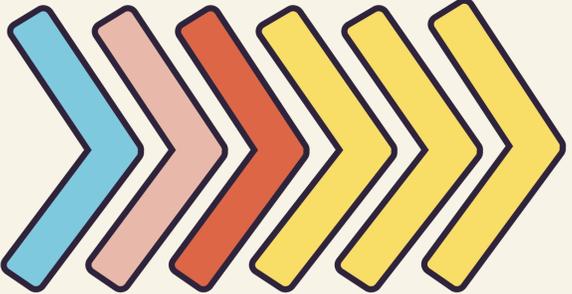


# NEXT STEPS

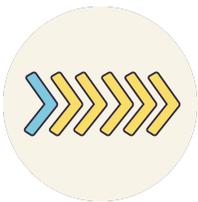


We are here to help you move forward!



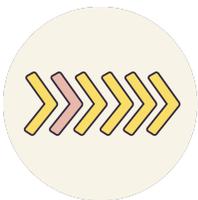
## Overview

The purpose of this 3-part class is to walk you through the **next steps** of involvement with the Church at Chelsea-Westover (CCW). We will further your understanding of the vision, mission, and purpose of CCW and acquaint you with the meaning and responsibilities of church membership so that you can be an active participant and not just a spectator. 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 become a covenant member.



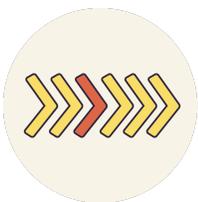
### **Believe – What does it mean to be a Christian?**

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



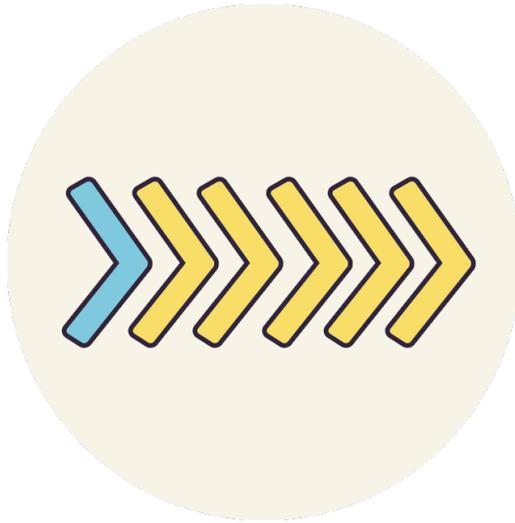
### **Discover - What does being a covenant member involve?**

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



### **Serve – How can I actively participate in the mission of CCW?**

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



# Believe

## What does it mean to be a Christian?

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?

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**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?

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**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?

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**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.*

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.

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? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**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,

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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

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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,

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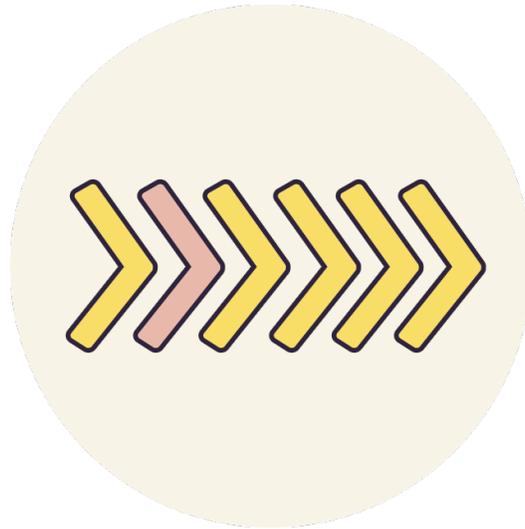
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Take a minute and briefly share your testimony with the person sitting next to you.



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 this class. We want you to become familiar with the AOF and COM. Please feel free to ask any questions regarding these documents at the end of each lesson.





## Discover

### What does being a covenant member at CCW involve?

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 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)* or the *church at Antioch (Acts 13:1)*. **See also Romans 16:1, Romans 16:5, 1 Corinthians 1:2, 1 Thessalonians 1:1, Philemon 2**

## **Vision, Mission, and Core Values of the CCW**

The CCW's Vision is:

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**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:

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**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."*

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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. See also Acts 1:8.*

The CCW's Core Values are:

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**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. See also John 17:17*



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**John 4:23-24** ... 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.

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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.

### **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? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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.*

**See also James 1:27, Matthew 5:13-14**

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. **See also 1 Corinthians 12:13, 1 Corinthians 12:27**

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... 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 Structure of the Church**

**The Foundation.** 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 those who belong to Him.



**1 Corinthians 3:11** For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **See also Matthew 16:16-19, Ephesians 2:20**

**The Leaders and Servants of the Church.** The Church at Chelsea-Westover is led by its Pastors 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 the senior pastor, and amending the church constitution and bylaws.

### **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 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 covenant member and being a regular attender? \_\_\_\_\_

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Everyone is welcome to come, participate, and serve at the Church at Chelsea-Westover. Being a covenant 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, giving, Spirit-filled living and serving, and submission to the Word of God and the Lordship of Christ.

### ***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, 1 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).
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).



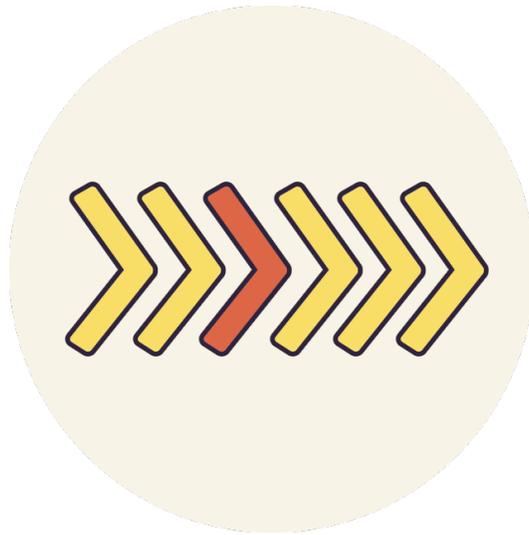
### ***Process of membership***

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 three lessons of Next Steps,
- 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.





## Serve

### How can I actively participate in the mission of 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?

**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, 1st 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 10:13** *"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 \_\_\_\_\_.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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.*

