
The Church

at Chelsea – Westover

Covenant Membership Class



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Overview

The purpose of this 4-session class is to discuss the meaning and responsibilities of church membership as well as to further acquaint you with the Church at Chelsea-Westover (CCW), who we are, what our mission is, and how you can be an active participant. The class will be taught primarily by our pastor, Dr. Danny Lovett, but others may teach also. At the end of the class, if you find that you are like-minded in the articles of faith (AOF) and agree with the Covenant of Membership (COM), you may request to join the church as a covenant member.

Lesson 1 – Who can be a church member?

What is salvation? What is the meaning of baptism and the Lord's Supper? How can I grow strong as a Christian?

Lesson 2 – What is a church?

What is the church? How does it work? What does it do for me? What does the CCW believe?

Lesson 3 – Who is the Church at Chelsea-Westover?

Who is the CCW? How did it get here? What is expected of me as a church member?

Lesson 4 – How can I serve with the Church at Chelsea-Westover?

Serving at home and abroad sounds great, but how do I know where I fit? Where can I get involved?

Lesson 1 – Who can be a church member?

While everyone is welcome to attend worship services and participate in the small group Bible studies and community outreach activities of the CCW, only those who have been saved and baptized are eligible for church membership. This lesson will discuss the essential elements of salvation, the meaning of the church ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper and will give you the opportunity to examine your own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Salvation

Realizing my guilt before God, I have confessed my sin to Him, and have received the Lord Jesus Christ, who bore my sins on the cross as my personal Savior. (COM #1)

Since nobody is perfect, why is it such a big deal that I'm a sinner? I've never done anything really bad. Do I really need to be saved?

Romans 3:10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;

Isaiah 64:6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Romans 3:19-23 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to

God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

I've done things I'm terribly ashamed of, things that are terrible sins. How can God forgive me?

Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

What about the sins I commit, after I am saved, will God punish me? Will I lose my salvation?

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

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

John 10:27-29 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

The CCW provides a simple **Life or Death** track that explains the steps of salvation. Examine it now and the Bible verses on the back. Do you have any questions about this? _____

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Baptism

I have been baptized by immersion, in obedience to my Lord's command, thus signifying my union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. (COM #8)

What does the word "baptize" mean? And why do we do it?

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Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Romans 6:4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

How should I be baptized? Do I have to go under the water or is sprinkling okay?

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Matthew 3:16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;

Is baptism necessary to salvation?

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When should I be baptized? I was baptized as a baby, does that count?

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Acts 8:36, 38 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Acts 16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

I was baptized as a child, but had a conversion experience as an adult, do I need to be baptized again?

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Acts 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Acts 19:3-5 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Lord's Supper

We believe that communion is only for believers, is to be preceded by faithful self-examination, and is in remembrance of the Lord's death until He comes. (AOF #7)

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

What if I'm not worthy to take the Lord's supper?

____ You must be right with _____ and right with _____.

Sanctification

I acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord of all my life, and seek to confess Him as such before others by the testimony both of life and lip. (COM #2)

What does the word "Lord" mean?

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

Matthew 10:32-33 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

CCW Covenant

Membership Class 6

How do I please God? What does He want?

1 Corinthians 10:31 *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

2 Corinthians 5:9, 14-15 *So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him... For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*

1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

Matthew 5:13-14 *"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

I trust in the power of the Holy Spirit, who lives in my heart, to keep me, guide me, and lead me in the way of purity and holiness. (COM #3)

How can I live the Spirit-filled life? How do I know that the Holy Spirit is living inside me?

Why is the Holy Spirit so important to living the Christian life?

Romans 8:9 *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

Ephesians 5:17-21 *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

John 14:26 *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

Galatians 5:14-16 *For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

Personal Testimony

Jesus often told people to “go and tell” after they had an encounter with Him. When you tell what has happened to you, you are being a “witness”, you are “testifying” or giving a “testimony”. It is important to share with others what God has done for you. It is not unusual for you to feel so full with joy so that you can’t keep quiet about the good things happening to you! It is also common for people to struggle with the words to describe this very new relationship with Jesus Christ.

The woman at the well gives us an example of sharing our testimony.

John 4:28-29 *So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"*

If you have been forgiven by Jesus, then you have a story to tell, a witness to give. In three simple steps, you can share your testimony.

Step 1: Think about what your life was like without Christ. Before I met Christ,

Step 2: Think about how you came to know and trust in Christ. What people and circumstances were involved? I came to know Christ when

Step 3: And lastly, think about how your life has been changed and the difference you've experienced after Christ. Since I've had my sins forgiven by asking Jesus to be my Savior, _____

Take a minute and briefly share your testimony with the person sitting next to you.

The CCW operates according to its Church Constitution and Bylaws which include the Articles of Faith (AOF) and the Covenant of Church Membership (COM). As we give you a copy, please take it home with you and please read it carefully over the course of these four lessons. The AOF

and COM are the primary focus of this lesson series. You may ask questions regarding these documents at the end of each lesson.

Lesson 2 – What is a church?

What is the church, how does it work, and what does it do for me? What does the CCW believe?

Many think of the “church” as being a building with a steeple. Some use the word “church” to refer to a denomination, but in the Bible, the church is something very different.

The term “the church” is sometimes used in a worldwide sense in reference to the entire, worldwide body of Christ. It refers to all _____, every Christian of every race and location. All who are saved are part of “the church” whether or not they are members of any particular local church.

The Greek word translated “church” is *ekklēsia*, which literally refers to those who are “called out.” “The church” consists of those people who have been called out from the world and who are new creatures in Christ, gathered into one spiritual body of which the Lord Jesus Christ is the head.

Ephesians 5:25-27 ... Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Colossians 1:18 And he [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The most common use of the word *ekklēsia* in the New Testament is to designate a group of believers that

_____.

The Church

We believe that a New Testament Church is a body of believers, baptized by immersion, associated for worship, service, and the spread of the gospel of the grace of God to the entire world.

(AOF #8)

The Name: The Church at Chelsea Westover

The Church at Chelsea-Westover was named following the model of the New Testament Churches. Frequently the New Testament refers to a group of believers in a particular place, such as...

- *the church at Jerusalem Acts 8:1*
- *the church at Antioch Acts 13:1*
- *the church in Cenchrea Romans 16:1*
- *the church that meets at their [Aquila and Priscilla's] house Romans 16:5*
- *the church of God in Corinth 1 Corinthians 1:2*
- *the church of the Thessalonians" 1 Thessalonians 1:1*
- *the church that meets in your [Philemon's] home Philemon 2*

Eight of the New Testament letters (Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians) were addressed to local assemblies of believers. Galatians was written to a group of local churches (Galatians 1:2). Revelation chapters 2-3 address seven local churches.

A Local Community Church

Like our name, we believe that the New Testament churches were _____-based, reaching out to the people in their local area. Our goal is not to be the biggest church in Birmingham, drawing people from 100 miles around, but rather to be salt and light in Chelsea and Westover. Our ministries will reach far around the globe, but our church will be based out of the Chelsea-Westover area.

Great! But what "kind" of church is this? I can't tell from the name. Are we non-denominational ?

CCW Covenant

Membership Class 12

What does the church do for me? Why is it important to be associated with or a member of a local church?

God designed us to belong to a group. God created the family, the government, and the church. All of these organizations are God's plan. He didn't intend for man to live alone. He even gives the church special instructions about caring for the widows and orphans so they won't be alone and untended.

Acts 2:42-47 *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

James 1:27 *Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*

Matthew 5:13-14 *"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer*

good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

This sense of belonging is illustrated in the Bible's descriptions of the church community.

The Bible's Descriptions of the Church

1. We are His _____.

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we become brothers and sisters as we are adopted into the family of God.

Romans 8:14-16 *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

2. We are His _____.

We are also called the body of Christ. Paul describes us as being like the human body, each member of the body has an important function, yet we are joined together and function under the direction of the head, who is Jesus.

Romans 12:5 *so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

1 Corinthians 12:13 *For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 12:27 *Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

3. We are the _____. He is our bridegroom.

Ephesians 5:25-33 *... Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church...*

4. We are holy and royal _____.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

The Foundation of the Church

The church is founded upon Jesus and upon the truth that Peter proclaimed: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. The church is founded upon Jesus and belongs to Him.

Matthew 16:16- 18 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "...and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:20 ...Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

The Leaders and Servants of the Church

The Church at Chelsea-Westover is led by its Pastor and Church Council. Trustees, Deacons, and Ministry Team Leaders serve the church as well. The members of the church serve in every area of ministry and are included in major administrative decisions, such as the finances through the annual budget, the calling of a pastor, and amending the church constitution and bylaws.

Pastor

The Greek word is *episkopē* (ep-is-ko-pay) which means bishop, overseer. In I Peter 5, the word used means elder. The pattern of New Testament churches shows that God calls men to _____ His church and that a man's call is prayerfully confirmed by godly men.

Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

1 Peter 5:1-6 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a

partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,

Titus 1:5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—

Acts 20:17, 28 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Acts 14:23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

God has clear _____ for those who pastor His people in _____ I Timothy 3:1-7.

1. Office - verse 1, *The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.*
2. Personal Qualifications- verses 2-3, *Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.*
3. Family Qualifications - verse 4, *He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?*
4. Spiritual Qualifications - verses 5-6, *He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.*

5. Community Qualifications - verse 7, *Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*

Hebrews 13:7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Minister

Though we are not all called to be pastors, each of us in the church is a _____ and should use our gifts to serve the body.

Romans 12:4-8 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: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Ephesians 4:11-16 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 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, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Deacon

The New Testament Church first appointed deacons to serve the needs of the widows in the church. The Greek word is *diakonos*, often translated minister or

_____. Among these godly men was the first martyr, Stephen, who gave strong testimony to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Acts 6:3-4 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The deacon has personal, spiritual and family qualifications, just as the pastor does.

1 Timothy 3:8-13 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

So the organizational chart or flow chart of the church might look like this...

CHRIST
Colossians 1:18

Elders / Church Council
I Peter 5:1-6, I Timothy 3:1-6

Deacons
I Timothy 3:8-13

Congregation

Ephesians 4:13-16

Articles of Faith

What does the Church at Chelsea-Westover believe? In order to be a member of the church, do I have to agree with everything that everyone else believes?

A local congregation has unity through a common understanding of Biblical truth.

1. We believe in one God, eternally existent as God the _____, God the _____, and God the _____.
2. We believe that the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments, is God's inspired and infallible Word, and is the supreme standard and final _____ for all conduct, faith, and doctrine. 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21
3. We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His _____ birth, in His _____ life, in His _____, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His premillennial, personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but by willful transgression became sinful and is justly under the condemnation and wrath of Almighty God.
5. We believe that the only salvation for this guilt and condemnation is through faith in the righteousness and atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that this salvation is the free gift of God's love and grace.
6. We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit and that His ministry is to reveal Christ to men, to convict of sin, to regenerate repentant sinners and by His presence and power, to sanctify the lives of the redeemed.

7. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the ordinances of baptism and communion; that baptism is only to be administered upon profession of faith in Christ, by immersion, thereby declaring our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior; that communion is only for believers, is to be preceded by faithful self-examination, and is in remembrance of the Lord's death until He comes.
8. We believe that a New Testament Church is a body of believers, baptized by immersion, associated for worship, service, and the spread of the gospel of the grace of God to the entire world.
9. **We believe that there will be a resurrection of the just and the unjust; the just having been redeemed by the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, to be with Him throughout eternity in _____; the unjust, having died unrepentant and unreconciled to God to eternal condemnation in _____.**

Significance of Church Membership

What is the difference in being a church member and being a regular attender?

Everyone is welcome to come, participate, and serve at the Church at Chelsea-Westover. Being a church member is to formally commit yourself to a local body of believers, having a vote in church matters and being accountable to keep the terms of the Covenant of Membership. At the CCW, this covenant relationship, which is voluntarily entered, creates an environment of mutual accountability for attendance, prayer, tithing, Spirit-filled living and serving, and submission to the Word of God and the Lordship of Christ.

Lesson 3 – Who is The Church at Chelsea-Westover?

Who is the CCW, how did it get here, and what are my responsibilities as a church member?

The History of the Church at Chelsea-Westover

A Church Launched.

_____, the Church at Chelsea-Westover was officially launched. At the opening service, 154 people were in attendance including a core group, visitors, family and friends, members from the First Baptist Church of Harpersville, our sponsoring church, and Bob Brown and Hugh Richardson from the Shelby County Baptist Association. The service ended with five people following the Lord in believer's baptism using the association's portable baptismal pool. It was a joyous and chilly occasion! Following the special celebration service, we shared a meal that established a pattern of fellowship which has continued. But the story began long before this day.

Two Families Joined.

Thirty years before the launch of the CCW, in 1982, David and Christie Wilson made a career move to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. As was their practice, they immediately begin to search for a church where they could worship and serve their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Just a couple of years earlier, in December of 1980, a young seminary graduate, named Danny Lovett, had answered a call to his first full-time pastorate at the Open Door Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa. He had just turned twenty-seven years old.

Christie had applied for a daycare job at the church and in the process met Pastor Danny who invited them to check out this young church. The church was averaging 100 people when David and Christie first visited. That same week Danny and Susan met with the Wilsons in their apartment and cast the vision for being a lighthouse in the Tuscaloosa area. David and Christie caught the vision and passion that both Danny and Susan had and they wanted to

be part of a dynamic church that was fueled by vibrant worship, impassioned preaching and a heart to see souls saved for the Kingdom.

Shortly after becoming a part of Open Door Baptist Church, David was offered another promotion in his career but it would take the Wilson family to another city, miles away. After much prayer and seeking God for clear direction, the Wilsons felt compelled to stay in Tuscaloosa, primarily to remain a part of the church. God led David and Christie to go into business with Servpro in the Tuscaloosa area. Over the next ten years, Open Door Baptist Church and the atmosphere of revival and commitment, marked these two families and many other families forever.

In 1993, the two families followed separate roads as the Lovetts moved to Liberty University where Danny became the Dean of the Seminary after heading up the Pastoral Training program and Susan became a professor. About the year 2000, the Wilsons planted in Birmingham to be centrally located for their expanding business. The two families kept in touch and every few years would arrange to spend time together and dream about how they could one day serve their Lord together again.

In 2005, Danny and Susan answered a call to serve as President and Vice President of Tennessee Temple in Chattanooga, Tennessee. After accepting the position in Tennessee, Danny called David and asked him to serve with him on the Executive Board of Trustees with the University. David served with Danny for six years until Danny resigned and accepted a position with a mission organization traveling the world overseeing student camps in ten different countries.

While all of the above was going on, God had worked tremendously in David and Christie's life and the business that they had been led into by God back in 1984. In Birmingham, they had become a part of the Church at Brook Hills where they worshipped and served. In 2009, the Wilsons went on a missions trip to Tanzania, Africa where the Lord spoke to their hearts. They wanted more of God.

CCW Covenant

Membership Class 24

The Seed Planted.

The next year, God planted a seed in the heart of David Wilson. Following a sermon from his pastor, David Platt, God impressed on David that he should use his business facilities for planting a new church. The Wilsons had built a well-equipped training facility for their Servpro franchises that included a large meeting room, dining space, and ample bathrooms and parking. During this time, the Wilsons were also hosting one of Brook Hill's church planting couples in the basement apartment of their home and thought that perhaps God would lay it on the heart of this couple in training to partner with them in this dream of a new church in Chelsea-Westover, but God sent them across the country to Washington state.

The Seed Germinated.

In December of 2011, as David shared his vision with his former pastor and friend, the seed began to germinate. At the time, Pastor Danny was training pastors on the mission field, but felt unfulfilled with the itinerant nature of the ministry. Immediately Danny's and Susan's hearts were moved by the Lord in that direction, but they laughed and dismissed the idea of starting a new church at their age. But God began to stir their hearts about returning to the pastoral ministry. Over the next few weeks Danny and Susan started fervently praying and seeking God's direction for the lives in this potential move. God moved miraculously and gave specific confirmation of His leading by selling their Chattanooga house within a week's time after it had been on the market for about three months.

Laying a Foundation.

The Lovetts and Wilsons attended the Shelby Baptist Association's Church Planting Seminar in the early spring of 2012, which encouraged them to articulate the vision, mission, and core values of the new church. These foundational statements focused the CCW on sharing the gospel with every generation, loving God and loving people, and serving our community and the world. Every activity was filtered through the core values of clear Biblical truth, vibrant worship, intimate fellowship, and

fulfilling service. The core group of the CCW began with a group of about ten people who prayed, gave, and began to meet together for prayer, planning, and fellowship. On April 15, the core group opened their meetings to visitors and anyone interested in meeting together for worship, a message from the word, prayer and fellowship. A launch day was set and plans began in earnest to reach out to the unsaved, unchurched, and unfulfilled in the community. The core group set aside 40 days for fasting and prayer, with 10 days of daily corporate prayer before the launch day in August.

The Lay of the Land.

Association data revealed that 83% of Shelby County is unchurched. Door-to-door visitation revealed the abundance of children and teenagers in the community. Starting a church without a ministry for children and teenagers would be a mismatch for the community, so this was added to the prayer list. By faith, the Servpro Regional Training Center was expanded to include a new office wing that would also serve to house the children and youth ministries.

A Team Formed.

Through Southeastern Bible College, a potential children's pastor was found. Tim joined the church planting team and began preparing for children's church and a mid-week children's program. Other ministry students joined the CCW soon after the launch to work in the areas of children, youth and pastoral ministry. Shortly after the church launch, a Wednesday evening youth ministry and a children's program were organized, along with two adult small group fellowships and a praise team ministry. This was the beginning.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values of the CCW

The CCW's Vision is:

Mark 16:15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

The CCW's Mission is:

Luke 10:27 And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

The CCW's Core Values are:

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John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

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John 4:23-24 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

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Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

CCW Covenant

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1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

The Bible's "One Another" Statements

The responsibilities of believers toward each other, none of which are limited to a particular group of church leaders such as pastors or deacons or teachers only, but are responsibilities given to _____ believers, include:

Commands

1. Accept one another, just as the Lord Jesus Christ accepted you (Romans 15:7)
2. Agree with each other in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 4:2)
3. Be at peace with each other (Mark 9:50)
4. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love (Romans 12:10)
5. Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
6. Be mutually encouraged by each other's faith (Romans 1:12)
7. Be patient, bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
8. Build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
9. Carry each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
10. Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another (1 Peter 5:5)
11. Confess your sins to each other (James 5:16)
12. Each of you should look not only to his/her own interests, but also to the interests of others (Philippians 2:4)
13. Each one should use whatever gifts he/she has received to serve others (1 Peter 4:10)
14. Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11; Hebrews 3:23 [do so daily]; 10:25)
15. Forgive each other (Ephesians 4:32), including whatever grievances you may have against one another (Colossians 3:13)
16. Greet one another with a holy kiss (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12) -- a kiss of love (1 Peter 5:14)
17. Have mutual concern for each other (1 Corinthians 12:25)
18. Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)
19. In humility, consider others better than yourself (Philippians 2:3)
20. Instruct one another (Romans 15:14)
21. Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16; 1 Peter 3:8)
22. Love one another (John 13:34 [twice]; 13:35; 15:12, 17; Romans 13:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 4:8 [love deeply]; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12; 2 John 5)
Make your love increase and overflow for each other (1 Thessalonians 3:12)

- Keep on loving each other (Hebrews 3:1)
23. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling (1 Peter 4:9)
 24. Pray for each other (James 5:16)
 25. Serve one another in love (Galatians 5:13)
 26. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)
 27. Spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24)
 28. Submit to one another out of reverence for the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:21)
 29. Teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
 30. Wash one another's feet (John 13:14) -- an example of humbly serving others
 31. When you come together to eat, wait for each other (1 Corinthians 11:33)

Commands

1. Do not become conceited, provoking and envying each other (Galatians 5:26)
2. Do not forget to do good and to share with others (Hebrews 13:16)
3. 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)
4. Do not lie to each other (Colossians 3:9)
5. Do not share in the sins of others (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
6. Do not slander one another (James 4:11)
7. Do not grumble against each other (James 5:9)
8. If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other (Galatians 5:15)
9. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
10. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others (1 Corinthians 10:24)
11. Stop passing judgment on one another (Romans 14:13)

All of these positive and negative “one another” commands can be summed up by three words.

- _____, which involves your thinking: the supreme attitude is _____ then kindness, patience, acceptance, honor, submission, humility, forgiveness, unity

- _____, which involves your speaking: encourage, greet, instruct, pray, don't lie, slander, or grumble
- _____, which involves your goods, gifts and time: share, serve, be hospitable

Covenant of Membership

The Covenant of Membership of *The Church at Chelsea-Westover* is:

1. Realizing my guilt before God, I have confessed my sin to Him, and have received the Lord Jesus Christ, who bore my sins on the cross as my personal Savior (Romans 3:19, 23, 5:8, John 1:12)
2. I acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord of all my life, and seek to confess Him as such before others by the testimony both of life and lip (Romans 10:9, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15)
3. I trust in the power of the Holy Spirit, who lives in my heart, to keep me, guide me, and lead me in the way of purity and holiness (John 14:26, 16:13, Romans 8:2-4, Galatians 5:14-15)
4. I accept the _____ as the inspired Word of God, and my final authority in all matters of faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21).
5. I recognize my responsibility by _____ and offerings to extend the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ both at home and abroad (Malachi 3:8-10, 1 Corinthians 16:2, _____, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Deuteronomy 8:18, Luke 12:34, _____, Chronicles 29:1-3, Luke 12:16-21).
6. I recognize my responsibility to _____ regularly for the work of this church, for its pastors, officers, and members, that the witness of all concerned may be to the glory of God and to the salvation of souls (Ephesians 6:18-19, _____, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 25).

CCW Covenant

7. I recognize my responsibility to be regular in my _____ at the services of the church and at the Lord's Table (Acts 2:42, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Corinthians 11:26, Psalm 73:1-17).
8. I have been baptized by immersion, in obedience to my Lord's command, thus signifying my union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Matthew 28:19-20, Romans 6:4)
9. I have read the Articles of Faith as contained in the Constitution and Bylaws and am in complete agreement. (1 Timothy 6:12, 2 Timothy 4:7, Jude 3)
10. Recognizing my inability in my own strength to adhere to the terms of any covenant, yet believing that my Lord will enable me to fulfill the terms of this Covenant, I gladly confirm each of the above clauses (Philippians 4:13).

Process of membership

Someone who meets the conditions for membership set out in the CCW Constitution and Bylaws who desires to formally join the church may do so by the following process.

- Attend all four lessons of the Covenant Class,
- make a written commitment to the CCW Covenant of Membership,
- receive a recommendation from the pastor or member of the Church Council by confirming with them verbally the tenets of the Covenant of Membership.

After people have completed this process, they will be presented to the church as members.

Lesson 4 –How can I serve with the CCW?

1 Corinthians 3:5-6 *What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.*

You were shaped for serving God.

Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*, Purpose #4

A Servant's _____

You were put on earth to make a contribution.

1. You were _____ to serve God.

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

John 17:4 *I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.*

2. You were _____ to serve God.

1 Corinthians 6:20 *for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

Romans 12:1 *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

Matthew 8:15 *He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him.*

3. You were _____ to serve God

1 Corinthians 7:17 *Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.*

2 Timothy 1:9 *who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,*

Romans 7:4 *Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.*

4. You were _____ to serve God.

Matthew 20:28 *even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Colossians 3:23-24 *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the*

Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Ephesians 6:7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,

A Servant's _____ and Eternal Perspective

Romans 14:12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Romans 2:8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

Mark 8:35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

You're going to live your life for something. What will it be?

Lose your excuses...

Abraham was too old, Jacob insecure, Leah unattractive, Joseph abused, Moses stuttered, Gideon poor, Samson codependent, Rahab immoral, David adulterous, Elijah suicidal, Jeremiah depressed, Jonah reluctant, Naomi a widow, John was eccentric, Peter impulsive, Martha worried, Samaritan bad reputation, Zaccheus short and unpopular, Thomas doubted, Paul poor health, Timothy timid. God loves to use misfits!

A Servant's _____

You are uniquely made by God for a purpose.

Job 10:8 Your hands fashioned and made me

Isaiah 43:21 the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

1 Corinthians 12:6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

***Psalms 139:13-14** For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*

***Psalms 139:16** Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.*

S - Spiritual Gifts

H - Heart (Passion)

A - Abilities

P - Personality

E - Experience

S - Spiritual Gifts

***Romans 12:4-8** 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: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Ephesian 4:8-15, 1 Corinthians 12

Avoid gift envy and gift projection.

***1 Corinthians 7:7** But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.*

***1 Corinthians 12:11** All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

H - Heart (Passion)

***Proverbs 27:19** As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man.*

***Deuteronomy 11:13** "And if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,*

What is it that captures your interest?

A - Abilities

All abilities come from God.

Exodus 31:3-5 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft.

Every ability can be used for God's glory.

1 Corinthians 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

What I'm able to do, God wants me to do.

Hebrews 13:21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

P - Personality

Only you can be you.

Psalms 139:13-14 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

E - Experience

- Family
- Education
- Jobs
- Spiritual Experiences
- Ministry Experiences
- Painful Experiences

You should _____ your shape!

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Romans 12:3 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.

Galatians 6:4 But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.

Assess your gifts and abilities.

Ask others (looking for truth, not a complement).

Where have you been successful in the past?

Experiment and try ministries out.

Consider your heart and personality.

Examine your experiences.

You should _____ and enjoy your shape.

Romans 9:20-21 But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?"

Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honored use and another for dishonorable use?

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

You should _____ your shape.

2 Timothy 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,

1 Timothy 4:14-15 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

Practice these things, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

A Servant's _____

While shape reveals your ministry, a servant's heart reveals your maturity. Your primary ministry is in the area of your shape, and your secondary ministry is whatever is needed at the moment. We serve God by serving others.

Six Characteristics of a Real Servant

1. Real Servants make themselves available to serve.
2. Real servants pay attention to needs.
3. Real servants do their best with what they have.
4. Real servants do every task with equal dedication.
5. Real servants are faithful to their ministry.
6. Real servants maintain a low profile.

Colossians 3:22 Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Matthew 6:1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

A Servant's _____

Philippians 2:4 *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

Philippians 2:7 *but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form,*

Philippians 2:20-21 *For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. They all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.*

1. Servants think more about others than about themselves.
2. Servants think like stewards, not owners.
3. Servants think about their work, not what others are doing.
4. Servants base their identity in Christ.
5. Servants think of ministry as an opportunity, not an obligation.

A Servant's _____

1 Corinthians 1:27 *But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;*

Matthew 5:3 *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

2 Corinthians 12:7 *So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated.*

2 Corinthians 4:7 *But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.*

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

1. God works best when I admit my weakness.
2. God loves to use weak people.
3. Admit your weaknesses.
4. Be content with your weaknesses.
5. Honestly share your weaknesses.
6. Glory in your weaknesses.