

WELCOME TO MCC MEMBERSHIP CLASS

ADULT BIBLE COMMUNITIES

Tools for Presenting the Living Word of God

GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS TO US Student Version

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WELCOME TO MONMOUTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH (MCC)

DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We're excited you've chosen to take this class. We view this as a big step towards spiritual maturity.

The Basis For This Class:

"... you are ... fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household..."
Ephesians 2:19

Key Truths:

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

FOUR MCC COMMITMENTS

1. The Membership Commitment

is a commitment to _____ and _____.

"... you are ... fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household..."
Ephesians 2:19

"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." Romans 12:4, 5 (NLT)

2. The Maturity Commitment

is a commitment to the _____ necessary for spiritual _____.

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

"... Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness." 1 Timothy 4:7 (NLT)

3. The Ministry Commitment

is a commitment to _____ and _____ 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 Peter 4:10

"There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. Now all of you together are Christ's Body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:5, 27

4. The Missions Commitment

is a commitment to _____ the Good News with others.

Jesus said, "... you will be My witnesses ... to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

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

Why Do We Have These Commitments?

We Become What We Are _____.

The Membership Commitment - introduces us to three areas:

- Our Statement (Why we exist as a church) - page 20
- Our Strategy (How we fulfill the purpose of the church) - page
- Our Structure (How we function as a church) - page

OUR STATEMENT

"... Let there be real harmony so there won't be divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose." 1 Corinthians 1:10 (NLT)

Every church is driven by some force, something that is their reason for doing what they do. Some are driven by:

1. _____ ("We've always done it that way.")
2. _____ ("How much will this cost?")
3. _____ ("What does So-and-so think?")
4. _____ ("There's something for everybody, every night of the week.")

We want MCC to be a _____ church.

Jesus said, "... I will build My church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." Matthew 16:18 (NLT)

"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD'S purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:21

MCC Purpose Statement

Someone has said: “We Believe A Great Commitment To The Great _____

And The Great _____ Will Grow A Great Church!”

The purpose of MCC can be summarized in a single sentence based on two key Scriptures:

The Great Commandment:

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40

The Great Commission

“Therefore 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

OUR CHURCH

To “Love ... God with all your heart” is “WORSHIP” _____

To “Love your neighbor as yourself” is “MINISTRY” _____

To “Go ... make disciples” is “EVANGELISM” _____

“Baptizing them” is to incorporate into “FELLOWSHIP” _____

“Teaching them” is “DISCIPLESHIP” _____

Monmouth Christian Church Exists:

1. To _____ GOD'S PRESENCE (worship)
2. To _____ GOD'S LOVE (ministry)
3. To _____ GOD'S WORD (evangelism)
4. To _____ GOD'S FAMILY (fellowship)
5. To _____ GOD'S PEOPLE (discipleship)

I. WE EXIST TO CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE

WORSHIP: _____.

“Jesus said to him ... ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’” Matthew 4:10

Jesus said,“... The Father is looking for anyone who will worship Him ... those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.” John 4:23,24 (NLT)

To worship in spirit means to worship in _____.

To worship in truth means to worship in _____.

The Bible doesn't give us a preferred style of worship. When choosing a church, search for one that worships in love and truth.

Other Ways We Worship:

- **Singing**

...speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19)

- **Praying**

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Jehovah our maker. Psalm 95:6

- **Giving**

And concerning the collection for the saints, as I charged the churches of Galatia, so also you do. On the first of the Sabbaths, let each of you put by himself, storing up what ever he is prospered, so that there may be no collections when I come. (I Corinthians 16:1-2)

- **Meditating**

But Jehovah is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him. Habakkuk 2:20

- **Commitment**

I beseech you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1-2

- **Baptism**

Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father; even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:3-4

- **Lord's Supper**

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; And giving thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup also, after supping, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant in My blood; as often as you drink it, do this in remembrance of Me."

For "as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show" the Lord's death until He shall come. I Corinthians 11:23-26

Our Worship Style

“Celebration”

“...I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” Psalm 122:1

Key Word: _____.

“Inspiration”

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

Key Word: _____.

“Preparation”

“He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the Body of Christ...” Ephesians 4:11,12 (NLT)

Key Word: _____.

II. WE EXIST TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE

MINISTRY: _____.

Jesus said, *“This is how everyone will recognize that you are My disciples - when they see the love you have for each other.” John 13:35 (TM)*

[See also: 1 John 3:16-17; Matt. 25:34-40; Heb. 13:16; Rom. 12:13]

“Now there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. Now all of you together are Christ's Body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-5,27 (NLT)

At Monmouth Christian Church:

1. Every member is a: _____.
2. Every task is: _____.
3. Every member is a ‘ten’ in: _____.

MCC Ministries to get involved in ... if there's not one for you, we'll help you start one.

Adult Bible Connection Leader
Audio & Video Ministry
Childcare
Children's Ministry
Clerical Assistants
Coffee Ministry
Decoration Ministry
Drama Ministry
Espresso Station Ministry
Facilities Maintenance Ministry
First Impressions Team
Follow-up Ministry
Helping Hands Ministry
Information Booth Ministry
Landscaping Ministry
Library Ministry

Offering Counters Ministry
Outreach Ministries
Parking Lot Ministry
Prayer Ministry
Puppet Ministry
Recreation Ministry
Refreshments Ministry
Shut-In Ministry
Small Group Leader
Stephen Ministry
Telephone Ministry
Transportation Ministry
Welcome Center Ministry
Women's Ministry
Worship Team
Youth Ministry

III. WE EXIST TO COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD

EVANGELISM: _____.

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

"For 'anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' But how can they call on 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 them?" Romans 10: 13-14 (NLT)

Why Our Church Must Never Stop Growing

1. BECAUSE _____.

"The Lord ... is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9 [also see: 2 Cor.5:14; Luke 15:3-10; Matt. 9:12-13]

2. BECAUSE _____.

"..Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full." Luke 14:23 (NLT)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Jerusalem is: _____.

Judea is: _____.

Samaria is: _____.

Ends of the earth is: _____.

3. BECAUSE _____.

*“Under Christ's control, the whole body is nourished ... and grows, as God wants it to grow.”
Colossians 2:19 (GN)*

Jesus said, “... I will build My church ...” Matthew 16:18

Unbiblical excuses for not growing:

- “God isn't interested in numbers.”
- “Our church wants quality, not quantity.”
- “Large churches are impersonal.”
- “We like our group small.”

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

Larger we will _____.

Smaller we will _____.

IV. WE EXIST TO ASSIMILATE GOD'S FAMILY

FELLOWSHIP: _____.

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household.” Ephesians 2:19

*“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.”
1 Thessalonians 2:8*

The “heartbeat” of Monmouth Christian Church is _____ we want every member to be a part of one.

True fellowship happens in small groups where people are:

1. _____.

2. _____.

3. _____.

4. _____ in their _____.

V. WE EXIST TO EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE

DISCIPLESHIP: _____.

*“Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity ...”
Hebrews 6:1*

*“... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ...”
2 Peter 3:18*

*“He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,
and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and
build up the church, the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-12 (NLT)*

“Monmouth Christian Church exists to bring people to Jesus and _____
in His family, develop them to Christ-like _____ and equip them for their
_____ in the church and life _____ in the world in order to
_____ God’s Name.”

What does this purpose statement mean for you?

- **Membership:** Who is my _____ of believers?
- **Maturity:** What am I doing to _____ in my faith?
- **Ministry:** Where is my place of _____?
- **Mission:** Who am I trying to _____?
- **Magnify:** Does my _____ with God bring Him honor?

Let’s take a more detailed look at our purpose statement.

Your Action-Step

MEMBERSHIP Get in a _____.

*“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you,
you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My
disciples.” John 13:34, 35 (NLT)*

*“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The
earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.” James 5:16
(NLT)*

MATURITY

Develop spiritual _____.

“No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love - like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.”
Ephesians 4:14-16 (TM)

MINISTRY

Discover your _____ and find a _____.

“... God ... creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join Him in the work He does, the good work He has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.” Ephesians 2:10

“He [God] handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor _ teacher to train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.”
Ephesians 4:11-13 (TM)

MISSION

Friendship _____.

“... You're here to be light, bringing out the God _ colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill ... Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in Heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16 TM

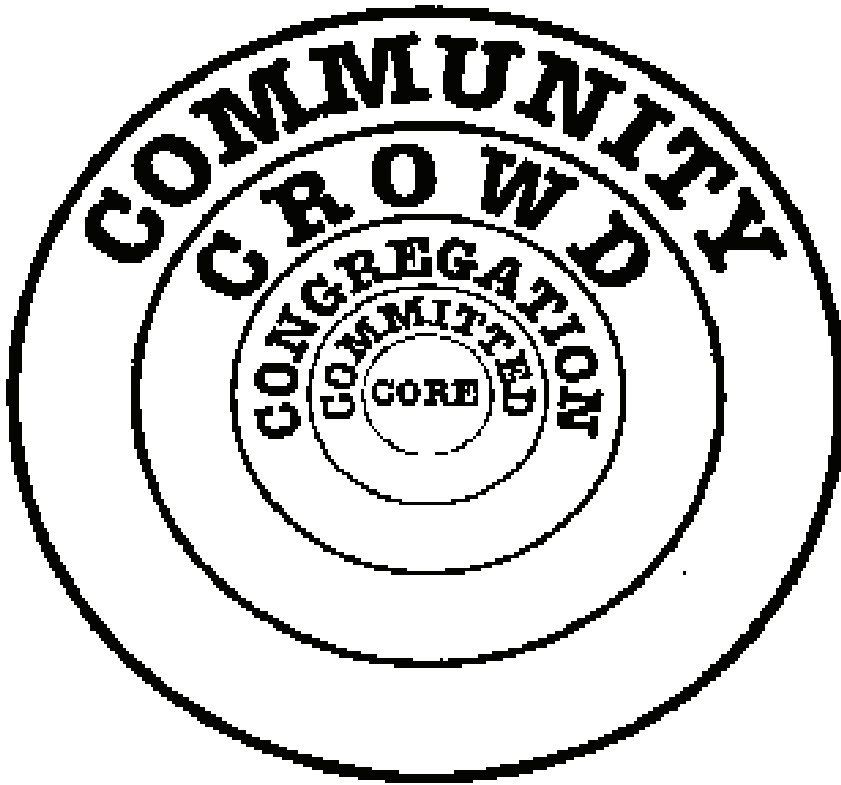
MAGNIFY

Change your _____.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual act of worship.” Romans 12:1

OUR STRATEGY

“I [Paul] have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”
1 Corinthians 9:22-23



Within MCC, there are many different ministries that work together to accomplish our goal of fulfilling the overall purpose of the church found in the Great Commandment and Great Commission (remember page). In this section you will learn about:

- Our potential audience
- Our process of moving people towards spiritual maturity
- Our programs

I. OUR POTENTIAL AUDIENCE

One of the elements of fulfilling our purpose statement is to identify our potential audience. We do this by recognizing five different groups of people.

- The “COMMUNITY” person is committed to _____ church.
- The “CROWD” person is committed to _____ our church

- The “CONGREGATION” person is committed to a _____.
- The “COMMITTED” person is committed to _____ necessary for spirited growth.
- The “CORE” person is committed to _____.

When you combine our purpose statement with the potential audience, you’ll see our goal is to reach the community and help move them toward the core.

Which audience would you consider yourself to be a part of?

III. OUR PROCESS

OUR PROCESS (The Trail, the Path, and beyond)

To give you the “big picture” of our process for spiritual growth here at the church, let me tell you about “The Trail”, “the Path” and beyond. To do so let me ask you to put on your “imagination” cap. Let’s pretend that we congregate at the church in our own cars and caravan together up to the mountains. Up in the mountains we get off the main highway and go down a long dusty road to a very large parking lot.

We all park and I take you over to the edge of the parking lot and point out a small trail that we’re going to take in order to get to a beautiful path. On that path there are all sorts of great adventures and wonderful ways to grow. It’s not a path you can take on your own. As we start on the trail I introduce you to your guide for life, (see the pamphlet “The Trail”). His name is Jesus. He is your guide and counselor for the journey. He’s the best there is. He knows all about what you’re going to experience and has the right instructions for life. If you listen to Him, there is so much you’ll learn.

On the path you meet up with others who are going to take the journey too. It’s a small band of people who pause on their journey weekly to get together with you and help you with your daily relationship with Jesus. You start off walking and learn some vital things for the journey. As you grow spiritual muscle you realize it’s time to pick up the pace and you find yourself starting to run on the path and enjoy every minute of it. (See the pamphlet, “The Path”). There is so much to learn together and everyone helps each other. Ultimately Jesus is our greatest help and guide. The group encourages us to talk to and learn daily from Jesus as He leads us on a very meaningful personal path for life. He teaches us where to go and how to get through life.

Now that we know where the trail and path are, have developed a personal relationship with Jesus, and have joined with our group, we are ready! We go back to our cars, go pick up our friends and bring them with us to join in the journey. They are supported like us by a great group of people who are all traveling with the only guide, Jesus Christ.

We have groups to introduce you to Jesus, groups to help you walk and run on the path, and groups to support you and deepen your relationship with Jesus for the rest of your life as you help others come to know and grow in Jesus.

We want you to understand that this process is not the only way to measure growth and maturity. It's also a process that's not without error. For example, if someone completes all the programs and classes we have set up along the base paths but never display a faith and/or intimacy with Christ, the process is meaningless.

We want this process to encourage growth by challenging people to take the next step.

V. OUR PROGRAMS

Often when people think about church ministry, they think of programs. But as you have seen, our programs only exist to support our purpose and to help reach our audiences.

Here are a few of the ministries through which we support our purpose and reach our audience:

Area Bible study small groups
Children's camps
Community events
Family camp
Friendship evangelism
Leadership Training
Ministry Team
Missions trips
Praise & Worship
Special events (concerts, etc ...)
Vacation Bible School
Women's Retreats
Youth Camps

AND . . .

OUR STRUCTURE

“For God is not a God of disorder but of peace ... But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” 1 Corinthians 14:33,40

The Church Reformed

1-800- ? A.D.

Spiritual men and women began to see the need for change and began a movement to _____ the church. Their intent was to _____ some of the abuses. There was a great deal of success, but they created additional problems as well.

Protestant theologians formed new _____ to enforce new theological positions. Major Protestant denominations developed both in _____ and in _____.

Many denominations began to fight _____ rather than to seek to win the world to Christ. By 1800 the divisions had become intense and the reformation stagnated.

The Church Restored

1800 - ? A.D.

Around the year _____ A.D., a number of men and women became concerned about the condition of the church. They wanted to restore the _____ and _____ of the original New Testament Church. Their intentions were to:

Restore the New Testament Church in its _____.

Unite all Christians on the foundation of _____.

Recognize the authority of the _____.

This effort came to be known as the _____.

Monmouth Christian Church is a locally governed, “non-denominational,” Christ-centered church that has its heritage in the Restoration Movement.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

1. Our name declares our allegiance to Jesus Christ.

“... (It was there at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.)” Acts 11:26 (NLT)

2. We are led by pastors, elders, and deacons.

“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, not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be ... eager to serve.” 1 Peter 5:1-2

“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers.” Ephesians 4:11

“This letter is ... to all of God's people in Philippi, who believe in Christ Jesus, and to the elders and deacons.” Philippians 1:1 (NLT)

3. We believe the church should be like...

- A _____.

“... all of you should be of one mind, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” 1 Peter 3:8 (NLT)

- A _____.

“Now all of you together are Christ's Body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT)

- A _____.

*“I [Jesus] am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
John 10:11 (NLT)*

History of the Monmouth Christian Church

Monmouth was settled about 1853-54 by a group of Christians from Monmouth, Illinois. Their purpose was to settle in the Willamette Valley, build homes, a church and a school of higher learning. The town site was surveyed in 1855, and Monmouth University was granted a charter by the territorial legislature on January 18, 1856.

In July 1856, the Monmouth group elected officers and organized the church and named it the Christian Church. The first meeting place was a wooden 20'x30' building just north of the Monmouth & Clay St. church location. Two years later the Church had grown, and they built a two-story wooden building where the old brick building on the college campus is now.

In 1866, Bethel College and Monmouth University united as Christian College, using the Monmouth buildings. A new school building was made out of bricks made on the site. It was part of what is now Campbell Hall. The church then met in the new school building.

Thomas Franklin Campbell, cousin of Alexander Campbell, became president of Christian College in 1869. He also was the minister of the Christian Church for many years.

In 1874 the Christian College began to make the move to become a State University. The University of Oregon went to Eugene by a one-vote margin over Monmouth. So, through a series of events, Christian College became State Normal School in 1882.

In 1877 a new church building was built on the corner of Monmouth Avenue and Church Street. In 1883, after the State took total control of the school, the church building was moved to its Monmouth and Clay location. Much new construction and remodeling was done there. A total remodeling job on the inside of the building was completed in 1974-75.

MCC moved in July 2001 to the building and property located on Church St. just west of Stadium Way. A new 24-unit modular building was added on the east side of the sanctuary building in approximately May of 2004 and was affectionately named Heritage Hall, in honor of MCC's enduring and beloved heritage. This effectively expanded our available space, giving us an additional 13,600 square feet of much needed classrooms and offices.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

In essential beliefs - we have unity.

*“There is one body and one Spirit ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all ...” Ephesians 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 love.

“If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:2

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE

1. ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

Psalm 12:6, 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5; 2 Timothy 1:13, 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21

2. ABOUT GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1,26-27,3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2

3. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. He was born of a virgin, led a sinless life, performed many miracles, and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. Three days later He rose from the dead to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords.

Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:22-23; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14-15

4. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily.

John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16-17; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18; Galatians 5:25

5. ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude that separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a, 59:1-2; Romans 3:23

6. ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness, can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

John 1:12, 14:6; Romans 5:1, 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 3:26; Titus 3:5

7. ABOUT ETERNITY

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence.

Matthew 1:8, 2:44, 46; John 2:25, 3:16, 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15

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:

1. Bible as our sole authority

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.” 2 Timothy 3:16
(NLT)*

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.

2. Autonomy of each local church

*“Christ is the head of His Body, the church. He is the source of the Body's life ...”
Colossians 1:18 (GN)*

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

3. Priesthood (Ministry) of every believer

*“He has made us His kingdom and His priests who serve before God His Father...”
Revelation 1:6 (NLT)*

“... You are a kingdom of priests, God's holy nation, His very own possession... so you can show others the goodness of God” 1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)

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.

4. Tithing

“A tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to Him as holy.” Leviticus 27:30 (NLT)

At MCC, 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.

5. Baptism by immersion

“For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with Him you were raised to a new life ...” Colossians 2:12 (NLT)

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

6. Spirit-led living

“... Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you.” Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey Him and the power to do what pleases Him.” Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

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.

7. 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 whom God has brought us into contact. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

*“Yes, I [Jesus] am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.”
John 15:5 (NLT)*

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between “attendees” and “members” can be summed up in one word:

_____.

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

1. A _____ Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

“... Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” Ephesians 5:25

2. A _____ reason: It is a unique commitment in our society.

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything ... school ... a relationship ... our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers & hoppers.” Membership swims against the current of America's “consumer religion” that switches groups for any reason. Membership is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

3. A _____ reason: It defines who can be counted on.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every army has an enlistment. Membership identifies our family of believers who can be counted on in our attempt to fulfill our purpose.

4. A _____ reason: It encourages spiritual growth.

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

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

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

The Monmouth Christian Church Membership Covenant

“Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Monmouth Christian Church's statement, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Monmouth Christian Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I Will Protect The _____ of my church.

- By acting in _____ toward other members.
- By refusing to _____.
- By following the _____.
- By _____.

*“So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.”
Romans 14:19 (NLT)*

*“May ... God ... give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus.”
Romans 15:5*

“Now you can have sincere love for each other as brothers and sisters because you were cleansed from your sins when you accepted the truth of the Good News. So see to it that you really do love each other intensely with all your hearts.” 1 Peter 1:22 (NLT)

*“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”
Ephesians 4:29*

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17

2. I will share the _____ of my church.

- By _____ for its _____.
- By _____ the _____ to attend.
- By _____ those who are alone and/or visiting.

“We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2 (NLT)

“... Go out into the country ... and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.” Luke 14:23 (NLT)

*“So accept each other just as Christ has accepted you; then God will be glorified.”
Romans 15:7 (NLT)*

3. I Will Serve The _____ Of My Church.

- By _____ my gifts and talents.
- By being _____ to serve.
- By developing a _____.

*“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you ...”
1 Peter 4:10 (Ph)*

“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up.” Ephesians 4:11-12

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus ... taking the very nature of a servant ...” Philippians 2:4,5,7

4. I will support the _____ of my church.

- By attending _____.
- By living a _____.
- By _____ regularly.

*“Let us not give up meeting together ... but let us encourage one another...”
Hebrews 10:25*

*“But whatever happens ... live in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ ...”
Philippians 1:27 (NLT)*

“On every Lord's Day, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering.” 1 Corinthians 16:2 (NLT)

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