



STARTING POINT

New Members Course

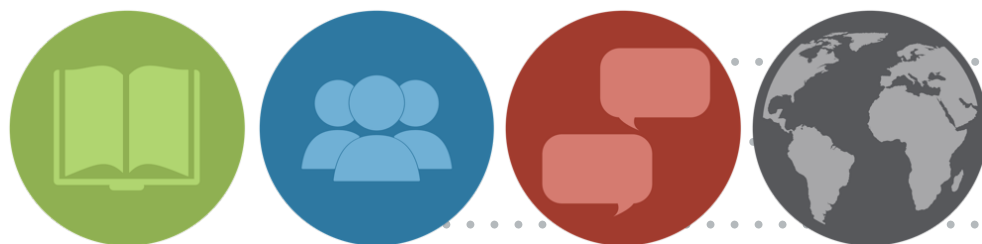
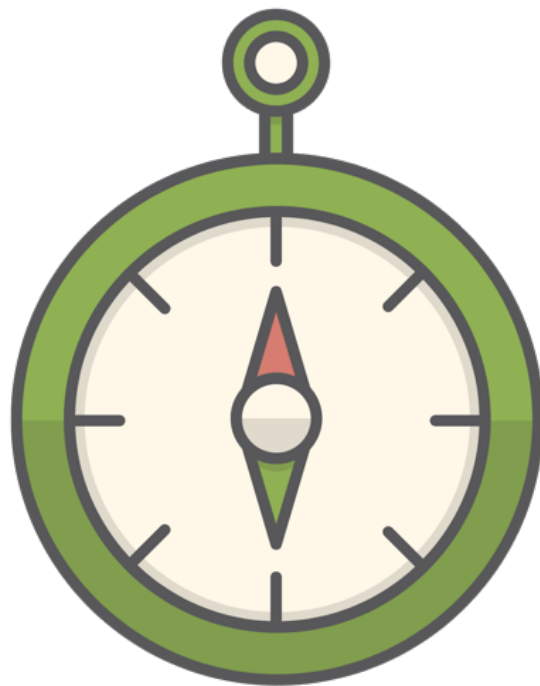


Table of Contents

Part 1

- 3 Why Church?
- 4 Why this Course?
- 5 **Our History, Structure, & Affiliations**
- 6 Historical Timeline
- 8 Our Structure
- 9 Our Affiliations

Part 2

- 12 **Our Beliefs**
- 13 What Does it Mean to Be a Christian?
- 14 Baptism and the Lord’s Supper
- 17 Core Doctrines
- 20 Our Mission and Core Values

Part 3

- 21 **Our Strategy**
- 22 What is a Church Strategy?
- 23 The Four Spheres

Part 4

- 27 **Next Steps**
- 28 Your Participation in the Four Spheres
- 29 How to Become a Member
- 30 Our Membership Covenant

Why Join a Church?

Give yourself to the Church. You that are members of the Church have not found it perfect and I hope that you feel almost glad that you have not. If I had never joined a Church till I had found one that was perfect, I would never have joined one at all! And the moment I did join it, if I had found one, I should have spoiled it, for it would not have been a perfect church after I had become a member of it. Still, imperfect as it is, it is the dearest place on earth to us. . . All who have first given themselves to the Lord, should, as speedily as possible, also give themselves to the Lord's People. How else is there to be a Church on the earth? If it is right for anyone to refrain from membership in the Church, it is right for everyone, and then the testimony for god would be lost to the world!

As I have already said, the Church is faulty, but that is no excuse for your not joining it, if you are the Lord's. Nor need your own faults keep you back, for the Church is not an institution for perfect people, but a sanctuary for sinners saved by Grace, who, though they are saved, are still sinners and need all the help they can derive from the sympathy and guidance of their fellow Believers. The Church is the nursery for God's weak children where they are nourished and grow strong. It is the fold for Christ's sheep—the home for Christ's family.

—Charles Spurgeon, sermon no. 2234 "The Best Donation"



.....

Why Church?

Some Christians tend to view their Christianity as a personal relationship with God and not much else. They know that this “personal relationship” should affect they way they live in some way, but often don’t recognize the importance of participating in a local church.

Ways we often **cheapen** the church:

- In our independence, we can _____ the church altogether.
- In our pragmatism, we can **pollute** the church with human-centered ideas.
- In our missions, we can **minimize** the church and its proper place.
- In our traditions, we can _____ the church and render it ineffective.
- In our preferences, we can **shape** the church and make it all about us.
- In our comforts, we can _____ the church to suit our own desires.

However, in God’s eyes, the local church is the most important institution on the face of the earth. The Bible calls the church the “bride” of Jesus. Jesus loves the church. He gave up his life, dying on the cross for the church.

Reasons we must **cherish** the church:

- Because we live for the _____ of God.
- Because we worship the **son** of God.
- Because we possess the _____ of God.
- Because we are the **people** of God.
- Because we preach the _____ of God.¹

¹ Adapted from David Platt, Secret Church 9: The Body of Christ, radical.net.

Why this Course?

We believe that local church membership is a big deal. While you won't find the words "church membership" in the Bible, you will find the principle behind church membership—namely, that . . .

Christians should be _____ to a local church.

Church membership is our way of fulfilling this principle today. In the New Testament, we see, from the earliest days, that the local church had an understanding that certain people were a part of their "number" and that others were not. In Acts 2:41-47, we see God adding people "to their number" those who were being saved. Being a part of the Christian group there in Jerusalem was not just a formal title. Rather, they were committed to one another, to sharing life together and caring for one another.

We also see this principle in Jesus' understanding of how the local church would function. In Matthew 18:15-20, he teaches of a process for removing someone from the fellowship of the church in a certain situation. For Jesus to give these instructions, he had an understanding of the local church where people could either be "in" or "out." The local church is a fellowship of true Christians who are committed to one another.

So, what is the purpose of this course?

This course is designed to teach you what it means to be committed to the local church that is Green Street Baptist Church.

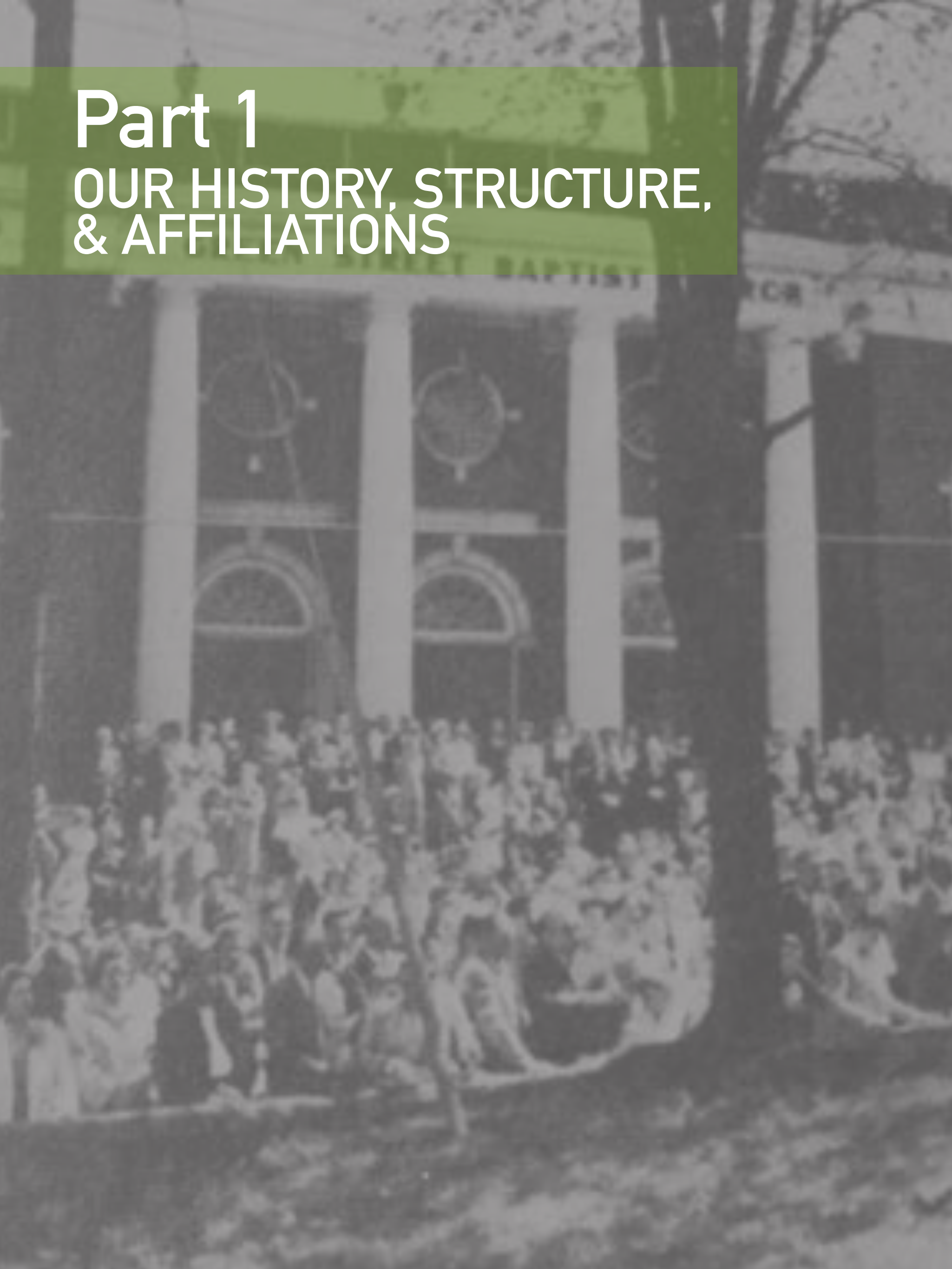
What are the goals for this course?

Upon completion of this course, we want you to know:

- How Green Street got here
- Who we're partnered with
- What we believe
- How we do ministry
- How you can get involved
- What it means to be an active member

Part 1

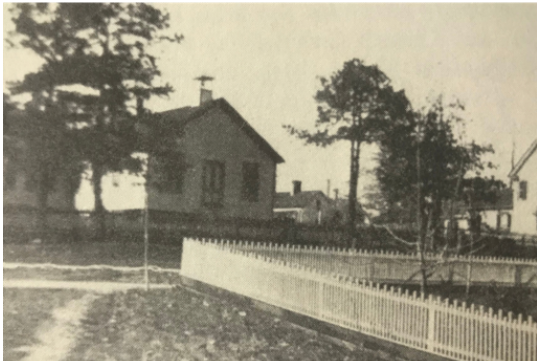
OUR HISTORY, STRUCTURE, & AFFILIATIONS



Historical Timeline

January 10, 1897

75 Members of Salem Street Baptist Church, High Point, NC, organized an afternoon Sunday School in the Southeast Section of the town. They met in a one room school building at the corner of Green Street and Mangum Avenue. Salem Street was the only Baptist church in High Point at the time and started the Sunday School to better reach the city.



November 29, 1900

With 31 charter members, the Sunday School mission becomes an independent church plant—Green Street Baptist Church.



1904

For \$1205.35, Green Street constructed a new house of worship. The building was 40 foot by 60 feet across and was built in the shape of an octagon.

1924

By 1924, the church had grown to 534 total members.



1926

To make room for more growth, Green Street began construction on a new building. with a larger worship center.

THE EVANGEL

GREEN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

Volume 2
HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA, OCTOBER 25, 1945

193 Added To Church During The Past Year

Our letter to the Piedmont Baptist Association which met at the First Church in Greensboro, October 25, was one of the best our church has ever sent. In some respects it was the best ever. Our gifts to missions and benevolence were the largest in the history of the Green Street Church, and we reported 119 baptisms during the year which was second only to our record in 1943 when we baptized 151.

We give below some of the figures shown in our associational letters this year and last year.

Additions to the church:		
	1944	1945
Baptisms	70	119
Letters	22	49
Stat.	9	13
Restor.	22	12
Total	123	193

Green St. Leads Piedmont Association In Baptisms

One Hundred and Nineteen Baptized By Our Church During The Past 12 Months

At the Piedmont Baptist Association in Greensboro this week it was revealed that Green Street church had led the Association during the past year in baptisms. This is the third consecutive year that our church has led the Association in the number baptized.

This year Green Street baptized 119. The First Church, Greensboro, came second with 72 baptisms.

The report also showed that Green Street is the second largest church in the Association and has the second largest Sunday school. The First Church, Greensboro, is the largest.

We give below a digest of the church letters of High Point and Greensboro to the Piedmont Baptist Association for 1945.

Church	By Baptism	School	Enrollment	U. sent	Ad On Local of Church	Ad For Missions
High Point	119	119	119	119	119	119
Greensboro	72	72	72	72	72	72

Sunday School Gained 192 In Enrollment

With one exception our Sunday School gained in enrollment in every department during the year. Our total gain in enrollment was 192 and the total in average attendance over the year was 84. Average attendance for this year was 648. Our enrollment as reported to the association last year and this follows:

	1944
Cradle Roll	21
Beginner	75
Primary	99
Juniors	184
Intermediate	162
Young People	199
Adult (both depts)	476
Gen. Off.	8
Total En.	1150
Average Attendance	648

1940s and 1950s

Green Street experienced tremendous growth, averaging 1244 people in Sunday School each week.



1977

Membership grew to 2,886. To accommodate further growth, Green Street held a "Together We Build" banquet to propose plans for another building project.

Green Street originally desired to build on East Green Street. However, Guilford County wanted the same property for a county building complex. So, the county traded with Green Street for a 22-acre lot on the corner of Phillips Avenue and Rotary Drive, where Green Street still stands today.



1982

Plans were drawn and ground was broken for a new campus.

1984

Construction of the initial phase was complete. Over the next 20 years, Green Street would add to the campus with the construction of a sanctuary and an education building, bringing the facilities to basically their present footprint.

1996

Green Street started High Point Christian Academy (HPCA) as a Kindergarten through 3rd grade school with 96 students. Today, HPCA is preschool through 12th grade and serves several hundred students.

Today, Green Street continues to glorify God by making disciples of all nations.



OUR STRUCTURE

Different types of churches have different structures for leadership and decision-making. It's important for you to understand how your local church is structured. How is Green Street structured?

Green Street is an *Autonomous, Pastor-Led, Deacon-Served, Congregation-Approved, Southern Baptist church.*

Autonomous

Autonomous means that Green Street is not under the authority of any outside power. As a local church, Green Street has the ability to make its own decisions in regard to budgeting, hiring staff, ministry efforts, and so on. In many denominations, local churches are told by higher authorities what to do and who to hire. That's not the way it works at Green Street. Southern Baptist churches are united in a number of ways, but individual SBC churches are self governing, or "autonomous."

Pastor-Led

The role of a pastor in the Bible is compared to that of a "shepherd." A major part of what shepherds do is to lead their sheep to food, safety, and new places. So, as shepherds, the leadership of the local church is a huge part of what pastors are called to do. However, pastors are called to follow Jesus' example and lead as *servant* leaders. Pastors serve the local church primarily by leading them to obey God's Word. A pastor's only source of authority is God's Word. He is responsible to God to guide the local church to obey God's Word in every way. (1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:1-9; 1 Pet 5:2)

Deacon-Served

In addition to pastors, the other 'ordained' position of leadership is deacon. The word 'deacon' in the New Testament means "servant," but it is also used to refer to a specific position of servant leaders in the local church. Deacons at Green Street must meet the qualifications laid out in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Deacons serve in a number of ways at Green Street, ensuring the health and well-being of our local church.

Congregation-Approved

The whole congregation of Green Street makes certain decisions in a number of ways. Certain decisions require a vote of the whole congregation. Other decisions are made through committees or teams of people who represent the congregation as a whole. Procedures for these decisions and much more are detailed in our Constitution and By-Laws, which can be obtained by contacting church office or visiting www.greenstreet.org/constitution.

Southern Baptist

As a denomination, Green Street is Southern Baptist. Much more detail is provided on the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in the next section on Our Affiliations.

OUR AFFILIATIONS

Denomination



Green Street is part of the **Southern Baptist Convention** (SBC). The SBC is a fellowship of over 47,000 Baptist churches scattered throughout the United States and its territories. Membership totals over 15 million individuals, with weekly worship attendance of over 5 million.²

Individual SBC churches are called “cooperating churches” and are united through Doctrinal Convictions, Giving, Missions, and Ministries:

Annual Meeting

Each year, 'messengers' from Southern Baptist churches across the country gather for the annual meeting to determine the programs, policies, and budget of the convention.³



Doctrinal Convictions

All Southern Baptist Churches affirm “The Baptist Faith and Message” (2000) (BFM). The BFM defines the generally held convictions of Southern Baptists on essential doctrines. For full document see: <http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/>.

Giving

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' united plan of Giving.

Cooperating churches give a percentage of their undesignated offering receipts to their respective state convention and SBC missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program.



Green Street gives **7%** of all undesignated offerings to the Cooperative Program.

What do Cooperative Program dollars do?

In summary, Cooperative Program dollars help send and support missionaries, train pastors and ministry leaders, provide relief for retired ministers and widows, and address social, moral, and ethical concerns relating to our faith and families.

² 2017 Annual Church Profile Report, www.sbc.net/fastfacts.

³ For more info on the annual meeting, see www.sbcannualmeeting.net.

Missions

The **International Mission Board** (IMB) is the international missions effort of Southern Baptists. As of 1/31/2020, there are 3,673 total field personnel serving through the IMB, supported through Cooperative Program dollars. Annually, we participate in the SBC Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, 100% of which goes directly to support IMB missionaries.⁴



The **North American Mission Board** (NAMB) is the North American missions effort of the SBC. Cooperative Program dollars also help fund NAMB. Annually, we participate in the SBC Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, 100% of which goes directly to support North American Missionaries. NAMB focuses on three main areas of ministry:

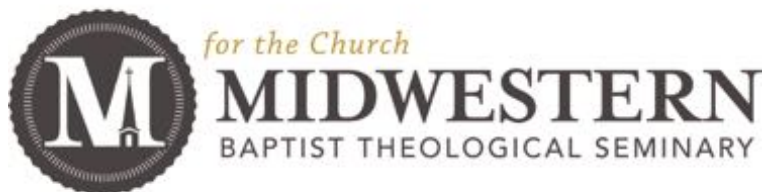
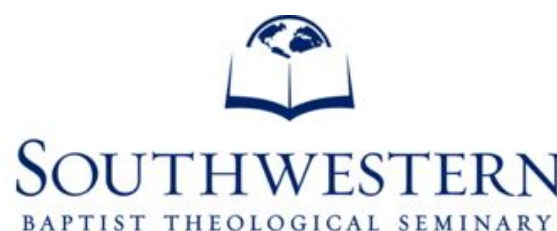


- Planting churches through the **SEND Network**.
- Disaster relief, poverty, refugees, foster care, adoption, and human trafficking through **SEND Relief**.
- Training and resources for sharing the gospel through **SEND Hope**.⁵

There are many ways you can personally get involved with IMB and NAMB, check out their websites to learn more.

Ministries

The SBC has nine other “entities,” the Executive Committee that serves as “The fiduciary, fiscal, and executive entity of the Convention,” and an “auxiliary” called the Woman’s Missionary Union that help carry out the joint ministry of Southern Baptists. The entities include:



⁴ See, www.imb.org/fast-facts/ for more information.

⁵ See, www.namb.net for more information.

OUR STATE CONVENTION

Within the SBC, each state has its own baptist convention. In North Carolina, we are blessed with an amazing state convention, the **Baptist State Convention of North Carolina** (BSCNC). The BSCNC provides resources, conferences, camps, trainings, mission partnerships, and more to help NC Baptists. The BSCNC has an incredible staff devoted to helping us effectively make disciples. Visit ncbaptist.org to find resources and learn about all the state convention's work.

OUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION

The state is divided into various local or regional associations. Our association is the **Piedmont Baptist Association** (PBA), and it covers much of the Piedmont Triad area. The "Associational Mission Strategist" leads the association to fulfill its mission of "making more and better disciples throughout the Triad" by promoting **church planting**, building up **existing churches**, and assisting **our community**.⁶

⁶ See, www.piedmontbaptist.org for more information.

Part 2

OUR BELIEFS



What Does it Mean to be a Christian?

A Christian is someone who has been FORGIVEN of his/her sins.

You are forgiven of your sins when you _____ and _____ the gospel.

What is the gospel?

The gospel is the message about _____: He lived a perfect life, died on the cross in the place of sinners to suffer our penalty for sin, and that he rose from the dead.

What does it mean to repent and believe?

If a saving response to the gospel is like a **coin**, repentance and faith are like its **two sides**.

To repent is to _____ from sin to take hold of _____.

To believe is to **trust** Jesus as _____ and _____.

What happens when you repent and believe the gospel?

You are _____ to God the Father through Jesus Christ.

You are **justified**, being declared not guilty of sin and righteous before God. This cannot be taken away from you.

You are indwelled by the **Holy Spirit**.

"ABC" is a simple way to explain how a person can become a Christian:

Admit that you're a sinner and need to be saved.

Believe that Jesus died for your sins and raised from the dead.

Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord of all.

A Christian is someone who _____ for Jesus.

Living for Jesus means you obey His **commands** and live for His **mission**.

A Christian lives for Jesus because he/she . . .

. . . **loves** Jesus more than anything else.

. . . **owes** Jesus everything.

. . . has **nothing** without Jesus.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two "ordinances" we observe as a Baptist church. Participating in these ordinances do not save a person. They are **symbolic**, but that does not lessen their importance. Jesus commands them, so they are important.

BAPTISM

Baptism is one of the most important and most meaningful experiences in the Christian life. Baptism is the first step of obedience that Jesus commands His disciples to follow. We should never minimize something Jesus emphasized so strongly. The New Testament teaches that baptism is the way that new believers publicly declare their faith in Jesus, thereby identifying with His death and resurrection.

To _____ Jesus' commands

"Jesus said, '...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...'" Matt 28:18-20

To _____ Jesus' example

"At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." - Mark 1:9

To _____ that you're Jesus' disciple

"... many people who heard him believed and were baptized." - Acts 18:8

When to Be Baptized

A person should be baptized _____, _____ their decision to follow Jesus.

A person should be baptized once they are **sure** of their decision to follow Jesus.

Baptism is not about being mature in your faith, but being sure of your faith. There is no reason for a person to wait a long time after they believe the gospel to be baptized. If you are ready to follow Jesus, you are ready to be baptized.

Baptism can help a person stay strong in the faith in difficult or doubtful seasons, because they can look back to when they publicly committed to Jesus in baptism.

A person should be **old enough** to **believe** the gospel and **understand** what baptism means.

At Green Street, we do not baptize infants, but wait until children are old enough to believe the gospel and understand the true meaning of baptism.

Acts 2:41 "So those who received his word were baptized."

Acts 8:31 (NIV) "Simon himself believed and was baptized."

Acts 8:12 "But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

*Though baptism is not necessary to be _____, baptism
is necessary if you want to _____ Jesus.*

What it Means to Be Baptized

The **meaning** of baptism is important.

Baptism illustrates Christ's _____ and _____.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 "Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again."

Colossians 2:12 "For when you are baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ."

Baptism illustrates the Christian's _____.

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new."

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 to Be Baptized

The **method** of baptism is important.

We believe in baptism by _____, as opposed to sprinkling or pouring.

Biblical Support

The meaning of the word for "baptize" in the original language of the New Testament (Greek), means "to immerse." Whenever baptism is spoken of in the Scripture, it is always referring to this specific method of immersion.

Historical Support



Baptism by immersion was the method of baptism practiced in the early church. Sprinkling or pouring was sometimes used to baptize the sick or bedridden, but immersion was preferred. Note the following quotes from the early church fathers:

Tertullian 200 AD "We are immersed."

Cyril of Jerusalem 348 AD, "The body is dipped in water."

Hippolytus c. 170-235 AD, "When the person being baptized goes down into the water, he who baptizes him, putting his hand on him, shall say, 'Do you believe in God the Father Almighty?' And the person being baptized shall say, 'I believe.'"

Cross-Denominational Support

It may also surprise you to find many founders and leaders of denominations that now practice sprinkling acknowledged immersion as the original biblical method.



George Whitefield Methodist, on Rom. 6:4 - "It is certain that the words of our text is an allusion to the manner of baptism by immersion."

Conyebear & Howson Episcopalians, on Rom. 6:4 - "This passage cannot be understood unless it is understood that the primitive baptism was by immersion."

John Calvin Presbyterian, "The very word 'baptize' signifies immersion, and it is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

Martin Luther Lutheran, "I could wish that the baptized should be totally immersed according to the meaning of the word."

Philip Schaff Lutheran, "Immersion and not sprinkling was unquestionably the original normal form of baptism. This is shown by the meaning of the Greek word and the analogy of the baptism of John which was performed in Jordan."

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The "Lord's Supper," or "Communion," also serves as a picture of our salvation in Christ. Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth, but He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols, called ordinances, to remember his death. Again, these two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

What is the Lord's Supper?

It is a **simple** act.

1 Corinthians 11:23 "The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread . . ."

It is a _____.

1 Corinthians 11:24 ". . . and when he had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is My body, which is for you; eat it in remembrance of Me.'"

It is a **symbol**.

1 Corinthians 11:25 "In the same way, He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; drink it to remember me.'"

It is a statement of _____.

1 Corinthians 11:26 "For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again."

Who should take the Lord's Supper?

Only those who are already _____ in Jesus Christ.

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

Before we worship and come to the Lord's Supper table together as a faith family, we must first prepare our hearts. The Lord's Supper calls for personal examination of our hearts and lives. It requires close self-examination, confessing any known sin in our lives, recommitment of our minds and hearts, and restoration of our relationships.

Core Doctrines

WHY IS DOCTRINE IMPORTANT?

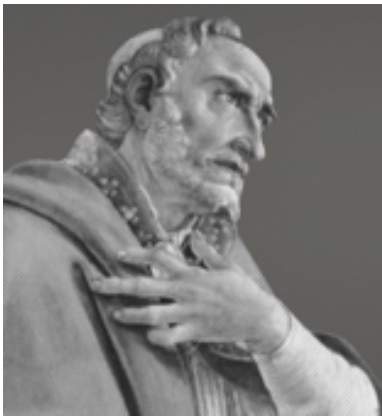
Doctrine _____ the Object of our Faith.

What we believe matters. The strength of our faith does not matter if the object of our faith is flawed. For instance, if you walk out onto a dead tree branch, it does not matter how strongly you believe in the tree branch, the branch will fail you and you're going to fall. In the same way, it does not matter how strongly you believe something, if it is untrue or unbiblical, it will let you down.

Doctrine _____ Faith Over Feelings.

It is easy to let your feelings have more control over you than your faith in God's Word. However, feelings can be misleading. Following our feelings can often lead us down a pathway into sin and trouble. But, if we have firm faith in sound, biblical doctrine, we can avoid being misled by feelings and temptations because we know the truth.

Doctrine _____ God.



God holds us accountable for what we believe and for how we think about the truth He has revealed. God wants us to know and understand the truth. He wants us to be wise and to use our minds to think, meditate, and be discerning.

A helpful principle, commonly attributed to **Augustine of Hippo** (354-430 AD), gives some good guidelines for how to approach doctrine:

- In essential beliefs, we have **unity**.
- In non-essential beliefs, we have **liberty**.
- In all our beliefs, we show **charity**.

It is important for a local church to have a "doctrinal statement." A doctrinal statement is simply a summary of what the church believes about core doctrines. As an SBC church, Green Street affirms the **Baptist Faith and Message, 2000**, (BFM) as our doctrinal statement.

The BFM articulates statements of belief about the Scriptures, God (God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, God the Son), Humanity, Salvation, God's Purpose of Grace, the Church, the Ordinances of the Church, the Lord's Day, the Kingdom, Last Things, Evangelism and Missions, Christian Education, Stewardship, Cooperation, the Christian and Social Order, Peace and War, Religious Liberty, and Marriage and the Family.⁷

OUR CORE DOCTRINES:

The Scriptures

We believe the Bible is . . .

_____ : God worked through human authors to write the books of the Bible.

Inerrant : The Bible is without error or fault in everything it teaches. It does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.

_____ : The Bible is completely trustworthy as a guide to salvation and a life of faith. It will not fail to accomplish its purpose.

Living : We believe that God works through the Scriptures today. They are unlike any other book. They are inspired and powerful to accomplish God's purposes.

⁷ To read the full BFM including all sections as well as information on its development, visit www.sbc.net/bfm2000/.

God's _____: The Scriptures tell us about God. They teach us his nature, his will, his commands, and his plans for the world.

Authoritative: The Bible is our final authority and guide in how we should live as individuals and as a local church.

God

We believe God is . . .

The **creator, ruler, redeemer**, and **preserver** of all things seen and unseen.

_____: God is Spirit, being different in nature from created material things.

_____: Though spiritual, God is not an impersonal being. Rather, he has a personality and is able to be personally known by those to whom he reveals himself.

Omniscient : God is all-knowing. His perfect knowledge of all things covers the past, present, and future.

_____: God is all-powerful. There is no being more powerful than God.

Omnipresent : God is all-present. There is nowhere God is not present, yet God is distinct and separate from His creation.

_____: God has for all eternity been triune, existing as three persons in one. God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person has distinct personal attributes, but are without division of their nature, essence, or being. Each member of the Trinity is equally God.

God the Father

God as Father providentially rules over the universe, history, and his creatures with care and for the purposes of His grace. He is fatherly in his attitude toward all people, but becomes truly Father of those who become children of God through faith in Christ.

God the Son

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. At His incarnation, He was conceived in the virgin Mary. He is the Messiah, foretold in the Jewish Scriptures, the Old Testament. Jesus Christ is fully man and fully God. During His ministry, he perfectly revealed and fulfilled the will of God. Though he was tempted, he never sinned. He died on the cross as a substitute for sinners, enduring the wrath of God, his death as an atoning sacrifice. He rose from the dead with a glorified body. He ascended into heaven, and now intercedes on behalf of believers. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and complete his mission of redemption. Through the Spirit, he now dwells in all believers.

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is fully God. He inspired the authors of Scripture to write the books of Scripture. He works to illuminate the Scriptures when they are read today so people can understand God's truth. He works to point people to Jesus Christ. He calls people to Jesus and applies salvation. At the moment of salvation, He indwells believers. By His indwelling, believers are united to Christ. He works to sanctify believers, making them like Jesus, helping them to obey God's will. He works to give believers gifts through which they serve God. His presence guarantees their perseverance as believers, assuring their salvation at the final judgment.

Humans

We believe humans are . . .

Made in God's image: God created human beings as the pinnacle of His creation. They are the only beings made in God's image, reflecting His nature in various ways. This means every human being is eternally valuable and worthy of dignity.

Made _____ and _____ by God: Gender is a good gift from God. God created men and women with equal dignity and worth before God, and God made men and women with unique characteristics that complement one another.

Corrupted by Sin: Adam, the first human being, sinned against God and introduced sin into the world. Every human being after Adam and Eve is born under sin.

_____ of Sin: Not only is every human born under sin, every human has sinned and falls short of God's glory.

Separated from God: Because of their sin, humans are separated from God, who is holy. Sin puts humans at odds with God, even considered his enemies.

Under the _____ of God: God is perfectly just. He does not let sinful wrongdoing go unpunished. As sinners, humans are guilty before God and deserve God's judgment and punishment for their sins.

_____ by God: Even though humans are sinners, God still loves all humans. Because of this love, God made a way for sinful human begins to have their sins forgiven and be reconciled to God. By believing the gospel, humans can become true children of God and true friends of God.

Salvation

We believe salvation is . . .

By _____: Salvation is completely a gift from God. We do not deserve salvation. God was not under any compulsion to save us. There is nothing we did or could do to earn salvation. God saved us because of His great love, mercy, and grace.

Through **faith**: We access salvation through faith. By believing, or trusting, in what Jesus did, we can be saved. We are saved through faith, as opposed to works. God does not save us because of good things we do, but because of what He has done.

In _____: Only Jesus has the power to save. He is the object of our faith. Because of who Jesus is (the eternal, sinless Son of God), and because of what Jesus did (dying in our place and rising again) we can be saved by turning to Him.

Our Mission and Core Values

OUR MISSION

Jesus has made clear that the mission of every local church is the Great Commission.

In **Matthew 28:18-20**, Jesus says:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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."

In **Acts 1:8**, Jesus says:

"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 ends of the earth."

Our mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ of all nations. Our mission statement is simply our way of expressing the Great Commission:

We purpose to glorify God by making disciples of all nations.

OUR CORE VALUES

Core values are similar to core doctrines in the sense that they are non-negotiable. No matter what, we will stay faithful to our core doctrines and core values. How are they different? Core doctrines are about what we *believe*, while core values are about what we *do*. While core doctrines are the *truths* God has given us, core values are the *actions* God has given us to accomplish His mission.

We believe in _____ because without the Holy Spirit's power we cannot accomplish God's mission.

We believe in **biblical teaching** because lives change when people encounter the living Christ in the living Word.

We believe in _____ because God works through individual believers to bring the gospel to the lost.

We believe in _____ because disciples grow in the context of relationship.

We believe in **gospel-driven ministry** because the gospel compels us to compassionate action

We believe in _____ because God loves the nations and Christ commands us to reach the nations.

Part 3

OUR STRATEGY



What is a Church Strategy?

A church's strategy answers the question:

"How do we accomplish our mission, in our context?"

A church's strategy is like a **blueprint** for the ministries of a church.

The purpose of a strategy is to organize the _____ and _____ of a church so that everything we **do** and everything we **have** are focused on accomplishing our **mission**.

The ministries of a church are like a _____ that supports the growth of the **vine**. Or, you also could say it works like a **tomato cage**.



God's Standard of Success for the Local Church

You can summarize God's standard of success in two words: _____ and _____.

A church is successful when people whose **lives** have been changed by the gospel are actively **making disciples**.

How God Changes Lives (How God Grows the Vine)

God changes lives when the _____ is proclaimed from the **Word of God** in the power of the **Spirit**.

How a Strategy Works

A good church strategy should simply **create** and **support** opportunities for God to change lives according to the principle above.

What is Our Strategy at Green Street?

Our goal at Green Street is to help you **live for Jesus**.

The Rhythms of Life in the Early Church

The New Testament shows the early church living in four rhythms of life:

1. A _____ gathering of believers for corporate worship.
2. A _____ gathering of believers for growth, care, and accountability.
3. An _____ life lived on mission to share the gospel and disciple believers.
4. A _____ context where the disciples take the gospel to all nations.

Acts 2:42–47

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

The Four Goals

Our Disciple-Making Strategy

Goal 1: Worship Together



Christians participate by:

- **attending** and **engaging** in corporate worship.
- _____ so others can participate in corporate worship.

God is glorified through:

- Biblical _____.
- Gospel-centered **music** and **singing**.
- Corporate _____.
- The **ordinances**.

Hebrews 10:25 "...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..."

1 Timothy 4:13 "... devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

Goal 2: Grow in a Group



Christians participate by:

- Regularly _____ Life Group gatherings.
- Faithfully **serve** fellow group members.

God is glorified when believers:

- _____ and _____ God's Word together
- Bear one another's **burdens** with prayer and care.
- Hold one another **accountable** in personal holiness and disciple-making.

In other words, every **Life Group** at Green Street should function as a CLASSROOM, a HOSPITAL, & a LAUNCHPAD



Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ"

Colossians 1:28 "Him we proclaim, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ."

Hebrews 12:24 "... let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works."

Goal 3: Multiply



Christians participate by:

- Building **relationships** with people far from God.
- Having _____ conversations.
- **Discipling** others to obey Jesus.

God is glorified when:

- People far from God **hear** the gospel.
- Believers are disciplined to _____ Jesus.

What is a Gospel Conversation?

A conversation with someone far from God about the gospel.

Four Truths: The gospel tells us the truth about:

1. Who _____ is
2. Who **humans** are.
3. Who _____ is and what He did.
4. How to be **saved**.

If your conversation discusses one or more of these four truths, then it's a gospel conversation.

The ultimate goal is to call for a **response** to the gospel.

Matthew 28:18-20 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...."*

Goal 4: Reach the Nations



Christians participate by:

- _____ for God's work among the nations.
- **Giving** to support God's work among the nations.
- _____ to join God's work among the nations.

God is glorified when believers:

- **Go** to make disciples in every ACTS 1:8 context.
- _____ with global disciple-makers.

"Acts 1:8 context" means that we need to **join God's work** in our *community*, our *region*, our *nation*, and the *nations*.

Acts 1:8 *"... you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and to the end of the earth."*

Philippians 1:3-5 *"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you ... because of your partnership in the gospel..."*

How the Four Goals Work

Our goal is for each member of Green Street to _____ in all Four Spheres, according to where each member is in his/her **personal journey** with Christ.

To “**actively participate**” is to be intentionally **involved** in all Four Spheres, working by God's grace to **glorify** Him in that area of life.

Each Christian is in a different **season** and at a different **stage** in his/her journey with Christ.

Each Christian is commanded to obey the **same commands** of Christ, but obedience to those commands will look somewhat **different** from person to person.

Christ calls every Christian to live in _____ of the Four Spheres throughout their **entire** journey with Him.

The way you **participate** in each Sphere will look different depending on your stage and season of life with Christ.

Some examples:

An eight year old may not be able to sing with the praise team in Sphere 1, but he/she can serve with a parent or another adult as a greeter. And, they glorify God by singing and hearing God's Word!

Someone may not feel gifted to teach a Life Group in Sphere 2, but he/she can pray for and care for fellow members of a group, and help encourage group members to love Jesus and share the gospel.

For a stay-at-home parent, he/she may not have time to personally disciple a group of younger believers in Sphere 3, but has a perfect opportunity to disciple his/her children. And, he/she can leverage circles of influence for disciple-making with other parents.

An elderly couple may not be able to "Go" to the nations, but they can certainly pray and support God's work in Sphere 4. And, as God brings the nations here, they can reach the people groups in their own community

What the Four Goals are Not

They are not numbered in order of _____. Each sphere is equally as important, but they all work together toward the goal of God's glory in **making disciples**.

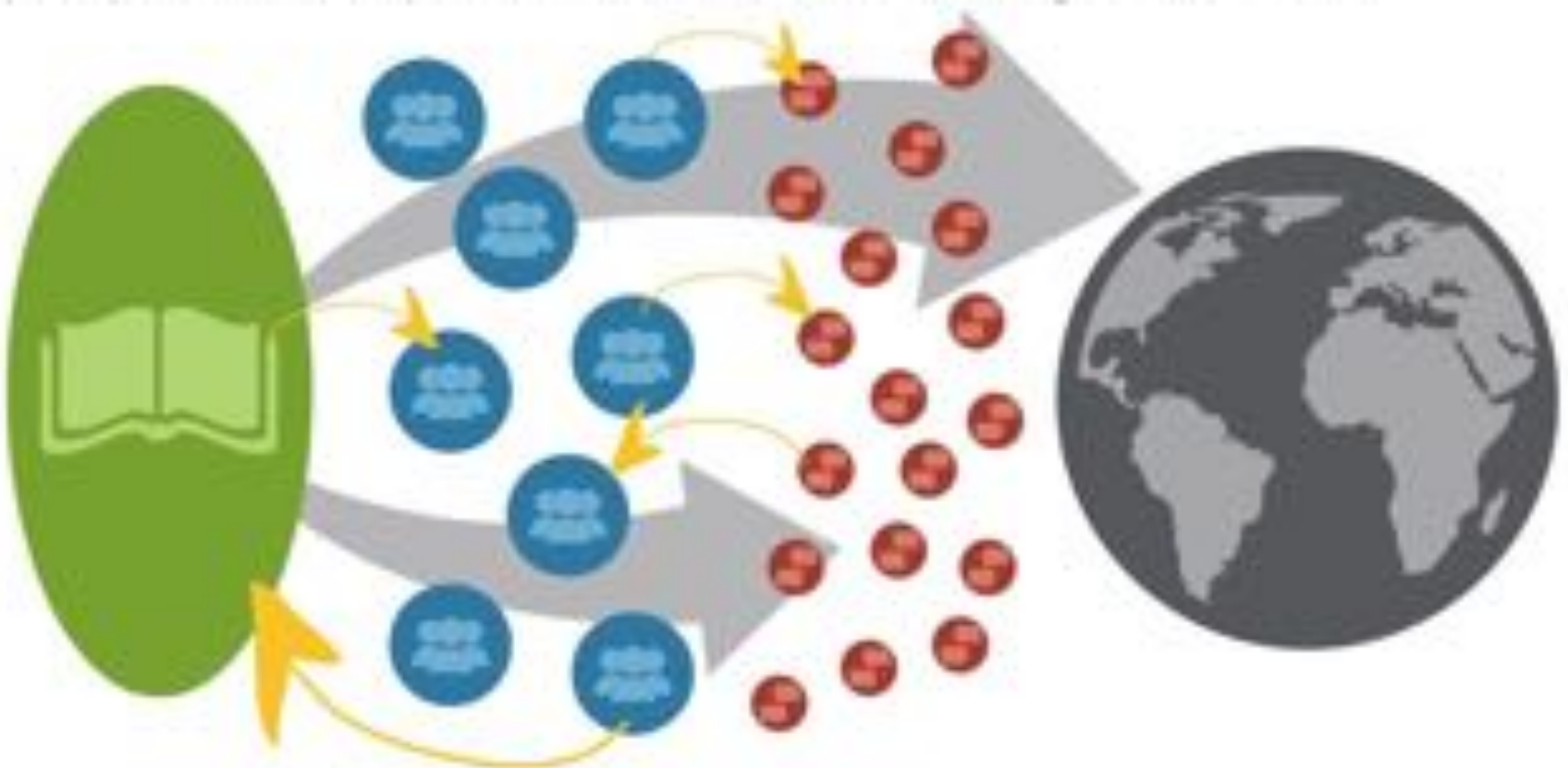
They are **not** designed to give you a **guilt trip**. Rather, they are designed to help you live with **purpose** and **joy** as a disciple of Jesus.

They are not an easy "1-2-3-4" step **process** to 'success' as a Christian. Rather, you live in all Four Spheres throughout your whole life as a Christian, growing and learning how to more fully obey and enjoy Jesus in each Sphere of life.

Church as Movement

Because the Four Goals are not designed to be simple "1-2-3-4" step process to 'success,' it helps to see what it looks like when the members of a local church actively participate in all Four Goals.

The big **gray** arrows indicate how, as a church, everything we do is directed toward our mission: glorifying God by making disciples. We want the local church to be a growing _____ of disciple-making, as Jesus intends.



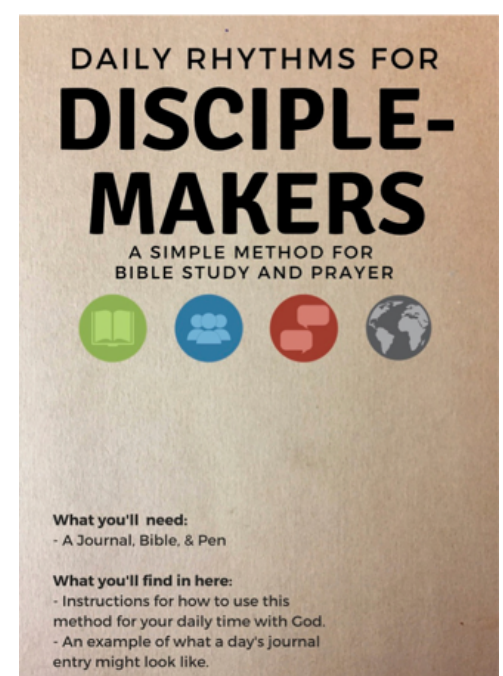
The **yellow** arrows show how the Four Spheres strategy is designed for _____. As you live your everyday life, you are living in the third sphere, reaching people who are far from God. As you share the gospel, you may win them to Christ, or invite them to attend our worship service. Some people may even come to a connection group before they are comfortable attending worship. In this way, Goals 1, 2, and 3 can all be "front doors," where we reach people with the gospel.

Your Daily Rhythms of Life

The foundation of living for Jesus is your personal devotional life. We abide in Jesus through prayer and the reading of Scripture.

John 15:4-5 "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

As you are called to live in the Four Goals, it can be helpful to organize your devotional life by the Four Spheres. We've put together a resource called "Daily Rhythms for Disciple Makers" that instructs a journaling method for Bible Study and Prayer by the Four Spheres. Pick up a copy at one of our welcome desks.



Part 4

NEXT STEPS



Your Participation in the Four Spheres

Goal 1

How frequently, per month, do you attend corporate worship?

In what ways, and how frequently do you serve during a time of corporate worship to help others participate?

Goal 2

Do you belong to a Life Group? How faithfully do you attend?

How do you care for fellow group members?

Goal 3

On average, how many gospel conversations do you have per month?

Who do you know who is far from God?

With whom are you building a relationship to share the gospel?

Whom are you discipling, teaching them to obey Jesus?

Goal 4

How do you pray, give, and go to help reach the nations?

How do you sense God leading you to reach the nations in the upcoming year?

How to Become a Member

What are the requirements for becoming a member at Green Street?

Salvation: You must have repented of your sins and put your faith in Christ as Savior and Lord, having been "born again" (John 3:3).

Baptism: You must have obeyed Christ's first command for believers, which is baptism by immersion as a testimony of your salvation experience.

What are the Ways You Can Become a Member?

Profession of Faith and Baptism:

If you have recently accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior and are willing to be baptized by immersion, we will welcome you as a member of Green Street.

Transfer of Membership Letter from Another Baptist Church:

If you have already accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, have already been baptized by immersion as a believer, and are a member of another Baptist church of like faith and practice, we will welcome you as a member of Green Street.

Statement of Faith:

If you come from another denomination or your letter in a Baptist church is no longer available, we will welcome you by statement. Those coming by statement must meet the requirements for membership as listed above (salvation by faith and believer's baptism by immersion).

What it Means to Be a Member

Church membership is like a covenant relationship. By becoming a member you are committing yourself to the local church in certain ways.

Our Membership Covenant⁸

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized, in agreement with this faith family's doctrine, structure, affiliations, mission, and strategy, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with Green Street Baptist Church. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members of this faith family to do the following:

*

1. I will protect the **UNITY** of my church ...

- by acting in love toward other members.
- by refusing to engage in gossip.
- by following our leadership.

Romans 14:19 "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."

Romans 15:5 "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus..."

1 Peter 1:22 "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart."

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

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

2. I will share the **RESPONSIBILITY** of my church ...

- by praying for its growth.
- by sharing the gospel and inviting others.
- by warmly welcoming guests.

1 Thessalonians 1:2 "To the church...we always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers."

Luke 14:23 "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.'"

Romans 15:7 "Accept one another, even as Christ has accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

Acts 2:46–47 "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."

3. I will serve the **MINISTRY** of my church.

- by discovering and using my spiritual gifts and talents in the Four Spheres.
- by being equipped to serve.
- by having a servant's heart.

⁸ Adapted from Saddleback Community Church's Membership Covenant. See: <https://pastors.com/one-way-to-increase-the-commitment-level-of-your-members/>.

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

Ephesians 4:11–13 "And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of 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."

Philippians 2:3–5, 7 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...taking the very nature of a servant."

4. I will support the TESTIMONY of my church.

- by attending faithfully.
- by living a godly life of discipleship.
- by giving regularly.

Hebrews 10:25 "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another . . ."

Philippians 1:27 "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ..."

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

2 Corinthians 9:6–7 "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Leviticus 27:30 "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord."

On this day, the ____ day of _____ in the year _____, I make this commitment between myself and God, to be a faithful member of the local church at Green Street Baptist.

Signed: _____

Answers

Page

- 5. ignore; undermine; weaken; glory; Spirit; gospel
- 6. committed
- 15. repent; believe; Jesus; turn; Jesus; Savior; Lord; reconciled; lives
- 16. obey; follow; profess; one-time; after; saved; obey
- 17. death; resurrection; new life; immersion
- 18. reminder; faith; believers
- 19. guards, elevates; pleases; inspired, infallible;
- 20. revelation; spiritual; personal; omnipotent; triune
- 21. male; female; guilty; judgment; loved; grace; Jesus Christ
- 22. corporate prayer; personal evangelism; relational discipleship; global mission
- 24. ministries; resources; trellis; transformation; multiplication; larger; smaller; everyday; global
- 25. serving; preaching; prayer; attending; study; obey;
- 26. gospel; obey; God; Jesus; praying; going; partner
- 27. actively participate; all; priority
- 28. movement; real life

Works Cited

Lawless, Charles E. *Membership Matters: Insights from Effective Churches on New Member Classes and Assimilation*. 1st ed. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 2005.

Leeman, Jonathan. *Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus. Building Healthy Churches*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.

Marshall, Colin, and Tony Payne. *The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-Shift That Changes Everything*. Kingsford, N.S.W.: Matthias Media, 2009.

Platt, David. "Secret Church 9: The Body of Christ," November 5, 2010, https://radical.net/secret_church/secret-church-9-the-body-of-christ/.

Warren, Rick. "One Way to Increase the Commitment of Your Members," December 12, 2017. <https://pastors.com/one-way-to-increase-the-commitment-level-of-your-members/>.