

FIRST LOOK CLASS

First Baptist Church of Lakewood

(Discovering Church Membership)

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Revised and Adapted for First Baptist Church of Lakewood

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WELCOME TO DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about First Baptist Church of Lakewood! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is.

Discovering Church Membership is divided in four sessions of an hour each and is taught by our pastor, Walt Kelcy, who came to this church in 1991, Pastor Emeritus Jack Anderson, Pastor Dan Spoon, and Pastor Phil Roy

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

...That I will commit myself to Christ and to His Church

WHAT MAKES FBCL A FAMILY?

Four things unite us:

- **Our Salvation** (What God has done for us)
- **Our Statement** (Why we exist as a church)
- **Our Strategy** (How we fulfill our purpose)
- **Our Structure** (When and where we fulfill our purpose)

Seminar Outline

SESSION ONE: OUR SALVATION

- What it means to be a Christian
- The symbols of salvation: Baptism and Communion

SESSION TWO: OUR STATEMENTS

- Our Purpose Statement
- Our Faith Statement
- Our Lifestyle Statement

SESSION THREE: OUR STRATEGY

- The story of FBCL's beginning
- Purpose Statement and Process for Spiritual Development
- Vision and Core Values

SESSION FOUR: OUR STRUCTURE

- Our affiliation
- What it means to be a member

Session One

Our Salvation

*“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free,
nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

Galatians 3:26-28 (NIV)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

I. YOUR REALITY – EPHESIANS 2:1-3

- 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins
- 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience
- 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Circle the words “dead”, “trespasses”, and “sins”

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

Sin is **doing** what God says I shouldn't do.

Sin is **not doing** what God says I should do.

Sin is going against or **trespassing** against God.

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

Circle the phrase “children of wrath”

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” John 3:36

II. GOD'S RESPONSE – EPHESIANS 2:4-7

- 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,
- 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved -
- 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
- 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

God's response to my rebellion against Him was...

Mercy - Titus 3:5

Love - John 3:16; 1 John 3:1

Made us alive - 1 Peter 3:18

Grace - Ephesians 1:7; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:7

Raised us up - Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 6:14; Colossians 2:12; Colossians 3:1

Seated us with Christ – Hebrews 8:1; Hebrews 12:2

Showed us the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us – Ephesians 1:7; Romans 2:4

III. HOW CAN A PERSON BE SAVED? – EPHESIANS 2:8-9

- 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Circle the words “grace”, “faith”, and “gift”

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

What the Bible has to say...

“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.” Romans 10:9

“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 3:16

“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.” I John 4:15

*“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”
John 1:12-13*

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

“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY CHRIST.

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

2. BECAUSE CHRIST COMMANDS IT.

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”* Matthew 28:19-20

3. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT I REALLY AM A BELIEVER.

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

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

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST’S DEATH AND RESURRECTION.

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

“For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.” Colossians 2:12

2. IT ILLUSTRATES MY NEW LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN.

*“Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a **new life** has begun!”*
2 Corinthians 5:17

*“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live **new lives**.”* Romans 6:4

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

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

III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

BECAUSE **JESUS** WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

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

EVERY BAPTISM IN THE **BIBLE** WAS BY IMMERSION.

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

THE WORD “BAPTIZE” MEANS TO “**DIP UNDER** WATER”.

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

IT BEST SYMBOLIZES A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!

The founders of denominations agree:

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

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

John Wesley (Methodists)...“Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS BELIEVED IN CHRIST.

*“Those who believed and accepted His message were **baptized**...”* Acts 2:41

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

*“But **when they believed** Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women.”* Acts 8:12

At First Baptist Church of Lakewood, we wait until our children are old enough to **believe** and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “*baptism of confirmation*” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. **This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible** which

was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

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

Since 1980 almost 2,000 people have been baptized at FBCL!

V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!

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

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

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

CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with our Children’s Director for a pre-baptism conversation.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a *personal* statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays *your* obedience.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

Women should wear shorts and a top or a swimsuit with a shirt over the top for modesty. Men may wear a swimsuit or a pair of shorts and t-shirt. (We have baptism robes for men and women to wear over your clothes.) Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. We provide changing rooms.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

No. During the baptism, Pastor Walt or the person performing the baptism will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait at the edge of the pool for your turn to be baptized. Pastor Walt or another pastor/deacon will introduce you, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the pool, dry off, and watch the others. You will be given a certificate of your baptism. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism and to take pictures.

SPECIAL NEEDS?

All of our Pastors can perform a private baptism in special circumstances.

THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

I. WHAT IS THE LORD’S SUPPER? (1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26)

1. IT IS A SIMPLE ACT.

“*The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread...*” (vs. 23)

2. IT IS A REMINDER.

“*...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; eat it in remembrance of me.’*” (vs. 24)

3. IT IS A SYMBOL

“*In the same way, He took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me.’*” (vs. 25)

4. IT IS A STATEMENT OF FAITH.

“*For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes back.*” (vs. 26)

II. WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD’S SUPPER?

Those who are BELIEVERS. (Mark 14:22-26)

“*For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself.*” 2 Corinthians 11:29

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

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

By...

1. Self-Examination

1 Cor. 11:27

2. Confessing My Sins

1 John 1:9

3. Recommitment

Rom. 12:1

4. Restoring Relationships

Matt. 5:23-24

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

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord's Supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night with His disciples.

Some scholars believe that the early disciples may have observed this ordinance every time they shared a meal with one another.

We take The Lord's Supper at the morning service six times a year. The first Sunday of every even month.

Session Two

The FBCL Statements

“Let there be real harmony among you so there won’t be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

Why We Exist As A Church

“WE EXIST TO EXALT JESUS CHRIST AS LORD BY SEEKING, TEACHING AND CARING FOR THE PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND WORLD”

The purpose of our church is summarized in a single sentence based on two key scriptures:

The Great Commandment: *“Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.’”* Matthew 22:36-40

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

1. We seek to know God more fully and to make Him more fully known. We celebrate God's presence in our lives and His promises for our future with Him. The number one purpose of this church, is to exalt Christ in our worship, in our walk and in our witness.

To *“Love God with all your heart”* is **WORSHIP**

- **exalt Jesus Christ as Lord**

2. To imitate Christ's ministry by teaching the Word, ministering to others and sharing the gospel.

To *“Love your neighbor as yourself”* is **MINISTRY**

- **caring for the people.....community and world**

3. When you combine worship (exalting Christ) with discipleship (teaching others to be like Christ) and ministry (caring for others) you reap the wonderful outgrowth of spiritual fellowship around godly objectives.

To *“Go...make disciples...”* is **EVANGELISM**

- **seeking.....community and world**

4. Every human being needs a purpose, principles to live by and a profession which helps others. Our desire is for them to discover these by finding their place in God's family through FBCL.

To *“Baptize...”* is to incorporate into **FELLOWSHIP**

- **seeking.....community and world**

5. We exist to educate God's people, which is discipleship. It is a process of thanking God for the truth and the wonderful privilege of teaching the truth. To *“Teach them ...all things”* is

DISCIPLESHIP

FBC LAKEWOOD EXISTS TO...
(FIVE BASIC PURPOSES)

- 1. WORSHIP**
- 2. DISCIPLESHIP**
- 3. EVANGELISM**
- 4. MINISTRY**
- 5. FELLOWSHIP**

I. WE EXIST TO EXALT JESUS CHRIST AS LORD, TO EXALT HIS PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES

WORSHIP: EXPRESSING MY LOVE TO GOD

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

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

Expressions of Worship

- **Singing** (Ephesians 5:19)
- **Commitment** (Romans 12:1-2)
- **Praying** (Psalm 95:6)
- **Hearing the Word** (John 17:17)
- **Giving** (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- **Baptism** (Romans 6:3-4)
- **Meditating** (Habakkuk 2:20)
- **Lord’s Supper** (1 Corinthians 11-23-26)

FBCL Worship Style

“Celebration”
Psalm 122:1

“Inspiration”
Isaiah 40:31

“Preparation”
Ephesians 4:11-12

II. WE EXIST TO EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE

DISCIPLESHIP: **BECOMING SPIRITUALLY MATURE.**

“Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ **and go on to maturity...**” Hebrews 6:1

“*Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” 2 Peter 3:18

“*(God has given)...some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all...become mature...like Christ.*” Ephesians 4:11-13

III. WE EXIST TO COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD

EVANGELISM: **SHARING THE GOOD NEWS WITH OTHERS.**

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

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

WHY OUR CHURCH MUST NEVER STOP GROWING

1. Because: **GOD LOVES PEOPLE.**

“*The Lord...is patient, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but wants everyone to come to repentance.*”
2 Peter 3:9

2 Corinthians 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matthew 9:12-13

2. Because **HE COMMANDS US TO REACH OUT**

“*Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, **so that My House will be full.***” Luke 14:23 (LB)

“*...you will be my witnesses...*” Acts 1:8

3. Because **GROWTH IS GOD'S WILL**

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

“*(Jesus) I will build my church.*” Matthew 16:18

Unbiblical Excuses For Not Growing:

- “God isn’t interested in numbers.”
- “Our church wants quality not quantity.”
- “Large churches are impersonal”

We believe our church must grow **LARGER** and **SMALLER** at the same time.

*“And the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **THEN** the end will come.”* Matthew 24:14

IV. WE EXIST TO DEMONSTRATE GOD’S LOVE

MINISTRY: MEETING NEEDS WITH LOVE

*“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples — **that you have love for one another.**”* John 13:35

1 John 3:16-17, Matthew 25:34-40, Hebrews 13:16, Romans 12:13

The heartbeat of FBCL is our **SUNDAY SCHOOL/SMALL GROUPS**
Every member needs to be a part.

*“Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities.. and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry).. **All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.”** 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27 (LB)*

At FBCL...

- Every member is a **MINISTER**
- Every task is **IMPORTANT**
- Every member is a “10” in **SOME AREA**

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

What We Believe

- **In essential beliefs — we have unity.**

“There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...” Ephesians 4:4-6

- **In non-essential beliefs — we have liberty.**

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” Romans 14:1,4,12,22

- **In all our beliefs — we show charity.**

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

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

1. ABOUT GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1,26, 27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19;
1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

2. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

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

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

3. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

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

4. ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

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

5. ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

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

6. ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

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

7. ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot “lose” it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

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

8. ABOUT ETERNITY

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18;
Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9

OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

What We Practice

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

BIBLE AS OUR SOLE AUTHORITY

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right.”

2 Timothy 3:15

Since God’s Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is “What does the Bible say?” We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

AUTONOMY OF EACH LOCAL CHURCH

“Christ is the head of His Body, the church. He is the source of the Body’s life...” Colossians 1:18 (GN)

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control. In relating to our “daughter churches” that we sponsor, we encourage each congregation to determine its own strategy, structure, and style.

PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER

“Christ loves us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God...” Revelation 1:6 (GN) *“You are...the King’s priests...God’s own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God.”* 1 Peter 2:9 (GN)

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer Bible reading.

TITHING

“A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Leviticus 26:30

At FBCL we practice tithing for the support of Christ’s body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving.

IMMERSION

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

We practice baptism by immersion under water — the way Jesus was baptized, and the way the Bible commands.

SPIRIT-LED LIVING

(Jesus said), “I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God’s power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God’s Spirit to enable us to do what is right.
(Philippians 2:13, Ephesians 5:18)

TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those with whom God brings us into contact. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

Session Three

The FBCL Strategy

(Paul) “I have been all things to all sorts of people that by every possible means I might win some to God. I do all of this for the sake of the Good News.”

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (Ph)

HISTORY OF FBCL

First Baptist Church of Lakewood was originally organized under the name of First Baptist Church of Lake City on July 25, 1952. C. H. Green, area missionary for the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington, led in the establishment of the church. There were fifteen charter members. The Rev. Austin Lovin was sent by the convention to act as supply pastor and was later called and became the first pastor of the church on September 7, 1952.

Worship services were conducted for several months in a rented store building on Veterans Drive. After much prayer, a lot was purchased and ground broken in February 1953. The men of the church constructed a building thirty by sixty feet in just two months. It was soon evident that this would not be adequate, so a second unit was completed in August 1954. In June 1955 a parsonage was purchased and additional worship space added.

After a thorough study, it was found that the church's growth had been limited because of inadequate space, so the church voted to find a new location in order to serve the total needs of the community. The new location, near Clover Park High School, was selected in 1962 and the name was changed to First Baptist Church of Lakewood. The church grew and the new building was soon filled to capacity. In the fall of 1964, dual morning worship services were instituted. The summer of 1966 saw the church enter into a capital funds drive to provide a fellowship hall and six new departments. Construction began in August of 1967 and was occupied on January 7, 1968.

The First Baptist Church of Lakewood has had a vital part in the development of other churches in the area. Trinity Baptist Church of Lakewood and South Hill Baptist Church of Puyallup are both results of direct mission efforts by the Lakewood congregation. Trinity Baptist Church was started in January of 1967 in a Grange Hall.

In 1975, a new area mission ministry was opened to First Baptist Church through a language work. In cooperation with the Home Mission Board, First Baptist Church of Lakewood's ministries to the Korean and Japanese populations experienced phenomenal growth beginning in 1977. Out of this effort the Korean Baptist Church of Tacoma was formed in 1986. Today this church is one of the largest Korean Baptist Churches in the United States.

In 1985 the church voted to purchase 15 acres from the Clover Park School District adjacent to the church with the dream of one day building a regional church

In 1995 Lakewood incorporated as a City and soon thereafter began a comprehensive plan for the urban center of the city. That included looking at possible sites for the development of a new City Hall. The property the church owned was one of a number of possibilities. However, after conducting a study of the future needs of the church, FBC told the city they were not interested in selling more than five of the fifteen acres. In 1999 the church voted to sell 5 acres of this land for the development of a Senior Adult Retirement Facility. Under the leadership of the church, 168 senior apartment units were erected and from that sale funds were used to prepare the property for future construction. As the church continued to grow the church began preparations for a future relocation to the new property.

During this same time (July 1999) First Baptist Church of Lakewood sponsored a new church plant in Puyallup called High Pointe Community Church. This new church became one of the fastest growing churches in the North West and is currently running over 800 in regular attendance. In December of 2001 FBC voted to sponsor another church start in Orting called River Chase Community Church. They are currently running over 200.

In July of 2002, the church celebrated its 50th anniversary with a ground breaking ceremony on the adjacent 10 acres. Due to sale complications of the existing property to Grace Slavic Baptist Church, actual construction didn't start until June of 2004.

First Baptist Church moved into its present building on February 20, 2005.

The real story of First Baptist Church of Lakewood is not really in buildings, preachers, figures, or programs but its people. From many races, five continents, and 50 states, its membership has formed into a fellowship of believers. At one time the church body had members of at least seven different races, and in one service there were people from 40 different states, and four continents. Through the military transfers, its members travel to all parts of the world. If any single church ever had the opportunity to literally carry out the great commission of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is First Baptist Church of Lakewood. God has given us the vision of influencing our community and our world for Christ.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

CHURCH: “We exist to exalt Jesus Christ by seeking, teaching, and caring for people in our church, community and world.”

DEACONS: A fellowship of servants dedicated to leading our church family in serving Jesus Christ through prayer, Bible study evangelism and ministry.

Sunday School: The purpose of Sunday School is to reach people for Jesus Christ and Church membership through life-changing Bible study and lead them to care, witness, fellowship and worship.

LAY Service: To provide an opportunity for our members to encourage this church family in the exercise and development of their spiritual gifts and talents.

F.B.C.L Orientation Class

Foster Relationships ... through fellowship with God and others.

Facilitate Spiritual Growth ... for myself and others through life changing Bible study that leads participants to fellowship with one another, care for one another, worship with others and witness to the world.

Further the Ministry ... of the church to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, and advance the Kingdom of God.

We want to... Glorify God, and enjoy the privilege of increased fellowship with Him and each other.

First Baptist Church of Lakewood



What are we about at FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKEWOOD? Our mission statement says; *"We exist to exalt Jesus Christ as Lord, by seeking, teaching and caring for the people in our church, community and world."*

Our emphasis is upon exalting Christ as **LORD**. Everything we do has this objective in mind. Whether it be seeking people to share the gospel with or simply teaching them the Word of God, it is all done with the intent of exalting the Lordship of Christ. In all this, we hope to be perceived by those around us as a caring church with ministries that meet the physical and spiritual needs of people around us.

We envision our future to be one of **IMPACT**. We want to impact our friends and neighbors with the good news of God's love and forgiveness. Through faith, commitment and excitement we hope to establish a new worship and educational facility on the ten acres we own between the Lakewood Police Department and Lakewood Meadows Senior Apartments.

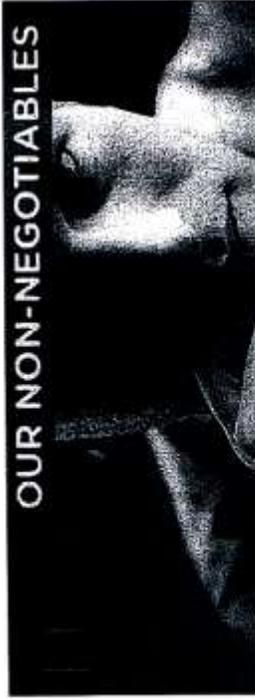
We want our church to be viewed by **OUR COMMUNITY** as a neighborhood ministry center, a resource for better living. A church that addresses not only spiritual issues of which peace with God is of the utmost importance but with physical and social issues as well. A church that ministers to the indigent, the forlorn, and all those seeking assistance and willing to let our church family help. We view this as a platform for the gospel, a valid vehicle for a Christ-like ministry in a world inwardly crying for help.

Please pray that God **THROUGH US** will make a difference in our world. Our world has rarely seen what God can do through the prayers, the dreams, and the ministry, of those truly committed to Him. Pray that our vision for tomorrow will come true and gloriously manifest our love **FOR CHRIST** and the people created in His image. We hope and pray that you too, will become a part of this exciting vision.

the love of Christ freely. Be a church that is as diverse as the community we serve.

Have a facility which reflects our love of God and is attractive to those we are trying to reach. Have a church with programs that meets crucial human needs

Share the gospel with as many as we can. Help people physically and spiritually as they allow us. Be valued by our Community in a way that allows us to share



The Non-Negotiables of FBCL

1. The Scriptures

The totally true, divinely inspired revelation of God to man. Truth without any mixture of error.

2. God as Father, Son & Holy Spirit

Our God is one God who all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. Who reveals Himself to us in Jesus Christ the Son of God who was fully God and fully man and gave His life on the cross for our redemption. Who now dwells in us through the Holy Spirit of God, which inspires and illuminates those who seek to know Him and equips them for service.

3. Man, created in the image of God

Man is the special creation of God, made in God's own image, the crowning work of His creation. By his free choice man sinned and fell from his original state of innocence and became a transgressor of God's law in need of redemption. Christ died on the cross to redeem man, therefore, every person of every race is respect and Christian love.

4. Salvation through Christ by faith

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer.

5. The Church, the Body of Christ

The church is the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation. It is also the autonomous local congregation of baptized believers seeking to carry the gospel throughout the world.

6. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Both are symbolic acts of obedience to a crucified, buried and risen Savior. Baptism by immersion represents for the follower of Jesus Christ, the burial of the old life and the resurrection to walk in the new life in Christ. The Lord's Supper is a memorialization of the death of our redeemer and the anticipation of His second coming.

7. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and is a day of celebration.

8. Evangelism and Missions

The duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and every church!

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

3 Outcomes of Discipleship

The goal of discipleship is to guide believers to live a life that EXALTS Jesus Christ as Lord and to have...

GROW

A Biblical Worldview

Teach

How you see the world: you see the world through the lens of scripture, through the truth of God's Word.

GO

An Eternal Perspective

Seek

Live in light of eternity: you are more concerned about eternity than today. You understand the brevity of life and the judgment to come.

SERVE

A Functional Role in building Christ's body on earth

Care

A fully functioning follower of Jesus Christ: you are using your spiritual gifts to help build Christ's body on earth.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS

Church membership is both a privilege and a responsibility. The Church is the Body of Christ. He established it and purchased it with His own blood. (Matt. 16:18 and Acts 20:28) Each member is a responsible part of the Body, and is essential to its proper functioning (see 1Cor. 12:31). The church body is as necessary to the spiritual development of a member as a human family is to the healthy growth of an individual person.

As a member of the Family of Believers, each person is responsible for helping the Congregation to carry out its ministry and mission. In order to do this, members (especially those who have been Christians for a number of years) should endeavor to carry out the responsibilities listed below. These are simple guidelines lifted from the Bible, and are not meant to be legal requirements. Christ will hold members accountable for their failure to participate responsibility in the church's ministry and mission. (Luke 16:2 and Rom. 14:12)

1. To grow in Christ, through participating in the teaching and training programs of the Church. (Matt. 11:29; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Tim. 2:15 and 1 Tim. 4:7-8)
2. To engage in regular worship with the Body of Believers. (Heb. 10:25)
3. To discover one's abilities and gifts, and to appropriately use them in the service of Christ through His Church. (2 Tim. 1:6; 1 Cor. 15:58; James 1:22 and Rom. 12:4-8)
4. To be faithful in prayer. (Matt. 9:38; Eph. 6:16; Phil. 4:6 and 1 Thess. 5:17)
5. To minister in Christ's name to those in need. (Matt. 25:34-45; Gal. 6:10 and 1 Pet. 4:10)
6. To be faithful in witnessing of one's faith in Christ and of His work of redemption. (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19-20 and 2 Cor. 5:19-20)
7. To love fellow members, and to live in harmony and unity with them. (Matt. 5:23-24; Rom. 12:10,13, 16-18; John 13:35, 15:12 and 1 Pet. 1:22)
8. To engage in the regular study of God's Word. (2 Tim. 2:15, 3:16)
9. To be faithful in family responsibilities. (Prov. 22:6; Eph. 5:22, 25, 28, 6:1-4 and Col. 3:18-21)
10. To be cooperative with the Covenant Body in their effort to discover and follow God's will in Church actions. (Matt. 12:50) This means becoming responsibly involved in church business meetings.
11. To be regular and faithful in the financial support of the work of Christ through His Church. (1 Cor. 16:2; Matt. 23:23 and 2 Cor. 9:7)

12. To be supportive of church leaders by:
 - a. Encouraging, accepting, and seeking to understand them;
 - b. Participating in what they are trying to do;
 - c. Praying for them;
 - d. Communicating with them, and
 - e. By loving them. Hebrews 13:7, 17
13. To be a Christ like example to others. (Matt. 5:16; 1 Tim. 4:12 and 1 Pet. 2:21)
14. To strive to keep the commandments/words of Christ, including that of bearing good fruit. (John 15:4-12, 16 and Gal. 6:22-25)

A survey of First Families leaders revealed what they thought to be expectations of New Members, they are as follows:

- To participate in church worship and ministry
- To attend church programs, Sunday School and Discipleship
- To contribute regularly financially to our church mission and ministry
- To be Prayerful
- To read the Bible
- To participate in church fellowship
- To abide by church covenant
- To reach out to others for possible membership
- To attend New Members Class
- To ask questions.

PACE2X

Prepared And Committed, Equipped to Multiply.

OUR CHURCH'S ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE QUESTION

ARE WE ON PACE2Multiply

Matthew 28:19

PASTOR'S TYPICAL WEEK

{What does the Pastor Do?}

6:30am – Monday through Thursday arrive at the office and have a quiet time, which may involve a devotional time, Bible reading, **reflection on Sunday Services/Events**, review any notes from Sunday.

MONDAY – Check calendar and daily schedule and make needed adjustments. Schedule follow-up activities as required from Sunday interactions with membership. Schedule hospital visits as needed for the week. Sign guest letters, Address any staff and/or facility needs, etc. Prepare for Staff Meeting at 1:00pm. Begin to work on next S.S. Lesson. Consider a theme or topics for Sunday and begin to gather material for meditation and general reflection. Schedule visits to coincide with Monday Evening Outreach when possible or email prospects.

TUESDAY – Administrative details, filing, organizational details, correspondence, continue to work on sermon material and begin to address Wednesday Night Bible Study material. Try to be present to greet those attending Men's Precept Class @6:30 and those attending "Grief Share" class @6:30 and those who are here for Korean Bible Study Class.
{Will schedule appointments for spiritual counseling or premarital consultations as needed on Monday and Tuesday evenings}.

WEDNESDAY – Prepare outline for Sunday's sermon for bulletin insert. Prepare for evening Bible study.

THURSDAY – Staff breakfast, Sermon prep. (Includes preparing supplementary material, i.e. Power Point, video, etc). Do not disturb day!

FRIDAY – *(Scheduled day off)*

SATURDAY – *(Scheduled day off)*

Days off are often... catch up days for things that did not get done thru the week, as a result of unscheduled events and unavoidable interruptions that occur during the week. Often Saturdays are the only time I can visit members in their homes. Monthly Deacon's breakfast, first Saturday of every month. Most weddings, funerals, birthday celebrations and other events occur on Saturday's and many require some level of participation.

SUNDAY – Arrive at church at 6:30 a.m. Preach at 9:30 a.m. service, 11:05 a.m. service and teach a 6:00pm Discipleship Class. Attend Watchman Prayer as available, usually the first Sunday of each month.

OTHER - commitments outside of daily church ministry responsibilities: Once a month prepare as necessary for Church Council meetings. Teach one segment of FBCL 101 class once a quarter. Third Wednesday of each month attend and lead local South End Pastor's breakfast (*South Zone Moderator*). Once a month meet with local community pastors for fellowship and prayer.

As a member of the Puget Sound Baptist Association, I serve on the Executive Board and attend meetings as scheduled. Attend Community events/ functions as requested.

Minister of Education's Typical Week

7:30 AM – Monday – Thursday arrive at the office have quiet time and Bible study time.

Monday – Collect the attendance numbers, collect Sunday School records, and Discipleship Attendance sheet. Review each Sunday School Attendance record and make any corrections into CCB (Church Community Builder - Church software). Complete the Sunday Stat Sheet for Staff Meeting. Update the Upcoming Services sheet for Staff Meeting. Review all Connect Cards for those requesting visits, those inquiring about opportunities to serve, etc. Participate in Staff Meeting from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Read and return emails. Participate in Outreach on Monday Night (phone calls, or home visits).

Tuesday - Study the Sunday School lesson and work on supplemental material for Sunday School Teacher. Send a weekly email to Sunday School Teachers with upcoming events and information. Update CCB with results from Monday Night Outreach.

Wednesday - Contact Sunday School members who have been absent for a week or two. Call others church members who have missed church and check on them.

Thursday – Staff Breakfast. Update CCB and send reminder invitations to previous weeks guest. Write hand-written letters to new church members. Prepare announcement slides for Sunday morning. Send Scripture reading to the readers for Sunday morning. Review Discipleship lesson for Sunday evening.

Friday – (Scheduled day off) Attend activities as requested.

Saturday – (scheduled day off) Attend activities as requested and set up coffee pots for Sunday morning fellowship time.

Sunday – Arrive at church no later than 730 am. Start coffee pots and setup for Fellowship Time, check to ensure Sunday School teachers are in place at both hours. Do the welcome and introduction of D.O.W. in both a.m. services and provide closing announcements. Teach a 6:00 pm Discipleship Class. Attend Watchman Prayer as available, usually the third Sunday of each month.

Other – commitments outside of daily church ministry responsibilities: Make hospital visits as needed. Review new additions and drop request for Sunday School. Follow up with community groups who have requested use of our facility. Attend memorial services.

Once A Month - Attend Deacons meeting, prepare for Church Council meetings, prepare for Adult Sunday School Teachers meeting, teach one segment of FBCL 101 Class, attend local South Sound Pastor's breakfast, meet with a NWBC staff member for lunch and accountability, meet with church Preschool Director.

Youth Pastor & Facilities Directors Typical Week

9 am – Monday through Thursday arrive at the office and have prayer and devotion time. Check youth rosters and schedule needed phone calls and/or visits. Check and respond to emails and check daily calendar needs. Review any facility/property and grounds needs.

Monday – Review weekly schedule. Prepare for 1 pm Staff Meeting.

Tuesday – Prepare for Wednesday Youth Reaching Others for Christ (R.O.C.) night. Perform facility needs as required.

Wednesday – Begin setup up for Wednesday night activities and Youth R.O.C. Review and prepare material for Sunday evening Youth Discipleship class.

Thursday – Staff Breakfast @ 7:30 – 9:00 am. Setup Youth And Community Center (YACC) for youth Sunday School. Review and complete the Sunday School lesson for Sunday morning.

Friday – Scheduled Day Off. Attend activities as requested.

Saturday – Scheduled Day Off. Attend activities as requested. Supervise Youth setup team preparing the church for Sunday morning.

Days off are often – catch up days for things that did not get done during the week as a result of unscheduled events and unavoidable interruptions. Most weddings, funerals, conferences, and events occur on Friday's and Saturday's that require my participation.

Sunday – 8 am arrive at church. Unlock and prep the church and YACC for members and guests who will be arriving. Greet Youth @ the YACC for Sunday School. Lead Youth Department time, complete attendance rosters, teach a Sunday School class when needed. Complete the handoff of the YACC building to Wellspring Church who uses the building at 11 am. Attend the 11:05 am worship service. Ensure the church is secured after all morning services. Arrive back at church at 5 pm to unlock and prepare the building for use. Prep room and teach Youth Discipleship class. Ensure the building is secured before leaving. Attend Watchman Prayer as available, usually the second Sunday of each month.

Other – commitments outside of daily church ministry responsibilities: Make hospital visits as needed. Follow up with community groups who have requested use of our facility. Vehicle maintenance as required. Men's Bible Study Group (2nd & 4th Tuesday). Prepare for youth camps (winter & summer). Decorate the church/put up outdoor banners for special occasions (Easter, 4th of July, Christmas etc.). Plan and coordinate the church spring clean-up. Plan Senior Recognition Sunday for those graduating. Plan other youth activities (Messy Games Night, See You At The Pole, Youth lock ins, Youth Christmas party, special youth outreach events, etc.). Teach one segment of FBCL 101 Class quarterly.

Once A Month – Conduct Youth Teachers Meeting, prepare for, and attend Church Council, prepare for, and attend Youth Game Night at the YACC.

Typical Week of a Deacon

Sunday	
Worship Service	- 2 Hrs
Sunday School	- 2 Hrs
Discipleship	- 1 Hr.
Prayer for Pastor	
Watchman	<u>- 1 Hr.</u>
Total Hours on Sunday	6 Hours
Monday – Outreach	- .5 Hrs.
Tuesday	- 0 Hrs
Wednesday - Bible Study	- 2 Hrs
Thursday	- 0 Hrs
Friday	- 0 Hrs
Saturday	- 0 Hrs
Total Hours in one week	8.5 Hours

Typical Week for the Deacon of the Week (DOW)

Two to three times a year

Sunday

9:00 AM Prayer for the Pastor
Opening Prayer 1st and 2nd service
Watchman (Generally 8:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.)

Monday

Outreach (6:30 P.M.)

Wednesday

Bible Study (7:00 P.M.)

Saturday

Notify the next DOW

Throughout the week when Church members are admitted to the hospital
Make hospital visits.

Other Deacon Activities

Lord's Supper – 6 times a year (1st Sunday of even months)

Baptisms - Occasionally

Patria Visits

1 time a year – Home visit

1 time a month – make contact

Monthly Deacon Meeting – 12 times a year, typically first Saturday of each month

Annual Retreat – three days (August)

Widows Banquet – 1 time a year (May)

Deacons Picnic – 1 time a year (July)

Deacons Christmas Party – 1 time a year

Session Four

The FBCL Structure

*“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...
Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”*

1 Corinthians 14:33,40

Session Four – The FBCL Structure

The Basis for this Class

- “you are a member of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian” (Eph. 2:19 LB)

Key Truths

The Church IS A – FELLOWSHIP

- The top priority is a fellowship in HARMONY and UNITY.

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

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

- ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Colossian 3:15; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:14; Proverbs 17:14; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:27, 2:1-3; Colossians 2:2; Philippians 4:2; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 Corinthians 14:33; John 13:34-35; 2 Timothy 2:23; Romans 15:5-6; Romans 12:16-18; Colossians 3:13-14; Psalm 133:1

The Church IS A FAMILY

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

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

- So, we operate on the basis of RELATIONSHIP not RULES

“Don’t reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a father. Treat the young men as brothers, and the older women as mothers. Treat the younger women as sisters...”

(1 Timothy 5:1-2 Phillips)

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

- God expects me to a member of a CHURCH FAMILY
- A Christian without a church family is either an ORPHAN/A TARGET

Tell the story of the scene from Braveheart with the shields

THE CHURCH IS A BODY

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

We are a body – not a business

We are an organism – not an organization!

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

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

God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up... (Eph. 4:11-12)

OUR STRUCTURE

- **The people are the MINISTERS**
- **The pastors are the ADMINISTERS**

THE CHURCH IS A FLOCK (Jesus’ favorite description of the church)

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

Therefore, it is cared for and led by Shepherds

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

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leaders:

- Poimen – Pastor or shepherd
- Presbuteros – Elder
- Episcopos – Bishop or Overseer

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

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

See also Titus 1:5-7, 1 Timothy 5:17

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

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

The nature of the church determines its structure.

OUR AFFILIATION

When FBCL church began, three groups of churches gave our church financial support to help us get started:

- **The Puget Sound Baptist Association**
 - 186 Churches make up the PSBA that comes together and works together to reach the Puget Sound region
 - 22 different language groups
 - 1 Deaf Church
- **The Northwest Baptist Convention**
 - Over 500 churches that make up the NWBC from Washington, Oregon, and Northern Idaho that come together with the goal of evangelizing these areas.
- **The Southern Baptist Convention**
 - Over 42,500 churches that cooperate together in a world-wide effort of missions to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

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

What is the Southern Baptist Convention?

- It is the largest association of Christian churches in America
 - One out of every 10 churches in America is affiliated with the SBC (42, 000 churches with 15 million members) more than most other denominations combined.
- It is the most diverse association of churches
 - SBC churches include every race, nationality, and ethnic group. Each Sunday, services are held in over 80 languages in the U.S.
- It is one of the fastest growing groups
 - SBC Baptized over 1,000 people a month in the United States and begins 5 new churches a day.

Why Not Just Be an Independent Church?

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

- Every SBC church chooses its own pastor
- Every SBC church owns its own buildings and assets
- Every SBC church determines its own programs

What Are The Advantages Of Affiliating With The SBC?

- It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made “creed”. The Bible is our only authority!
- It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. Through the SBC Cooperative Program, we help support over 3,500 missionaries in 153 countries around the world.
- There are currently 5,000+ missionaries that serve in North America.

How Do We Support Our Missionaries?

We have three major offerings which help support our missionaries in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ locally, nationally, and internationally:

- ***The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO)*** – This offering supports our missionaries in North America and is taken up during the four-weeks leading up to Easter Sunday. Named in honor of Annie Armstrong, a passionate advocate of missions who lived 1850-1938, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® is the primary funding channel for Southern Baptist mission work in the United States, Canada and their territories. A special offering which churches historically collect during the spring (though it can be collected at any time during the year), all funds (100%) go to the support of North American missionaries and their work, primarily as salaries and ministry resources. Each penny given represents the trust that Southern Baptists place in our missionary force, and our missionaries are excellent stewards of these funds
- ***Northwest Impact Offering***
- ***The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering***

What It Means To Be Member

The Difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word:

COMMITMENT

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

- **A Biblical Reason: Christ Is Committed to the Church**
 - *“Christ loved the church, and He gave His life for it.” (Eph. 5:25)*
- **A Cultural Reason – It is an antidote to our society**
 - We live in a age where very few want to be committed to anything... a job... a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers”. Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.
- **A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted on.**
 - Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.
- **A Personal Reason: It Produces Spiritual Growth**
 - The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you’re not committed to any specific church family.

What is Expected of Me as a Member?

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Sunday's

- Sunday School/Small Group Bible Study – 9:30 & 10:45 am. There is a class for every age group at both hours. There is no Children's class at 10:45.
- Discipleship Classes – Different subjects are offered each cycle and start times vary from 5:30 – 6:00 pm and ends at 7:00 pm. There is a Discipleship class for the children and youth. Childcare is provided starting at 5:30 pm.

Monday's

- Japanese Ladies Bible Study – 9:30 – 11:00 am. This class meets the second and fourth Monday of the week.

Tuesday's

- Women's Bible Study – 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. There are various studies each cycle. Some of the authors are Beth Moore, Priscilla Shirer, Kay Arthur, etc. Most class last 6 – 8 weeks depending on the book of study.
- Women's Precept Study – 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. These studies cover different books of the Bible using the Precept method of studying. These studies last anywhere from four weeks to 47 weeks depending on the book of study.
- Men's Precept Bible Study – 6:30 – 8:30 pm. These studies cover different books of the Bible using the Precept method of studying. These studies last anywhere from four weeks to 47 weeks depending on the book of study.

Wednesday's

- AWANA Clubs – 6:45 – 8:15 pm. The club meets from September through mid-May each year. These are for classes are for children age 3 through 6th grade.
- Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study – 7:00 – 8:15 pm. The upcoming Sunday School lesson is taught by Pastor Walt or Phil. This class is for our teachers and those who aren't available to attend Sunday School due to work schedules or other responsibilities.
- Youth ROC (Reaching Others for Christ) – 7:00 – 8:15 pm @ The Youth and Community Center (YACC). Topical subjects of current relevance are explored through the Word of God and discussed. The Youth are challenged to be a difference in their schools and communities.

Thursday's

- Women's Precept Study – 6:00 – 8:00 pm. These studies cover different books of the Bible using the Precept method of studying. These studies last anywhere from four weeks to 47 weeks depending on the book of study.