK
CHURCH

**Leadership Team is Alphabetized by last name*

STAFF

PHONE

EMAIL

SAM HALL

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Pastor, Elder, & Chairman of Board of Directors

EMILY HALL

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Administrator

LEON HOLDEN

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Worship & Youth Leader

CHERYL VINSON

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Director of Family Ministries

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Director of Family Ministries

ELDER TEAM

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Elder

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Elder

MATTHEW CORBETT

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Elder & Treasurer

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF MEMBERS?

THE PURPOSE

The main responsibilities of participating members of Rock Creek Church are to live with Christ as the center of your life, be relationally connected in the church, develop a contagious lifestyle of sharing God's love with others, contribute to the growth and effectiveness of the church by serving according to your spiritual gifts and by faithful financial stewardship and giving, and celebrate regularly in weekly worship at Rock Creek Church.

NOT PERFECTION

Let's be clear: We don't expect perfection from any of our members. All of us, are works in progress, and are never immune to mistakes, slips, and sin. By becoming a participating member of Rock Creek, you are not being asked to commit to an unattainable standard, but are simply saying that with God's help, you intend to seek ongoing personal development as a follower of Jesus. God never commands us to do anything that he will not enable us to do in His strength.

THE PRIVILEGES

If you desire to grow in your walk with Christ through participatory membership, there are privileges that come alongside membership. You have the opportunity to influence key decisions of the church, including major ministry direction, election of board of directors, and financial decisions. Certain leadership positions in the church, such as an Elder or Board of Director, require participating membership.

However, the main reason of membership is not to gain personal advantage, but to identify with a particular local church for the sake of pursuing spiritual maturity and serving Christ.

LIVING OUT MEMBERSHIP

We are a Church Family that serves together. When each member loves, serves, and commits to one another, we can more fully demonstrate and declare the Gospel to others. For us to go and do what Jesus has commanded us to do, we must go together and do together through serving in the local Church Body.



ROCK CREEK GATHERINGS

Gathering events are the perfect time to connect and build deeper relationships within the Body of Christ.

FAMILY GATHERING
MEN'S GATHERING
WOMEN'S GATHERING



ROCK CREEK SERVE TEAMS

There are many opportunities to use your giftings to help serve and get plugged in.

Kid's & Teen's Ministries
Welcoming Team
Worship and Tech Team
Building and Facilities Team



ROCK CREEK KIDS AND TEENS

In a generation that kids are walking away from the faith at rapid numbers, we strive to disciple our kids to grow up knowing the things of God and establishing a vibrant relationship with Christ. Rock Creek offers a mid-week service for Kids and Teens (Wednesdays). And also, Sunday morning Kid's Church for Kids and babies.



ROCK CREEK MISSIONS

Rock Creek Church helps further God's Kingdom through the support of local and global missions. We support various ministries local to South Georgia, and also support Children's Vision globally in Bogota, Columbia.

MEMBERSHIP FORM



ROCK CREEK
CHURCH

Information

Full Name

Email Phone

Street Address

City State Zip Code

Employer Name Date Of Birth
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Marital Status Single Married Divorced Widowed Spouse's Name

Children's Name(s) Children's Birthdates

Children Living at Home

Church

Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trusted Him for Salvation? YES NO

If yes, how long have you been walking with Christ?

How long have you been attending with us?

Former Church Affiliation?

Have you been baptized after you committed your life to Christ or planning to be at the next water baptismal service? YES NO PLAN TO AT NEXT BAPTISM

In what areas do you currently volunteer at church or list areas you would be interested in serving?

I am committed to growing in my walk with Christ through **participatory membership** at Rock Creek Church through prayer, attendance, giving, and serving. I will strive to help further the vision of Rock Creek by living on mission, raising up disciples, and building the Kingdom of God to help further the Gospel through our local church body.

Signature