

# belong.



 **Community Life Church**  
Catskill, NY

Last Updated: 3.27.21

# Welcome to CLC!

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Pastor Rick Snowden

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Community Life Church and our “Belong” Membership Class. Should you choose to make this your church home, we want you to be fully aware of the heart and the pulse of our congregation.

The 5-Session course you are about to take part in, introduces you to Community Life Church, our Mission, our Core Values, what we believe, and the direction God is leading us. This booklet is designed to both complement and enhance the video sessions you will watch. There is a place for you to take notes on each video followed by additional pages for you to read and complete on your own.

If, after going through these sessions, you believe that this is the Kingdom of God movement you want to be a part of, please complete the form at the end of this booklet. Once we receive that form, we will invite you to a New Members Dinner where you can meet our staff and leaders, and we will have the opportunity to meet and get to know you.

Thank you for taking the time to explore who we are as a congregation. Enjoy the video sessions and may God bless you and keep you.

*Rick Snowden*

Pastor Rick Snowden





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## Our Story



Historical Main Street Catskill, NY

Community Life Church of Catskill, New York is rich with antiquity yet steadfast in its resolve to remain and be effective in fulfilling God's call to build His Kingdom. Prior to June of 2011, Community Life Church was formerly known as First Baptist Church of Catskill. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 1803 beside the open fireplace of the Highland Hill home the First Baptist Church was formulated with only seven members. With services first being held in the Hill home and later in the local schoolhouse, the membership of

First Baptist Church of Catskill grew to 80 creating a significant need for a larger meeting place. In 1823, in response to this growing need, a small building was constructed only to once again multiply in church membership.

Seventeen years later a newer building was again erected on what is now known as Main Street in 1840. Unfortunately, eleven years later the church was destroyed in what was known as the Great Fire of 1851 which decimated many of the surrounding buildings including two other local churches. In response to the devastation a committee was appointed to build a new church which was completed the following summer of 1852. Unfortunately, it would not be the last time fire would bring destruction to the church. On August 7, 1871, the Red Wings of fire destroyed the building once again. However, the resolve of those who felt they heard from God pressed forward with the call and in a 50-year period from 1823-1873, the people of First Baptist Church had erected a total of four churches. Moving forward to the year 1983, First Baptist Church once again broke ground to build yet another building where Community Life Church now stands and flourishes. Over the last 211 years many great men of God have been a part of the heritage of this church which includes names like John Mason Peck, Luther Rice and Rev. Marcellus Williams.



First Baptist Church (19??)



Pastor Rick Snowden

With the understanding that the church is to always be in the process of moving forward and transformed, the leadership of Community Life Church led by Lead Pastor, Rick Snowden spent a considerable amount of time in praying and fasting to get the heart of God for vision, mission, and core values that would create a future pathway in fulfilling His will for this local church. As a church body that had an ever-increasing love for the Church both locally and universally, it was essential to have this in place in order to help direct the commitment and passion of CLC in reaching and meeting the needs of the community and abroad. In doing so, the vision, mission, and core values of CLC were birthed.

## Session 1 – Introduction to Membership

### Video Session Notes

#### Introduction



We desire that every participating member of CLC knows our vision, purpose, values, and strategy. We're a family, and every member of a family brings their unique personality, life, gifts, and energy to help the family be the family and accomplish its purpose. Not only do you pour into the life of the family, but also the family pours into your life. Our desire for every person that calls CLC home is that they would become fully devoted followers of Christ. Committing to membership

of a local Church is committing yourself not only to Jesus Christ and His purposes, but a commitment to Christ's family.

#### NOTES

1. Why become a member of a church?
  - a. spiritual roots
  - b. player
  - c. own the vision
2. What do I need to do to be a participating member of CLC?
3. What are the benefits of becoming a participating member?

## Session 1 - More to Explore

Today at Belong, our hope is to help you begin the journey of becoming a participating member of Community Life Church. We desire that every participating member of Community Life Church knows our vision, purpose, values, and strategy. We're a family, and every member of a family brings their unique personality, life, gifts and energy to help the family be the family and accomplish its purpose. Not only do you pour into the life of the family, but also the family pours into your life through encouragement and accountability. Our desire for every person that calls CLC home is that they would experience genuine, authentic, heartfelt, and holistic relationship with other Christians that entails commitment and discipleship. Committing to membership of a local church is committing yourself not only to Jesus Christ and the advancement of the gospel, but a commitment to Christ's family.

### 1. What does it mean to be a covenant member?

**DEFINITION of Covenant:** An agreement between two or more parties outlining mutual rights and responsibilities.

As a Covenant Member:

- You identify with, are accountable to, and are a contributing participant to this local expression of the body of Christ.
- Covenant membership is simply the way in which an individual is known to be committed to all others in a local body of believers and how all others are known to be committed to that individual.

### 2. Why become a covenant member of a church?

Read Psalm 92:12-14 and Psalm 1:3 and complete the following sentence:

It's wise to put down your S\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_ and B\_\_\_\_\_ F\_\_\_\_\_.

- Read Ephesians 4:16. What does it say about what it means to become a part of a church community? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Become more than an attender, get in the game and be a part of what God's doing. Understand the core beliefs and own the vision of Community Life Church.

### 3. What do I need to do to be a participating member of Community Life Church?

- You must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- You should be water baptized.
- You must complete the membership application (see page 45).
- You must be at least 18 years old, complete the Belong class, have an interview, and be received into membership at one of our weekend services where the church will pray over you.

### 4. What are the benefits of becoming a participating member?

- Walking together is better than walking alone.
- Find strength, support, and encouragement in a family.
- Become part of a team moving forward together in the gospel; having a common vision of displaying the glory of God, with every person using their unique talents, passions, and gifts to build and extend God's purpose on earth.



Become a part of the CLC family.

**Read the following passage:**

**“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”**

Colossians 2:6-7

What do Paul's words to the church members in Colossae encourage us to do?

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## Session 2 – Our Acts 2 Blueprint

### Video Session

Biblical Christianity takes place through the context of community known as the local church, which was God's idea. God, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus experienced a rich sense of purpose and community that He wants all humankind to share in. God has always planned for a family that would love Him, love each other, and share in His vision to let the whole world know about His Kingdom. It started with Adam and Eve. When they sinned, God wasn't caught off guard. He immediately implemented His plan to have a people who would understand and experience His

forgiveness, reconnect with Him, and go tell others. That group of people is known as The Church.



The Acts 2 Church – Building on a Solid Foundation

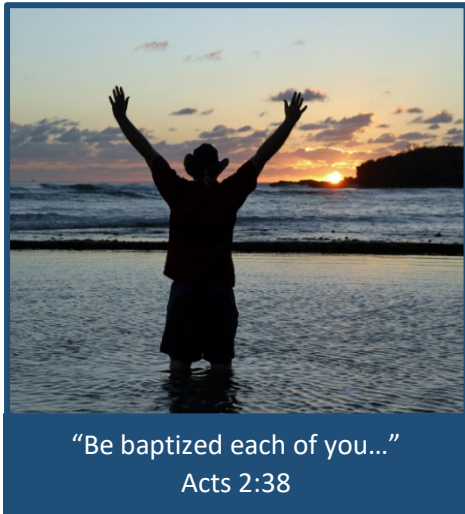
The Church Christ is building is a dynamic community of faith that is fully devoted to Jesus and believes and works toward seeing the impossible become reality – ordinary people, forgiven and now walking in relationship with Jesus. Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 16:17 that He would build a church so expansive with energy that not even the forces of hell could resist it. In Acts 2 we see the birth of that Church.

### What is an Acts 2 Church?

- A church that is marked by the P\_\_\_\_\_ of G\_\_\_\_\_ and the Impossible becoming reality.
- A church that P\_\_\_\_\_ reaches out.
- A church that gave itself to S\_\_\_\_\_.
- A church that builds a unified community of believers.
- A church that results in Gospel - C\_\_\_\_\_ lives, becoming more like Christ.

## What kind of person helped build the church in Acts 2?

- A person who became a F\_\_\_\_\_ D\_\_\_\_\_ follower of Christ. (Acts 2:37-38,42)
- A person who was W\_\_\_\_\_ B\_\_\_\_\_ and publicly acknowledged their faith in Christ. (Acts 2:41)



## What is Water Baptism?

- Water baptism is the Christian act of immersing a believer under water and the bringing them forth out of the water. It's a practical representation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as the person being baptized is plunged beneath the waters and brought forth in the same way that Jesus was buried in the earth and resurrected on their behalf in forgiveness of sins (Romans 6:1-10, Colossians 2:12).
- Baptism identifies a Christian with Jesus (Acts 10:48, Romans 6:3, Galatians 3:27) and the universal church (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- Water baptism is an outward expression of an inward work that you have been born again. It helps you to grasp the reality of the spiritual truth that the old “you” has died.
- It is not something we must do to impress God or be saved, but something to impress on our mind what happened to us inwardly. It is for our benefit!

## Why do we baptize by immersion?

- Jesus, the Son of God, was immersed totally in water baptism (Mathew 3:13-17) and Jesus commanded the Apostles to teach water baptism. (Mark 16:15-18) The church in the book of Acts water baptized. (Acts 2:38; 8; 9' 10:48; 16; 19:1-6)
- Baptism comes from the Greek word meaning “to dip something into a fluid and then take it out; to cover with a fluid.” (Luke 16:24, John 13:26, Revelation 19:13)
- It is best symbolized as a burial and resurrection.

## Why should a Christian be baptized and what are the benefits?

- Because Jesus modeled baptism for us and taught that we should be baptized. (Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 16:15-18, Acts 9:18-19, 10:44-48)

- Water baptism is a public confession that you're committing to be a fully devoted follower of Christ.
- Water baptism is you identifying with what Jesus did for you in His death, burial, and resurrection. (Romans 6:1-10, Colossians 2:12)
- Water baptism is a defining moment, a clean break from the past - water baptism is a point of separation.
- A person who was empowered by the H\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:39)

### ***When does the Baptism of the Holy Spirit happen?***

- The New Testament church began with the Holy Spirit coming on them. (Acts 2:1-4)  
The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is available for all believers today. (Acts 2:38-39)
- It comes when people know about it and seek it. (Luke 11:13; Acts 1:8, 2:1-4; 19:1-7)
- Sometimes it comes when God just sovereignly gives it. (Acts 10:44-46)
- Believers need to be continually filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18; Acts 4:31)

### ***Why would I want to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?***

- Jesus received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 3:21-22, 4:18; Acts 10:38)
- The Holy Spirit helps us live an empowered Christian life. (Acts 1:8; Romans 8:1-11; Galatians 5:16, 25; Ephesians 3:20, 1 John 4:4)
- One who brings conviction. (John 16:5-8)
- The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, our Helper. (John 14:16-18)
- One called to your side to help you, aid you, give spiritual direction. (Acts 2:17-21)
- One who pleads another's cause before a judge - Legal advisor.
- One who helps in the widest sense to know God - leads into deeper knowledge of the gospel truth and gives divine strength needed to enable us to undergo trials and persecutions on behalf of the kingdom of God.
- The Holy Spirit empowers us to live with Christ-like character. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Galatians 5:22-23)

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- Baptism in Holy Spirit gives us power to effectively share our faith. (Acts 1:8)
- You can build yourself up in the faith. (1 Corinthians 14:4, Jude 20)
- Your prayer and worship are intensified. (Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 14:14-15; John 4:23-24, Ephesians 6:18)
- A person who builds their life on the W\_\_\_\_\_ of G\_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:42, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- A person who understood the value of C\_\_\_\_\_ and relationship. (Acts 2:42)
- A person who R\_\_\_\_\_ all that Christ did in living and dying for them. (Acts 2:42)
- A person who was committed to the P\_\_\_\_\_ of P\_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:42)
- A person who was committed to S\_\_\_\_\_ the G\_\_\_\_\_ and reaching their friends with what Christ had done for them. (Acts 2:47)

## What are the benefits of belonging to a church modeled in Acts 2?

**Consistent healthy spiritual feeding.**  
(Hosea 4:6; Hebrews 13:9; Jeremiah 3:15)

**Covenant relationships.**  
(1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 12:5)

**Partnership with likeminded believers.**  
(Deuteronomy 32:30; Psalm 144:12; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4)

**Protection.**  
(Ephesians 4:12-16; Hebrews 13:17)

**Restoration.**  
(Psalm 40:1-4; Isaiah 58:11-12; Ezekiel 34:11-12; Psalm 37:23-24)

**Multiply your impact for generations to come.**  
(Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:37-47)

**Godly leaders who biblically pastor the church.**  
(1 Peter 5:1-2; Acts 20:28; Psalm 77:20)

## Session 2 - More to Explore



We believe in living Spirit-led lives.

Read the following passage from Acts 2. **Circle the characteristics that we learn about the First Century Church from this passage.**

“Peter said, ‘Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites.’ He went on in this vein for a long time, urging them over and over, ‘Get out while you

can; get out of this sick and stupid culture!’

That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person’s need was met. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.” Acts 2:38-47 (The Message)

### How do I live a Spirit-led life?

The following passages give us instruction on living a Spirit-led life.

- Remove all barriers. (Acts 2:38)
- Desire and seek the gift of the Holy Spirit. (John 7:37-39, Ephesians 5:18; 14:18; 1 Corinthians 12:31; Luke 11:11-13)
- Receive Him by faith. (1 Peter 4:10)
- Relate to Him daily.  
(2 Corinthians 13:14)
- Release your spiritual gifts with confidence and obedience. (Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 14:12)

## How do I get more from my Bible?

- I must accept its authority.

We believe that the Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant.

- Receive God's Word with an open heart. (Psalm 119:64)
- Respond to God's word with obedience. (James 1:22)
- I must absorb its truths.

**Read the following passages to learn the different ways of absorbing God's Word.**

- Romans 10:17      H \_\_\_\_\_
- Revelation 1:3      R \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 17:11      S \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 7:2-3      M \_\_\_\_\_
- Psalm 1:2-3      M \_\_\_\_\_

## Is the Bible just a good book or can it really change my life?

The following verses show how the Word of God can impact our lives. **Match the verses with the statements.**

The Word of God is life and shows us how to live. \_\_\_\_\_

A. Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 4:12-13

The Word of God sets us free. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Ephesians 6:17; Matthew 4:1-11

The Word of God is our weapon against sin. \_\_\_\_\_

C. John 6:63, 68; Psalm 119:133

The Word of God transforms our lives. \_\_\_\_\_

D. John 8:32; Psalm 119:170

## Session 3 – The Core Values of CLC

### Video Session



CLC has a clear vision and set of values that help define our basic foundation and DNA. They give us our unique identity and distinctiveness. Values are not opinions or weakly held beliefs that change like a fashion or trend, they are deeply held convictions that form the bedrock of who we are, what we do and why we do it. Teams rally around a common vision, they stay together based on shared values and move forward by strategy. That's why it's important for each one of us to

understand the vision, values, and strategy of CLC. God wants you to be a team player that shares in the vision, lives the values and be able to share those values with others. Vision and values are about unity of purpose, and that's where God can pour out His power and presence. (Psalm 133)

### 1. What are values and convictions and why are they important?

- A value is an I\_\_\_\_\_ that is accepted by an individual or group as something highly regarded and of great worth or importance.
- A conviction is an U\_\_\_\_\_ belief in something.
- Core values are our N\_\_\_\_\_ - N\_\_\_\_\_, unchanging beliefs.
- Core values are biblically B\_\_\_\_\_ and biblically D\_\_\_\_\_. Our values are founded in God.
- Core values are the D\_\_\_\_\_ F\_\_\_\_\_ behind everything. We set our directions, our goals, our staffing, our belief, and our future on our values. Our values are the roots to our decisions, our risk-taking, our ministry priorities, and our resource utilization.

## 2. CLC Values

- We Value God's W\_\_\_\_\_.
- We Value the M\_\_\_\_\_ Presence of God
- We Value Holiness and the F\_\_\_\_\_ of God
- We Value the Person and Work of the H\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_
- We Value Wholehearted P\_\_\_\_\_ and W\_\_\_\_\_.
- We Value a P\_\_\_\_\_ and I\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship with God.
- We Value Personal and Corporate P\_\_\_\_\_.
- We Value the F\_\_\_\_\_.
  - Generational Ministry
- We Value Godly C\_\_\_\_\_, Integrity and Purity of Heart

- We Value Reaching the L\_\_\_\_\_.
  - Lost People and Mission
  - How to Impact People with the Gospel of Christ
    1. Accept the personal R\_\_\_\_\_.
    2. Build a personal R\_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Share your personal S\_\_\_\_\_.
    4. Give a personal I\_\_\_\_\_.
  - Points of Passion
    1. "In Jerusalem" – Our C\_\_\_\_\_. (James 1:27)
    2. "In Judea and Samaria" – Our N\_\_\_\_\_. (1 Corinthians 9:22)
    3. "To the ends of the Earth" – Our W\_\_\_\_\_. (Mark 16:15)
  - What can I do?
    1. Pray  
"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'" Matthew 9:37-38
    2. Go  
"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' He said, 'Go and tell this people.'" Isaiah 6:8-9
    3. Give  
"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21
- We Value Relational F\_\_\_\_\_.
- Covenant Relationships

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- Connect Groups provide three things:
  1. A place to C\_\_\_\_\_. (1 Corinthians 9:22)
  2. A place to P\_\_\_\_\_. (1 John 3:16)
  3. A place to G\_\_\_\_\_. (Proverbs 27:17)
- We Value our Relationships with other C\_\_\_\_\_, Ministries and Leaders
- We Value our Relationships with M\_\_\_\_\_.
- We Value the P\_\_\_\_\_ of God.

## Session 3 - More to Explore



Personal and Corporate Prayer is one of our Core Values.

CLC has a clear vision and set of values that help define our basic foundation and DNA. They give us our unique identity and distinctiveness. Values are not opinions or weakly held beliefs that change like a fashion or trend, they are deeply held convictions that form the bedrock of who we are, what we do and why we do it. Teams rally around a common vision, they stay together based on shared values and move forward by strategy. That's why it's important for each one of us to understand the vision, values, and strategy of CLC. God wants you to be a team player that shares in the vision, lives the values and be able to share

those values with others. Vision and values are about unity of purpose, and that's where God can pour out His power and presence. (Psalm 133)

**Of the fourteen Core Values discussed in the video, which values did you identify with most?**

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**Which of the Core Values do you want to learn more about?**

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**One of the ways in which we see the power of God is through the gifts He gives us through the Holy Spirit. In Appendix A you will find a Spiritual Gifts Assessment. Take a few moments to complete and score the assessment. List your top three spiritual gifts below.**

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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## Session 4 – Stewardship Culture of CLC

### Video Session



Tithing is a part of the CLC Culture.

One of the foundational building blocks of our life is to understand our role as stewards of what God gives us. God has given to each one of us time, talents, and resources. They are different for each one of us, but as we become the Church, together we understand that God wants us to use our time, talents, and resources to glorify Him and extend His Kingdom. In this session we want to take some time to understand what it means to be a steward.

### We are Citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven

- World's Culture vs. Kingdom Culture
  - Fame and Power vs. Humility, Child-likeness, Servant Leadership

Matthew 18:1-4

Luke 22:26

### What is a Steward?

- A person who is entrusted with the management of another's P\_\_\_\_\_, F\_\_\_\_\_ or A\_\_\_\_\_.
- Functions with delegated authority over something.
- In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Paul says we have been bought with a price. We are not O\_\_\_\_\_ O\_\_\_\_\_.

### We have been entrusted with managing five things:

- Our life
- Our time
- Our talents

- Our finances
- **Our possessions**

## **Biblical Examples of Stewardship:**

- John 15 – The Vine and Branches
- Mathew 25 – The Parable of the Talents  
Natural abilities and talents:

Spiritual gifts: (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12)

## **The Giving of Finances**

- “Love Gives” (John 3:16)
- “Tithe” – 10% of what we receive  
Malachi 3:8-11  
Matthew 23:23
- “Offering” – Over and above 10%

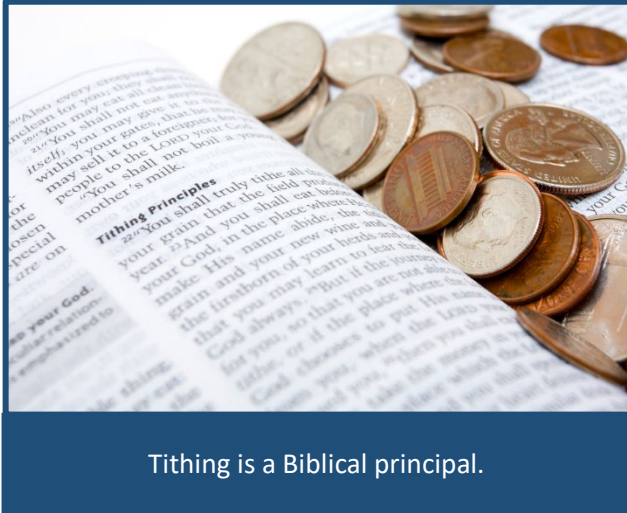
## **Why should we tithe?**

- A part of our W\_\_\_\_\_ . (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- An act of O\_\_\_\_\_. (Malachi 3:8-11)
- Releases God's B\_\_\_\_\_ to individuals and churches.
- It's how the C\_\_\_\_\_ is funded.

## **How can we be good stewards of our resources?**

- Put God to the test and tithe.
- Make it a consistent part of your walk with the Lord.

## Session 4 - More to Explore



One of the foundational building blocks of our life is to understand our role as stewards of what God gives us.

### Defining Stewardship:

- One who manages another's property, finances, or other affairs - American Heritage Dictionary
- The Greek words for steward are oikonomos and epitropos:
  - a manager, a treasurer, one to whose care or honor one has been entrusted, a guardian, a person who functions with delegated authority and responsibility.

**Christian Stewardship** is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of our time, talents and treasures based upon the conviction that these are gifts from God to be used in His service and for the benefit of His kingdom.

**The Bible tells us the purpose of Spiritual Gifts. Read the following passages and fill in the blanks.**

- To B\_\_\_\_\_ others U\_\_\_\_\_, not ourselves. (1 Peter 4:10)
- To be E\_\_\_\_\_ by God and receive His strength. (Acts 1:8)
- To partner with the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16-17)
- Given for the C\_\_\_\_\_ G\_\_\_\_\_. (1 Corinthians 12:7)
- To confirm God's Word. (Mark 16:15-20)
- To make God's will known to man. (John 14:25)
- To reveal God's truth to the W\_\_\_\_\_. (John 20:31)

**Part of the Stewardship Culture at CLC is to give of our time and talents. In Appendix E you will find a Talents and Gifts Survey. Take a few moments to complete the survey. Prayerfully consider how God would have you serve at CLC.**

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## Session 5 –Vision and Strategy of CLC

### Video Session



God has given CLC a unique vision and strategy.

Having discovered that we are a church modeled on the blueprint we read about in the book of Acts, understanding our core values, and recognizing that we have been joined together as a team called to steward our time, talents, and resources to build the house and extend God's Kingdom, we can now focus on the unique vision and strategy God has given us.

### Why do we exist as a Church?

If you've ever gone on a road trip you know how important it is to set out with a clear Idea about where you're going. In our life and the life of our church it's important to Keep the question, "where are we going?" in front of us.

### CLC Vision Statement

To L\_\_\_\_\_ and H\_\_\_\_\_ God and all people

To P\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ as The Only Way to eternal salvation, healing, restoration, wholeness, and abundant life.

To P\_\_\_\_\_ and enjoy The Presence of God through Spirit led full life worship.

To P\_\_\_\_\_ spiritual growth and maturity in every believer, enabling them to fulfill their calling and ministry.

### CLC Mission

Our Mission mandate is reaching all people with the Good News of God's love. Our focus is to train, equip, and mentor all believers for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 28:18-20)

### Here's how you can OWN the vision.

- Get involved in a small G\_\_\_\_\_.
- S\_\_\_\_\_ enthusiastically in an area of church life.

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- Follow Christ W\_\_\_\_\_.
- Become a B\_\_\_\_\_, not a demolition expert, with words and actions.
- S\_\_\_\_\_ yourself to believe and do the impossible.
- Live S\_\_\_\_\_ – live generously.
- H\_\_\_\_\_ one another and those that are in leadership.
- Live at P\_\_\_\_\_ and U\_\_\_\_\_.

## Session 5 - More to Explore



One way to own the vision is to be a part of a Connect Group.

Our Mission mandate is reaching all people with the Good News of God's love. Our focus is to train, equip, and mentor all believers for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God. There are several ways for you to own the vision of Community Life Church. Joining a small group is one of those ways.

### How do I get connected with a Community Connect Group?

- **Find a group.**

Go to [www.clchurch.cc](http://www.clchurch.cc). Click on the "Connect Groups" button and look at the groups available.

- **Commit for a season.**

Groups start up and continue throughout the year at various times, make a commitment to attend for a season. Contact information for the group leaders is included on the website. Call or send an email to let the group leader know you are interested in attending.

- **Experience a life change.**

You'll never fully experience all that Community Life Church has to offer until you join up with a Connect Group! Small groups, which CLC calls Connect Groups, were vital to the first century church's growth, and they are just as vital now. Let yourself get connected and see all that God will do through your small group experience.

belong.

## Appendix A

### Spiritual Gifts Assessment

1. Read and score each question on the Spiritual Gifts worksheet according to the following scale:

0: not at all, has never occurred

1: rarely applies, seldom happens

2: occasionally, once in a while

3: frequently, more often than not

4: most of the time, constantly applies

2. Using the table on the following page, record your scores to each question in the numbered block corresponding to that number question.
3. Note: Answer according to who you are, not who you would like to be or think you ought to be. How true are these statements of you? What has been your experience? To what degree do these statements reflect your usual tendencies?

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| _____ | 1. I can do many things at one time.   |
| _____ | 2. I would like to start churches in areas that need a strong local church.          |
| _____ | 3. I can easily distinguish between right and wrong.                                 |
| _____ | 4. It is easy for me to persuade others to get involved in areas of ministry.        |
| _____ | 5. I find myself sharing my Christian journey with others.                           |
| _____ | 6. Trusting God to answer prayers regarding difficult situations is easy for me.     |
| _____ | 7. I love to give resources to people or projects needing assistance.                |
| _____ | 8. People have said that my prayers have assisted them in their healing.             |
| _____ | 9. I enjoy doing smaller tasks that no one else will do.                             |
| _____ | 10. I can interpret when others speak in tongues.                                    |
| _____ | 11. I receive information that I sense came from the Holy Spirit concerning others.  |
| _____ | 12. I feel empathy toward those who are less fortunate.                              |
| _____ | 13. I have been used by God to perform miracles.                                     |
| _____ | 14. I feel compelled to share truth that has been impressed in my mind by God.       |
| _____ | 15. I love to guide others towards spiritual health, growth, and maturity.           |
| _____ | 16. I feel compelled to speak in tongues often.                                      |
| _____ | 17. I can find scriptural insights easily and desire to communicate these to others. |
| _____ | 18. People often ask me for advice regarding important decisions.                    |
| _____ | 19. I have the ability to work well under pressure.                                  |
| _____ | 20. I would be willing to relocate to start a new church plant.                      |
| _____ | 21. I am able to distinguish between a person's real needs versus perceived needs.   |

- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. I enjoy giving biblical advice to help people make right choices.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. I like to find new ways to develop relationships with unchurched people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. I believe God to accomplish great things in my life and in those around me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. I give above and beyond my tithe to further projects or programs that fulfill God's purposes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. I find myself praying for sick people, knowing that God can heal them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. I would rather serve others than have others serve me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. When people speak in tongues, I sense a stirring to interpret.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. I perceive information regarding other people without others telling me the information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. I enjoy assisting those who are facing difficult situations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. People say that I have been used to see a miracle take place.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. I sense insights concerning the future.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 33. I have compassion for those in need and find myself assisting them through the process.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 34. God has used me to speak in an unlearned language to a group of people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 35. I can impart knowledge and skills in a manner that makes it easy for others to learn and apply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 36. I find it easy to identify practical solutions when others seem confused.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 37. I like to take on what appears to be complex challenges.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 38. I find myself thinking about church planting often.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 39. My first impressions of a person's motives are often true.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 40. I find myself offering people hope by directing them to God's promises.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 41. I am successful at applying the gospel to connect with a person's need or circumstance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 42. I am convinced that God's word dictates my circumstance and circumstances don't dictate my faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 43. Charitable giving is a high priority in my life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 44. I look for opportunities to pray for those who are sick,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 45. I prefer to function behind the scenes, rather than in a more visible role.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 46. God directs me to translate the meaning of someone speaking in tongues.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 47. I receive impressions regarding certain people or circumstances.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 48. I like to practically help those that cannot help themselves.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 49. Signs and wonders occur when I am ministering to others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 50. The scripture comes alive to me regarding the lives of others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 51. I seek to help others grow in Christ.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 52. I have been used to build up others by using tongues as the primary tool of edification.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 53. I enjoy instructing people and see positive change as a result of my instruction.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 54. When talking with someone regarding a personal challenge I sense special insight regarding their situation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 55. I enjoy organizing people and programs to achieve great goals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 56. Ministries that start new churches get my attention.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 57. I find myself able to "read between the lines."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 58. I am able to confront others to develop spiritual health, growth, and maturity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 59. I openly communicate my relationship with Christ and love when others ask me about my faith.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 60. My ability to move forward in a God-given task is not hindered by a lack of support or resistance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 61. I find fulfillment in seeing others blessed through giving to their needs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 62. I possess a personal passion to see others healed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 63. I like to take on tasks that help others succeed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 64. It is easy for me to understand what someone is saying in tongues.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 65. God reveals to me the source to a person's problem, illness, or need.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 66. I can see God's potential in every person regardless of their handicap or limitation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 67. I have faith to believe that God can use me to accomplish the impossible.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 68. I am stirred in services or gatherings to communicate something that is burning in my heart.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 69. I enjoy sharing truth with others to guide them in moving to be more like Jesus.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 70. After speaking in tongues, someone has interpreted my utterance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 71. People have said that my instruction has helped them to better understand a concept, truth, or skill.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 72. I seem to have a special ability to solve problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 73. I like to figure out how to accomplish certain goals and delegate them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 74. I would like to oversee many churches and equip local church pastors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 75. I can sense when evil forces are at work in a person or situation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 76. I like to strengthen those who are spiritually weak.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 77. Looking for opportunities to discuss spiritual matters with unbelievers excites me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 78. I trust God in situations where the desired result cannot be guaranteed only by human efforts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 79. I give my personal belongings to those in greater need, knowing God will bless me in return.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 80. God has used me as His vessel to heal others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 81. I readily use my talents to help whenever needed, regardless of the task.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 82. People consider me to be a person that translates the meaning of a message delivered in tongues to a group of people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 83. God gives me specific direction in assisting people in finding a solution to their problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 84. I feel compelled to offer comfort to those who are in a seemingly impossible situation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 85. Extraordinary things take place when I pray for impossible situations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 86. I see pictures or visions for certain people concerning a situation or circumstance they are facing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 87. I like to help guide people to fulfill their potential in all areas of their lives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 88. I sense God wanting to use me to speak in tongues to believers during gatherings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 89. I love to study because I realize that communicating these truths will bring change in the lives of others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 90. I can identify the best course of action where many other conflicting options exist.

## Spiritual Gifts Assessment Scoring Sheet

### Directions:

After completing the questions, use this table to record your score to each question in the block with the number corresponding to that number question in the Spiritual Gifts Worksheet.

Total your responses across each line.

Highest Total:

Second Highest Total:

Third Highest Total:

						TOTAL
Administrating	1	19	37	55	73	
Apostle Pioneer	2	20	38	56	74	
Discernment	3	21	39	57	75	
Exhortation	4	22	40	58	76	
Evangelism	5	23	41	59	77	
Faith	6	24	42	60	78	
Giving	7	25	43	61	79	
Healing	8	26	44	62	80	
Serving Helps	9	27	45	63	81	
Interpretation	10	28	46	64	82	
Knowledge	11	29	47	65	83	

# belong.

<b>Mercy</b>	12	30	48	66	84	
<b>Miracles</b>	13	31	49	67	85	
<b>Prophecy</b>	14	32	50	68	86	
<b>Pastor Shepherd</b>	15	33	51	69	87	
<b>Tongues</b>	16	34	52	70	88	
<b>Teaching</b>	17	35	53	71	89	
<b>Wisdom</b>	18	36	54	72	90	

belong.

## Appendix B

### Important Terms, Statement of Faith, and Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Community Life Church Leadership Team**

The Eldership has the accountability of the overall vision, doctrine, and major structural changes. The Elders are the spiritual governing body of CLC and the legal directors of the corporation. The Eldership's responsibilities include discussing and voting on items such as doctrinal issues, buying, or selling buildings and lands, structural changes that affect the whole church, overall confirmation of the vision, confirming new Elders, confirming the overall budget, church discipline of a member, church plants, and world missions. Each Elder is responsible to give input through their respective sphere of responsibility and support the overall vision of the church. Community Life Church also has a pastoral structure in place to make sure that every member is effectively pastored - this includes a campus pastor, youth pastor and pastors and leaders who works closely with a team of volunteers.

#### **Minister's Fellowship International**

MFI exists to facilitate and nurture meaningful relationships among member ministers equipping & enabling them to be more effective in their callings, for the purpose of building and multiplying strong local churches around the world.

MFI benefits the congregations by assisting their pastors and leaders, by giving congregations a sense of national and international identity, by providing a sense of security and a place to turn in times of difficulty, and by exposing local congregations to ministries that will build what they are building.

#### **Community Life Church Statement of Faith**

The Fundamental teachings of Community Life Church are reflected in the following, clear statements:

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible, authoritative Word of God. (II Tim. 3:16, 17)
- We believe in the triune Godhead as eternally existent in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (II Cor. 13:14)
- We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious death and atonement through His shed Blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His present priestly ministry. (I Tim. 3:16; Rom. 3:25, 26)
- We believe in evangelistic and missionary fervor and endeavor. (Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15-18)

- We believe that for the salvation of the lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. We further believe in the keeping power of God. (Heb. 9:22; Jude 24, 25)
- We believe that sanctification, holiness, and the overcoming life is God's design for the Church, which is the Bride of Christ. (Eph. 5:25-27)
- We believe that sexual purity is a necessary expression for all of God's children and requires abstinence from adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, or other sexual relationships or practices forbidden by Scripture. (Heb. 13:4; I Cor. 6:18; Lev. 18:1-30)
- We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime and a sacred institution established by God. (Matt. 19:4-6)
- We believe that Baptism is for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and is to be administered by immersion, thus bearing witness to the Gospel of Christ's death, Burial, and resurrection for us, and our own new life in Him. (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:4)
- We believe that Communion, when shared by believers, witnesses to the saving power of the Gospel and to Christ's presence in His Church and looks forward to His victorious return. (I Cor. 11:23-26)
- We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as on the day of Pentecost, in the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit as evidenced in charismatic gifts and ministries, and in the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. (Acts 2:4; Acts 10:46; Acts 19:6; Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:8-11; Gal. 5:22, 23)
- We believe that Divine healing is obtained on the basis of the Atonement. (I Pet. 2:24; Matt. 8:17)
- We believe in Christ's imminent personal return in power and great glory and in His present and everlasting dominion. (Acts 1:8; Rev. 1:7; Dan. 7:14)
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: they that are saved unto the resurrection of eternal life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of eternal punishment. (John 5:28, 29; Rev. 20:15)

## Church Discipline

Church discipline is an aspect of church life that is difficult yet essential. Sin does not remain passive, but it is like yeast that has an effect on the entire church (Joshua 7:1-26; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Timothy 2:16-18). Concealed, ongoing sin causes confusion among those who see something being ignored that they know is biblically wrong and it can weaken their faith or cause them to stumble as well. Ongoing sin also hinders the influence of the church as a whole as it

gives the unbelievers who are watching reason to doubt the truth of the Bible and can hinder their coming to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Ongoing sin is a serious problem and must be dealt with for the sake of the person who is sinning, for the believers who are in relationship with him or her, and for the unbelievers who are watching our lives.

The Bible commands the church leadership to deal with ongoing sin. 2 Timothy 4:2 says the leader is to “Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.” The leaders are to convince those who are sinning to stop, to show them their faults and expose sin in their lives. They are to rebuke the one who is sinning for the purpose of bringing repentance and change. The end goal of church discipline is always to bring repentance and restoration to the one who is being disciplined. (1 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Corinthians 2:4-11; Hebrews 12:9-12) We desire to see the person restored to complete fellowship with Jesus Christ and with the church.

The reason for church discipline is to keep the church as a people of righteousness and truth so they might be the dwelling place of God. It also protects others in the church from sin. Church discipline also brings the fear of the Lord into the church. The Bible provides a very clear pattern of how to discipline. Matthew 18:17 and 1 Corinthians 5:4-5 tells us what to do if a person is ensnared in an ongoing lifestyle of sin and chooses to remain in that sin and will not change. The first step is for a leader to go to that person one-on-one and “convince” them of their wrong lifestyle and their need for repentance. If the one who is sinning refuses to change, then several of the leaders approach them.

If, after prayer and counsel, an individual is determined to continue living an ongoing lifestyle of sin and refuses to repent, the person is excommunicated, turned over to God and His dealings. This involves a removal from the local church ministry and authority and opens that individual to the discipline of God. This may seem harsh, but it is an act of love for them. To let them continue in their sin would send them into a godless future. Experiencing the harsh consequences of their sin may be what it takes to lead them into the changes that are necessary. The individual is dismissed from Redeemer membership and Scripture says we are not to associate with him or her. As a church we are commanded to pray for the individual until he or she expresses repentance and changes his or her lifestyle. We are then commanded to forgive and welcome our brother or sister with open arms.

## **Frequently Asked Question & Answers**

### **How is the government of the church structured? Who runs the church?**

The eldership has the accountability of the overall vision, doctrine, and major structural changes. The church in the book of Acts provides a biblical pattern of eldership rule. Elders are chosen and ordained according to the qualifications found in Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3 and are the legal directors of the corporation and the spiritual governing body of CLC.

### **To whom is the Senior Pastor accountable?**

The Senior Pastor is the executive overseer of the general vision and direction of the church. He works within the Leadership Structure in giving direction to the overall vision and future of the

church and is accountable to the eldership. The Senior Pastor is also part of Ministers Fellowship International (MFI), an independent fellowship of pastors.

### **What safeguards protect Community Life Church from preaching heresy and extreme doctrines?**

Acts 17:11 says that each believer is responsible to diligently search the Scriptures for themselves and prove the teaching they are receiving. However, leaders are also responsible to God for what they teach. As stated above, the Senior Pastor is accountable to the eldership for the doctrine that is being taught. The Senior Pastor also is accountable to other apostolic ministries who speak into his life.

### **Is Community Life Church part of a denomination?**

No. We are an autonomous local church that is self-governing and self-supporting. We are in fellowship with MFI for accountability and relationship.

### **What theological background does CLC have?**

We are an evangelical charismatic church that believes the basic tenets of the Christian faith and that the church of the 21st century will need the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power to impact our culture.

### **What kind of relationship does CLC have with other churches?**

We believe there is one Body of Christ with many expressions as seen in the varied local churches in the Capital Region. Through our Senior Pastor we are in regular relationship and communication with many different kinds of churches in the region and around the country.

### **How is the money of the church handled?**

The tithes and offerings that are given are given to the Lord and are entrusted into the hands of the church. This is a responsibility that is taken very seriously. There is strict accountability in the handling of all monies, from the counting process through the accounting process. Financial decisions are made by the eldership. A financial report is reviewed monthly by the eldership.

### **Is it ethical to solicit business in the church?**

The church is a place for fellowship and spiritual growth, not a place for business recruiting or to make money. It is wrong to use the relationships built here for personal gain. Likewise, it is wrong to hire someone from within the church and not recompense them fairly for their work simply because they are a fellow believer.

### **Is CLC involved in world missions?**

Our vision is to reach the nations with the gospel. We support local pastors and ministries in countries around the world.

## Appendix C

### Biblical Truths about the Church & Salvation

#### Biblical Truths About the Church

The Church is...

**1. Called to be a family.**

- 1 Peter 3:8 “You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” (LB)
- 1 Timothy 5:1-2 “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 young women as sisters.” (Ph)

**2. Called to be a tightly knit community.**

- Acts 2:41-47 “Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church— about three thousand in all. They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord’s Supper and in prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had. They sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with those in need. They worshipped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.” (NLT)

**3. Called to be free from sin.**

- Colossians 1:13 “For He has rescued us from the one who rules in the kingdom of darkness, and He has brought us into the Kingdom of His dear Son.” (NLT)
- 1 Peter 2:9-10 “But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference He made for you— from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.” (Msg)

**4. Called to be a fellowship. Any attitude that causes disunity is a sin.**

- Acts 2:42 “They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship...” (Ph)
- Romans 14:19 “So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.” (Ph)

**5. Called to be a body. Being a body means that every person has a role to play and is important to the overall function and health of the church.**

- Romans 12:4-6 “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.” (NIV)

## 6. Called to be a flock. The pastors are called to shepherd God’s flock.

- John 21:16 Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” (NIV) 1 Peter 5:1-2 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder....: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers... (NIV)

## Biblical Truths About Salvation

1. We have been given eternal life. John 3:16, 3; Matt.25:46; Acts 13:46,48
2. We have been born again. John 3:3-8; 1Pet. 1:23; 1 John 5:18; Ezek. 36:25-27
3. We are a new creature in Christ. 2 Cor.5:17; Eph. 2:10; Col. 3:10
4. We have been redeemed, or ransomed. A term used when a person is bought out of the slave market. The one in bondage has been recovered from the power of the person who held them. The full price has been paid. Mark 10:45; Jer. 31:11; Eph. 1:7; Gal. 3:13; Pet. 1:18; Gal. 4:5; Rev 5:9
5. We have been justified. A legal term used to describe a verdict or sentence. God declares the one trusting in Jesus “not guilty”. He declares the verdict of righteousness. Righteousness has been defined as “the ability to stand before God without guilt or shame”. Being justified has been defined as the state of being “just-as-if-I’d” never sinned. God wipes the record clean; all evidence of sin against us has been erased. Rom. 3:24- 26; 5:1, 9, 16, 18
6. We have been reconciled. To be restored to right relationship with God. Change of attitude from enemy to friend. This change takes place inside of us because God is no longer our enemy. Rom. 5:10; 2 Cor.5:18-20; Col.1:20-21; Heb.2:17
7. We have been adopted. The word used for adoption in the New Testament Greek means “the placing of a son.” It signifies the place and condition of a son given to one to whom it does not belong naturally. Adoption in the Roman world of Paul’s day meant a number of things, including:
  - The adopted person lost all his rights in his old family.
  - The old life of the adoptee was completely erased, all debts were legally canceled.
  - In the most legal binding way, he got a new father.
  - He gained all the rights of a fully legitimate son in the new family.
  - He became an heir in his new father’s estate no matter how many children he already had.

## Appendix D

### Culture and Theology of CLC

#### Bible

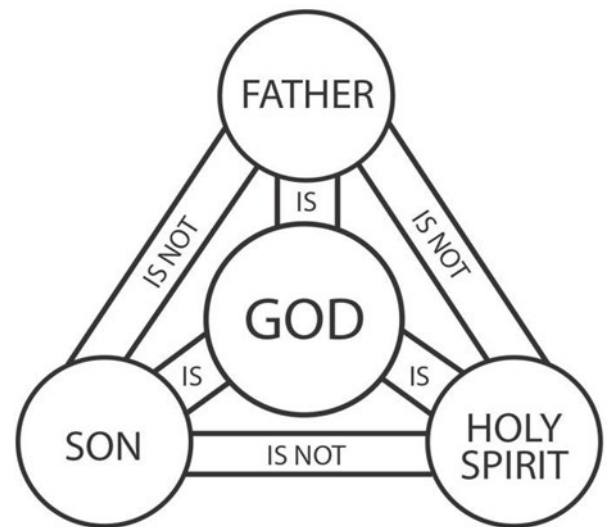
- It reveals Christ throughout its pages (John 1:1, 14, 5:38-40)  
“There is only two ways to read the Bible: is it basically about me or basically about Jesus. What must I do, or what has he done?” - Timothy Keller
- Scripture lays the foundation for every other belief (Ephesians 2:20)
- Is God’s way of speaking His truth to us in our words; by the plenary-verbal inspiration
- Plenary - every part of the Bible (Romans 15:4)
- Verbal - the very words; meaning every word of the Bible matters (Matthew 5:18)
- Inspiration - God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:14-17)
- The Scripture is both living and abiding for the believer (Hebrews 4:11-13; 1 Peter 1:23; Psalm 1:1-6)
- It is authoritative; meaning that to disbelieve or disobey is disbelieving or disobeying God (2 Corinthians 13:2-3; 2 Peter 3:2)
- The Bible is trustworthy for our lives to be transformed and shaped by its teachings (1 Peter 1:16-21; Proverbs 30:5; Matt 24:35; John 17:17; Romans 12:2)

#### The Trinity

“The doctrine of the Trinity is the foundation of the Christian religion”.

- D.B. Knox

- One God (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 Corinthians 8:4; John 17:3)
- God is three persons and each person is fully God (John 1:1-2; John 14:26; John 16:7, Matthew 28:19)
- First & ideal community because of perfect love (John 17:24; 1 John 4:8)
- Centering on the others, adoring, and serving them; seeking one another’s glory (Matthew 3:16- 17)
- Equal attention, equal honor to their roles in the Gospel story (Galatians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:1-2; Romans 8:10-11; John 14:19; Isaiah 45:5-6)



#### Role of the Holy Spirit:

- Brings awareness to sin, righteousness, and judgement (John 16:8)
- Bears witness of Christ (John 15:26)
- Provides regeneration, new life (Titus 3:5)
- Identifies us with Christ (Romans 8:9-16)

- Brings revelation of God and His Word to us (Ephesians 1:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:10)
- Empowers believers to live lives that glorify and honor God (Ezekiel 36:25-27)
- Brings comfort to the believer (Acts 9:31)
- Gives gifts and abilities to each believer for the purpose of service (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

## The Gospel

- Everything we do should flow out of a life transformed, captivated, and overwhelmed by the gospel. The word gospel in the Greek means good news. This good news speaks to the hope the world has in what God will fully accomplish in history through the salvation of Jesus. Our world view should be shaped by this message of the gospel, as it is the whole point of the Bible. (Galatians 3:8)
- A world view is the way in which one sees and understands the world.

## How does the gospel give clarity to the way we view the world?

- It speaks to the Creation of the world and where we came from and our purpose.
- A world that God cares about and intended for mankind to worship, know, and serve Him, not themselves.
- As God created the world, He saw it as good. And when His creation was complete with mankind as His crown of creation, He saw it as very good. (Genesis 1:31)
- Christ becoming man emphasized God's view of humanity.
- Mankind was in perfect relationship with its creator, God, and the surrounding creation.
- Then, through the rebellion of Adam and Eve (The Fall), enters sin and death, corrupting creation, and alienating mankind from its creator. (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12)
- Our best intentions are stricken by our spiritual depravity (cannot save ourselves); it is our fallen nature (Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; Matthew 5:3)
- God in His infinite wisdom and love has provided a way of Redemption for mankind through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 2:5-11; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 10)
- Christology - Person and work of Christ Himself
- God's only begotten Son (John 3:16; Acts 13:33)
- Incarnation - Jesus assuming human flesh, yet without ceasing to be God (John 1:1,14; 8:58; 10:30; 1 John 4:2; Romans 8:3; Colossians 2:9; Matthew 17:2-8)
- Virgin birth (Luke 1:35)
- Sinless in His life on earth, meeting God's righteous standard (Hebrew 4:15)
- Paid the debt of sin by willingly offering Himself as a substitute in order to redeem mankind (Matt. 20:28; Revelation 5:9; Hebrew 10:10; Colossians 2:13-15)
- Our righteousness is now found in Christ's righteousness; covered by His holiness (Romans 1:17; Ephesians 1:6; Philippians 3:9)
- Physical resurrection on the third day defeating death, and ascended into Heaven, where He sits at God's right hand making intercession for us (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Revelation 22:12-13; Luke 1:32-33).

- There will be a completion to God's redemption plan that brings a Restoration of all things.
- A new heavens and new earth that includes a redeemed community, reflecting His character (Revelation 21)

Bryan Chapell summarizes the story of the gospel as, "God has fulfilled his promise to send a Savior to rescue broken people, restore creation's glory, and rule over all with compassion and justice."

## Church

- The called out, universal body of redeemed persons in all places who have been made alive together in Christ by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, baptized into one body (Matthew 16:18-19; 1 Corinthians 1:2-3; Galatians 3:28; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 12:13)
- Called to make disciples and proclaim the Gospel (Matthew 28:18, 1 Peter 2:9)
- There are local expressions of the universal church in regions, cities, towns (Romans 16:1-16)
- Local gatherings are a place for one to submit to the Word of God, to worship corporately, be equipped to serve, observe the ordinances, and to build and encourage one another with their gifts (1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Acts 4:32-37; Romans 14:7-9; John 13:34)

## Continuationist Church

- We believe in the activity of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration of the believer, searching our hearts and revealing the depths of God to us (1 Corinthians 2:6-13)
- We also believe in a continual empowering and fullness of the Holy Spirit upon the believer (Ephesians 5:18-20; Acts 1:8, 4:8, 31, 7:55, 11:24; Luke 4:1, 14)
- There is often biblical evidence of the Holy Spirit empowering them with the gift of speaking in other tongues (Acts 2:4, 10:46, 19:6; 1 Corinthians 12:11; 1 Corinthians 14:1-5)
- Belief that the miraculous gifts of the N.T. will continue until the return of the Lord (1 Corinthians 12-14)
- Purpose of all the gifts is for the edification, building up & continual growth of the church (1 Corinthians 12:7, 14:3, 12, 26)
- We live in the "already," but "not yet" of the Kingdom of God, but there will come a day of completion in which we will "see face to face" and "shall know fully" that (1 Corinthians 13:9-12, Ephesians 4:11-13)

belong.

## Appendix E

### New Member Application & Survey

Community Life Church

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### New Members Questionnaire

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ WORK/CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Preference for info/communication by CLC: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_ text

Check here if you would like us to send prayer requests and church notifications to your email \_\_\_\_\_

Single \_\_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_\_ Separated \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_ Widowed \_\_\_\_\_

#### FAMILY INFORMATION

SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: \_\_\_\_\_ (month & date)

#### CHILDREN (only those still living home)

	Name	Age	Date of Birth (month/date/year)
1.	_____		
2.	_____		
3.	_____		
4.	_____		
5.	_____		
6.	_____		

DATE OF YOUR SPIRITUAL BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ WHERE \_\_\_\_\_

WATER BAPTIZED \_\_\_\_\_ WHERE \_\_\_\_\_

#### Scores from Spiritual Worksheet

What gift did you score highest in? \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Third \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply to you:

TEACH _____	CRAFTS _____	COMPUTERS _____
Adult's _____	PLAY INSTRUMENTS _____	CARPENTRY _____
Children _____	SING _____	FOOD PREP _____
Age group _____	ACTING _____	OTHER _____
		(specify)

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

belong.

## Your Talents and Gifts

Have you ever served or had a desire to serve in any of the following area?

- ☐ Drama
- ☐ Puppets
- ☐ Dance
- ☐ Creative design
- ☐ Children: Age 1-3 \_\_\_\_\_ Age 4-6 \_\_\_\_\_ Age 7-10 \_\_\_\_\_ Age 11-13 \_\_\_\_\_ Age 14-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Crafts
- ☐ Sports

In the ministry of worship:

- ☐ Instrument: Stringed \_\_\_\_\_ Wind \_\_\_\_\_ Percussion \_\_\_\_\_ Voice \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Sound system

Using the gift of practical service:

- ☐ Food preparation
- ☐ Chair/service ascetics
- ☐ Greeting/Ushering
- ☐ Security/Parking lot attendee
- ☐ Prison/Addiction ministry
- ☐ Assisting elderly
- ☐ Hospital visits
- ☐ General/On call meeting needs
- ☐ Benevolence
- ☐ Youth ministry
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

In the Area of Facilities:

- ☐ Maintenance
- ☐ Carpentry
- ☐ Janitorial
- ☐ Gardening

In the Area of Spiritual Life:

- ☐ Prayer ministry
- ☐ Biblical studies
- ☐ Community Kids
- ☐ Spiritual gifts
- ☐ Community Connect Small Group

Other:

- ☐ IT/Computer
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Live stream
- ☐ Communication
- ☐ Administration

belong.

## Appendix F - Answer Key

### Session 1 – More to Explore

#### 2. Why become a covenant member of a church? (p. 6)

It is wise to put down your **SPIRITUAL ROOTS** and **BEAR FRUIT**.

What does Ephesians 4:16 say about becoming a part of a church community?

- **We are joined and held together.**
- **We grow and build each other up in love.**
- **Each part of the body of Christ does its work.**

#### 4. What are the benefits of becoming a participating member? (p. 7)

Colossians 2:6-7

What do Paul's Words to the church members in Colossae encourage us to do?

- **Continue to live our lives rooted in Christ Jesus.**
- **Be built up and strengthened in our faith.**
- **Be overwhelmed with thankfulness.**

### Session 2 – Video Session Notes

#### What is an Acts 2 Church? (p. 9)

- A church that is marked by the **PRESENCE** of **GOD** and the impossible becoming reality.
- A church that **PUPOSEFULLY** reaches out.
- A church that gave itself to **SERVING**.
- A church that builds a unified community of believers.
- A church that results in Gospel – **CHANGED** lives, becoming more like Christ.

#### What kind of person helped build the church in Acts 2? (p. 10-12)

- A person who became a **FULLY DEVOTED** follower of Christ.
- A person who was **WATER BAPTIZED** and publicly acknowledged their faith in Christ.
- A person who was empowered by the **HOLY SPIRIT**.
- A person who builds their life on the **WORD** of **GOD**.
- A person who understood the value of **COMMUNITY** and relationship.
- A person who **REMEMBERED** all that Christ did in living and dying for them.
- A person who was committed to the **POWER** of **PRAYER**.
- A person who was committed to **SHARING** the GOSPEL and reaching their friends with what Christ had done for them.

## Session 2 – More to Explore

Circle the characteristics that we learn about the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Church from this passage. (p. 13)

“Peter said, ‘**Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized**, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. **Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites.’ He went on in this vein for a long time, urging them over and over, ‘Get out while you can; **get out of this sick and stupid culture!**’

That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They **committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers**. Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And **all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony**, holding everything in common. They **sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person’s need was met**. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they **praised God**. People in general liked what they saw. **Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.**” Acts 2:38-47 (The Message)

Read the following passages to learn the different ways of absorbing God’s Word. (p. 14)

- Romans 10:17 – HEARING
- Revelation 1:3 – READING
- Acts 17:11 – STUDYING
- Proverbs 7:2-3 – MEMORIZING
- Psalm 1:2-3 - MEDITATING

Match the verses with the statements. (p. 14)

The Word of God is life and shows us how to live.	<u>C</u>
The Word of God sets us free.	<u>D</u>
The Word of God is our weapon against sin.	<u>B</u>
The Word of God transforms our lives.	<u>A</u>

## Session 3 – Video Session Notes

1. What are values and convictions and why are they important? (p. 15)

- A value is an IDEAL that is accepted by an individual or group as something highly regarded and of great worth of importance.
- A conviction is an UNSHAKABLE belief in something
- Core values are our NON-NEGOTIABLE, unchanging beliefs.
- Core values are biblically BASED and biblically DEFINED.
- Core values are the DRIVING FORCE behind everything.

## 2. CLC Values (p. 16)

- We value God's **WORD**.
- We value the **MANIFEST** Presence of God.
- We value Holiness and the **FEAR** of God.
- We value the Person and Work of the **HOLY SPIRIT**.
- We value Wholehearted **PRAISE** and **WORSHIP**.
- We value a **PERSONAL** and **INTIMATE** Relationship with God.
- We value Personal and Corporate **PRAYER**
- We value the **FAMILY**.
- We value Godly **CHARACTER**, Integrity, and Purity of Heart.
- We value Reaching the **LOST**.
  - Lost People and Mission
  - How to Impact People with the Gospel of Christ.
    1. Accept the personal **RESPONSIBILITY**.
    2. Build a personal **RELATIONSHIP**.
    3. Share your personal **STORY**.
    4. Give a personal **INVITATION**.
  - Points of Passion
    1. "In Jerusalem" – Our **COMMUNITY**.
    2. "In Judea and Samaria" – Our **NATION**.
    3. "To the ends of the Earth." – Our **WORLD**.
- We value Relational **FELLOWSHIP**.
  - Covenant Relationships
  - Connect Groups provide three things:
    1. A place to **CONNECT**.
    2. A place to **PROTECT**.
    3. A place to **GROW**.
- We value Relationships with other **CHURCHES**, Ministries, and Leaders.
- We value our Relationships with **MISSIONARIES**.
- We value the **POWER** of God.

## Session 4 – Video Session Notes

### What is a Steward? (p. 21)

- A person who is entrusted with the management of another's **PROPERTY**, **FINANCES**, or **AFFAIRS**.
- Functions with delegated authority over something.
- In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Paul says we have been bought with a price. We are not **OUR OWN**.

### Why should we tithe? (p. 22)

- A part of our **WORSHIP**.
- An act of **OBEDIENCE**.
- Releases God's **BLESSINGS** to individuals and churches.
- It's how the **CHURCH** is funded.

## Session 4 – More to Explore

### The purpose of Spiritual Gifts. (p. 23)

- To **BUILD** others **UP**, not ourselves.
- To be **EMPOWERED** by God and receive His strength.
- To partner with the Holy Spirit.
- Given for the **COMMON GOOD**.
- To confirm God's Word.
- To make God's will known to man.
- To reveal God's truth to the **WORLD**.

## Session 5 – Video Session Notes

### CLC Vision Statement (p. 25)

To **LOVE** and **HONOR** God, and all people.

To **PROCLAIM** Jesus Christ as The Only Way to eternal salvation, healing, restoration, wholeness, and abundant life.

To **PRACTICE** and enjoy The Presence of God through Spirit led full life worship.

To **PROMOTE** spiritual growth and maturity in every believer, enabling them to fulfill their calling and ministry.

### Here's how you can OWN the vision. (p. 25-26)

- Get involved in a small **GROUP**.
- **SERVE** enthusiastically in an area of church life.
- Follow Christ **WHOLEHEARTEDLY**.
- Become a **BUILDER**, not a demolition expert, with your words and actions.
- **STRETCH** yourself to believe and do the impossible.
- Live **SACRIFICIALLY**. Live **GENEROUSLY**.
- **HONOR** one another and those that are in leadership.
- Live at **PEACE** and **UNITY**.