

Discovering
Harvest Church
Membership
Handbook

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Section One

OUR MISSION

*We exist to help people discover their God-given destiny
and to develop and equip them to fulfill it.*

- 1) **“God”**: This is where everything begins and points. He is our target! Everything...our worship...our lives are pointing and heading toward Him! But the closer we get to Him, the more we value what He values and that is, people! We know He values people because of **THE PRICE**₁ He paid for them!
- 2) **“People”**: They are at the top of our priority list! Everything Jesus did, He did for people! When a person walks through that door, we should get excited and go straight to that person and show the love and kindness of God. When a person is sitting by himself, we should go straight to him and welcome him and show the love and kindness of God.

It is a temptation in every church to become cliquish. This is **SATAN’S**₂ desire. It is God’s desire that none should perish, but that all would come to repentance. The closer we get to God, the more people are on our heart.

- 3) **“Discover” Your Destiny**: It’s not something **YOU**₃ decide, it’s something you **DISCOVER**₄.
- 4) **“To help”**: This refers to our desire to serve. We get our “kicks” by serving. We are born with a “me” focus but the closer we get to God, the more focused we are on **GIVING**₅ and not receiving.
- 5) **“Develop”**: This refers to the fact we believe that discipleship is a **PROCESS**₆. We believe that we need to faithfully attend services, a Connection Group and fellowship with one another to continue to grow spiritually in the Lord.
- 6) **“Equip”**: This refers to the **MANDATE**₇ on our church to train, ordain, and send believers into our community and the world to do and be all God has designed for them.
- 7) **“Destiny”** God has a plan for everyone! His intentions for you are for good and not for evil.

OUR VALUES

Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 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.” All the law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

We value **GOD**₈ and **PEOPLE**₉. They are our top priority. These are some of the values that are the common thread in everything we do.

Character

How we **WALK**₁₀ makes a louder statement to those around us than how we talk. It is time for the Church to be a strong representation to the world of the character of God. We desire to be in the world but not of it, clearly displaying through a life of purity God's unchanging grace and kindness to those we come in contact with.

Unity

Ephesians 4:3 instructs us to endeavor or **WORK**₁₁ to keep unity. We desire to be people of humility and kindness and not **ALLOW**₁₂ offenses to take root in us. We desire to believe the best about our brothers and sisters and not **GOSSIP**₁₃ or talk about others in a negative way. The Bible even teaches us NOT to talk to others in a negative way. This is very important for the good of each person and the health of the Church.

Excellence

Because we serve an awesome God, we strive to do our best in everything we do. This means that we show excellence in our areas of **SERVICE**₁₄. If we served a mediocre God, then we could do things in a mediocre way. We desire to do all of our work "as unto the Lord!"

Servanthood and Humility

Jesus lived a life of servanthood and humility. We desire to walk in true humility and serve in **PRACTICAL**₁₅ ways. Pride came along before the fall of many of our Christian leaders. Keeping a good attitude of servanthood helps us walk humbly with God and **EACH OTHER**₁₆.

OUR VISION

There is no such thing as a perfect church, (if you ever find one, don't go there – you'll ruin it.), but there is such a thing as a healthy, balanced church.

We believe the following are some essential elements of a **HEALTHY, PRACTICAL**₁₇ church:

1. Worship (Magnification of His Name; Psalm 34:3)
2. Evangelism (Soul Winning and Missions; Acts 1:8)
3. Discipleship (Spiritual Maturity and Growth)
4. Fellowship (Meaningful Relationships; Psalm 133:1-3)
5. Ministry (Helps; I Corinthians 12:28 Acts 6:2-7)
6. Racial Reconciliation and Ethnic Diversity (Acts 2:5-12 Revelation 5:9)
7. Marriages and Families (Genesis 2:18, 20-25 Ephesians 5:21-33)
8. Community (Sunday School; Acts 2:42,46)
9. Revival (Spiritual Awakening; Isaiah 64:1-4 Acts 3:19-21)
10. Authority (Divine Order; I Corinthians 14:40 Romans 13:1-5)

The following five statements express our heart and vision.

1. To Worship God in Spirit and Truth (John 4:23,24)

God wants me to be a MAGNIFIER₁₈ of His Name.

We are committed to extravagantly and passionately express our love to our Lord and Savior. God is worthy of our highest and best. When we get saved, our hearts are turned from serving idols to serving and worshipping the true and living God!

The Bible is a book about WORSHIP₁₉. The question is not, “Are you a worshipper?” but, “WHOM₂₀ or what do you worship?” We believe that God inhabits the praises of His people. We desire that every time we gather, we sense and experience God’s, commune intimately with Him, hear His voice, and are continually being transformed more into His image.

We desire to compose worship songs, produce worship CDs, produce musical and dramatic productions that strengthen the Body of Christ and present the gospel.

We are committed to teaching and preaching God’s Word, the Bible, as the final authority. We desire to present relevant truths so that we can be people of humility and strong moral character.

2. To Make Disciples in Our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the Ends of the Earth. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

God wants me to be a MESSENGER₂₁ of His love (Acts 20:24/II Corinthians 5:19-20).

Making disciples first implies EVANGELISM₂₂. When Jesus said to go and make disciples, He didn’t mean to go find saved people and teach them the Bible. He meant go find LOST₂₃ people, and lead them to Christ and teach them the Bible. Seeing people saved, healed, maturing, connected, equipped and SENT₂₄! Our vision: “To know God and make Him known.”

Our Jerusalem is Mobile. We’ve heard of cities where 70 and 80% are Christians. We want Mobile to be totally changed because of the ministry of Harvest Church MEMBERS₂₅!

Our Judea is the Gulf Coast Region. We want to IMPACT₂₆ this whole area, which includes planting small groups so that people can invite their neighbors. We want to host events such as the Gulf Coast Youth Convention, Worship, and Marriage and Family conferences, and seminars.

Our Samaria is America. We have a real burden to INFLUENCE₂₇ our nation for God. We believe God is going to use us along with other churches to see this happen. We believe God desires us to have a national television ministry one day.

Our Ends of the Earth is the World. This refers to the vision that God has put in our hearts to be tremendously involved in missions all over the World. We see ourselves Bible Training Schools and churches in many nations. We desire that every member of Harvest Church go on at least one mission trip and be supportive of missions.

3. To Equip, Train, and Release Believers for the Work of the Ministry (Ephesians 4:7-12)

*God wants me to be a **MINISTER**₂₈ of His Grace.*

We believe that God has uniquely **GIFTED**₂₉ people and put a **PASSION**₃₀ in them for a ministry that glorifies God and edifies people. Our desire is not only to help you discover your ministry, but to train, equip and release you to do it.

We will provide classes and leadership tracks to train and equip you and provide opportunities for you to minister. We believe that when Jesus ascended, He gave the gifts of the five-fold ministry to equip every believer for ministry.

4. To lead members through a process of spiritual maturity.

Ephesians 2:8-10

Proverbs 14:31

I Peter 2:21

I Timothy 4:12

*God wants me to be a **MODEL**₃₁ of His character.* Becoming Christ-like in character is the Biblical definition of spiritual maturity. Maturity is not measured by learning but by one's lifestyle. You can be well versed and still be immature. We desire to show God's kindness and compassion to every person that God brings across our path. We believe that the world is sick of religion and is in desperate need of the message of grace. Grace is one of the foundation stones of Harvest Church.

We desire to care for you and your family pastorally. We desire to cover you with prayer and assist you with Godly counsel when needed.

We desire not only to show God's grace, but also His mercy. We are committed to reaching out to those who are in need by assisting them in their everyday lives by helping them develop the habits of spiritual growth and maturity.

5. To Strengthen Families, Marriages, and Build Meaningful Relationships

Malachi 2:14-16

I Peter 1:3

Ephesians 2:19

*God wants me to be a **MEMBER**₃₂ of His family.*

Following Christ is not just a matter of **BELIEVING**₃₃. It also includes belonging. We're meant for relationships. That's why a good Connection Group is one of our core positives.

People want to experience the love and joy of a good marriage and a committed family. The Bible has the answers and we are committed to helping people in these areas. We want to help **HEAL**₃₄ those who have experienced divorce and **STRENGTHEN**₃₅ and equip those who have not, so they never do. This is one of the strongest attacks of Satan today, so relationships will be one of our strongest areas. People desire to have a good relationship with their family and fellow Christians. We are committed to provide Biblical teaching and to strengthen families and marriages.

We have a strong desire to strengthen and equip our youth and children, because our children are our hope for the future. **Joel 2:28** shows us where the greatest outpouring of God's Spirit in human history will occur: "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh and your **SONS**₃₆ and your **DAUGHTERS**₃₇ (children and youth) will prophesy..." We desire that church be a place not only for learning, but also for fun. We are committed to reaching, teaching, and impacting children of all ages that God brings us. We place a high value on student ministry and children's ministry.

Harvest Church Missions Philosophy

We are committed:

- Around the world. Following the guideline of Acts 1:8 to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and then the world.
- To challenge the members of our congregation to believe God for increased finances through our Faith Promise commitment to be sown into missions and local evangelism. Of faith promise money, ten percent will be used for local evangelism and ninety percent will be sown into foreign evangelism.
 - **To apostolic and evangelistic works** - We will support mission works that are **COMMITTED**₃₈ to building and planting churches and reaching the unchurched with the Good News of Jesus Christ through Bible Training Schools, and other effective methods.
 - **To the needy**- We will support ministries that focus on meeting the needs of widows, orphans, and the poor, as well as addressing some of these needs in our own community as God allows.
 - **To individuals called to missions work**- Those considered must have been and involved in the ministries of the church showing their commitment and to the pastoral staff and elders. They must have a recognized and demonstrated call to missions work confirmed by the Holy Spirit's direction to the elders as in Acts 13:2.

Harvest Church Philosophy of Deliverance

We believe:

- **In the spiritual realm of life.** We recognize the reality of spiritual forces working to impact and influence life situations and personal behavior.
- **In demonic oppression and possession of individuals.** Demonic strongholds are established through spiritual access that is gained on the basis of an individual's in certain sinful behavior, acts and attitudes of rebellion, unforgiveness, hurts, generational iniquities, other acts of lawlessness and carnality.
- **The process of deliverance establishes freedom in Christ.** The depth and longevity of participation in behavior establishes authority for demonic access. Deliverance involves a **PROCESS**₃₉ of ministry. Freedom can be instant, but is often achieved in layers of relief and involves level of ministry from a spiritual counselor and diligent responses by individuals to re-establish God's authority so that freedom is achieved and maintained. Freedom becomes a habit, just as bondage became a habit.

Just Born or Born Again

Many people believe that they have been raised Christians or always have been Christians but Jesus makes it plain that you must be **BORN AGAIN**₄₀!

John 3:1-7 Jesus said, "You must be born again!"

This is probably the most amazing conversation that Jesus ever had! We need to understand some things about this conversation to appreciate it.

Profile of Nicodemus:

Pharisee-not a bad guy

Most **CONSERVATIVE**₄₁ theologian of the day

Believed, taught and **PRACTICED**₄₂ the Word (very strict tither)

Memorized the first five books of the Bible in their entirety

Ruler:

Name means "**VICTORIOUS**₄₃ among his people"

Not just a Pharisee, but also a ruler (maybe an elected official)

Many believe to be the "rich young ruler"

Came by night

Believed in Jesus:

Recognized that He came from God. This was a big debate with Pharisees.

Recognized His **SIGNS**₄₄ (proof of a prophet from God)

Recognized God was with Him

Summary of Nicodemus:

1. Attended church
2. Prayed
3. Read the Bible
4. Tithed
5. Fasted
6. Believed in God
7. Believed in Jesus

Jesus makes the statement, “*You must be born again*” to a man who attended church, prayed, memorized Scripture, tithed, fasted, **BELIEVED**₄₅ in God and **BELIEVED**₄₆ in Him!

Nicodemus asked, “What do you mean ‘born again’?” He had never heard the term.

Matthew 7:13-23 Some funerals you go to, the preachers imply that they are in Heaven! But they are actually in Hell! You will be in Hell before your wife gets the undertaker on the phone and it doesn’t matter what the preacher says at a funeral, it’s not going to get you into Heaven!

If many people actively engaged in the work of God (prophesying, casting out demons and miracles) are going to Hell, how many more are going that just attend?

Luke 6:46 Many people call Him Lord!

Luke 13:25

Three myths about being born again:

1. “I was saved when I was young but I didn’t change because I didn’t really understand and I didn’t read my Bible enough.” That puts the responsibility on you and not on Jesus! You were saved by **HIS**₄₇ grace.
2. “I was saved when I was young but I changed when I got filled with the Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit **DRAWS**₄₈ us to Jesus.”
3. “I was raised a Christian.”

Hosea 9:11 - No birth, no pregnancy and no conception.

There are many people who had a seed conceived in them when they were young; (an epiphany), and they have called that salvation but later they “totally sold out” “gave up” “rededicated” and then came the change. That is when they were born again. Birth is change. Some say, “Well, I changed gradually.”

There is **GROWTH**₄₉ and **CHANGE**₅₀ before birth. Birth is **RADICAL**₅₁ change!

If you want to know when you were saved ask yourself this question, “When did I change direction?” “When did I stop going **MY WAY**₅₂ and start going God’s way?”

You may forget the date, but you will never forget the event! You will never forget that your life radically changed and someone has been living with you and you are getting closer and closer together!

Satan is deceiving you. You are basing all eternity on it and you're not sure when it happened. You need to swallow your pride today. You are not basing it on if you've joined a church; Jesus said, "You **MUST**₅₃ be born again!"

Dear Lord Jesus,

I confess to you that I am a sinner and I ask you to forgive me of my sins. I believe that you are the Son of God and that you died and rose from the dead for my sins. I ask you to come into my life and be my personal Lord and Savior. I give you complete control of my life. Thank you for saving me today! Thank you that by your grace, I am now born again! I ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Section Two

Biblical Expressions of Worship

I. **Worship:** “We worship this way because it is biblical, not because we are spirit-filled.”

Worship is our **INDIVIDUAL**⁵⁴ and corporate response of love and adoration toward God. While it can and should be a personal expression to God, it can be expressed in a corporate setting such as a worship service or in Connection Groups. It can be an emotional expression, but may also be an acknowledgment of adoration to the character of our mighty and holy God that is a demonstration of the will.

-Psalm 7:17

-Psalm 9:1-2

A. Biblical Expressions of Worship

1. Singing choruses as well as hymns

-Ephesians 5:19

-Colossians 3:16

2. Lifting our hands

-Psalm 141:2

-Psalm 134:1-2

-Psalm 63:3-4

-I Timothy 2:8

3. Clapping our hands

-Psalms 47:1

4. Standing to worship

-Psalm 134:1

5. Bowing/Kneeling

-Psalm 95:6

-Ephesians 3:14

6. Dancing

-Psalm 150:4

7. Singing in the “spirit”

-Ephesians 5:19

-I Corinthians 14:15

8. Other references related to worship:

-Psalm 66:1-4

-Psalm 96:9

-Psalm 138:1-2; Psalm 150:1-6

II. Giving to God Give Him the first of your day (devotion), week (Sabbath), finances (tithe), and ability (service).

While the financial operation of the church is dependent upon the faithful and obedient giving of its members, this is not the REASON₅₅ it is included in the New Member's class.

- A. Giving to God. Even though giving is to the church as the storehouse, it is acknowledged as being given to GOD₅₆. Our giving, then, is an expression of our love for Him and is done out of OBEDIENCE₅₇ to Him. It's part of expressing or demonstrating the COVENANT₅₈ we have with God.

-Malachi 3:8-10

1. Giving in the New Testament

-Matthew 23:23

-Mark 12:43

- B. Giving is an expression of our STEWARDSHIP₅₉ and His Lordship in our lives.

-Matthew 6:21

-Luke 16:13

- C. Giving has a profound, PRACTICAL₆₀ effect on our lives.

1. God will rebuke the devourer

-Malachi 3:11

2. It brings God's BLESSINGS₆₁.

-Luke 6:38

- D. Harvest Church Distinctive

1. Various methods of giving

-Offering baskets at the front of the sanctuary ("Bring ye the tithes...")

-Special offering baskets passed

-Offerings Box located in the back of the sanctuary

2. Commitment to communicate

-Vision

-Challenge to obey scripture

3. - A response of worship and obedience It's unscriptural to withhold my offering as a form of DISAGREEMENT₆₂ or PUNISHMENT₆₃.

- My money is not to be held HOSTAGE₆₄ (my money is a seed and should be watered with prayer)

-I am not to use my money to DOMINATE₆₅ or CONTROL₆₆ (Become a good steward of what God has given me). Proverbs 3:9,10

III. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit The purpose is not to have an “experience” but for the life of Christ to be **EXTENDED**₆₇ through me.

We believe Scripture points to three baptisms:

-I Corinthians 12:13 - Baptized into the Body by the Holy Spirit (salvation)

-Matthew 28:19 - Water baptism subsequent to salvation (full emersion)

-Matthew 3:11 - Jesus baptizes in the Holy Spirit (receiving the Holy Spirit)

-Mark 1:8

-Luke 3:16

-John 1:33 He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit; very few events in the life of Jesus are recorded in all four gospels. This one is, however. If Jesus needed this baptism, how much more do we!

-John 20:22 - But wait for the promise of the Father

-Luke 24:49

-Acts 1:4-8 – The Spirit gives us power to be a witness for Him.

-Acts2: 1-4

-Acts 8:5-14 - Believed, water baptized, received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

-Acts 19:1-6 – The initial Bible evidence is speaking in new tongues, and it comes after salvation.

-I Corinthians 14:2,4,5,18

-Jude 20

Section Three

Harvest Church Statement of Faith

Article I- The Trinity

It is the testimony of both Testaments and of the Christian Church that God is both **ONE**⁶⁸ and **TRIUNE**⁶⁹. The Biblical revelation testifies that there is only one God, and that He is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A. God the Father – The **ORIGINATOR**⁷⁰.

Genesis 1:1
John 1:1-3
Psalm 103:8-13

God the Father is the Creator and sustainer of all things, and created the universe in love to respond to HIM. He created man in His own image so they could enjoy fellowship together, and God called man back to Himself through Christ after the rebellion and fall of man. The purpose God created man for was so He could be the object of His great love and kind benevolence.

B. The Son – The **ADMINISTRATOR**⁷¹.

John 1:1-3,14,18

Jesus Christ is eternally God. He was together with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning, and through Him all things were made. For man's redemption, He left Heaven and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary. Henceforth, He is forever one Christ with two natures, God and man, in one Person.

C. The Holy Spirit – The **DEMONSTRATOR**⁷².

John 16:7,8
John 14:16
Acts 5:3,4
Acts 10:38

The Holy Spirit is God, a divine person separate and distinct from the Father and the Son. He was active in the Old Testament, and given to the Church in fullness at Pentecost. He empowers the saints for service and witness, cleanses man from the old nature, and conforms us to the image of Christ. The baptism in the Holy Spirit, subsequent to conversion, releases the fullness of the Spirit and is evidenced initially with speaking in new tongues.

Article II- The Scripture

II Timothy 3:16,17
Romans 10:17

We affirm that the Bible containing the Old and New Testaments is alone the only infallible Word of God, and that its authority is ultimate, **FINAL**⁷³ and eternal. It cannot be added to, subtracted from, or superseded in any regard. The Bible is the source of all doctrine, instruction, correction and reproof. It contains all that is needed for **GUIDANCE**⁷⁴ in godliness and **PRACTICAL**⁷⁵ Christian conduct. It is the revelation of God to man.

Article III- Salvation

The Word of God declares clearly that salvation is a free gift of God, based on the merits of the death of His Son, and is appropriated by faith. No one can add anything to the completed work of Christ to receive salvation. Salvation is affected by repentance, **BELIEF**⁷⁶ in the Lord (justification), and personal **ACCEPTANCE**⁷⁷ of Him into one's life as Lord and Savior (regeneration). The new life in Christ includes the privileges of adoption and inheritance in the Kingdom of God's beloved Son. Salvation is an act of free will in response to God's personal love for mankind. It is secure in the sense that God's commitment is **UNCHANGING**⁷⁸ and eternal. God does not lie and is forever the same. Salvation should produce an active lifestyle of loving obedience and service to Jesus Christ our Savior.

Article IV-The Christian Life

II Peter 3:18
II Corinthians 3:18
I Thessalonians 5:23

I John 3:2
Hebrews 10:10,14

We believe that the Scriptures portray the life of the saint in this world to be one of balance between what is **IMPUTED**⁷⁹ to us as Christians and what is **IMPARTED**⁸⁰ to us according to our faith and maturity. Hence, God's provision for His children is total, and the promises are final and forever. The shortcomings of the individual and of the Church are because of the continued progression of the sanctification of the saints. The Christian life is filled with trials, tests, warfare against a spiritual enemy, victories and testimonies. For those abiding in Christ until their deaths or His return, the promises of eternal blessing in the presence of God are assured. To remain faithful through all circumstances of life requires dependence upon the Holy Spirit and a willingness to die to personal **DESIRES**⁸¹ and **PASSIONS**⁸².

Article V- The Church

A. The Church is the Body of Christ on the Earth. The true Church is made up of those individuals who have put their trust in Christ as their Savior. It is not merely the

attending of church or having a name on the membership list that makes one a member of Christ's true Church.

- B. A principle of Biblical Government is "the one who calls or appoints has direct authority over the one he calls or appoints." Ephesians 4 states that the Lord Jesus calls the five-fold ministers (i.e. the Pastor). Therefore the Lord has **DIRECT**⁸³ authority over him. The **PASTOR**⁸⁴ appoints the Elders and Bishops and therefore has direct **authority** over them. The Pastor is to the **LOCAL**⁸⁵ church what Jesus is to the church. But because the Pastor is not perfect like Jesus, though he is the final authority, does not have **UNLIMITED**⁸⁶ authority. Therefore the policy of Harvest Church is a balance between a pastor-led and a board or elder governed church, emphasizing the final authority of the **CHIEF**⁸⁷ elder of our local church, the Pastor.
- C. It is essential to the life of the church that Scriptural patterns of discipline are practiced and that oversight for Church discipline, individual and corporate, is exercised by the pastor of the Church.
- D. The Primary mission of the church is:
- 1) To be an **AGENCY**⁸⁸ of God for evangelizing the world and enforcing Satan's defeat;
 - 2) To be a **CORPORATE**⁸⁹ body in which man worship God; and
 - 3) To be a **CHANNEL**⁹⁰ of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

Article VI-Baptism and the Lord's Supper

The Word of God enjoins on the Church two perpetual ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first, baptism, is the outward sign of what God has already done in the individual's life, and is a testimony to everyone that the person now belongs to Jesus. Water baptism is the "wedding ring" of Christianity. It is **IDENTIFICATION**⁹¹ with Jesus and is affected in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the death of the Lord and is done in **REMEMBRANCE**⁹² of Him until He comes again; it is a sign of our participation in Him.

Article VII- Statements of Faith

The Creation of Man and His Fall: We believe God created man in His own image; that man sinned and thereby incurred the penalty of death, both physical and spiritual: and that all humans beings inherit a sinful nature which results (in the case of those who reach moral responsibility) in actual transgression (Genesis 1:26-28; Ephesians 2: 1-3; I John 3:8-10). Man is a sinner, fallen from original righteousness (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:9, 10,22,23).

Eternal Life And The New Birth: We believe that the bible teaches that salvation is by grace, a free gift to all who believe in Christ. Those who receive Christ by faith have their sins forgiven and become children of God; a new creation in Christ Jesus. (Titus 3:4-7; John1: 12,13; Romans 10:9,10,22,23).

Baptism In The Holy Spirit: We believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit, **EMPOWERING AND EQUIPPING**⁹³ believers for service, with the accompanying supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit (Mark 16:17; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:4,38,39). The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterances (Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:1-6).

Divine Healing: We believe divine healing is an integral part of the Gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement and is the **PRIVILEGE**⁹⁴ of all believers (Isaiah 53: 4-6; Galatians 3:14,15; I Peter 2:24). Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God through the prayer of faith and the laying on of hands. It is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is the privilege of every member of the Church today (Mark 16:18; James 5:14).

Hell And Eternal Retribution: We believe that all men who reject Christ and do not conform to the plan of God for man will pay the eternal death penalty for sin, will be resurrected from the dead to immortality, will be judged at the great white throne of judgment and will be punished with everlasting damnation in the lake of fire (John 5:28,29; Romans 6:23; Mark 9:43-50; Revelation 20:10-15). The one who physically dies in his sins without Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the lake of fire; therefore, has no further opportunity of hearing the Gospel or for repentance. We believe Hell is a literal place for Satan and his cohorts, but some people choose to go thereby rejecting Jesus or because of believers neglect of the Great Commission.

Satan: We believe that the devil exists and he is the real enemy of Christians (Luke 4:1-3; John 8:44; Acts 10:38; 1John 3:8; Ephesians 6:10-12; I Peter 5:8).

Article VII-Eschatology

We believe in the **APPEARING**⁹⁵ of the Lord Jesus at the end of the church age and the “catching away” (rapture) of the believer in Christ (I Thessalonians 4:17). We believe His coming is imminent. This will commence the seven year tribulation on Earth at the end of which we affirm the bodily, personal, second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the millennium (1000 year reign of Christ from Jerusalem), and the final Judgment.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

I. Member Oversight and Accountability

“The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by constraint but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” **I Peter 5:1-4 (NKJV)**

A. Expectations of Godly Leadership

1. **SERVING**₉₆ as overseers-awareness and watchful care – they don't personally do it all, but they make sure that it gets done.
2. Not:
 - By compulsion
 - For dishonest gain
 - By authoritative dominance
3. But:
 - With willingness
 - Eagerly
 - By example – godly leaders are to model Christ's character (Jeremiah 3:14; 23:4)
4. We see our responsibility as:
 - A charge from God
 - Requiring accountability
 - Resulting in an eternal reward

B. Areas of Elder Responsibility and Oversight

1. Open and blatant sin

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up. And have not rather mourned, that he who had done this deed might be taken away from among you.”

I Corinthians 5:1-2 (NKJV)

2. Issues involving **DOCTRINAL**₉₇ error

“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.”

2 Peter 2:1-3 (NKJV)

3. Divisive and contentious **BEHAVIOR**₉₈ within the congregation.

“But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.” Titus 3:9-11

C. Method of **CORRECTION**₉₉ and discipline

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear you, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.” Matthew 18:15-17 (NKJV)

1. Begins with **PERSONAL**₁₀₀ confrontation
2. Expands to **COMMITTEE**₁₀₁ confrontation
3. Broadens to **GROUP**₁₀₂ confrontation
4. Ends in **REMOVAL**₁₀₃ from member privileges (or reconciliation)

The purpose is redemption; the attitude is humility; the result is accountability

D. You have as much authority as you are properly **ASSOCIATED**₁₀₄ to authority. In other words, the more **SUBMITTED**₁₀₅ you are to authority the more authority you operate in.

1. Relational accountability
2. Confirming and supportive, not directive
3. Our Church has relationships involving relational **ACCOUNTABILITY**₁₀₆ with World Outreach Church of Tulsa, Pastor Mark Brazee. They are our “spiritual **COVERING**₁₀₇.”

II. Ministry Structure

Harvest Church is a congregation-owned, Pastor-led and elder and staff operated church. The membership is informed of ministry results and financial details of the ministry operations at the annual business/vision meeting and with quarterly financial reports.

A. The Board of Elders

The board of elders is the **GOVERNING**₁₀₈ body of the church. Vision and direction for the ministries of the church are **CONFIRMED**₁₀₉ through Elder prayer, course and oversight.

1. Structure

- Full Elders
- Singular headship with a plurality of elders

2. Qualifications (**I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5**)

- A. -Character
- B. -Commitment to God
- C. -Service

3. Appointment/Recognition

- Biblical qualifications
- Personal interest, they aspire to the office
- Ministry service and relationship
- 1 year in congregation as a member, minimum
- Appointment for one-year renewable term or disqualification

B. Deacon Services

Deacons are men and women who by **GIFTING**₁₁₀ and **CALL**₁₁₁ fulfill a service responsibility to the congregation. Deacon service is not intended to be a **TRAINING**₁₁₂ ground for Elder service. As described in Scripture, it requires spiritually mature, servant-minded believers and carries its own rewards.

1. Qualifications of Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

- Men and women

2. Examples of Possible Deacon Responsibilities

- Ushering oversight
- Offering counting and collection
- Communion preparation and Co-ordination
- Benevolence ministry
- Visitation, Greeting and Parking Lot
- Bereavement
- Helps
- Helping Hands-Hospital, helping widows and orphans, etc.

3. Deacons and Helps ministers could be selected by:

- Congregation **RECOMMENDATION**₁₁₃
- Appointed by elders
- Renewing 1-year commitment
- or individual **VOLUNTEERS**₁₁₄

Qualifications:

- General: Member
 - Able to work with staff and others
- Specific: Interest in the area

- CONFIRMED**₁₁₅ gifts and abilities
- Dependable
- Faithful

Divorce and Remarriage Position Statement

Due to the increasing pressure on couples within the Church to end their marriages as couples outside the church do, by divorce, we feel it is important to clarify what we believe is the biblical position on divorce and remarriage. It is our intent that this position will help our pastoral staff and congregation to know how to respond to situations which might develop between a couple whose marriage is in trouble.

It is God's intent, as stated in the Bible that the marriage commitment should be with one partner of the opposite sex for a lifetime. We believe this remains God's **PERFECT**₁₁₆ intent for His children. In making this statement, however, the Bible acknowledges because of the hardness (fierceness and hostility) of man's heart some conditions in which divorce and remarriage are allowed, not as God's intent, but because of the **RESPONSES**₁₁₇ of men's hearts.

The following scriptures refer specifically to the issue of divorce and are the basis from which we draw our position stated below:

- **Matthew 5:31-32**
- **Matthew 19:9**
- **I Corinthians 7:10,11,15**

Divorce, Immorality, Adultery, or Illicit Sex

Sexual immorality, which is regular, **HABITUAL**₁₁₈, and perverted **VIOLATES**₁₁₉ the purity of the marriage covenant and can become the grounds for which the marriage can be dissolved. While no single case of immorality should be named among the saints, immorality of the nature that breaks the marriage covenant would be verifiable, habitual, and unrepentant. The Bible is clear in regard to the roles of the husband and the wife, and failure to perform these roles as described is unfortunate and not at all what God intends in marriage, especially in a marriage committed to Christ. However, failure to fulfill this God-given role in the marriage does **NOT**₁₂₀ break the marriage bond or relieve the affected spouse from his/her commitment.

Abandonment

When a husband or wife has been abandoned by a spouse, he/she is free in regard to the marriage and may in proper time with proper consideration remarry. Abandonment is considered to be one or more of the following: refusal by the spouse to live with the person abandoned, refusal or **UNWILLINGNESS**₁₂₁ to carry on normal interpersonal relations; refusal to provide financial support or acknowledge any responsibility toward the relationship. (**DISAGREEING**₁₂₂ is not abandonment.)

Extreme neglect, on-going physical abuse and emotional cruelty can be another forms of abandonment. Even though the spouse continues to live with the affected spouse, his/her actions

clearly indicate an abandonment of the marriage commitment. This particular situation is not easily determined and should not be used as an excuse to leave an uncomfortable marriage.

Pre-Christian Commitment

A divorce, which has taken place before the person's commitment to Christ is covered under the blood of Christ along with the other sins previously committed. However, this condition does not preclude the possibility of reconciliation, as God would lead in the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit following conversion. (Unless you are already married.)

If a couple divorces for reasons other than adultery or abandonment after their commitment to Christ, they are in defiance of the will of God, having decided to pursue their **PERSONAL**¹²³ interests rather than God's plan for their lives. The result is broken fellowship with God until there has been repentance from this sin of selfishness. The Church cannot **CONDONE**¹²⁴ such actions or lifestyles by the saints. Thus, a decision to divorce for reasons other than those listed above will result in a **TERMINATION**¹²⁵ of church membership and the privileges of church fellowship.

As the Pastor, staff and Elders become aware of couples in the congregation who are experiencing marriage problems, it will be the position of the Pastor, staff and Elders to confront these couples before the marriage ends in divorce. In working with the couples to resolve broken areas of their marriage, it may be appropriate to advise **TEMPORARY**¹²⁶ separation as outlined below, connect them with a lay counselor within our church, and/or refer them to more qualified counselors.

Separation

It may at times be appropriate for a husband or wife to separate from a spouse in cases of physical abuse, defiant unwillingness, or emotional inability to deal with situations confronting the couple, which keeps them from working at building the marriage. (This should **not** be entered into quickly or without proper counsel.) When separation is necessary, it is for the purpose of **RECONCILIATION**¹²⁷ of the marriage for the relationship that God intends. It should not lead to or be considered to be the first step toward divorce. The separated parties should remain single or be reconciled with their spouses.

Congregation members will be pursued and not allowed to become inactive in their membership as they attempt to work out their marriage problems. This will happen in part through our Connection Group Ministry. We believe that at times of marital stress in which the possibility exists that divorce will result; it is not in the best interest of the couple or the marriage for the church to stand by as the marriage disintegrates. Therefore, we will seek to work with couples of our congregation to resolve marital conflicts or issues in a way that will produce a healthy and lifelong relationship.

When couples refuse to work to restore or resolve the problems of their marriage, either personally or by refusing pastoral counseling or involvement, one or both parties will be determined to be the contributor to the failure of the marriage and church membership will be

revoked for the resistant party. This removal of church membership and its privileges will be deemed as discipline of the church member. The member file will be noted, and the church membership will not be restored without a process of reconciliation and restoration.

Reconciliation

The first step in rebuilding a relationship with a removed church member is reconciliation. Reconciliation is the process of agreeing on the circumstances and events that led to the disciplinary action. Both parties must agree on these circumstances and be able to say the same things in their regard. Reconciliation may involve limited actions of response that demonstrate the person's sincerity in restoring the relationship.

Process of Reconciliation

1. Recognize- (acknowledge wrong)
2. Repent -have a change of mind (about the sin) and turn away from it
3. Renounce-use your authority in Christ and your will to "cast out" the sin from your life and shut the door to it.
4. Restructure actions-demonstrate repentance by changed actions, attitudes and behaviors
5. Replace-put God's Word, God's presence and God's people in place of the offense and in proper priority in your life.
6. Report-walk in accountability
7. Restore-healing from past hurts

Restoration

When a person desires to COMPLETELY¹²⁸ restore his/her relationship to the church, reinstating church membership and its privileges involves further steps. These steps will be determined and outlined as a follow-up to the reconciliation process listed above. NOTE: Each situation will differ, and so the steps of restoration will vary according to the situation and will be determined by pastoral counseling and involvement.

Section Four

COVENANT OF MEMBERSHIP

Purpose

Because of the **EXPRESSED**¹²⁹ desire of believers to join together with one another in a local fellowship to better serve Jesus and to edify each other, Harvest Church has made a provision for persons who desire to formally associate themselves to one another in the corporate body of believers at Harvest Church to express the intention by formally **EMBRACING**¹³⁰ this Covenant of Membership. In so doing, the believer affirms that he/she feels the call of God to formally join the congregation of Harvest Church and to thus be the recipient of the blessings and benefits of such an action, as well as embracing the responsibilities which accompany such a commitment.

Nature of the Covenant of Membership

Those who embrace the commitment, which the Covenant of Membership entails, agree to the following specifics: (1) an essential **AGREEMENT**¹³¹ with the statement of faith of Harvest Church, (2) a **RECOGNITION**¹³² of the authority of the Senior Pastor and Eldership, the pastoral ministry staff and the leadership of the Senior Pastor, (3) **ACTIVE**¹³³ attendance and support of Harvest Church and its ministries, (4) and to **JOIN**¹³⁴ a Connection Group. Further, the benefits available to those committing themselves to the Covenant of Membership and include: (1) all the **BENEFITS**¹³⁵ of the ministry and pastoral care, (2) the **BLESSING**¹³⁶ of the corporate aspect of the Body of Christ locally, and (3) a deeper sense of belonging and being fruitfully placed in the Body of Christ.

Expanded Statement of the Covenant of Membership

Purpose- Because of past experiences of many who have been participants in denominational membership programs, Harvest Church has sought the Lord **CAREFULLY**¹³⁷ regarding both the timing and implementation of a “church membership”. However, believing that the essential concept has validity, even though the application has at many times proven defective, the Lord would not want us to reject the wheat because of the chaff. Rather, we believe that He would have us experience the **POSITIVE**¹³⁸ benefits of a more defined commitment of members one to another and to the fellowship in which the Lord has placed them. The purpose of this covenant is to provide a **CLOSER**¹³⁹ sense of belonging to and identification with the ministry of the Lord here at Harvest Church. This is not intended to foster an attitude of exclusivity in relationship to other church bodies, nor to create a sense of division in Harvest Church between those embracing the covenant and those not.

Rather, the Covenant of Membership is designed to be another way in which a believer can make a deeper commitment to the **LORD**¹⁴⁰, to the **LEADERSHIP**¹⁴¹, to **ONE ANOTHER**¹⁴², to their **FAMILIES**¹⁴³ and to themselves.

Nature- The affirmation of the Covenant of Membership does not intimate that those who have not embraced it are not in the covenant of Christ. Rather, while it affirms the entire body of Christ, it also makes provision for a deepening of commitment for the Christian who is associated with Harvest. The spirit of the Covenant of Membership transcends any detailing of responsibilities and benefits. In essence, it provides an acknowledgment of a formal joining of oneself to Harvest Church and to the Word of the Lord as a true yokefellow and partner. It is a way of expressing formally that this is the part of the Body of Christ to which the Lord has called the **INDIVIDUAL**¹⁴⁴, and as such, to embrace a deeper call to loyalty, responsibility and participation. It is also recognition of one's roles as well as an affirmation of the freedom of one's individual Christian walk. The Covenant of Membership is intended to result in a deeper sense of belonging, purpose, usefulness and fruitfulness in this portion of the Body of Christ. Together we have a greater sense of blessing from the Lord and by joining this covenant, you help make those blessing a reality to the **MEMBERS**¹⁴⁵ of Harvest Church and our **COMMUNITY**¹⁴⁶. Ephesians 4:16.

The Connection Group Ministry of Harvest Church

The Biblical Foundation for Ministry

The Pattern of the New Testament Church: Relational ministry publicly and house to house.

-Acts 2:42-47

-Acts 20:20

The Vision for Connection Groups

What is a Connection Group?

- A Connection Group is a set of **RELATIONSHIPS**¹⁴⁷ established within the Body of Christ in which to edify, develop and multiply the members.
- Connection Groups meet weekly and combine teaching, worship and discussion. They meet the individual **NEEDS**¹⁴⁸ of the members, release their spiritual gifts, and provide a forum for growth.
- The focus is the edification of each member of the Group to become a leader and develop his **FULL**¹⁴⁹ potential in multiplying his gifts.
- Connection Groups are like **PLATOONS**¹⁵⁰. They are small fighting units that together make up the army of the Lord.
- The facets of Connection Groups are; worship and prayer, accessibility and availability, **PERSONAL**¹⁵¹ contact, communication, friendship, outreach and evangelism, in-reach and (pastoral) care, help, openness, discipleship, confidentiality,

ACCOUNTABILITY₁₅₂, meaningful relationships, conversation, **UNITY**₁₅₃, focus and group ministry.

Why has Harvest Church embraced the concept of Connection groups?

There is no such thing as a perfect church. But there are healthy, balanced, growing churches. We believe the five basic elements of a healthy church are:

1. Worship-God wants me to be a **MAGNIFIER**₁₅₄ of His name. (Psalm 34:3)
2. Evangelism-God wants me to be a **MESSENGER**₁₅₅ of His love. (II Corinthians 5:19, 20)
3. Discipleship-God wants me to be a **MODEL**₁₅₆ of His character. (I Timothy 4:12)
4. Fellowship-God wants me to be a **MEMBER**₁₅₇ of His family. (Ephesians 2:19)
5. Service-God wants me to be a **MINISTER**₁₅₈ of His grace. (Ephesians 2:10)

We feel that all five of these purposes of the local church can be accomplished through small groups.

1. Connection Groups provide a context in which every church member can mature, grow, and model New Testament Christian living. Connection Groups focus on exalting Christ and are **DIRECTED**₁₅₉ by Him for internal edification and external evangelism. We are magnifiers of God's name.
2. The hurts and needs of the World can be touched. In Connection Groups, every member is a minister and can **IDENTIFY**₁₆₀ and **REACT**₁₆₁ to the real needs of our community. Hurting and lost people should not have to wait until Sunday to be ministered to by a professional minister. This is where member's **GIFTS**₁₆₂ can be released. We are messengers of God's love.
3. To grow a powerful church in the Mobile area! Church growth, plain and simple, is winning the lost and **GATHERING**₁₆₃ them into the local church for the purpose of discipleship. We are members of God's family.
4. Connection Groups give God's **CALLED**₁₆₄ leaders a place to lead. We are models of God's character.
5. Connection Groups are places where everyone's spiritual gifts can **OPERATE**₁₆₅ and **DEVELOP**₁₆₆ into maturity. We are ministers of God's grace.

What are the common characteristics of successful churches with Connection Groups?

1. **DEPENDENCE**₁₆₇ on Jesus Christ through prayer.
2. **MOTIVATION**₁₆₈ for Connection Groups is discipleship, equipping and church growth.
3. The goal of each Connection Group is **MULTIPLICATION**₁₆₉.

4. All Connection Groups maintain similar components-spiritual growth with the goal of multiplication and personal **CONNECTION**₁₇₀ with fellow members and covering provided by the local church.
5. Emphasis on goal setting.
6. Connection Group ministry is the church's **BACKBONE**₁₇₁.
7. Importance of both Connection Groups and celebration. (Corporate worship services.)
8. The senior pastor has a strong, visionary leadership.
9. There are established leadership requirements.
10. There is required leadership training.
11. Leadership is developed within the church.
12. Leadership promotion is based upon success.
13. Connection Groups are typically meet in homes and other such venues.
14. Connection Groups follow-up with visitors and new converts, and provide pastoral care for the members of their group.
15. Connection Group lessons are based on the pastor's sermons or an equipping track that will train others for ministries in the church.

The Principle of Leaving

“How You Leave One Place Is How You Enter the Next.”

Introduction: Everyone in life is placed in a position at times to be faced with leaving a relationship, a responsibility, or a geographic region. How we leave is of tremendous importance because it dictates:

1. God's blessing in our lives-or lack of it.
2. Our ability to **RECONNECT**₁₇₂.
3. Our future attitudes toward leaving.
4. Our sense of **SELF-RESPECT**₁₇₃ (clear conscience).
5. The atmosphere for our replacement.

Five Laws of Righteous Leaving

Genesis 27-33

Example: “Jacob”

I. RIGHTEOUS LEAVING IS PLANNED:

- a. Deliberate Versus Reactionary
 - i. Takes place in a **TIMELY**₁₇₄ fashion

1. Job, home, area
- i. It is **PROPERLY**₁₇₅ communicated
 1. Truthful, respectful, timely
- ii. It happens in **PLAIN**₁₇₆ sight
 1. When Jacob left his home as well as when he left Laban, he did so secretly. But what he did in secret had public consequences with Esau and Laban.
 2. Planned leaving means:
 - a. We are above **REPROACH**₁₇₇.
 - b. We are not **RUNNING**₁₇₈ from things we don't want to deal with.
 - c. We are taking the time to make a **QUALITY**₁₇₉ decision

II. RIGHTEOUS LEAVING IS PRAYERFUL:

- a. The paramount issue in leaving is whether **GOD**₁₈₀ is leaving with you or not.
 1. Without prayer, leaving becomes an act of insolent **REBELLION**₁₈₁ toward God.
 2. After prayer, when God approves, leaving becomes an act of **OBEDIENT**₁₈₂ progress.

NOTE: There are times in our lives when God calls us to leave, i.e. Abraham. Without prayer, we will many times stay where God commanded us to leave, and we suffer the penalty for it.

IMPORTANT: Jacob met with God back where Esau was. It was an indication that God's full blessing for Jacob was still waiting in a proper relationship with Esau. Jacob left based on the of his mother, not God.

III. RIGHTEOUS LEAVING IS PURE:

- A. We have dealt with personal sin issues.
 1. We are in **RIGHT**₁₈₃ relationship with authority.
 2. We have **FORGIVEN**₁₈₄ any person who has sinned against us.
 3. How you leave is as important as **WHY**₁₈₅ you leave.

If we do not deal with issues of sin, rebellion, or unforgiveness in our lives, then we are carrying around **BAGGAGE**₁₈₆ that continues to accumulate. It burdens our emotions and our consciences and can result in significant personal problems as well as making us increasingly prone to troubled relationships, i.e. Marriage/Divorce, Churches, Work, etc.

Jacob kept ignoring his problem by lying and running from his problems until he finally was ready to deal with his past at Peniel. There, God met him and purified him from his past.

IV. RIGHTEOUS LEAVING IS PEACEABLE¹⁸⁷:

Colossians 3 says that the peace of Christ is to rule (umpire) in our hearts. This peace can be measured in four ways:

1. I am inwardly motivated by a rational love for God and a WILLINGNESS¹⁸⁸ to do His will. (As opposed to nervousness, fear, anxiety, anger etc.)
2. I can thank God for my circumstances and bless those whom I am leaving.
3. I could return to this situation without guilt or fear of reproach or rejection.
4. I will prepare the people for change.

When Jacob left, he wasn't at peace with God, himself or anyone else. He couldn't bless Esau or Laban and he certainly couldn't return to any place he had left without tremendous emotional upheaval and relational strain.

V. RIGHTEOUS LEAVING IS POSITIVE:

1. Righteous leaving has a perspective of the future, not the PAST¹⁸⁹.
2. Paul-**Philippians 3:13**. Jacob lived in the past, because he never made a clean break from it. He never knew how to leave!
3. It creates a POSITIVE¹⁹⁰ atmosphere for the next person or minister to enter into. One that is void of hostility, suspicion, mistrust, violation, and abuse. The church or ministry atmosphere you will INHERIT¹⁹¹ will be the one that someone "left", either healthy or unhealthy for you to enter into.

OBSERVATIONS OF LEAVING

Elijah-2 Kings 2:1-12

1. The Lord had spoken to Elijah that he would be leaving. In the same way the Holy Spirit will begin to impress and reveal to one that he will be leaving or your ministry there is completed. (The Lord will speak PERSONALLY.)
2. The prophets knew, see verse 3 and 5. (The Lord will speak or confirm PROPHETICALLY.) The Lord will confirm this through people with a prophetic call and the covering of leadership authority He placed over you. Hence, the importance of a prophetic, or apostolic or pastoral COVERING / RELATIONSHIP¹⁹².

3. Elijah told Elisha to watch and see “when I am taken from you...” verse 10. Elijah wanted him to witness these things:
- a. When he was leaving-in God’s **TIMING**₁₉₃.
 - b. How he was leaving-with God’s **PROVISION**₁₉₄.
 - c. Where he was going-God’s **PREPARED**₁₉₅ place.
 - d. Who he was leaving with-God’s **BLESSING**₁₉₆ and **DIRECTIVE**₁₉₇.
 - e. What he left behind-his mantle (**MINISTRY**₁₉₈ and **POSITION**₁₉₉). Ideally, this would be if you could pick and place your mantle on the person to replace you. If this is not feasible, to at least make recommendations.

**Can someone pick up where you left off? Have you prepared the people for your departure and for your replacement? Are there any unresolved issues of sin, strife, pride, rebellion or relational issues? Is leadership confirming you leaving? Is God saying leave? Why?*

BOARD OF ELDERS

Pastor Kevin Cooley

Pastor Trent Massey

Eugene Dees

Lewis LeNaire

Robyn McWhorter

Eleanor Reynolds

Wade Farrish

MEET OUR STAFF:

Pastor Kevin & Adrienne Cooley
(Lead Pastor)

Pastor Trent & Stephanie Massey
(Executive Pastor/Youth Pastor)

Jeremy Barnes
(Pastoral Staff Assistant)

Sonja Woodruff
(Pastoral Administrative Assistant)

ANSWER KEY

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) the price | 45) believed | 89) corporate | 133) active |
| 2) Satan's | 46) believed | 90) channel | 134) join |
| 3) you | 47) His | 91) identification | 135) benefits |
| 4) discover | 48) draws | 92) remembrance | 136) blessing |
| 5) giving | 49) growth | 93) empowering & equipping | 137) carefully |
| 6) process | 50) change | 94) privilege | 138) positive |
| 7) mandate | 51) radical | 95) appearing | 139) closer |
| 8) God | 52) my way | 96) Serving | 140) Lord |
| 9) people | 53) must | 97) doctrinal | 141) leadership |
| 10) walk | 54) individual | 98) behavior | 142) one another |
| 11) work | 55) reason | 99) correction | 143) families |
| 12) allow | 56) God | 100) personal | 144) individual |
| 13) gossip | 57) obedience | 101) committee | 145) members |
| 14) service | 58) covenant | 102) group | 146) community |
| 15) practical | 59) stewardship | 103) removal | 147) relationships |
| 16) each other | 60) practical | 104) associated | 148) needs |
| 17) healthy, balanced | 61) blessings | 105) submitted | 149) full |
| 18) magnifier | 62) disagreement | 106) accountability | 150) platoons |
| 19) worship | 63) punishment | 107) covering | 151) personal |
| 20) Whom | 64) hostage | 108) governing | 152) accountability |
| 21) messenger | 65) dominate | 109) confirmed | 153) unity |
| 22) evangelism | 66) control | 110) gifting | 154) magnifier |
| 23) lost | 67) extended | 111) call | 155) messenger |
| 24) sent | 68) One | 112) training | 156) model |
| 25) members | 69) Triune | 113) recommendation | 157) member |
| 26) impact | 70) Originator | 114) volunteers | 158) minister |
| 27) influence | 71) Administrator | 115) Confirmed | 159) directed |
| 28) minister | 72) Demonstrator | 116) perfect | 160) identify |
| 29) gifted | 73) final | 117) responses | 161) react |
| 30) passion | 74) guidance | 118) habitual | 162) gifts |
| 31) model | 75) practical | 119) violates | 163) gathering |
| 32) member | 76) belief | 120) not | 164) called |
| 33) believing | 77) acceptance | 121) unwillingness | 165) operate |
| 34) heal | 78) unchanging | 122) Disagreeing | 166) develop |
| 35) strengthen | 79) imputed | 123) personal | 167) Dependence |
| 36) sons | 80) imparted | 124) condone | 168) Motivation |
| 37) daughters | 81) desires | 125) termination | 169) multiplication |
| 38) committed | 82) passions | 126) temporary | 170) connection |
| 39) process | 83) direct | 127) reconciliation | 171) backbone |
| 40) born again | 84) Pastor | 128) completely | 172) reconnect |
| 41) conservative | 85) local | 129) expressed | 173) self-respect |
| 42) practiced | 86) unlimited | 130) embracing | 174) timely |
| 43) victorious | 87) chief | 131) agreement | 175) properly |
| 44) signs | 88) agency | 132) recognition | 176) plain |

ANSWER KEY (Cont'd)

- 177) reproach
- 178) running
- 179) quality
- 180) God
- 181) rebellion
- 182) obedient
- 183) right
- 184) forgiven
- 185) why
- 186) baggage
- 187) PEACEABLE
- 188) willingness
- 189) past
- 190) positive
- 191) inherit
- 192) covering/relationship
- 193) timing
- 194) provision
- 195) prepared
- 196) blessing
- 197) directive
- 198) ministry
- 199) position

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Matthew 22:36-40

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, ""You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'[1] 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'[2] 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Ephesians 4:3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Psalms 34:3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me[1] in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Psalms 133:1-3

1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing-- Life forevermore.

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

Acts 6:2-7

2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. 7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 2:5-12

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were

all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." ¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Ephesians 5:21-33

²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.[1] (1) ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body,[2] of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." [3] ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Acts 2:42,46

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

Isaiah 64:1-4

¹ Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence—² As fire burns brushwood, As fire causes water to boil-- To make Your name known to Your adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Your presence! ³ When You did awesome things for which we did not look, You came down, The mountains shook at Your presence. ⁴ For since the

beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.

Acts 3:19-21

¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, [1] ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Romans 13:1-5

¹ Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴ For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

John 4:23-24

²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore [1] and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. [2]

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me [1] in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 20:24

But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, [1] so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then,

we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Ephesians 4:7-12

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." [1] ⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"--what does it mean but that He also first [2] descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) ¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Proverbs 14:31 He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, [1] leaving us [2] an example, that you should follow His steps:

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, [1] in faith, in purity.

Malachi 2:14-16 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. ¹⁵ But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. ¹⁶ For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Joel 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me[1] in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

John 3:1-7

¹ There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again.'

Matthew 7:13-23

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because[1] narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. ¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them. ²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"

Luke 6:46 "But why do you call Me "Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

Luke 15:25 "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.

Hosea 9:11 As for Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird-- No birth, no pregnancy, and no conception!