

# SUMMITCHURCH

LOVE GOD LIVE COMMUNITY SERVE OTHERS

## New Member Class



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# New Members Class

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*Please sign and return to the church secretary or the leader of the New Members class.*

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We're excited that you have made the decision to become a member of our church. Our prayer is that this will be the beginning of an exciting journey together as we seek to fulfill God's purposes together.

Becoming a member of this church is not about taking one class and you're done. Becoming a member of Summit Church means that you commit to embrace the mission, purpose, people and vision of this church.

## MISSION

**“Worship RESTORED back to God, through our DESIRE for Christ.”**

- **Developing Believers (Qualifying the Unqualified):** Providing opportunities for believers in Christ to grow in their gifting by empowering them to act in their gifting, and be used in the way they were called by God to SERVE.
- **Equipping:** Equipping people to do the work God has called them to, by immersing them in training and discipleship, preparing them to act in their gifting.
- **Self-Feeding:** Directing believers to become passionate followers of Christ, through abiding in His teachings in obedience.
- **Impacting the Community:** Impacting the area globally, so that the WORSHIP of GOD is known by the actions of Summit Church.
- **Reflecting the Imago Dei:** Multiplying believers that are able to show the WORSHIP of GOD to the world and influence society to see CHRIST GLORY.
- **Evangelizing:** Witnessing to those around us globally, in a prepared and trained way, so that we may boast in Christ's power, not our own.

## PURPOSE

Wayne Grudem, in his book “Systematic Theology” states *“We can understand the purposes of the church in terms of ministry to God, ministry to believers, and ministry to the world.”* We at Summit Church agree with this thesis and have aligned our purposes under the three headings of...

**Love God, Live Community and Serve Others**



## LOVE GOD

*The purpose of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever. –Jon Piper*

The most important event that has ever happened since the creation of the world is the coming of Jesus Christ, God's Son, into the world. Therefore the most important thing anybody could ever learn, or any church could keep clear in its vision, is why Christ came. On this point the Bible speaks with unmistakable clarity.

*"The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10,*

*"Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy." Romans 15:8–9*

God's purpose is to be glorified among all the nations for his mercy.

So why did the most important event in world history happen? It happened in order that the nations—the Quechua of Peru, the Gypsies in Romania, the Amara and the Afar of Ethiopia, the Hispanic, African American and Caucasians of South Carolina—that someday "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

The purpose of Christ's coming is that all the peoples of earth might glorify God for his mercy. And what is this mercy? Simply this: "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost; Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

Putting it all together then: God sent his Son into the world to save sinners (like us) from every nation so that they would glorify him for his mercy.

### **What does it mean to be a Christian?**

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing why they exist or what God's purpose for their lives is. The most basic question a person can ask is, "What is the meaning of my life?" You may have tried to look for this meaning through acquiring things, experiencing pleasure, or gaining prestige and power but real happiness comes from understanding your purpose for being alive.

### **Why am I here?**

My First Purpose is that GOD made me to love me.

*For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.-Ephesians 1:4-6*

My Second Purpose is that GOD made me to have a personal relationship with Him to enjoy the rest of GOD's creation.

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*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them .God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground. –Genesis 1:27-28*

*Jesus said... I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. – John 10:10*

When I know and Love GOD and live in harmony with His purpose for my life it produces tremendous benefits. I have...

- a clear conscience (Romans 8:1)
- life and peace (Romans 8:6)
- help with my weakness (Romans 8:26)
- purpose (Romans 8:28)
- confidence (Romans 8:31)
- security (Romans 8:39)
- fulfillment (Philippians 4:19)
- freedom (John 8:32)
- power and strength (Philippians 4:13)

## **What is the problem?**

Man has a natural desire to disobey and to ignore GOD's principals for living. The bible calls this attitude "sin."  
*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. – Isaiah 53:6*

Sin breaks our close relationship with GOD. It causes us to fear GOD and try to live our lives outside of His will.  
*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God – Romans 3:23*

When people have problems, they often try many different ways of coping before turning to GOD.  
*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.- Proverbs 16:25*

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

"My parents were Christian, so..."  
"I'll work real hard and earn it."  
"I'll be real religious and go to church"

## **What is the solution?**

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

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. - John 14:6*

Jesus has already taken care of your sin problem.

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

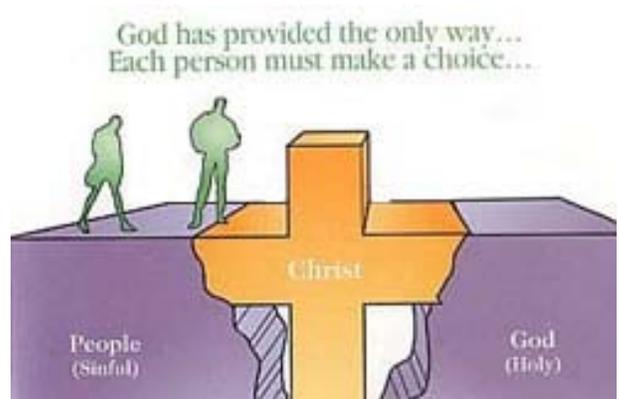
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GOD did this for each one of us because He loves us and wants us to know Him

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. - Romans 5:8*

GOD has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. Jesus Christ took the initiative and bridged the gap for all of us. Now he waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.



## What does GOD want me to do?

Acknowledge that GOD has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness- 1 John 1:9.*

Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose from the dead and is alive today.

*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. -Romans 10:9*

Accept God's free gift of Salvation. Don't try to earn it.

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

Invite Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director of your life.

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. - Revelation 3:20*

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to GOD:

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

*"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." - Romans 10:13*

Welcome to the family of GOD. We are excited to be with you on your journey and will do everything possible to assist you on being a faithful and fruitful follower of Christ. One of the first steps of your new walk is to be baptized.

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## The Importance and Meaning of Baptism

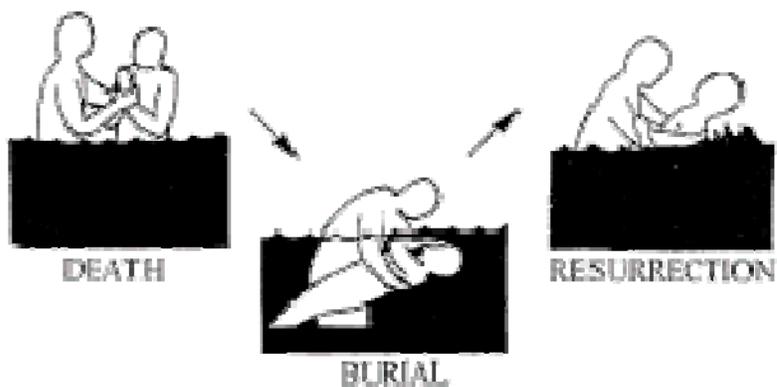
Family members should not be ashamed to be recognized as a part of their family. Baptism is not some optional ritual, to be delayed or postponed. It signifies your inclusion in God's family. It publicly announces to the world, "I am not ashamed to be a part of God's family." Jesus commanded this beautiful act for all in his family:

*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*

Why is baptism so important? Because it symbolizes one of the purposes of your life: incorporation into the fellowship of God's eternal family.

Baptism declares your faith, shares Christ's burial and resurrection, symbolizes your death to your old life, and announces your new life in Christ. It is also a celebration of your inclusion in God's family.

Your baptism is a physical picture of a spiritual truth. It represents what happened the moment God brought you into his family.



Baptism doesn't make you a member of God's family; only faith in Christ does that. Baptism shows you are part of God's family. Like a wedding ring, it is a visible reminder of an inward commitment made in your heart. It is an act of initiation, not something you put off until you are spiritually mature. The only biblical condition is that you believe. If you haven't been baptized as an expression of your faith in Christ, do so immediately.

The Bible says, "*Jesus and the people he makes holy all belong to the same family. That is why he isn't ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters*" Hebrews 2:11

Let that amazing truth sink in! Because Jesus makes you holy, God is proud of you. Being included in God's family is the highest honor, the greatest privilege you and I will ever receive.

*"Praise God for the privilege of being in Christ's family and being called by his wonderful name!" 1 Peter 4:16*



## **Importance and meaning of the Lord's Supper**

Jesus never asked his disciples to remember His birth, but he did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called Ordinances) as reminders of His death. These ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a powerful object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers. It is an integral part of Christian worship. It causes us to remember our Lord's death and resurrection and to look for His glorious return in the future.

The Passover was the most sacred feast of the Jewish religious year. It commemorated the final plague on Egypt when the firstborn of the Egyptians died and the Israelites were spared because of the blood of a lamb that was sprinkled on their doorposts. The lamb was then roasted and eaten with unleavened bread. God's command was that throughout the generations to come the feast would be celebrated. The story is recorded in Exodus 12.

During the Last Supper—a Passover celebration—Jesus took a loaf of bread and gave thanks to God. As He broke it and gave it to His disciples, He said,

*"This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22:19-21).*

He concluded the feast by singing a hymn (Matthew 26:30), and they went out into the night to the Mount of Olives. It was there that Jesus was betrayed, as predicted, by Judas. The following day He was crucified.

The accounts of the Lord's Supper are found in the Gospels (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:17-25; Luke 22:7-22; and John 13:21-30). The apostle Paul wrote concerning the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:23-29. Paul includes a statement not found in the Gospels:

*"Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself" 1 Corinthians 11:27-29*

We may ask what it means to partake of the bread and the cup "in an unworthy manner." It may mean to disregard the true meaning of the bread and cup and to forget the tremendous price our Savior paid for our salvation. Or it may mean to allow the ceremony to become a dead and formal ritual or to come to the Lord's Supper with unconfessed sin. In keeping with Paul's instruction, we should examine ourselves before eating the bread and drinking the cup.

Another statement Paul made that is not included in the gospel accounts is *"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" 1 Corinthians 11:26*

This places a time limit on the ceremony—until our Lord's return. From these brief accounts we learn how Jesus used two of the frailest of elements as symbols of His body and blood and initiated them to be a monument to His death. It was not a monument of carved marble or molded brass, but of bread and wine.

The Lord's Supper/Communion is a remembrance of what Christ did for us and a celebration of what we receive as a result of His sacrifice.

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## **Importance of Prayer**

For any relationship really to exist and continue to grow, an essential element is needed: communication. The same is true with our relationship to GOD. If we are to grow in it, we need to communicate regularly with to GOD. GOD communicates to us primarily through His Word (the BIBLE). Prayer is simply our communication with God. Included in our prayers are words of adoration, praise, thanks, worship as well as our requests.

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. - Philippians 4:6*

God is telling us that we need to be continually praying and our prayers should be our first resort not the last. Effective prayer is not a matter of repeating words without meaning; it is sincere, confident, and private conversation with God, for he knows one's needs before he or she asks (Matt. 6:6-8; 22:22). Prayer need not be in any particular form. Jesus frequently used the word "ask" in referring to prayer. He said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matt. 7:7-8).

Jesus provided a model prayer called the "Lord's Prayer," which indicates that prayer is to God as the eternal Father. Intercession by the Son may be invoked by asking in Jesus' name (Matt. 6:9-13; Lk. 11:2-4; John 14:13-14). God hears prayer and wants to give good things to those who ask him (Matt. 7:11), even before they ask (Matt. 6:8). God receives prayer as ascending to him with incense (Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4). Jesus gave the example, for he was constantly in prayer himself (Lk. 3:21-22; 9:28; 21:37; Luke 22:39-41). At the Last Supper he prayed for the spiritual unity of believers with each other and the Father and the Son (John 17). In the garden of Gethsemane, just before his being seized by authorities, he prayed, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." Then to his disciples he said, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:39-41; Mk. 14:36-38).

## **Importance of the Bible**

The Bible is considered the most important book in the world. It is God's word. When you read the Bible, you read a message from God Himself. When the Bible speaks, God speaks. Because the Bible is God's Word, it does more than just pass on information. It makes a promise, a promise of life. Everyone who receives the Bible's message in faith, is promised the rich gift of eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son. The Bible came from God Himself. God chose several people to write down what He wanted them to. Through God's inspiration the Bible was written down by people who did not make up these words themselves. The Holy Spirit drove them to speak on behalf of God.

We need the Bible because no one can live fully without knowing God's true Word. True life consists of obeying God's every command. We can trust the Bible, because God's Word is true and all promises will certainly be fulfilled. The Bible is not too ancient to carry meaning for us today. It is a living book that speaks to people's hearts in every time and place. God's word is full of strength and life. It is sharper than the sharpest sword; it penetrates immediately to our deepest thoughts and desires and shows us clearly who and what we truly are. The Bible is unutterably useful in your daily life, because it teaches you how to lead a life full of use and sense that is pleasing to God. The bible teaches you the truth and demonstrates any lack in your life and faith. It brings order to your life and shows you what is right and good. The greatest joy you will receive thanks to reading the Bible is that it leads you to the Lord Jesus Christ. It shows you how you can be saved, namely through faith in Jesus Christ through whom you may receive eternal life.



## LIVE COMMUNITY

We're made for community. In each one of us is a desire to love and to be loved, to have friendship and to give friendship, to have a place of safety and belonging. These are God-given desires and essential for becoming a disciple. Just as Jesus trained his disciples in the context of community—living with them, traveling with them, eating and drinking with them—we seek to build disciples through community.

The Bible tells us to meet together as believers and to encourage one another.

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25*

The Bible instructs us to be in relationship with other believers. If we are part of Christ's body, we will recognize our need to fit into the body of believers. The church is the place where we come together to encourage one another as members of Christ's body. Together we fulfill an important purpose on the Earth. As members of the body of Christ, we belong to each other.

*... so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:5*

It is actually for our own good that God want us in fellowship with other believers. We need each other to grow up in the faith, to learn to serve, to love one another, and to practice forgiveness. Though we are individuals, we still belong to one another.

When you give up on attending church, what's at stake? Well, to put it in a nutshell: the unity of the body, your own spiritual growth, protection and blessing are all at risk when you're disconnected from the body of Christ. Christ's body is made of many parts, yet it is still one unified entity.

*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12*

*Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.*

*If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. 1 Corinthians 12:14-23*

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27*

Unity in the body of Christ does not mean total conformity and uniformity. Although maintaining unity in the body is very important, it is also vital to value the unique qualities that make each of us an individual "part" of the body. Both aspects, unity and individuality, deserve emphasis and appreciation. This makes for a healthy church body, when we remember that Christ is our common denominator. He makes us one.



We develop the character of Christ through bearing with one another in the body of Christ.

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2*

How else will we grow spiritually unless we interact with other believers? We learn humility, gentleness and patience, developing the character of Christ as we relate within the body of Christ.

In the body of Christ we exercise our spiritual gifts to serve and minister to one another.

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16*

We will discover a satisfying sense of fulfillment when we begin to carry out our purpose in the body of Christ. We are the ones who miss out on all the blessings of God and the gifts of our "family members," if we choose not to be a part of Christ's body.

Our leaders in the body of Christ offer spiritual protection.

*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; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 1 Peter 5:1-4*

*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*

God has placed us into the body of Christ for our own protection and blessing. Just like every earthly family, it's not always fun. We don't always have warm and fuzzy feelings in the body. There are difficult and unlovely moments as we grow together as a family, but there are also blessings that we will never experience unless we become relational and connected in the body of Christ.

Need One More Reason to come to Church? Jesus went to church as a regular practice. Luke 4:16 says, "He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom."

It was his custom—his regular practice—to go to church. The Message Bible puts it like this, "As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place." If Jesus made it a priority to meet together with other believers, shouldn't we, as his followers, do so also?

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Summit Church is a church with hundreds attending services each Sunday. But church is more than a service. It's people living life together and helping one another throughout our cities to serve our towns. Each week, people meet in small communities to learn about God, pray, eat, laugh, and live. We call these Community Groups—and they're the heart of our church. And they're the way we grow smaller, grow deeper, and the only way to not get lost in the crowd.

In the Bible, the church is spoken of as a body often. This imagery points to the reality that we are all interconnected and depend on one another in life—much like a body relies on all its parts to function well. This is very different from the way most people view church—which is generally an event you attend on Sundays to be checked off the calendar. At Summit Church, we believe that while Sundays are important, the church is not a service but the people who come together to worship on Sundays and then live life throughout the week at home, work, and society.

*According to Scripture, the church has an obligation to nurture those who are already believers and build them up to maturity in the faith. Paul said that his own goal was not simply to bring people to initial saving faith but to “present every man mature in Christ” (Col. 1:28). And he told the church at Ephesus that God gave the church gifted persons “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:12–13). It is clearly contrary to the New Testament pattern to think that our only goal with people is to bring them to initial saving faith. Our goal as a church must be to present to God every Christian “mature in Christ” (Col. 1:28).*

- Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

As the church, Christians are to take the primary role in serving each other and our communities, helping each other grow to be more like Jesus, and caring for the hurting and injured members of the body, as well as sharing the good news of Jesus. It's the duty and responsibility of Christians to not rely on a handful of pastors and paid staff to fulfill the church's calling to make disciples. Rather, we believe it's important for all Christians to take ownership of their role in the church's calling by participating in making disciples and growing as disciples.

Community Groups are active groups. More than just a Bible study or a prayer group—though those are elements—members take the initiative to challenge our inclination to apathy by actively caring for one another, building friendships with one another, participating in serving the city through various charities and outreaches, and learning more about the Bible and Jesus together.



## **LEADERSHIP**

Leadership at Summit Church starts with...

### **Jesus**

It's his church, and he's our senior pastor. Underneath the guidance of Jesus are leaders who are simply qualified Christians who follow Jesus and encourage others to follow him as well. At Summit Church, our formal leadership structure involves elders, deacons, and church members.

### **Elders**

Jesus calls qualified men to lead his church as elders, whom we also call pastors. Qualifications for eldership are found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, and include leading their families well, a record of serving Jesus well both in the church and in everyday life, a thorough knowledge of the Bible and a mature Christian walk, and a good reputation both in and out of the church.

The primary duties of elders include praying and studying Scripture, leading the vision of the church, caring for the people of the church, teaching, living lives that are exemplary, protecting the people of the church from false doctrine and teachers, and developing other leaders.

### ***Teaching Pastor and Vision- Senior Pastor Jon Davis***

Responsible for the Vision, Teaching and Direction of Summit Church

### ***Missions and Administration – Kevin Chafin***

Missions: Coordination of Missions events, initiatives, trips, and communication for Local, State, National and International Missions; Leadership: Identify, develop and utilize present and new Elders and Deacons; Administration: Facilities, Pastoral Care, Finances, Staff, Counting Team, Benevolence

### ***Children, Youth and Collegiate-Associate Pastor Jeremiah Pollett***

Nursery, Children, Youth, and Collegiate Ministries and Implementation including CRU, Impact, Campus Ministries

### ***Worship- Seth Martin***

Worship: Continue to think through the substance, variety and flow of worship services to enhance a journey from distraction to engagement.

### ***Training and Discipleship- Eli Byrd***

Pastors in Training, Sunday School, CSU Relations,

### ***Sports and Involvement - Ricky Reyes***

Involvement: Increase and better publicize service opportunities for a greater number of people involved with a diversity of gifts, passions and abilities; Men's, Womens, Sports, Life Groups, Education, Greeters.;

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## Deacons

The Bible calls qualified men to serve his church deacons, a word that is literally translated as “servants.” The office of deacon is first mentioned in Acts 6. As the burden of ministry grew for the early church, elders, in addition to prayer, study, leading, and teaching, were also taking on large workloads to serve the needy in the church and handle the administrative functions of the church. As a solution, the elders appointed deacons to assist the elders in these responsibilities. At Summit Church there are a group of deacons who assist the elders in the day-to-day functions of church administration and activity. Qualifications for deacons are found in 1 Timothy 3 and include integrity, generosity, soberness, a clear understanding of the Bible, a well-ordered home, and a good reputation both in the church and outside the church.

### Deacons:

Brandon McCoy  
Troy Steel  
Julian Martinez  
Scott Fitzsimmons

Patrick Jackson  
Jon Abercrombie  
Dan Caggiano  
Jeff Best

## Members

Summit Church relies on members to support our ministry and to carry out much of the work required to help accomplish our mission to have as many people meet Jesus as possible. It’s a high calling that takes hard work—but it’s also the most rewarding work.

The leadership of Summit Church strives to love and care for its members well. In turn, we rely on our members to accomplish our collective work as the church. As an organization, we operate with minimal staff, budget, and programming because we trust the Holy Spirit to move through the transformed hearts of our members, mobilizing the collective body of Christ in humble ways to love the city, love our family, and glorify God on his terms.

### Staff:

Lead Pastor – Jon Davis  
Associate Pastor- Jeremiah Pollett  
Worship Leader –  
Youth Staff – Brandon McCoy  
Church Secretary – Julie Byrd/Rebecca Pollett  
Treasurer – Summer Reyes

### Volunteer Ministry Leaders:

Men’s Ministry – Jon Davis  
Women’s Ministry – Summer Reyes  
College Ministry – Tim Dobner  
Children’s Ministry – Patty Steele  
Sports Ministry – Ricky Reyes  
Greeting Ministry – Jeff and Nilsa Best  
Media Ministry – Jon Abercrombie  
Human Needs Network-  
Marriage Ministry- Seth and Kim Martin  
Peru Missions- Brandon McCoy  
Ethiopia Missions- Patrick and Maddy Jackson  
Fellowship Ministry-Eli and Julie Byrd



## **AFFILIATION**

We are affiliated with:

**The Charleston Baptist Association (CBA)** More than 60 churches that fellowship and work together to reach the Charleston Trident area. Out of these churches the Highland Park Baptist Church of Hanahan and the Dorchester Waylyn Baptist Church of North Charleston were directly responsible for starting Summit Church Mission in 1991.

**The South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC)** Over 1,800 churches that fellowship together with the goal of evangelizing our state.

**The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)** Over 40,000 churches that cooperate together in a world-wide effort of missions

### **What is the Southern Baptist Convention?**

**It is the largest association of churches in America.** One out of every 10 churches in America is affiliated with the SBC.

**It is the most diversified association of churches.** SBC churches include every race, nationality, and ethnic group. Each Sunday, services are held in over 80 languages in the United States.

**It is one of the fastest growing groups.** The SBC baptizes over 1,000 new Christians a day in the United States and begins nearly 5 new churches a day.

### **What are the advantages of affiliating with the SBC?**

1. It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made "creed." The Bible is our only authority.
2. It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. Through the SBC "Cooperative Program" we help support over 7,500 missionaries in 104 countries around the world.

### **Why not just be an Independent Church?**

We are an independent church! Every SBC church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there is in most other dominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs. For example:

Every SBC church chooses its own pastor.

Every SBC church owns its own building and assets.

Every SBC church determines its own vision and direction.

## SERVE OTHERS

All of us long for a sense of purpose. The idea that the world is meaningless grates against every fiber of our being. While many come to the conclusion that life has no meaning, the Christian takes joy in the fact that God has a purpose for this world—a mission—and that he calls us to help him with his mission. Jesus didn't train his disciples in a classroom. No, he trained them as he went about his work to accomplish his mission—to die on the cross for our sins and to rise from death three days later to conquer Satan, sin, and death. And he gave us a mission, too: to make disciples.

*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*

Part of becoming a disciple is being on mission to make more disciples. As we seek to fulfill God's mission, we know him more and experience the life-changing joy of seeing others begin to know him. At Summit Church we believe that the two primary ways that we can serve others are through evangelism and mercy.

*Jesus told his disciples that they should "make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). This evangelistic work of declaring the gospel is the primary ministry that the church has toward the world. Yet accompanying the work of evangelism is also a ministry of mercy, a ministry that includes caring for the poor and needy in the name of the Lord. Although the emphasis of the New Testament is on giving material help to those who are part of the church (Acts 11:29; 2 Cor. 8:4; 1 John 3:17), there is still an affirmation that it is right to help unbelievers even if they do not respond with gratitude or acceptance of the gospel message.*

- Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

The Purpose of Christ's Coming Is Not Yet Complete. There are hundreds of peoples on the earth to whom salvation has not been preached and thousands more where his witness is faint and no band of believers spread his salvation and glorify him for his mercy.

The mission of Christ to seek and save the lost has been passed on to you and me, the church. Jesus said to his disciples in John 20:21, "*As the Father has sent me, so send I you.*" Few things could be clearer—the purpose of the body of Christ is to extend the mission of Christ in the world. It is unthinkable that the cause for which Christ came, lived, suffered, and died should not be the cause of everyone who loves Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 says to the whole church, "*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*" And two verses later Peter commands us all (v. 12), "*Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*"

As the Father has sent me, so send I you" means that the unfinished mission of Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost so that redeemed people from every nation glorify him for his mercy—that unfinished mission is our mission, not just the apostles', not just the pastor's, but yours and mine as those who have already been saved through faith.



You are a very important part of the church and the body of Christ.

*... so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:5*

GOD has a purpose and service for every Christian. There are no big jobs or little jobs in Christ's service. All assignments from GOD are equally important. Serving GOD is about obedience, not position. The ultimate position is to be the exact place doing the exact service that GOD has asked you.

*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12*

Summit Church is the body; each individual member is a part; the members do not all have the same function.

### **You have spiritual gifts**

Spiritual gifts, according to the Holman Bible Dictionary, are the skills and abilities that GOD gives through His spirit to all Christians, that equip Christians to serve GOD in the community.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Peter taught that every Christian receives a spiritual gift.

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen- 1 Peter 4:10-11*

Spiritual Gifts are not intended to be used only toward Christians. Nothing builds and strengthens the church like spreading the message of salvation through Jesus to the whole world. As we see GOD's overwhelming concern for the salvation of people, we must assume that His gifts are given in large part that the lost may come to know Him. Spiritual gifts are given so that you may serve GOD. Following and serving Jesus is about servanthood, not authority. Anyone who is gifted and uses it to gain position and authority apart from serving others is misusing what GOD is given.

One particular gift has been given to every Christian. The ultimate gift is LOVE.

*But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.*

*– 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:1*

Paul taught that even if we had all the other gifts except love, it is the same as having none. The Holy Spirit chooses the kind of gifts appropriate to the kinds of service GOD wills for your place in the body of Christ.



## DOCTRINE

### 1. The Scriptures

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and were given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, all Scripture is authoritative, infallible, and inerrant. The Scriptures are fully sufficient, and are the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. We do not believe that other books are inspired by God in the same way as the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Psalm 19:7-10, Mark 13:31, John 8:31-32, John 20:30-31, Acts 20:32, Psalm 119:9-11

### 2. The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God who is without division of nature, essence, or being, but who eternally exists in three persons. These three persons are equal in every divine perfection, and they execute distinct but harmonious offices and roles in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

Matthew 28:18-20, Matthew 3:16-17, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Ephesians 4:4-6, Genesis 1:1-2, 26, John 1:1-3, 14, Romans 8:11, John 14:8-17

### 3. God the Father

We believe in God the Father, the head of the Triune Godhead. He is an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Genesis 1:1, Revelation 22:13, John 4:24, Matthew 5:48, Hebrews 6:18, Hebrews 4:13, Isaiah 46:9-10, Psalm 139:7-16, Psalm 18:1-15, Job 38:1-18, 1 John 4:7, Matthew 6:8, Luke 10:21-22, Proverbs 21:1, John 3:16, 1 Peter 1:3

### 4. The Person and Work of Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. He is fully God and fully man, and is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the law, and suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He ever lives to make intercession for His people. He will return again visibly and bodily in the Father's perfect time. He is the only Prophet, Priest, and King of the church, and Sovereign of the universe.

John 3:16, John 1:1-14, Matthew 16:13-17, Isaiah 53, John 8:58, Hebrews 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-20, Philippians 2:5-7, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, Galatians 3:13, Romans 3:21-26, Romans 8:31-34, Acts 1:9-11, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, Hebrews 7:25, Acts 5:30-32



## **5. The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is fully God, and a person, not an “it.” He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, and is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration. He baptizes all believers into the body of Christ, and indwells and seals them for day of redemption. The Holy Spirit is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide.

Genesis 1:2, Acts 5:3-4, 1 Corinthians 2:10-11, John 14:26, John 16:8-11, 2 Corinthians 3:6, Romans 8:9, Galatians 5:16-25, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, Ephesians 4:4-6, John 14:16-17, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Ephesians 1:13-14, John 15:26-27

## **6. The Total Depravity of Man**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that through Adam’s sin the entire human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. All people sin, and are by nature children of wrath, totally depraved, and utterly unable to remedy their lost condition.

Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 3, Romans 3:9-18, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12, Romans 5:18, Ephesians 2:1-3, Ephesians 2:12, Isaiah 64:6-7, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 7:18

## **7. Salvation**

We believe that salvation is a gift brought to man by the free grace and pleasure of God. Salvation was accomplished through Christ’s substitutionary life and death, and His resurrection from the grave. Salvation can be received only by repentance of sins and personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins.

Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 3:23-26, Isaiah 43:25, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Romans 8:3-4, John 3:16, Acts 20:20-21, John 1:12, Romans 10:9-10

## **8. Sanctification**

We believe that all Christians are saved unto a life-long process of growth in holiness (i.e. a process of being made more and more like Christ). This includes a progressive growth in: the knowledge of God, understanding of God, good works, love of God, and love of others. Sanctification includes constant confession and repentance (which means not merely acknowledging sin, but turning from it). While all Christians are called to grow in Christ-likeness, no one will ever arrive at perfection before death.

Philippians 1:6, Romans 8:1-17, Galatians 5:13-25, John 17:17, Ephesians 3:14-21, Philippians 2:12-13, Ephesians 2:10, 2 Peter 1:3-11, Colossians 3:1-17, Mark 12:30, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 1 John 1:8-9, Luke 3:8, 1 Timothy 1:15, 1 Corinthians 13:12

## **9. Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers**

We believe that those who are redeemed, once saved, are kept by God’s power and secure in Christ forever. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation, while realizing that the Bible clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for sin. Assurance is based upon the person and work of Christ, the testimony of the Spirit, and the evidence of conversion in the life of a believer.

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John 6:37-40, John 10:27-30, Romans 8:1-4, Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 13:13-14, Galatians 5:13, Romans 8:16-17, Romans 8:38-39, 1 Corinthians 1:4-8, Colossians 1:21-23, James 2:14-26, Hebrews 3:5-6, Hebrews 4:14-16, 1 Peter 1:5, Titus 2:11-15

## 10. The Church

We believe that the Lord Jesus is the Head of the church, which is composed of all His true disciples. Christians are to associate themselves into local bodies for the purpose of worship, growth as disciples, service, fellowship, and missions. To each local body, Christ has given the authority for administering order, discipline, and worship. The regular officers of a church are Elders (other names for Elders include: Pastors or Overseers) and Deacons. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 1:22, Ephesians 5:23, John 10:16, Matthew 18:20, Hebrews 10:25, Acts 2:42-47, Matthew 28:18-20, Galatians 3:10, Colossians 1:28-29, 1 Timothy 3:15, Acts 20:17, Acts 20:28, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Acts 6:1-6, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Timothy 5:17-19

## 11. Christian Conduct

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God, the well-being of their fellow man, and should seek the well-being of the cities and cultures in which they live. The conduct of Christians should be blameless before the world. Christians are called to be faithful stewards of their time, talents (spiritual gifts), and possessions.

1 Corinthians 10:31, Romans 12:1-3, Colossians 2:17, Hebrews 12:12, Mark 12:30-31, 1 Corinthians 13, Jeremiah 29:4-7, John 14:15, John 14:23-24, 1 John 2:3-6, 1 Corinthians 4:2, 1 Corinthians 14:26, Luke 12:42-48

## 12. The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper (i.e. Communion or the Eucharist). We believe that the proper mode of Christian baptism is immersion of the believer into water. Baptism does not save an individual, but is necessary for obedience, and is a picture of the believer's union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ as a commemoration of His death. Just like baptism, the Lord's Supper does not save an individual, but is a necessary act of obedience. During Communion, Christ is not present in the wine and bread themselves, but inhabits the presence of His people as we remember his death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, and are only for believers.

Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:41, Romans 6:3-5, 1 Corinthians 1:17, Matthew 3:13-17, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Matthew 26:20-29, Luke 22:14-23

## 13. The Last Things

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

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Mark 14:62, Acts 1:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, John 14:3, Titus 2:11-13, 2 Corinthians 5:1-5, Philippians 3:21-22, Matthew 16:27, 2 Timothy 4:1, 1 Corinthians 4:5, 1 Corinthians 15, Philippians 3:20, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10, Revelation 20:4-6, Revelation 21:1-8

## 14. Open Hand & Closed Hand

We believe that Christian doctrine can be divided into two categories: 1) close-handed doctrines, and 2) open-handed doctrines. Closed-handed doctrines are the core, essential beliefs that must be accepted by adherents of Christianity. If these doctrines are not believed, then the person denying them is not truly a Christ-follower because he/she has denied beliefs essential to the faith. Examples of closed-handed doctrines are: belief in the Trinity, the complete divinity of Jesus, the holiness of God, and salvation only by grace through faith. Open-handed doctrines are beliefs that are secondary to core, closed-handed doctrines. Christians may have different opinions about the Bible's teaching on open-handed doctrines. Open-handed doctrines are still extremely important, but Christians can differ on these issues and still claim a true, Christian faith. Examples of open-handed doctrines include: the Bible's teaching on the extent of man's will and God's will in regards to salvation, what the Bible teaches about issues of conscious such as the consumption of alcohol, which movies we choose to watch, and how we choose to raise our kids. We encourage Christians who disagree with each other on open-handed issues to live together harmoniously as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

John 14:6, Galatians 1:6-9, Philippians 1:15-18, 1 Corinthians 3:5-15, Romans 14:12-23, Colossians 2:17, 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Acts 10:9-16

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This doctrinal statement was adapted in part from the following doctrinal statements:

Mars Hill Church, Seattle WA

<http://www.marshillchurch.org/about/what-we-believe>

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN

<http://www.hopeingod.org/document/congregational-affirmation-faith/>

Immanuel Baptist Church, Louisville, KY

<http://www.ibclouisville.org/about/beliefs/doctrinal-statement>

Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, MS

[http://solashattiesburg.com/?page\\_id=73](http://solashattiesburg.com/?page_id=73)

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000

<http://www.sbc.net/bfm/bfm2000.asp>



## COMMITMENT

### Introduction

*“...Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” -[Romans 12: 1-2](#)*

As Christians, we are members of God’s household ([Eph. 2:19](#)) called to function, participate, and minister in a particular place within the body of Christ. A healthy body requires that each member do its part well. A healthy church requires the same: members who are sacrificially committed and well-equipped to do the works of service that God has prepared in advance for us to do ([Eph. 2:10; 4:12](#)). Summit Church holds its members in high regard; we expect them to lead as missionaries of the gospel to the culture. God, in his sovereignty, placed us in this city, among these people, in this century, for a reason ([Acts 17:26-27](#)).

*“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...” -[Romans 12: 3-8](#)*

Being a member of Summit Church is really about being part of a family. All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by their identity in Christ. This unity is expressed in the way they collaborate in loving God, loving fellow Christians, and loving non-Christians. Members who enter into a covenant with their local church are called to a higher degree of responsibility and service. At the same time, the elders and deacons are covenanted to assist members first and foremost, to love and lead, provide counsel and aid, and pray for, teach, and guide them.

*“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace...” -[1 Peter 4: 8-10](#)*

### Statement of faith

- I am a Christian saved from the eternal wrath of God by faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, through his death and resurrection, by which I am assured of eternal life ([John 3:16-18](#); [Rom. 3:23-26](#)).
- I believe Jesus Christ is exactly who he claimed to be ([Isa. 53:6](#); [Matt. 26:64](#); [Mark 14:62](#); [Luke 22:70](#); [John 4:25-26](#); [6:29](#); [8:58](#); [11:25-27](#); [14:6-7](#); [15:5](#)).
- I have repented of my sins and have been made a new creation in Christ ([1 John 1:9](#); [2 Cor. 5:17](#)).
- In obedience to Scripture, I have been baptized to personally identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and to publicly demonstrate my commitment as a disciple of Jesus ([Col. 2:12](#); [1 Peter 3:21](#)).



### **Statement of biblical doctrine**

- I agree with the core beliefs of Summit Church expressed in the doctrine section of this document.
- I understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace; I will adhere to Summit Church's position on primary theological issues, and I will not be divisive over secondary issues ([Eph. 4:1-3](#); [Heb. 13:7, 17](#)).
- I agree that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the ultimate doctrinal authority on all matters ([Is. 55:11](#); [1 Cor. 15:3-4](#); [2 Tim. 3:15-16](#); [Heb. 4:12](#)).
- I understand that Summit Church doctrine is also communicated and specified through various channels, such as sermons, published materials, and other writings distributed by Summit Church.

### **Obligation of Summit Church to its members**

- We commit that your elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures ([1 Tim. 3:1-13](#); [5:17-22](#); [Titus 1:5-9](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#)).
- We commit to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit ([Acts 20:28](#); [1 Peter 5:1-5](#)).
- We commit to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service ([Eph. 4:11-13](#)) and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick ([James 5:14](#)).
- We commit to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture ([Acts 20:27-28](#); [Gal. 6:6](#); [1 Tim. 5:17-18](#)).
- We commit to be on guard against false teachers ([Acts 20:28-31](#)).
- We commit to exercise church discipline when necessary ([Matt. 18:15-20](#); [1 Cor. 5](#); [Gal. 6:1](#)).
- We commit to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members ([1 Cor. 11:1](#); [Phil. 3:17](#); [1 Tim. 4:12](#)).

### **My obligation to Summit Church as a member**

- I have read and understood the Summit doctrinal statement and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace ([Eph. 4:1-3](#); [Heb. 13:7, 17](#)).
- I commit to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues ([Ps. 119](#); [2 Tim. 3:16-17](#)).
- I will maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines. My relationship will be evident through my participation in weekly worship services, communion, Summit community, service, and a life that glorifies Jesus ([Ps. 105:1-2](#); [Ps. 119:97](#); [Acts 2:42-47](#); [Heb. 10:23-25](#); [2 Peter 1:3](#)).

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- I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure ([Prov. 3:9-10](#); [Rom. 12:1-2](#); [Gal. 5:22-26](#); [Eph. 4:1-16](#); [5:15-18](#)). This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary ([Rom. 12:1-8](#); [2 Cor. 8-9](#); [12:7-31](#); [1 Peter 4:10-11](#)).
- I will not function in leadership or as a member in another church family ([Heb. 13:17](#)).
- I commit to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise ([Ps. 141:5](#); [Matt. 18:15-17](#); [1 Cor. 5:1-5](#); [2 Cor. 2:5-8](#); [Gal. 6:1-5](#); [1 Tim. 5:20](#); [2 Tim. 2:25](#); [Titus 1:9](#); [3:10-11](#); [Heb. 12:5-11](#); [Rev. 2:5-7, 14-25](#)).
- I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin that I could live a new life ([2 Cor. 5:17](#)); I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, and fornication ([Job 31:1](#); [Prov. 5](#); [Rom. 13:12-14](#); [1 Cor. 6:9-7:16](#); [Heb. 13:4](#)); I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible, my pastors, and my conscience dictate ([1 Cor. 8:7](#); [Gal. 5:19-21](#)). Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death ([Rom. 8:13](#); [Col. 3:5](#); [1 John 1:6-10](#)).

## **My commitment to the mission of Summit Church**

I have read the mission statement of Summit Church and commit to participate in this mission as a diligent, faithful disciple of Jesus, that my identity would be in him, my worship would be for him, my fellowship would be through him, and my interaction with the culture would be for his glory.

I understand that this obligates me to the members of Summit and is an acknowledgment of my submission to the elders of the church. I accept the responsibility to notify Summit leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this commitment, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Summit Church.



# APPLICATION

## Biographical Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Martial Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trusted in Him for salvation?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

Have you been baptized after you committed your life to Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

If not, do you want to be baptized at Summit?

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you completed the New Members class?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

If so, approximate month and/or year: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you completed the P.L.A.C.E. class?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

If so, approximate month and/or year: \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you know your "Spiritual gifts"? Please provide below:

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Do you desire to be a member of Summit Baptist Church and commit to serving at Summit, giving to Summit, and support Summit by praying for them?

Yes       No

Is there any legal or ethical reasons would limit your serving in a ministry at Summit Church? (ie convictions, arrests, addictions.)

Yes       No

If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

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I am interested in serving at Summit Church in the following ministries:

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Membership occurs at Summit church when you have stated that you have committed your life to Jesus Christ, been baptized after that decision, completed the New Members Class, have filled out and signed the membership application which states that you are in agreement with the vision, missions, and doctrine of Summit Church.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Why does Summit Church have “members”?** Summit Church is a church, and the Bible uses the metaphor of a body to describe the church: “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ” (1 Cor. 12:12). It’s a beautiful illustration of how we’re each created to serve different functions, we need everyone to function in order to be a healthy body, and all of us as separate parts find purpose and unity under Jesus, “the head of the body, the church” (Col. 1:18). Members are the church (Eph. 2:19-22).

**What’s the difference between a member and somebody who just goes to Summit Church every week?** At Summit Church, we make a distinction between “members” and “guests.” If you’re not a member, then you’re technically a guest that remains to a certain extent separated from our church family, and separated from the maturity, protection, accountability, and care that comes with being an active part of the church. This may not make much difference for visitors and non-Christians, but Christians who consume rather than commit to a local church do a disservice to Jesus’ body (the church) and themselves. Members, on the other hand, participate as the church: sacrificing time, talents, and treasure; committing to the care and community of their fellow members; and submitting to the authority God has established to lead our congregation. In short, the difference between a member and a non-member is that members are “on mission.”

**What does it mean to be “on mission”?** To be on mission means that you’re a Christian, that your identity is founded in Jesus, and that you embody the Summit Church mission statement by living a life of worship to Jesus, a life of fellowship with other Christians, and a life of mission to non-Christians (Matt. 28:18-20). These expressions are only possible with an identity established in Jesus.

**Why should I become a member?** The Summit Church is a family, adopted by God (Gal. 4:6-7 Eph. 1:5). We care for each other, pray for each other, and serve together. If you’re already a Christian, if you’re already in some form of Summit community, if you’re already giving of your finances and your time, then you’re already fulfilling some functions of a member. Without making an official commitment, however, we cannot provide the same level of pastoral care and community support, in part because we may not know who you are, and in part because the Bible requires that we take care of our family first (Eph. 2:19 cf. Gal. 6:10).

If you’re not a Christian, don’t worry about membership until you’ve been reconciled to God through Jesus. If you are a Christian who has spent a lot of time at Summit Church, however, search your heart and identify your hesitation. There may be valid reasons to abstain from Summit Church membership. But we’re rebels by our cursed nature; if you bristle at the very idea of becoming a member, ask yourself why—and don’t hesitate to speak with a leader at your church.

**What are the benefits of being a member?** Scripture calls us a body, a family, a household—being a Christian is not a solo effort. Jesus works through the church (Eph. 2:10), the church is Jesus’ body (1 Cor. 12:27), and apart from Jesus, you can do nothing (John 15).

This isn’t Blockbuster, it isn’t a country club, and it isn’t 24-Hour Fitness. Again, members are the church. “In love [God] predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ... So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Eph. 1:4-5 2:19).



You don't join for the perks—although members do enjoy voting privileges, and certain volunteer opportunities are only available to members. The benefit is that we get to worship Jesus together, serve in His kingdom, and be children of God! We enjoy the guidance that his Word provides, and, when sin comes between us, we enjoy the reconciliation Jesus' blood provides.

**How do I become a member?** It's a five-step process. Connect, Believe, Learn, Commit, and Converse.

## 1. Connect

- Attend on Sundays
- Join a Community Group
- Volunteer

## 2. Believe

Summit Church members are required to be professing Christians who believe and have faith in Jesus as God and Savior.

## 3. Learn

Summit Church offers a membership class to help you understand fully who we are as a church, what we believe, and how we operate. It's also a great chance to meet others and get to know your leaders. We believe it's important to know these things so that you can make an informed decision about membership.

## 4. Commit

Summit Church members share in their commitment to the church by agreeing to our membership covenant and joyfully living in community, serving the church, and giving faithfully.

## 5. Converse

As the final step in membership, you'll meet with an Elder for a final membership interview. This is an opportunity to confirm your commitment and ask any questions before being installed as a member.

### **Do members have to be baptized?**

Since Jesus commands that all of his disciples be baptized, baptism is a requirement for all Summit Church members ([Matt. 28:19](#) [Acts 2:38](#) [10:48](#) [1 Peter 3:21](#)). If you've already been baptized since you became a Christian, you don't need to get re-baptized. Summit Church performs believer baptisms only, which means we don't baptize infants. If a prospective member was baptized as a baby and does not want to be re-baptized due to reasons of conscience, that is acceptable as long as this decision remains personal and does not become a divisive issue within the church. If you have more questions about baptism specifically, please speak with a pastor or other elder at Summit Church.