

**DISCOVERING
CHURCH
Membership**

. Grandview Baptist
Church

Davenport, Iowa

DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS 101

WELCOME TO

DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Grandview! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is.

Discovering Church Membership is divided in four sessions and is taught by one of our pastors. Assisting our pastor will be other members of the leadership team here at Grandview Baptist Church.

THE BASICS FOR THIS CLASS

'... You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.' Eph. 2:19 (LB)

Key Truths:

1. The church is
2. God expects you to be _____ of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

...That I will commit myself to _____ and to the _____

WHAT MAKES GRANDVIEW A FAMILY?

Four things unite us:

- Our Salvation (What God has done for us)
- Our Statement (Why we exist as a church)
- Our Strategy (How we fulfill our purpose)
- Our Structure (When and where we fulfill our purpose)

Session One

Our Salvation

"For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by Him. We are no longer Jews or Gentiles, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women, but we are all the same - we are Christians; we are one in Jesus Christ."

Galatians 3:26-28 (LB)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing "WHY?" They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God's purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, "What is the meaning of life?"

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- ...Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions**.
- ...Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure**.
- ...Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige & power**.

But real happiness comes from understanding my _____

I. WHY AM I HERE?

1. GOD MADE ME TOME!

God says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love!" Jer. 31:3

"Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with **Christ...because of His love.** God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children - this was God's pleasure and purpose." Eph. 1:4-5 (GN)

2. WE WERE CREATED TO _____ A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND TO ALL OF THE REST OF Goo's CREATION! THIS MAKES us SPECIAL!

"So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them, and said,.../ive all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge." Gen. 1:27-28 (LB)

"God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." 1 Tim. 6:17

Jesus said, "I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness!" John 10:10

3. WHEN WE KNOW AND LOVE GOD, AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES, IT PRODUCES TREMENDOUS BENEFITS IN OUR LIVES:

Clear Conscience

Rom. 8:1

Life & Peace

Rom. 8:6

Help with Weakness

Rom. 8:26

Purpose

Rom. 8:28

Confidence

Rom. 8:31

Security

Rom. 8:39

Power & Strength

Phil. 4:13

Fulfillment

Phil. 4:19

Freedom

John 8:32,36

II. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Man has a natural desire to _____ and to ignore God's principles for living.

"Look out for#1. Do your own thing."

"If it feels good, do it - regardless of what God says about it."

"It's my life and I'll do what I please!"

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE:

"All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way." Isaiah 53:6

"If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth." 1 John 1:8

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of His will.

"The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God." Isaiah 59:2 (LB)

"All have sinned and fall short of God's glorious ideal." Romans 3:23

When our relationship to God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives - marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.

WHEN PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS, THEY OFTEN TRY MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF COPING BEFORE TURNING TO GOD.

'There are ways that SEEM right to man, but they only end in death.' Proverbs 16:25

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him:

- "My mother was a Christian so..."
- "It doesn't matter what you believe, just be sincere."
"I'll give up all my bad habits."
"I'll work real hard and earn it."
- "I'll be religious and go to church."

III. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Jesus Christ said, *"I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except THROUGH ME!"* John 14:6

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The Way is a Person!

JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM!

'The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord' Rom. 6:23

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

"God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8

"God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind" 1 Tim. 2:5

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

IV. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. _____ THAT GOD HAS NOT BEEN FIRST PLACE IN YOUR LIFE AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOUR SINS.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and Just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong." 1 John 1:9

2. _____ THAT JESUS DIED TO PAY FOR YOUR SINS AND THAT HE ROSE AGAIN ON EASTER, AND IS ALIVE TODAY.

"If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name Jesus) by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

3. _____ GOD'S FREE GIFT OF SALVATION. DON'T TRY TO EARN IT.

"For it is by grace you are saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8,9

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us!

4. _____ JESUS CHRIST TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT HE SAID HE WOULD DO.

"To all who receive Him, He gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust Him to save us. All those who believe this are reborn! - not a physical rebirth...but from the will of God!" John 1: 12-13

You CAN TAKE THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. I trust you now as my Savior and am excited that you are making me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian."

"Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1 TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY _____

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." Mark 1:9

2 BECAUSE CHRIST _____ IT.

*'Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and **make them my disciples**, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and **then teach them** to obey everything I have commanded you.'*" Matt. 28:19-20

3 IT DEMONSTRATES THAT I REALLY AM A _____

*'...many of the people who heard Him **believed** and were **baptized**.'*" Acts 18:8

*"We know that we have come to know Him, if we **obey** His commands."* 1 John 2:3

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1 IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST'S _____ AND RESURRECTION

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried...and He rose again." 1 Cor. 15:3-4

*"For when you are **baptized**, you were **buried** with Christ, and in baptism you were also **raised** with Christ." Col. 2:12*

2 IT ILLUSTRATES MY _____ AS A CHRISTIAN.

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" 2 Cor. 5:17

*"By our **baptism** then, we were **buried** with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was **raised** from the dead...so also we **may live a new life!**"* Rom. 6:4

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that **you already believe**. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

BECAUSE _____ WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16

EVERY BAPTISM IN THE _____ WAS BY IMMERSION.

(Example) *“...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...”* Acts 8:38-39

THE WORD "BAPTIZE" MEANS TO _____ - WATER".

The Greek word *baptizo* means "to immerse or dip under water".

IT BEST SYMBOLIZES A **BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!**

The founders of denominations agree:

Martin Luther..."I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

John Calvin..."The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

John Wesley..."Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS _____ IN CHRIST.

'Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized...' Acts 2:41

"Simon himself believed and was baptized..." Acts 8:13

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12

At Grandview, we wait until our children are old enough to **believe** and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a "*baptism of confirmation*" for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ. We do not practice infant baptism or confirmation at Grandview.

At Grandview, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were "confirmed" as children.

Over 1,000 people have been baptized at Grandview!

V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!

"Those who believed ..were baptized...that day!" Acts 2:41

"Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect", you'll never feel "good enough"!

CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Anyone, especially children, who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with our Pastor for a pre-baptism conversation.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a *personal* statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays *your* obedience.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

We provide a baptism shirt for you to wear that you get to keep as a gift for you to remember the occasion. We also provide towels too.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

Yes, but let me explain. At the beginning of the service, the Pastor will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait at the edge of the baptistery for your turn to be baptized. Pastor will introduce you, ask you two simple questions, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the baptistery, dry off, and watch the others. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

The two questions are: 1) Have you come to a place when you have turned from your sin and given your life to Jesus? 2) Who is Jesus to you?

SPECIAL NEEDS?

Our Pastors can perform a private baptism in special circumstances.

THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: Baptism and The Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

I. WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER? (I COR. 11:23-26)

1. IT IS A

'The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread...' (vs. 23)

2. IT IS A

'...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you, eat it in remembrance of me.' (vs. 24)

3. IT IS A

"In the same way, He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me...', (vs. 25)

4. IT IS A

"For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes back." (vs. 26)

II. WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Only those who are already (Mark 14:22-26)

"For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks Judgment upon himself." 2 Cor. 11:29

III. LORD'S How Do I PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE SUPPER?

'Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.' 1 Cor. 11:27-28

By...

1. **Self-Examination**

1 Cor. 11:27

2. **Confessing My Sins**

1 John 1:9

3. **Recommitment**

Rom. 12:1

4. **Restoring Relationships**

Matt. 5:23-24

IV. WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord's Supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night. Since our Sunday morning service is for both believers and non-believers, we only take The Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month and other special occasions. That way we remember Jesus Christ on a regular basis without making our unsaved guest feel too awkward.

Session Two

The Grandview Statements

"Let there be real harmony among you so there won't be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose."

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

Why We Exist As A Church

The purpose of our church is summarized in a single sentence based on two key scriptures:

"WE BELIEVE A GREAT COMMITMENT TO THE GREATAND THE GREATWILL GROW A GREAT CHURCH!"

The Great Commandment: *'Jesus said, Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.'* Matt. 22:36-40

The Great Commission: *'Jesus said, Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'* Matt. 28:19-20

To "Love God with all your heart" is **"WORSHIP"**:

To "Love your neighbor as yourself" is **"MINISTRY"**:

To "Go... make disciples" is **"EVANGELISM"**.

To "Baptize..." is to **"INCORPORATE INTO FELLOWSHIP"**:

To "Teach them....all things" is **"DISCIPLESHIP"**.

GRANDVIEW CHURCH EXISTS:

1. To God's Presence (Worship)
2. To..... God's Word (Evangelism)
3. To God's People (Discipleship)
4. To God's Love (Ministry)
5. To God's Family (Fellowship)

I. WE EXIST TO CELEBRATE Goo's PRESENCE

WORSHIP:

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only..." Matt. 4: 10

"... The Father seeks worshipers...and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Jn 4:23-24

Expressions of Worship

- Singing (Eph. 5:19)
- Commitment (Romans 12: 1-2)
- Praying (Ps. 95:6)
- Hearing the Word John 17:17)
- Giving (1 Cor. 16: 1-2)
- Baptism (Romans 6:3-4)
- Meditating (Hab. 2:20)
- Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11-23-26)

Grandview's Worship Style

"Celebration"
Psalm 122:1

"Inspiration"
Isaiah 40:31

"Preparation"
Eph. 4:11-12

II. WE EXIST To COMMUNICATE Goo's WORD

EVANGELISM:

"His intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..."
Eph.3:10

"Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved But who can ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells him?" Rom. 10: 13-14 (LB)

WHY OUR CHURCH MUST NEVER STOP GROWING

1. **Because**

*"The Lord ..is patient, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but wants everyone to come to repentance."*
2 Pet. 3:9

2 Cor. 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matt. 9:12-13

2. **Because**

"Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full"
Luke 14:23 (LB)

'...you will be my witnesses...'" Acts 1:8

3. **Because**

*"Under Christ's control, the whole Body is nourished...and grows as **God wants it to grow.**"* Col. 2:19(GN)

"Jesus) I will build my church." Matt. 16:18

Unbiblical Excuses For Not Growing:

"God isn't interested in numbers."

"Our church wants quality not quantity."

"Large churches are impersonal"

We believe our church must grow _____ and _____ at the same time.

*"And the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **THEN** the end will come."* Matt. 24:14

III. WE EXIST To EDUCATE Goo's PEOPLE

DISCIPLESHIP:

"Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity..." Heb. 6:1

"Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

"(God has given)...some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all...become mature...like Christ." Eph. 4:11-13

Discovering Spiritual Maturity [#201]

IV. WE EXIST TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE

MINISTRY:

*"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples - **that you have love for one another.**" John 13:35*

1 John 3:16-17, Matt. 25:34-40, Heb. 13:16, Rom. 12:13

Ministry at Grandview takes everybody. You are Saved to Serve.

*"Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities.. and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)... **All of you** together form the one Body of Christ and **each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.**" 1 Cor. 12:4-5, 27 (LB)*

At Grandview ...

- Every member is a:
- Every task is:
- Every member is a "10" in:

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

What We Believe

- **In essential beliefs - we have unity.**

"There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all..." Eph. 4:4-6

- **In non-essential beliefs - we have liberty.**

"Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing Judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God." Romans 14:1,4,12,22

- In all our beliefs - we show charity.

": ..If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains - but have no love, I amount to nothing at all." 1 Cor. 13:2 (Ph)

Converge - Affirmation of Faith

1. The Word of God

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

2. The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

3. God the Father

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

4. Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

5. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

6. Regeneration

We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

7. The Church

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

8. Christian Conduct

We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

9. The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for Commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

10. Religious liberty

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

11. Church Cooperation

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether it is the Conference or a district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

12. The Last Things

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

Adopted by the Baptist General Conference in 1951, reaffirmed in 1990 and amended in 1997, adapted by Converge worldwide in 2015.

Additional Doctrines that shape us as a church

13. SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10,14; 1 Peter 1:3-5

OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

What We Practice

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

B1BLE As OUR SOLE AUTHORITY.

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right." 2 Tim. 3:15

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

AUTONOMY OF CH LOCALCHURCH

"Christ is the head of His Body, the church. He is the source of the Body's life..." Col. 1:18 (GN)

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control. We are part of Converge, but work: independently and cooperatively.

PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER

"Christ loves us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God..." Rev. 1:6 (GN) "You are... the King's priests... God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God." 1 Pet. 2:9 (GN)

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full time" Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

TITHING

"A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." Lev. 26:30

At Grandview we practice tithing for the support of Christ's body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving. God loves a cheerful giver.

IMMERSION

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ..." Col. 2:12 (GN)

We practice baptism by immersion under water - the way Jesus was baptized, and the way the Bible commands.

SPIRIT-LED LIVING

(Jesus said), *"I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing."* John 15:5

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right. (Phil. 2:13, Eph. 5:18)

TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those with whom God brings us into contact. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

Session Three

The Grandview Strategy

(Paul) "I have been all things to all sorts of people that by every possible means I might win some to God. I do all of this for the sake of the Good News." 1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (Ph)

THE FOUR GRANDVIEW COVENANTS:

1 THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT...

is a commitment to _____ and _____

"You are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Eph. 2:19 (LB)

"We are all parts of Christ's Body, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and need all the others." Rom. 12:4-5 (LB)

2 THE MATURITY COVENANT..

is a commitment to the..... necessary for spiritual growth.

"Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

"Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit." 1 Tim. 4:7 (Ph)

3 THE MINISTRY .COVENANT...

is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in _____ God and others.

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other..." 1 Pet. 4:10 (LB)

"There are different kinds of service to God...together you form the Body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it." 1 Cor. 12:5,27 (LB)

- *To help further discover your gifting go to: gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/*

4 THE MISSIONS COVENANT.. .

is a commitment to..... the Good News with others.

'..you will be my witnesses for me...to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (GN)

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect..." 1 Peter 3:15

WHY DO WE HAVE THESE COVENANTS?

WE BECOME WHAT WE ARE _____

Session Four

The Grandview Structure

How Our Church Is Structured

*"For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...
Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way."* 1 cor. 14:33,40

The structure of the church should *not* be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE.

I. THE CHURCH IS A....." .. .

"They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and Joined in the fellowship...."
Acts 2:42 (Ph)

A top priority in a fellowship is _____ and _____

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Eph. 4:3

"So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together." Rom. 14:19 (Ph)

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Col. 3:15, 1 Cor. 1:10, 2 Tim. 2:14, Pr. 17:14, 2 Cor. 13:11,
Phil. 1:27, 2:1-3, Col. 2:2, Phil. 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Cor. 14:33,
John 13:34-35, 2 Tim. 2:23, Rom. 15:5-6, Rom. 12:16-18,
Col.3:13-14, Ps.133:1

IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS ..

"(Often)...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, **there are divisions among you...**" 1 Cor. 11:17-18

"Voting" tends to _____

At Grandview, we only vote on:

- Annual budget and legal issues*
- Purchase of land or buildings*
- Calling the senior pastor*
- Changes in the church constitution*

II. THE CHURCH IS A.....

"You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds." 1 Peter 3:8 (LB)

Gal. 6:10, Heb. 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF _____ NOT _____

*"Don't reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a **father**. Treat the young men as **brothers**, and the older women as **mothers**. Treat the younger women as **sisters**..."* 1 Tim. 5:1-2 (Ph)

'CA Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his family, how can he take care of God's church?" 1 Tim. 3:4-5

III. THE CHURCH IS A.....

1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 5:23, Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18, 2:19

We are a body - not a business!
We are an organism - not an organization!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF _____ NOT _____

*'Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have **different gifts** according to the grace given us.'* Rom. 12:4-6

In an organization, "maintenance" becomes the focus. But in an organism, "ministry" is the **focus**.

AT GRANDVIEW WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN MAXIMIZE _____ AND MINIMIZE _____

"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." Eph. 4:11-12

OUR STRUCTURE

THE PEOPLE ARE THE" _____"

THE PASTORS ARE THE " _____"

Currently there are _____ different ministries in our church begun and operated by members.

IV. THE CHURCH IS A.....
(Jesus' favorite description of the church)

John 10:1-30, Matt. 26:31, Matt. 25:33

THEREFORE, IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY

*'Jesus asked Simon Peter, 'Do you really love me?' 'Yes Lord, 'said Peter. 'Then **take care** of my sheep.'*" John 21:16-17

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the *same* church leaders:

- "POIMEN"
- PRESBUTEROS"
- EPISCOPOS"

"To the elders I say...Be shepherds of God's flock, serving as overseers..." 1 Pet. 5:1-2

*"Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the church. When they arrived he said to them... Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be **pastors** of the church of God..."* Acts 20:17-18, 28

OUR AFFILIATIONS

Grandview chooses to affiliate with Converge Churches.

WHY NOT JUST BE AN INDEPENDENT CHURCH?

We *are* an independent church! Every Converge church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there are in most other denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs.

- For example:
- *Every Converge church chooses its own pastor*
 - *Every Converge church owns its own buildings and assets*
 - *Every Converge church determines its own programs*

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF AFFILIATING WITH Converge?

1. It allows us to **identify with other Christians** around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the Converge has no man-made "creed". The Bible is our only authority.
2. It allows our church to participate in a vibrant missionary fellowship around the world. Through the Converge we help support missionaries in countries around the world and support an aggressive church planting movement here in the US.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between "attenders" and "members" can be summed up in one word: _____

At Grandview we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

I. **A BIBLICAL REASON: CHRIST IS COMMITTED TO THE CHURCH**

"...Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it." Eph. 5:25

II. **A CULTURAL REASON: IT IS AN ANTIDOTE TO OUR SOCIETY**

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job ...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of "church shoppers and hoppers". Membership swims against the current of America's "consumer religion." It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

III. **A PRACTICAL REASON: IT DEFINES WHO CAN BE COUNTED ON**

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

IV. **A PERSONAL REASON: IT PRODUCES SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At Grandview we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant.