

Ambassadors of Reconciliation for Jesus Christ to All Ethnicities



Inquirer's Guide

Revised March 2026

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INTRODUCTION

This class is designed to introduce you to New City Fellowship (NCF) with broad strokes. You will learn about our mission, vision, and values as well as what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ in fellowship with his church.

We hope we will be able to answer many questions. We also realize with limited time you may have more questions, and we invite you to pursue those with the pastor or another elder outside of the class. We believe God has you here for a reason and our hope and prayer is that this will be just the first step in a fulfilling process of spiritual growth and service through NCF. We are glad you are here!

Before we begin, let's take a few moments to answer these questions. We are not asking for all your secrets—just to get acquainted a little better. Keep your answers simple.

1. Share your name, how long you've been in the Greater Fredericksburg area, and what brought you here?
2. How did you first hear about this church? What first impressions did/do you have?

Acknowledgements

We are thankful to Spring Run Presbyterian Church, West End Presbyterian Church in Richmond VA and New City Fellowship in Chattanooga for giving us the format and much of the content in this booklet.

SECTION ONE: Our Story

1.1 Why We Exist

Luke 15 - The Parable of the Lost Sheep

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

¹¹And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

2 Corinthians 5:21: "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

BREAKOUT SESSION #1: *Form a group(s) and together answer the following questions.*

- *What do we learn about God in this passage?*

- *What do we learn about people in this passage?*

- *What do we learn about why Jesus had to die?*

1.2 Pastor Daryl's Testimony and Bio

- Born in Atlanta, Ga
- Raised in United Methodist Church
- 2002 -- Professed faith in Christ
- 2003 - Begins attending Trinity PCA in Statesboro, Ga
- 2006 received B.S. in Communication from Georgia Southern University
- 10 years of work in Television, Radio, Streaming Industry (ABC, PBS, NPR)
- 2008 – Called to Ministry
- 2009 – Ministry Intern at Ponce Presbyterian Church Atlanta
- 2011 – Media Director for Kairos Presbyterian Church Atlanta
- 2013 – First African American to complete M.Div. at RTS Atlanta
- 2014 – Began Delaware State University RUF Chapter in Dover, De
- 2015 – Ordained as TE in Heritage Presbytery of PCA
- 2016 – First African American ordained as TE in Heritage Presbytery of PCA
- 2016 – Married lovely wife Laria
- 2018 – Leia born
- 2020 – Cubby born
- 2024 – Completed ten years of ministry with Reformed University Fellowship
- 2024 – Called to NCF as Associate Pastor
- 2025 – Installed as Senior Pastor of NCF

1.3 A Brief History of NCF

- Summer, 1993 – The Becker family visits New City Fellowship (PCA) in Chattanooga, Tennessee. They see the cross-cultural vision and are called to fulfill it in Fredericksburg, VA
- January 1994 – The Becker family returns to New City Fellowship, Chattanooga, during a 6-month sabbatical from his duties as Associate Pastor of New Life in Christ Church in Fredericksburg, VA.
- April 1994 – Bob meets with core group ready to plant a New City Fellowship in Fredericksburg, VA. as part of the Presbyterian Church in America under the direct oversight of James River Presbytery.
- May 1994—NCF has its first public worship service upstairs of Picker’s Supply in downtown Fredericksburg.
- 1998-NCF buys Southern States building to refurbish into a church.
- 1999-NCF leaves Picker’s Supply and holds services at Fredericksburg Christian School
- July 2000 NCF holds first service at present building on 200 Prince Edward Street returning to downtown Fredericksburg.
- Summer 2002 Open Hand of Fredericksburg starts as a ministry of NCF. Open Hand was established to help people help themselves by teaching life and job skills and by providing work for youth and adults.
- December 2004 Open Hand is incorporated as a 501C3 and receives it tax exempt status in 2007. On December 31,2023 Open Hand ceased operations after 21 years.
- Summer 2014—Pastor Leon Brown plants our daughter church Crown and Joy Presbyterian Church in Richmond. The church is now pastored by Pastor Willie Addison
- 2018 we hired Mark Hertenstein as youth pastor. Mark is now lives in Scotland.
- 2023 we hired Jim Womer as Director of Discipleship and Community
- February 2024 hired Julie Bridges as Church Administrator
- May 2024-NCF celebrated its 30th anniversary.
- June 2024 hired Pastor Daryl Wattley as Associate Pastor of Congregational Care.
- September 1, 2025, Pastor Bob Becker becomes Pastor Emeritus of NCF.
- September 7, 2025, Pastor Daryl Wattley is installed as Senior Pastor of NCF.
- March 1, 2026, Pastor Jim Womer is installed as Associate Pastor.

1.4 NCF's Vision and Mission

OUR VISION: What do we hope to accomplish?

SHOW NCF VIDEO!

To Be Ambassadors of Reconciliation for Jesus Christ to All Ethnicities

OUR MISSION: Why do we exist?

As followers of Jesus Christ, New City Fellowship of Fredericksburg is a worshipping family intentionally seeking to make disciples from every nation, tribe, people, and language reflecting the grace, mercy, and justice of God in our communities, our nation, and our world.

How do we plan to accomplish this?

- Preach and share the hope found only in the redemptive work of Christ. A Gospel that offers salvation by Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone.
- Produce cross-cultural, joyful, God-honoring worship through obedience to His Word
- Producing servant leaders who use God's gifts to love our neighbors promoting reconciliation and justice for all. We are called to care for the poor and victims of injustice helping to lift their burden.
- Producing a family of believers who care for one another through accountability, fellowship, shepherding, Bible study & prayer.
- Be a congregation that reflects the cultural diversity of our community in a loving and caring environment.
- Help promote and plant likeminded congregations around the world. Evangelism/Missions grows the church throughout the world.
- Help transform people and reform every area of our society through the power of the Good News. Train future leaders through discipleship and leadership training

Where will we experience this?

While God works in all kinds of ways, we focus on three environments that we think we can best help people be growing followers of Jesus.

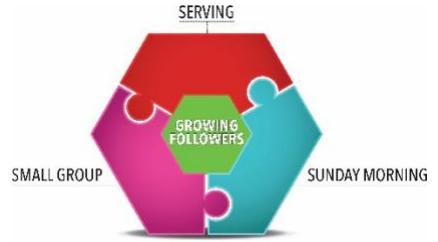
Sunday Morning Worship- gathering for worship displays our unity and diversity. The cross of Jesus Christ breaks down all barriers. People need to be reconciled to God and to one another through Jesus Christ (*2 Cor. 5:18-21; Eph. 2:11-22; Rev. 7:9-10*). We show how God through His Word speaks to different cultures through practical preaching and cross-cultural music. All people find meaning and purpose in life through Jesus Christ.

Sunday School - is a fun time for teaching kids to understand the gospel and live for Jesus. Our Adult classes are designed to deepen faith and address practical life issues.

Small Groups - Our Care Group ministry is designed to provide discipleship, shepherding and spiritual oversight for all God's people attending New City Fellowship. Care Groups are small groups meeting to study God's word, pray, care for one another, and fellowship. We have various Bible study groups that meet on various days and times in homes throughout the community and at church from September to May with special events during the summer. Other small groups include Men's and Women's Groups. We think it is in the context of authentic community that people come to better know God and experience his presence, deep friendships are fostered, and people are cared for and encouraged to follow God and influence others. This is an environment where people who are not 'churchy' often find their way into our church.

Serving – part of being the church is serving others in love. We think this is important as it counters the dominant cultural mindset ("me first" and consumerism). It is the call Jesus gave us to "take up our cross daily and follow" him. We don't want you to serve blindly, but to serve using your gifts and talents from God. However, we often discover what these talents are as we serve through various opportunities. Please volunteer for one of the ministry teams in our church.

While we want you to serve in the church, we do not want you to be so busy that you are not involved with your neighbors. We are not a church just for ourselves; rather we are a church in the community for the community. So we want you to serve in various ways to transform cultural whether it is by coaching sports teams, helping at the local school, influencing the art and media of the community, or caring for the poor.



Building Cross-Cultural Friendships—These friendships must be built and exist not just with those in our church but also in our neighborhoods and communities. They are built across racial, cultural, and economic boundaries displaying by our friendships our belief the gospel is for all people. How will these relationships be built? By practicing eight principles of racial reconciliation.

BREAKOUT SESSION #2: *By using the following passages see if your group can list the 8 principles of racial reconciliation. I have given you a hint after each one.*

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Ruth 1:16:</i> | C _____ Relationships. |
| 2. <i>John 4:1-26</i> | Built I _____ |
| 3. <i>John 15:15</i> | S _____ Friendships |
| 4. <i>Ephesians 4:15-16</i> | S _____ to One's Needs |
| 5. <i>1 Cor. 12:1ff; 2 Cor. 8:12-14</i> | True Friends N _____ Each Other |
| 6. <i>Phil. 2:3-4</i> | Building Such Friendships takes S _____ |
| 7. <i>Daniel 9:4ff</i> | The Need for R _____ and F _____ |
| 8. <i>Galatians 2:11-21</i> | We Are C _____ to Build Such Friendships |

Being Agents of Change—We at NCF are called to be a reconciling force for Jesus Christ. We refuse to be passive on issues that demand biblical justice. We see a gospel that does not just save people through Jesus Christ but a gospel that transforms communities by being concerned about giving the poor the needed skills to use their God-given gifts to provide for their families, to confront all forms of racism and corruption through a gospel of repentance that confronts in love knowing faith in Jesus Christ can change us, our neighbor, our community, our nation, and world.

WATCH VIDEO: Dr. Robert Smith Jr., Dr. Russell Moore and Pastor Jason Cook: A series a three short videos on Race through Gospel Coalition: “A Gospel of Repentance,” “Confront with Love,” and “Agents of Change.”

1.5 Our Community Outreach

We initiate and partner with others using the gifts and talents of our people that will impact individuals as their lives are transformed by the gospel and will impact the community in which we live so that our entire culture is renewed. This includes being at peace with others, caring for the poor, and addressing issues of oppression.

- Once a month we deliver to Brisben Homeless shelter a meal for the homeless.
- We planted Crown and Joy Presbyterian Church in Richmond now pastored by Pastor Willie Addison and support The African American Church Planting Network in Richmond to help plant churches pastored by minorities. Also, we have supported several cross-cultural church plants across the country. We are also a part of the New City Network. The New City Network is a group of cross-cultural churches seeking to plant more cross-cultural churches.
- We house in our building ESL and home-schooling classes, a theater group, Girl Scouts, and others throughout the year.
- We support missionaries in various countries.

1:6 Our Future

We want to be a church that is not only planted but firmly rooted in the community. Some churches develop shallow roots and over time fade away. Others develop deeper roots but the roots dry out for lack of life through the Spirit and gospel-centered ministry. We want to have our roots tapped into the living water Jesus gives. Our hope as we continue to grow is that this community would be a better place because of the church. Another way to express this would be, if we were to suddenly cease to exist our hope is that the community would genuinely miss our presence in the community.



SECTION TWO: Our Beliefs

The Beliefs of the Church lead to the Work of the Church, so our heartbeat leads to our mission. Theology is important and should never be merely academic. It always applies to life.

We believe in “majoring on the majors” and “minoring on the minors”. St. Augustine (4th Century) offered an insightful quote: “In the essentials unity, in the non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity.”

Unity in essentials → In order to join NCF one must adhere to the essentials of the Christian faith. These essentials include 1) the human condition as fallen/sinful and in desperate need of divine intervention; 2) the deity, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as necessary and sufficient for salvation by faith alone; 3) the Bible as the special revelation of God’s character and will for our lives still has relevance and authority for us today; 4) professing faith publicly with a fellowship of followers of Jesus (church).

Liberty in non-essentials → while we have certain beliefs founded in the Bible and articulated in our doctrinal standards, we recognize not everyone agrees with all these things. Disagreement about these does not preclude you from joining the church, but we do want to be honest about what we believe. You can find more information about the Westminster Confession of Faith at <https://epc.org/wp-content/uploads/Files/1-Who-We-Are/B-About-The-EPC/WCF-ModernEnglish.pdf> (Go to the NCF app and find all of the links in this booklet under Inquirer’s Class. There is also a QR code to these links at the end of this booklet.)

Charity in all things → we must remember that even when we do not see things eye to eye we are called by Jesus to “love our neighbor.” Jesus said, “All men will know you are my disciples if you love one another.”

Though we are a denominational church we partner with other denominations and agencies for the sake of the gospel’s advancement in our community and around the world.

2.1 How do we know there is a God?

God has made Himself known through His Creation.

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Romans 1:20

Science recognizes many constants in the universe such as gravity, the speed of light, etc. These constants make the earth perfectly suited to sustain life. We believe that is because God designed it to sustain life. Some object saying, we could just be one universe out of trillions and ours is the one in a trillion chance that is able to sustain life. Theoretically that is possible, but not very probable.

Alvin Plantinga imagines a man dealing himself twenty straight hands of four aces in the same game of poker. As his friends reach for their pistols the poker player says, “I know it looks suspicious! But what if there is an infinite succession of universes, so that for any possible distribution of poker hands, there is one universe in which this possibility is realized? We just happen to find ourselves in the one where I always deal myself four aces without cheating!” Though it is possible he did not cheat, it would be improbable and unreasonable to conclude that he hadn’t.¹

God has made Himself known in our life Experience and Conscience.

¹⁴Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law,

¹⁵since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts....

Romans 2:14-15

God has made Himself known through His Scripture

*¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. **II Timothy 3:16-17***

¹ As cited by Tim Keller, The Reason for God, 2008, p. 131

Because we believe in the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture, reading and understanding the Bible is a part of nearly every facet of the life of the church. From Sunday worship to our Care Groups, you will see evidence of our conviction that the Bible is the written Word of God, without error and of infallible and divine authority in all matters of faith and life. (II Peter 1:20-21).

Many people think the Bible was created by the church long after the time Jesus was around. It is true that the Council of Hippo (393AD) recognized officially what books constituted the Holy Bible. But they did not create them but only recognized what Christians had long ago accepted as the Bible. The books accepted were written by an apostle or had their approval. They were (and are) consistent with Jesus' teaching and were used in the 1st Century by Christians. Before the ink was dry, they were canon.

Another common objection is that the biblical text is unreliable—that its transmission over time has been corrupted. The fact is that the New Testament is the most reliable document of antiquity. Reliability is determined by 1) the number of copies of the manuscript and 2) the elapsed time between when the original was written and when the copies were written.

Homer's Iliad is the 2nd most reliable document. We have 643 Greek manuscripts and the time gap between the original and earliest copy we have is 400 years. We have 5366 manuscript copies of The New Testament. The least time gap is 100 years for a complete book and 225 years for the entire New Testament.

God has made Himself known through His Son

*¹In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. **Hebrews 1:1-3***

*Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. **John 14:9***

*³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. **Eph. 1:3-14***

2.2 What is God like?

There is One true God. God is self-sufficient not depending on anything or anyone outside himself. God is all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present, infinite, and eternal. He is unique.

I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.

Isaiah 46:9

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

Acts 17:24-25

⁷ "Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?"

Job 11:7

God is a Trinity eternally existing in 3 persons equal in being, power, and glory, but differing in relationship to each other and to creation. In being one God, in person and role 3.

1. God is One (***Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19***)
2. God is Three Persons (***Genesis 1:26; Matthew 28:19; John 5:23; 14:15-26; 20:22***).

We believe that God is Sovereign. The personal Triune God of the Bible owns and controls all things according to His will. If he did not or could not then he would cease to be God. (***Genesis 50:20; Daniel 4:34-37; Ephesians 1:11; Acts 4:24-28***)

We believe that God is Personal. He makes himself known and even as he exists in relationship with the three persons of the godhead, he desires a relationship with us as people created in his image. We know he is loving, merciful, good, wise, just, and holy.

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. **1 John 5:20**

2.3 What is the Bible all about?

It tells us about God—his character and his plan for history. God’s story of history can be understood under the themes of Creation, Fall of mankind, Redemption, and Restoration. God only has a plan A.

2.4 Where did we come from?

We believe God created the universe out of nothing. God alone has existed from eternity past and in His wisdom decided to create the universe using nothing which had pre-existed.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **Genesis 1:1**

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. **Hebrews 11:3**

We believe that creation is a theater for the glory of God. We do not believe God made the world and then sat back and left it to run its own course. We believe God is at work in the world today. This is evidenced most fully in that God sent his son, Jesus, into the world. If God is a playwright then not only did he put clues about himself in the play, he wrote himself into it as the main character.

We believe that man was created by God. Humanity did not evolve but rather was created by the Triune God. We are created with dignity in that we are made in God's image and created in humility in that our aim is to glorify God.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

Genesis 1:26

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

2.5 What went wrong? The Fall of Mankind

The voluntary sin of Adam and Eve resulted in man's corrupted human nature. This corruption does not mean that we are as sinful as we can be, but that we are fallen in our "total person" (our mind, emotions, will and body). Thus, all people are sinners and we are not able to please God on our own merit or save ourselves.

⁷The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

Romans 8:7-8

Sometimes we tend to view sin mainly in terms of *actions*: doing this or not doing that. But sin, according to Scripture, is mainly a *condition* which produces actions. "We sin because we're sinners," as the saying goes. We take the Fall in the garden of Eden seriously.

We inherit the moral corruption and the guilt of Adam. We enter the human race as God's enemies, guilty enough to be condemned even before our first actual act of disobedience. The Psalmist confessed, "*I was sinful from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*" How can an infant be sinful? Before committing any sinful act, an infant is born a sinner inheriting the guilt for Adam's sin.

2.6 How will our fallen world be set right?

Immediately after the fall of Adam and Eve into sin, God began to make things right. He promised one (the Messiah) would come to defeat Satan, sin, and death. (*Genesis 3:15*)

We believe God's gracious Plan of Salvation was accomplished in Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, or Savior. Jesus is God in the flesh (John 1, Hebrews 1). Salvation was accomplished through his perfect life, death, and resurrection. While we may not think it is fair to be born into sin because of Adam's failure, the Bible is consistent because we can also be saved because of what someone else does for us. This is why it is called amazing grace—we don't deserve it and can't earn it.

We believe God applies the salvation earned by Christ to us through the Holy Spirit.

1. God begins the process by **effectively calling** His own to Himself, convincing him of his sin and misery and persuading and enabling him to receive Christ by faith.

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

*Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 'Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.'" **John 3:3-5***

2. This is followed by **justification** whereby He declares man righteous in His sight, based only on the merit of Christ which is imputed to him and received by faith alone.
3. This is then followed by **adoption** whereby the believer is received into God's family, making him a joint heir with Christ.

4. Until his death, the believer continues to be **sanctified**. This is the daily process of being enabled more and more to die to sin and to live unto righteousness.
5. The final stage is that of **glory** whereby the believer's soul at death goes to be with Jesus and his body is resurrected when Jesus returns.

*²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. **Rom. 8:28-30***

*⁴ he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **Eph. 1:4-5***

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **1 Jn. 4:10**

The Bible tells us God had his eye on us long before we had ours on Him.

We see all of Scripture as an unfolding covenant relationship between God and his people in which God's dealing with man is based consistently throughout by grace. There is one covenant of grace expressed in both the Old and New Testaments producing one people of God, one Church, of both Old and New Testament believers.

We believe in a doctrine of salvation which emphasizes both God's Sovereignty and our participation.

God is sovereign in our salvation. It is His work. He receives all glory. Christians are called His "chosen" or "elect." He must draw us to Himself, and He preserves us when we trust Him. Yet we are also responsible before God for our actions. God's love demands a response from us. We must turn to Christ, trust Him, and follow Him. The New Testament best describes the Christian life as "fellowship" and participation" with God. God uses our work of evangelism to draw to Himself His "chosen."

*³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. **Jn. 6:37, 44***

*¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **Eph. 2:10***

2.7 What about the afterlife? Restoration

We believe in the **resurrection** of our bodies and the **restoration** of creation. Salvation means having one's sins forgiven so we can live in heaven with a resurrected body. It is not a ghostly kind of existence but a bodily one. And it is so much more. God is restoring the whole creation including the earth itself and the relationships we have with people. The new heaven and earth will be restored to be the paradise creation was intended to be—only forever.

We believe in a **final judgment** by God. God will bring all things to consummation at the Judgment, taking His own to be with Him forever and sending all others to hell.

*¹¹Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it...¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. **Revelation 20:11-14***

SECTION THREE: Our Membership Commitment

Why become a Member?

1. Membership is a public promise before the world that you identify yourself with Jesus Christ and his Church. Members have the benefit of **accountability to their spiritual leaders**. Every believer must “obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls” (Hebrews 13:17). This command assumes that you have made a covenant promise to be accountable to the spiritual leaders of your local congregation. Some people may say, “I am accountable only to God.” Yes, ultimately, only God has authority over you. But the doctrine of sin should sober us and should hopefully prohibit us from making ourselves the sole judges over our own hearts, “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” (*Jeremiah 17:9*). *Hebrews 3:13* says we need others to exhort us “daily” lest we become hardened by sin and its deceitfulness.
2. Members have the benefit of **shaping the ministry of the congregation**. It is members who can choose officers and guide the direction of the congregation. Officers are elected (*Acts 6:1-6*) by “the people.” Formal membership entitles you to voting rights within the government of our church. While congregational meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend, only members may pass resolutions, vote for changes to the by-laws, nominate and elect the officers, and “call” the pastor to service at the church.

Remember, concerning the benefits of church membership, while it is somewhat normal, in a culture of consumerism, to ask the question, “what’s in it for me,” we believe that the decisions we make with our time and resources should primarily be made in order to serve others, and not to serve ourselves. This is one of the things that makes the Church a different community. **We take seriously that we are a church not for ourselves, but for others.** A mature question to ask is, “How will my involvement as a member here best serve NCF and its surrounding community?”

Each of these 5 questions will be discussed in your membership interview, and then they will be asked to you before the congregation upon your public reception. Under each question, we have provided some additional discussion questions to prepare you as you seek to understand each question's content and significance. Some of these questions may vary slightly when asked publicly but the meaning is the same.

3.1 Membership Question 1:

Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?

Do you think it is important for a person to see himself or herself as one “justly deserving God’s displeasure”? Why or why not?

What difference does it make to view oneself as such?

Romans 3:9-12: ⁹ What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. ¹⁰ As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. ¹² All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

2 *Thessalonians 1:8-9: in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,*

3.2 Membership Question 2:

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and only Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel? (As revealed in Holy Scripture)

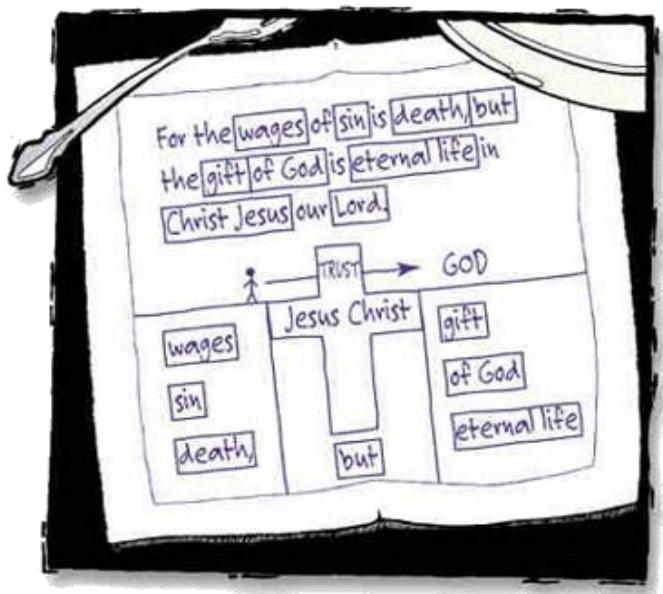
Why is it important to have the words “only” and “alone” in this question?

John 14:6: Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.”

The above question also speaks of “resting” on Jesus Christ. Why would you say this is an appropriate way of describing how we are to trust in Christ for our salvation?

Christ’s voluntary death is the only payment for our sin. It is a free gift.

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



Through Jesus’ perfect life and death on the cross he wrote the check to pay for sin, and the resurrection proves the check was cashed.

1 Peter 3:18: For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

God’s gift of forgiveness and eternal life is received by means of faith and repentance.

Mark 1:14-15: *And after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

- Saving Faith is NOT mere head knowledge—knowing about God and Jesus. The Bible tells us that the demons believe there is a god and shudder.
- Saving Faith is NOT mere temporal faith—faith in a temporary crisis such as financial, health, or family difficulties. These are good things to trust Christ for, but they are not saving faith.
- Saving Faith IS trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. It is resting in the merit of Christ and what he has done rather than in anything you have done. The words of a hymn make it clear, “Nothing in my hands I bring; simply to thy cross I cling.”

Has Jesus become the person that you rest upon for your salvation?

If so, when did you trust him as your Savior?

If you have not trusted in Jesus as your Savior then you ask Christ for salvation and forgiveness in a prayer like this:

“Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment and forgiving me. I turn from my sins---my old life of living for myself---and receive you as Savior. Amen.”

3.3 Membership Question 3:

Do you now resolve and promise in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will strive to live as a follower of Jesus Christ?

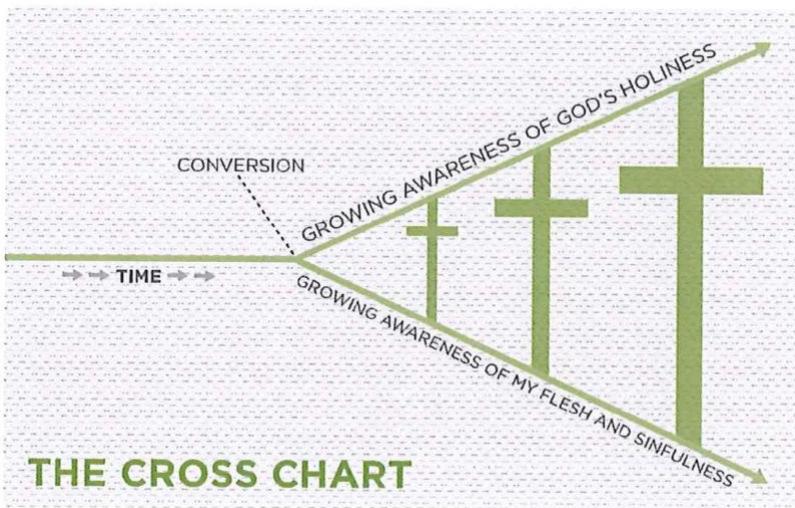
John 14:15-17: If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”

A Life Free from Un-repentance

We know you will struggle with particular sins because we all do and the Bible characterizes life as a battle. What is crucially important is that:

- 1) you have biblical convictions about what God expects from his people in terms of obedience and disobedience,
 - 2) you live a life of repentance over your sin which shows your sensitivity to relying on the Holy Spirit,
 - 3) you don't give up the fight against the areas in which you are struggling. With that in mind, are there presently any areas of your life where you are accommodating sin and not fighting against it?
-

Growing in the Christian life requires taking a trip to the cross daily.



(The Gospel-Centered Life, World Harvest Mission, 2009, p.2)

A Life Committed to Growing in Christ

One of the phrases used in this promise is “in humble reliance upon the Holy Spirit,” which implies the use of the means of grace.

- Time Spent Alone with God (read bible and pray)
- Obedience To the Teachings of Scripture
- Regular Partaking of Communion
- Routine Fellowship with Believers (an Average of 3 times a month)

An article listing more biblical passages on discipleship and their meaning:

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/10-key-bible-verses-on-discipleship/> (Go to the NCF app and find all of the links in this booklet under Inquirer’s Class. There is also a QR code to these links at the end of this booklet.)

3.4 Membership Question 4:

Do you promise to support and participate in the worship and work of the Church to the best of your ability?

A Commitment to the Worship through the Church

Everyone worships something or someone. We value and honor God with all of life and as a whole congregation by gathering together on Sundays to worship.

- *Attending* on Sundays as we gather to worship should be a priority. This should encourage you and your presence encourages others.
- *Praying* for our church's health, growth and leadership
- *Welcoming* those who are new to church. We need everyone to intentionally greet and welcome new people to church. Friendliness does not happen automatically. Resolve to speak to visitors first and friends second.
- Partaking in the *sacraments* which bind us together with other Christians throughout the world, show God's promises to us, and help us grow in grace. These two sacraments are Baptism and the Lord's Supper (communion).

The Sacrament of Baptism.

One who comes to have faith in Jesus Christ as his/her Savior and has not already been baptized as a child should be baptized signifying the washing away of sin and new life.

We believe Infant Baptism is consistent with the continuity of scripture. Just as the Lord's Supper has replaced the Passover, so baptism has replaced circumcision.

Colossians 2:11-12: ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having 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.

NCF encourages but does not require parents to baptize their children before they make a profession of faith since we do not believe baptism saves the child or anyone else for that matter. Only Christ saves. The sign of baptism is received by our child not to indicate the eternal benefits are theirs, but the temporal blessings are theirs such as being raised by Christian parents, hearing the gospel from an early age, seeing the sacraments of the church administered. These benefits are a gift from God showing our children they too are sinners and need Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

It is a time of celebration for the church and a time in which Jesus Christ is spiritually present and nourishes His people.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In 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." ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We are "proclaiming Christ's death" (looking backwards) "until he comes" (looking forward to the great wedding banquet of the lamb). It is a meal that reminds us of the death we deserved and the life we have and look forward to for eternity.

We are warned in scripture not to take the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner. The Lord's Supper is only for those who have put their faith in Christ alone for salvation. He must be their only hope. Yet, it is for broken people who know their sin and are repentant of it.

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

One who is not yet a member of a gospel believing church should not take the Lord's Supper. Valuing authenticity gives us respect for those who are not ready.

We offer a Communicant Class to prepare children for receiving the Lord's Supper. After completing the class, elders hear your child's Christian testimony so they can take Communion.

A Commitment to the Work of the Church

The church is a fellowship—we are an authentic community of faith that encourages one another in following Jesus through life's good times and bad times. It is our desire to care for you as modeled by Jesus.

Care Groups or other *small groups* are our main avenue of care. They act as the central nervous system of our church. If you are in a Care Group group you will be cared for. If you are not then you may not feel as cared for. A Care Group Leader is not expected to do everything for the group. Do not expect the leader to be your best friend, or develop an intense discipling relationship. In reality the leader should get the group to use its gifts to serve each other and to love and serve their neighbors. Your Care Group Leader will pray for you and help in times of need or gather people who can help.

The church is missional—we have been given a mission by Jesus when he said, *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)* This is not supposed to be an afterthought or just one part of the church, but it should permeate the whole church.

- *Sharing* your faith with unbelievers (learn to do it)
- *Inviting* the un-churched to attend church or an event with you
- *Giving* financially to support the ministry of the church
- *Leading and serving* in accordance with your gifts and talents

The church is sometimes compared to a football stadium where you find 22 people who desperately need a rest and thousands of people who desperately need exercise. There is a proper balance between active involvement and over commitment.

Discovering your spiritual gifts

Spiritual gifts (*Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4*) tend to fall into two categories: *Word-based* gifts and *Deed-based* gifts.

“A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.” (Wayne Grudem)

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 says: *“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all people. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”*

Tim Keller likes to think in terms of affinity, opportunity, ability.

- Affinity is your hearts growing desire in certain areas.
- Opportunity is when a need presents itself and others think you can address that need.
- Ability is what we have talents and skills to do.

We often think first about ability. But spiritual gifts are developed in us by the Holy Spirit. We should first think about opportunity and affinity and ask, “Where is God moving me to serve?” Then we can pursue training and experience.

You should get involved in ministries to benefit most from the church. Some of the ways you can serve are:

- Nursery (workers needed for Sunday school and Worship)
- Greeters (greeting people on Sunday mornings)
- Hospitality team (preparing coffee, bagels, and communion trays)
- Music team (use your talent to help lead us worship)
- Audio Visual ministry (help enhance our worship)
- Faith & Life Classes (helps to better understand what the Bible teaches and apply it to daily life)
- Children’s Ministry – (need teachers and helpers for Children’s Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, Pioneer Club.)
- Youth Ministry – help with youth group and small groups or chaperone on retreats
- Missions – serve on missions committee or go on short-term mission
- Outreach events (coordinate and facilitate various events)

- Service opportunities (Homeless shelter; meals for those who are ill; mercy projects led by deacons)
- Care Group (develop friendships and grow in Christian life)
- Bible studies (men and women)
- Helping with computer I.T. needs in the office
- Maintenance of the building, landscaping, lawn care

Are you currently involved in any ministries of the church?

In what areas of ministry could you see yourself serving in the church? (top 3)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Fill out Volunteer form (Go to the NCF app and find all of the links in this booklet under Inquirer's Class. There is also a QR code to these links at the end of this booklet.)

What ministries are you involved in outside the church?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Folks to contact when choosing your ministry:

1. Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Community - Pastor Jim Womer
jwomer@newcityfellowship.org
2. Director of Worship and Creative Arts- Carol Becker
cbecker@newcityfellowship.org
3. Media Service Coordinator – Jacob Smith jsmith@newcityfellowship.org
4. Church Administrator - Julie Bridges jbridges@newcityfellowship.org
5. Church Leaders and Ministry Heads – see Inquirer's Class links page for a list of leadership.

Giving Financially to the Church

The basic principle: God has given us all we have and tells us to invest 10% of what he gives us by returning it to him as an act of worship.

*The premise: **Leviticus 27:30*** “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” It belongs to him and we are like “trustees.” To withhold it is likened to embezzlement. Sound shocking? **Malachi 3:8** says, “Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In tithes and contributions.”

The purpose: Deuteronomy 14:22, 23, 27 says, "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the LORD your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always...And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you."

Is the tithe still in effect today? Jesus reaffirms the tithe. **Luke 11:42**, "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."

Where should one direct his tithe? **Malachi 3:10** says, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse." The priority should be to your local church.

To what degree should someone give free will offerings beyond the tithe, sometimes called Faith Promise?

Giving is in response to God's grace.

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

Giving should be generous and cheerful.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7, "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Giving should be sacrificial.

2 Corinthians 8:1-7, “And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

“10% is a lot of money!” – Learning to Give

We know you may be thinking that you cannot give that much money. Here are a few reasons God asks us to give generously:

- 1) Giving is the antidote to greed. Most of us like to think we are generous. Giving is what proves it.
- 2) Giving is an act of worship. It reveals an attitude that says there is only one God and money is not it.
- 3) Giving reflects the heart of God who gave himself for us.

You may feel defeated already thinking you cannot give 10%. We want to encourage you to start somewhere (maybe 3% or 5%) and build from year to year.

You can give through the New City app, the church website, bill pay, or in person by check or cash.

BREAKOUT SESSION #3: *Form a group(s) and together answer the following questions.*

What do these passages say about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ: John 8:31-38; Matthew 28:16-20; 2 Timothy 2:1-2; Luke 9:23-24; John 13:34-35; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:14-17; John 15:16-17; Colossians 1:28-29; Hebrews 3:12-14. For more info on discipleship see <https://www.crossway.org/articles/10-key-bible-verses-on-discipleship/> (Go to the NCF app and find all of the links in this booklet under Inquirer's Class. There is also a QR code to these links at the end of this booklet.)

1.

2. *What do these passages say about the role of authority in the church: 1 Corinthians 16:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Titus 2:15; Hebrews 13:7; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:2; Titus 2:1-10; 1 Timothy 3:1ff; 1 Timothy 5:17; Ephesians 4:11-13.* For more info on understanding Biblical authority see <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-9-understanding-biblical-authority-titus-215> **(Go to the NCF app and find all of the links in this booklet under Inquirer's Class. There is also a QR code to these links at the end of this booklet.)**

3.5 Membership Question 5:

Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to promote its purity and peace? *(Including promoting the cross-cultural vision of NCF)*

Discipline of the Church

Are you willing to be reconciled in a dispute or be corrected in a particular sin pattern?

Hebrews 13:17: "Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."

- Every believer should be in submission to and under the spiritual authority of ordained leadership within the church.
- Every believer must be a member in good standing with the church to have access to the Lord's Supper.

General (Informal) Discipline. This includes self-examination, sitting under the teaching of the Scriptures and interaction with believers.

Judicial (Formal) Discipline. This is done according to a formal biblical process and is carried out only by the elders. The stages of formal discipline are: Admonition, Suspension from the Sacraments, Deposition from office, and Excommunication. However, the use of discipline is something that they should not relish and which should always sadden them. They should engage in it aware that, even in its strictest forms, its purpose is the healing of the offender. They should practice it always in a way that is in keeping with that hope.

Why do we discipline? (Its purpose)

1. To *revere* the honor and glory of God. (**Romans 2:23-24**)
2. To *respect* the purity of Christ's Church (**1 Corinthians 15:33-34**)
3. To *restore* the fallen individual to a life of godliness. (Galatians 6:1)

When does discipline occur? Discipline occurs only when one refuses to repent of his/her sin.

Matthew 18:15-17: *15 And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. 17 And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer.*

Purity and Peace (Harmony) of Church

Resolving Conflicts

Are you willing to compassionately confront another Christian?

- We must go directly to those with whom we have a problem.
- We must go directly to those who have a problem with us.

Matthew 5:23-24: *"If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."*

Giving Only Good Reports

Gossip and other harmful talk is communicating in such a way as to put someone else in a bad light and damaging the person's reputation with information that does not need to be shared. This can occur if you are either the source or passing it along.

Proverbs 6:16 & 19 *There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him...A false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.*

Ephesians 4. 29-32: 29 *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

Government of Presbyterian Church

We are governed by the PCA Book of Church Order and also By-Laws which govern the operations of the church. If you are interested, we can provide a copy of them for you—just ask.

The biblical basis for a Presbyterian form of government:

- The office-bearers were chosen by the people (Acts 14:23) (appointed actually means to “elect by a show of hands”).
- The office of bishop and elder were identical.
- There was a plurality of elders in each church (Acts 14:23, 20:17)
- There was the privilege of appeal to the assembly of elders and the power of government was exercised by them together (Acts 15, 16:4)
- The only head of the church is Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:20-23; Colossians 1:18)

The Presbyterian church courts:

- Session - the elders of a local church (meets monthly).
- Presbytery - A representative number of elders from churches of a designated geographical area (meets quarterly)
- General Assembly - A representative number of elders from the churches of the entire U.S. and Canada (meets annually).

Church Officers:

- Teaching Elders
- Ruling Elders
- Deacons

Denominational Affiliation

The Presbyterian Church in America (www.pcanet.org) was formed in 1973. Our denomination believes that the ultimate rule of faith and life is the Word of God and that Jesus Christ is the head of the church. The PCA also has adopted standards to help keep it biblically true. **(Go to the NCF app and find all of the links in this booklet under Inquirer's Class. There is also a QR code to these links at the end of this booklet.)**

Its Standards are:

- *The Westminster Confession of Faith*
- *The Larger and Shorter Catechisms*
- *The Book of Church Order*

The PCA has several operational agencies and ministries.

- Administrative Committee
- Mission to North America
- Mission to the World
- Committee on Discipleship Ministry (CDM)
- Covenant College (Lookout Mountain, GA)
- Covenant Theological Seminary (St. Louis, MO)
- Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)

3.6 Where to go from here

1. When you have decided you want to make this commitment to NCF then please fill out a membership form online. See online resources page 37 for the link.
2. When we receive your membership form, we will schedule a date and time after a worship service to meet with 2 NCF elders for about 30 minutes. The interviews are designed with two purposes in mind: *First*, it gives us a chance to get to know you better, to hear your experience in coming to know God in Christ and what is happening presently in your spiritual life. *Second*, you have an opportunity to ask any questions you might have about the church. This is your opportunity to make sure you are comfortable with your decision to join NCF.

3. After the session hears your testimony of faith and approves your membership then you will be presented to the congregation and publicly affirm the vows and be baptized if needed during a worship service.

What if I choose not to become a member of the church?

The Inquirer’s Class is an opportunity for you to explore things without feeling pressure to commit. We are glad you are with us and want you to continue to be involved. You should not commit until you are ready. A broken promise is worse than no promise at all.

We think it is important for everyone (member or not) to be involved in the life of the church because it helps us to be growing followers of Jesus. The three places or environments in which we can help you grow as a follower of Jesus are:

- 1) Sunday Mornings (Worship and Faith & Life Classes)
- 2) Small Groups (Community Group or Bible Study)
- 3) Serving (Help out on a Ministry Team)

INQUIRER’S CLASS LINKS



DOWNLOAD THE APP

