



Discovering Harvest

HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH INFORMATION CLASS

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Harvest Community Church! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have attendees from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is. The information class is divided into five sessions: our purpose, finding Jesus, loving God, loving people, and loving the world. Through these sessions we will discover what it means to be a member of God's kingdom and of Harvest.

THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS:

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

Key Truths:

1. The Church is a **Family**.
2. God expects you to be a **Member** of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is a **Contradiction**.

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

That I will commit myself to **Christ** and to the **Harvest** family.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between "attendees" and "members" can be summed up in one word **Commitment**.

At Harvest we recognize the need for formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for several reasons:

1. A Biblical Reason: Jesus is committed to the church.

"...Christ loved the church, and He gave His life for it." Ephesians 5:25

2. A Cultural Reason: It is an Antidote to our society.

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

3. A Practical Reason: It defines who can be Counted On.

Membership identifies the family we are responsible for.

4. A Personal Reason: It encourages Spiritual Growth.

The New Testament emphasizes the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you are not committed to any church family.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

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

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having personally received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior; having been baptized as a public testimony of my new life in Christ and my willingness to follow Him; having completed the Membership Information Class; and being in agreement with Harvest's statements, strategy, and structure; I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Harvest family. In doing so I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

- I will protect the unity of my church
- I will share the responsibility of my church
- I will serve the ministry of my church
- I will support the testimony of my church

OUR PURPOSE

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

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Why We Exist As A Church:

***Harvest Community Church
Exists to Help Me Find and Follow Jesus***

How Do We Help People Follow Christ Passionately?:

The Great Commandment - "Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.'" Matthew 22:37-40

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

***Harvest Community Church
exists to help people find
their way back to God and
to help them follow Christ
passionately.***



WHAT DOES A FULLY DEVELOPED FOLLOWER OF CHRIST LOOK LIKE?

Developing = A Continuous Never Ending Journey

Fully = Growth in Three Key Areas

- Loving God – Celebrate
- Loving People – Connecting
- Loving the World – Contribute

The Way Jesus Loved The World

FINDING JESUS

“For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by him. We are no longer Jews or gentiles, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women, but we are all the same we are Christians; we are one in Jesus Christ!” Galatians 3:26-28 (LB)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Most people live their lives without ever knowing “Why” they exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “What is the meaning of my life?”

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

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

Real happiness comes from understanding my **Purpose**.

WHY AM I HERE?

1. God made me to love me!

God says, “I have loved you with an everlasting love!” Jeremiah 31:3

“Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ...Because of His love, God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children—this was God’s pleasure and purpose.” Ephesians 1:4-5 (GN)

2. We were created to enjoy a personal relationship with God and to manage all of the rest of God’s creation! This makes us special!

“So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them, and said,...‘Live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge.’” Genesis 1:27-28 (GN)

“God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” 1 Timothy 6:17

“Jesus said, ‘I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.’” John 10:10 (GN)

3. When we know and love God, and live in harmony with his purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our lives:

Clear Conscience

Romans 8:1

Purpose

Romans 8:28

Power and Strength

Philippians 4:13

Life and Peace

Romans 8:6

Confidence

Romans 8:31

Fulfillment

Philippians 4:19

Help With Weakness

Romans 8:26

Security

Romans 8:39

Freedom

John 8:32,36

This is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live. Why then aren’t most people really happy?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Man has a natural desire to be **The Boss** and to ignore God's principles for living.

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

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

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

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE SIN.

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

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

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

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

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

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

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

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

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

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

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Jesus Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me!" John 14:6

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

JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM!

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

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

"God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

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

God has already done his part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative.

Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what he has done for us.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. Admit that God has not been first place in your life and ask him to forgive your sins.

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

2. Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose again on Easter, and is alive today.

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

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

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

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

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

4. Invite Jesus Christ to come Into your life and be the director (Lord) of your life.

"To all who receive him, he gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust him to save us. All those who believe this are reborn - not a physical birth...but from the will of God." John1:12-13 (LB)

"Jesus says, 'Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in ...'" Revelation 3:20 (GN)

You Can Take These Steps by Praying A Simple Prayer of Commitment to God:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. 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 now as a Christian."

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

NEXT STEP: WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To Follow the Example Set by Christ.

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

2. Because Christ Commands It.

“Jesus said, ‘Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.’” Matthew 28:19-20 (GN)

3. It Demonstrates that I Really am a Believer.

“...Many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8

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

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It Illustrates Christ’s Death, Burial and Resurrection.

“Christ died for our sins...He was buried...And He rose again.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

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

2. It Illustrates My New Life as a Christian.

“When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (LB)

“By our baptism, then we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... So also we might live a new life!” Romans 6:4 (GN)

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

WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

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

2. Every baptism in the Bible was by Immersion.

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

3. The word ‘baptize’ means to dip under water.”

The Greek work baptizo means “to immerse or dip under water.”

4. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection!

The founders of denominations agree:

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

John Calvin- *“The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”*

John Wesley- *“Buried with him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the church.”*

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS BELIEVED IN CHRIST.

“Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized...” Acts 8:12

“Simon himself believed and was baptized...” Acts 8:13

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

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in faith until the child is old enough to make his/her own personal confession of Christ. (At Harvest we periodically have a parent/child dedication service that does not involve baptism.)

This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose of baptism is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

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

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!

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

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

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you’re “perfect,” you will never feel “good enough.”

HOW DO WE HELP OTHER PEOPLE FIND JESUS?

AS A CHURCH...

- We share the truth of Jesus' love by serving our community.
- We engage our community because God loves people.

*"The Lord...is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9
2 Corinthians 5:14; Luke 15:3-10; Matthew 9:12-13*

...BY BUILDING BRIDGES WITH THE UN-CHURCHED

- We build bridges because God commands us to.

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

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

- We reach out because God wants His church to grow.

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

"And the good news of the kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14

...WHILE BEING TAILORED TO THE CULTURE WE LIVE IN

- God Intends for us to take his truth and present It to the culture around us.

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

...BY PARTNERING WITH LIKE MINDED MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD.

MY PART IN HELPING PEOPLE FIND JESUS:

"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

MY RELATIONSHIPS:

1. Pray for three people I know who need Jesus
2. Invite them to Harvest
3. Share my story with them



People on My Heart

| | |
|----|-------|
| 1. | _____ |
| 2. | _____ |
| 3. | _____ |

MY WORLD:

PRAY • GIVE • GO

A FULLY DEVELOPING FOLLOWER OF JESUS ***LOVING GOD (Celebrate)***

GATHERED WORSHIP

“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

- Be ready and on time
- Actively participate
- Have an open heart
- Invite others

Worship is celebrating God’s presence.

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.” Matthew 4:10

“...The Father seeks worshipers...and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” John 4:23-24

EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP

Singing *(Ephesians 5:19)*

Commitment *(Romans 12:1-20)*

Praying *(Psalm 95:6)*

Hearing the Word *(John 17:17)*

Giving *(1 Corinthians 16:1-2)*

Baptism *(Romans 6:3-4)*

Meditating *(Habakkuk 2:20)*

Lord’s Supper *(1 Corinthians 11:23-36)*

LIFESTYLE WORSHIP

“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

- Do justice
- Love mercy
- Walk humbly with my God

PERSONAL WORSHIP

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place where He prayed.” Mark 1:35

- Choose a time
- Choose a place
- Choose a plan

1. Read the Bible

His Word our mind is transformed through the scriptures

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2

- We meet Jesus in the scriptures

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

2. PRAY

- Talk to God

Prayer is communication with God. It is the means by which we:

- Express our praise and thanks to God for who He is and what He does for us.

“I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.” Psalm 9:1-2

- Express our needs to God.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

- Express our need for forgiveness when we sin.

*“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
Matthew 7:7; Luke 18:1; John 16:24; 1 Thessalonian 5:17; James 5:13*

- Listen to God

3. WRITE IT DOWN

- What God said to me
- What I am saying to God

Aim for 7, Hit 5

A FULLY DEVELOPING FOLLOWER OF JESUS

LOVING PEOPLE (CONNECT)

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35

PURPOSE OF A LIFE GROUP:

- It is a place to belong- to make new friends
- Be cared for
- Accountability
- Interactive Bible study
- Ministry involvement

4 KINDS OF LIFE GROUPS:

1. Bible study groups
2. Prayer groups
3. Recovery groups
4. Recreational groups

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR A GROUP:

- **Group sessions run three times per year—**

Like college trimesters, every group begins again each season. So don't worry about being new, everyone is!

- **Sign up on a communication card or on the website**

- **We'll get the leaders in touch with you—**

This is so you know when and where to meet and so you can get all your questions answered.

A FULLY DEVELOPING FOLLOWER OF JESUS

LOVING THE WORLD (CONTRIBUTE)

(The way Jesus loves the world)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” John 3:16-17

“It was just before the passover festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.” John 13:1-5

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord...now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27

“So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13

FIND MY PLACE TO SERVE – MY TALENTS, MY TIME

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

What have I done? – My **Experience**

What can I do? – My **Skills**

How am I gifted? – My **Spiritual Gifts**

What do I see around me? – The **Needs**

What do I love to do? – My **Passions**

CONTRIBUTE TO GOD'S WORK – MY TREASURES

THE TITHE:

“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the Lord Almighty.” Malachi 3:8-11

The foundation of Christian stewardship as it relates to money is the giving of the “tithe” to God.

There are three key principles in this *Malachi 3:8-11*.

- Not honoring God with the tithe of our income is robbing God.
- Honoring God with a tithe of our income enables us to trust to replenish us and meet our needs from His resources.
- Honoring God with the tithe frees God to protect us in unusual ways.

OTHER GIVING PRINCIPLES

Before we begin to think in cold, legal terms about the tithe as the only measure of stewardship, we must consider these other principles about giving and the passages from the new testament upon which they are based.

- We give in **Response to God's Gift** to us.

“He who did not spare His own son, but gave Him up for us...” Romans 8:32

“Thanks be to God for His incredible gift!” 2 Corinthians 9:15

- We give to **Follow the Example** of Jesus.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9

- We give from a **Joyful Heart**.

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

- We give **Generously**.

“And now brothers, we want you to know about the grace God gave the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.” 2 Corinthians 8:1-3

- We give in proportion to **Our Ability**.

“For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.” 2 Corinthians 8:12

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...” 1 Corinthians 16:2

- We strive to **Excel** in giving.

“But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” 2 Corinthians 8:7

- We give so **Needs Will Be Met**.

“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

- We give so we will be able to **Give More**.

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38

“Remember this; whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

At Harvest, we believe “God’s work done God’s way will never lack for God’s support.” As we effectively meet the needs of people, God provides for us. We do not harp on money nor do we require anyone to give a certain amount. We do however, expect our members to grow in their giving and the stewardship of all God has given them.

1. Learn to be a steward

- Instead of “All we have is ours,” we must realize that, “All we have belongs to God.”
- Instead of “How much can I keep?” We must ask, “How much can I give?”
- Instead of “We deserve all we can get,” we must understand that, “We are accountable for all we have.”

2. Trust God to Provide and be Generous in giving

- Give systematically—When I give
- Give proportionately—How much I give
- Give sacrificially—Changes in my life style because I give

FINANCES: HOW WE HANDLE OUR MONEY

AS A CHURCH

At Harvest, we recognize the importance of financial integrity and a proper understanding of money. The key word in the Bible about money is “stewardship.” A steward is someone who manages something that belongs to someone else. We are all stewards of the resources (time, talent, and money) that God has given us. Our church, in turn, is a steward of the resources (time, talent, and money) which its members invest in it.

As a church we want to be the best stewards possible and maintain integrity in our financial affairs.

- **We are committed to being a Giving Church.** We give at least 10% of our church’s undesignated income to mission causes outside our own ministries. In this way our church models the principle of the tithe which we ask our individual members to emulate.
- **We are committed to Financial Openness.** The financial records of our church (except individual giving records) are open and available to anyone who would like to see them.
- **We are committed to wise Financial Planning.** Our budget will be our primary method of financial planning and management. Once adopted by the church, the budget becomes the guideline for the expenditure of money.

OUR AFFILIATION

As we began, Harvest Community Church receives financial support from three groups of churches as well as three individual churches and several individual families. The three groups of churches were:

- **The Willamette Valley Baptist Association and One Hope**

25 Churches that fellowship and work together to reach the Willamette valley for Christ.

- **The Northwest Baptist Convention**

Over 450 churches in Oregon, Washington, and Northern Idaho that fellowship together with the goal of evangelizing the Northwest.

- **The Southern Baptist Convention**

Approximately 42,000 churches that cooperate together in a world-wide effort of missions.

These three groups along with several other churches and individuals gave approximately \$75,000 to our church to help us get started...with no strings attached!

We wholeheartedly support these three groups in helping start many other new churches.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

HARVEST MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having personally received Jesus Christ as my Lord and savior; having been baptized as a public testimony of my new life in Christ and my willingness to follow him; having completed the membership information class; and being in agreement with Harvest's statements, strategy, and structure; I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Harvest family. In doing so I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

- By acting in love toward other members
- By refusing to gossip
- By following the leaders

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together." Romans 14:19 (PH)

"Live in complete harmony with each other - each with the attitude of Christ toward each other." Romans 15:5 (LB)

"Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts." 1 Peter 1:22 (GN)

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..." 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 no advantage to you." Hebrews 13:17

2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

- By praying for its growth
- By inviting the un-churched to attend
- By warmly welcoming those who visit

"To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly." 1 Thessalonian 1: 2

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

"So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified." Romans 15:7 (LB)

3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

- By discovering my gifts and talents
- By being equipped by my leaders to serve
- By developing a servant's heart

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you..." 1 Peter 4:10 (PH)

"And He gave...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 Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..." Philippians 2:3-4, 7

4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

- By attending faithfully
- By living a godly life
- By giving regularly

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together... but let us encourage one another." Hebrews 10:25

"But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ." Philippians 1:27 (PH)

"Each one of you, on the first day of the week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering." 1 Corinthians 16:2

"A tithe of everything from the land...belongs to the Lord; it is hold to the Lord." Leviticus 27:30

APPENDIX I

HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH LINGO

- **Life Groups:** Small groups of people meeting together regularly for mutual encouragement, support, friendship, Christian growth, and spiritual accountability.
- **Stewards:** Stewards are members of HCC who have been recognized for their spiritual maturity and commitment to the ministry. The active steward's team consists of all full time pastoral staff and other men and women in the church who have been chosen to serve as spiritual leaders/managers of HCC.
The purpose of the steward team is to provide for the church a group of godly men and women to help the pastoral staff in "sharing the responsibilities for the spiritual welfare of the church, in performing the various ministries of the church, and in administering the physical and material affairs of the church."
- **"The One Thing":** The main take home point of each week's Sunday morning message
- **One Hope:** A local group of followers of Jesus, from many backgrounds, who have joined together to show Jesus' love in our community. To learn more visit www.onehopenetwork.org

Youth Ministry:

- **Students** - Grades 6-12 meet together on Tuesday nights. This is a great time of fellowship, games, and bible study geared towards teens and their friends. Students also have the opportunity to participate in many of Harvest's outreach events and to attend a camp each summer.
- **HKids** - We have classes for kids nursery - 5th grade during the 10:45 hour on Sunday mornings. We strive to show kids the love of Jesus in a safe and engaging environment. Kids are also able to participate in a variety of special events throughout the year.

OUR CORE VALUES

The following four core values not only describe who we are, they determine what we do as a church family - relating to each other and our community!

Relational Community - God has called us to live in community—in real, unmasked relationship with each other. We carry that out mainly through our life groups- where small groups can gather together to share life, learn together, and pray for each other.

Transformational Discipleship - The true mark of a disciple or Christ-follower is life-change. We know that Jesus desires to mold and shape us like a potter—making us into His beautiful works of art! Transformation comes through a growing and loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Growth takes place as individuals spend time with God in prayer and his word—what is called a quiet time; and as we grow together in community through corporate worship and small group Bible studies—what we call life groups!

Authentic Worship - Authentic worship is getting real with God and ourselves. It is laying our hearts and lives before God as an offering to him. It may not be pretty nor on the surface worth much to some—but to God—it is all he asks. Authentic worship is the gathering of sinners and saints to glorify and serve our holy God.

Missionary Living- Missionary living is purposing to carry out God’s world-wide call to share His love with the world! We carry that out by serving our community here in the Eugene/Springfield area and by sharing the hope of God with all who are willing to hear. Missionary living is seeking opportunities to touch our world. It is setting our ambitions aside for the kingdom purposes of God!

HISTORY AND VISION

Prior to Harvest’s founding pastor, Andy Martin, coming to Eugene, Oregon, to start Harvest Community Church, God had instilled in him a vision for a specific kind of ministry. God planted in Andy the desire to serve him in the Northwest, an area that is largely un-churched, away from the mainstream, traditional, evangelical church. He gave him the desire to lead in starting a new church...one that is contemporary and innovative, seeing the importance and challenge of being willing to do whatever it takes to reach people for Jesus Christ.

The Lord gave him a vision for a church committed to a team concept in leadership. A church where the professional pastor(s) and lay leadership work together and where the membership has the freedom to do the ministry God has called them to do.

Andy was not a numbers oriented leader, but he did know that numbers represent people. The Eugene/Springfield area has a population of over 200,000 with over 200 churches and yet over 3/4 of the population do not know Jesus Christ. Andy foresaw Harvest to be a church that reaches out to our entire community in the name of Jesus Christ.

1993—Harvest is launched at Cal Young Middle School

1996—Harvest moves to its current property

1999—Harvest adds the “Holly House” office property

2007—Pastor Andy Martin leaves Harvest to serve God through missions in Western Europe.

2008—Just before Christmas in 2008, Harvest calls Brian King to be the new Lead Pastor.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.” Ephesians 3:20

Our Vision Is For Harvest Community Church To Be:

- A church where hurting, discouraged, confused, lonely people can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, and encouragement.
- A church that shares Christ with thousands all over Eugene and Springfield.
- A church that is not satisfied with a certain number of people whether it be 100 or 10,000, but is expectant of God to continue to bring people to Christ regardless of how large we become.
- A church that builds into its people a passion for prayer
- A church that emphasizes evangelism and discipleship: training people to share the good news of Jesus Christ; developing people into mature followers of Christ.
- A church that is Mission-Minded, sending out men and women from among our own body to do mission work around the world is a high priority goal.
- A church that draws the un-churched of our community to the good news of Christ and is recognized as a positive contributor to our community.

Matthew 6:33

Matthew 9:36-38

Matthew 28:19-20

HOW WE GET BUSINESS DONE

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

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE

1. The Church Is A Fellowship.

“They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship...” Acts 2:42 (PH)

A top priority in a fellowship is harmony and unity.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3

“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.” Romans 14:19 (PH)

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Psalms 133:1; Proverbs 17:14; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:16-18, 15:5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:10, 14:33; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:27, 2:1-3, 4:2;

IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS DIFFERENCES.

“...Your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you...” 1 Corinthians 11:17-18

“Voting” tends to Divide People.

At Harvest we will only vote on **major** concerns of the church, such as:

- Annual Budget
- Purchase of Land or Buildings
- Hiring of Pastoral Staff
- Constitution

2. The Church is a Family.

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

Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 2:10-12; 1 Peter 4:17

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF RELATIONSHIP NOT RULES.

“Don’t reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a Father. Treat the young men as brothers, and the older women as mothers. Treat the younger women as sisters.” 1 Timothy 5:1-2 (PH)

“He (a pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his family, how can he take care of God’s church?” 1 Tim. 3:4-5

3. The Church is a body.

1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23; Colossians 1:18, 2:19

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

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF S.H.A.P.E. NOT ELECTED OFFICE.

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

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

AT HARVEST WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN MAXIMIZE MINISTRY AND MINIMIZE MAINTENANCE.

“It was He who gave...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

4. The Church is a Flock.

(This is Jesus’ favorite description of the church)

Matthew 25:33, 26:31; John 10:1-30

THEREFORE IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY SHEPHERDS.

“Jesus asked Simon Peter, ‘Do you really love me?’ ‘Yes Lord,’ said Peter. ‘Then take care of my sheep!’” John 21:16-17

Three different terms are used in the new testament to refer to the same church leaders:

- “POIMEN”
- “PREPOSTEROUS”
- “EPISCOPALS”

“To the elders I say...be shepherds of God’s flock, serving as overseers...” 1 Peter 5:1-2

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

1 Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:5-7

APPENDIX II

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

In Essential Beliefs - We Have Unity.

"There is one body and one spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and 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 Grace.

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

THESE THINGS WE BELIEVE:

1. 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. These three are co-equal and are one God.

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

2. About Man

Man is made in the spiritual image of God, to be like him in character. He is the supreme object of God's creation. Although man has tremendous potential for good, he is marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates man from God.

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

3. About Eternity

Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union 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 places of eternal existence.

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

4. About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

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

5. About Salvation

Salvation is a gift from God to man. Man can never make up for his sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can man be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

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

6. About Eternal Security

Because God gives man eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives this security.

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

7. About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the son as 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. The Christian seeks to live under his control daily.

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

8. About the Bible

The Bible is God's word to all men. 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 truth without any mixture of error.

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

APPENDIX III

WHAT IS THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION?

- **It is the largest association of Christian churches in America.**

One out of every ten churches in America is affiliated with the SBC. (Almost 42,000 churches and 16 million members—more than most other denominations combined)

- **It is the most diverse association of churches.**

Southern Baptist churches include every race, nationality, and ethnic group. Each Sunday, services are held in over 80 languages in the U.S.

- **It is one of the fastest growing groups.**

The Southern Baptist Convention baptizes over 1,000 new Christians a day in the U.S. And begins nearly five new churches a day!

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 denominations. 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 assets (equipment, building, land)
- Every SBC church determines its own programs

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 a 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 10,000 (career & volunteer) missionaries in 153 countries around the world including the U.S.

What do “Baptists” believe? (See the handout on “What We Believe”)

APPENDIX IV

THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

I. WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER? (1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-29)

1. It is a Symbol.

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

2. It is a Reminder.

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

3. It is a Metaphor.

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

4. It is a Statement of Faith.

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

II. WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Only those who are already believers. *Mark 14:22-26*

"For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself." 1 Corinthians 11:29

III. HOW DO I PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER?

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

1. Self-Examination
1 Corinthians 11:27

2. Confessing My Sins
1 John 1:9

3. Thanksgiving
Colossians 3:16

4. Re-Commitment
Romans 12:1

5. Restoring Relationships
Matthew 5:23-24

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

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe the Lord's supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night. He left us without rules regulating the Lord's Supper. We are free as a church to practice it as frequently as we choose. You have probably noticed that we do not have a set schedule for taking communion. We do recognize the importance of its place in our worship experience and frequently incorporate in our services but not in an established pattern.