

Apply SMART Goal Principle

SMART is an acronym that refers to Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Results-oriented, and Time-dated.

Slide (Start Here)

Study Objectives

- To better understand our purpose
- To see the same path to our future
- To know what we need to do
- To unite In our mission
- To get clear perspective in personal salvation and corporate agenda
- To facilitate personal and departmental “Action Plans” within corporate objective.

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Pre-Test – Let's talk...

Purpose – Why we exist.

Vision – How we see ourselves in the future.

Objectives – Smaller pieces of the puzzle to accomplish the vision.

Mission – What we will do to accomplish the objective.

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The Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20

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The Great Commandment – Matthew 22:37-40

Next Slide

Purpose = why we exist

Purpose - (1) The purpose of this congregation is to give visible form to that faith and fellowship to which God has called his people; **(2)** to acknowledge ourselves to be a local manifestation of the universal church through which Jesus Christ continues to minister to the world by his Holy Spirit;

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(3) to seek to fulfill this calling through corporate worship services, through a program of Christian nurture by which our members may be *built up in their faith and love*, through proclamation of the gospel by word and deed, and to minister to human needs in the name of Christ. ([1 Peter 2:5-12](#); [Matthew 28:18-20](#))

Next Slide is summary (within Number (3) above)

What we are to do:

- 1) As God's people we are to be examples, become mentors, and make friends of one another.
- 2) Informed membership and an understanding of our identity in Christ.

How we are to do it!

- 3) Function components:

1. Worship Services (Exaltation)
2. Christian Nurture (Edification)
3. Proclamation of the Gospel (Evangelism)
4. Minister to human needs (Elevation)

1. **Worship Services (Worship - Exaltation)** – Priorities (God First Promotions) and Attendance/consistency efforts. – The praise and exaltation of God. In this aspect of its activity, the church centers its attention upon who and what God is, not upon itself. It aims at appropriately expressing who and what God is, not at satisfying its own feelings. Although worship emphasizes God, it is also intended to benefit the worshipers ([Hebrews 10:24-25](#))

²⁴ And let us **consider one another** in order

to stir up love
and good works,

²⁵ **not forsaking** the assembling of ourselves together,

as *is* the manner of some,
but **exhorting** one another,

and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, an intelligent, spiritual and personal Being, the Creator, Preserver and Ruler of the universe, infinite in holiness and all other perfections to whom we owe the highest love, reverence and obedience. He is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.

God-Exalting Worship

John 4:23 - act of honor, praise, and reverence of deity

I. Old Testament association (John 4:20)

II. New Testament association (John 4:21)

III. Shifting styles of worship

A. The Key: **Engagement**

- B. Elements of Engagement (John 4:23; Isaiah 6:1-4, 5-7, Example)
1. God is seeking God-seekers – his gift to us is his heart, and he longs for us to receive it with joy.
 2. We need to cultivate his heart within us – as we long to “touch the hem of his garment,” he will fill us with himself.
 3. We must grow our collective heart for God as his people – drawn together in our worship as his body, the church of Jesus Christ.
 4. We are commissioned to share his heart with others –
 - A. Connecting with others who have traveled this journey before us,
 - B. Joining hands with one another today,
 - C. Passing on the torch to a new generation of God-seekers

IV. Practical Issues – “What is the chief end of man? To **glorify God** and **enjoy him forever.**”

- A. Leader – Pastor, worship leaders, other leaders (Blind can’t lead the blind)
1. Need to have a good understanding of what meaningful, God-exalting worship is.
 2. Need to know when and where to make suitable changes in service.
- B. ***Style*** – ***The way in which something is said, done, expressed, or performed.*** The following actions are associated with worship: kneeling (Psalm 95:6), bowing down (Psalm 95:6), Lifting hands (Psalm 141:2; 134; 63:4; 1 Tim. 2:8), standing before the Lord in awe (Psalm 4:4), Clapping hands (Psalm 47:1), playing instruments (Psalm 33:2; 92:3; 98:6; 144:9), shaking tambourines and playing percussion instruments (Psalm 150:4), dancing before the Lord (Psalm 150:4), lifting our heads and eyes (Psalm 3:3; Psalm 123:1), plus praying, praising, singing, and shouting for joy (Psalm 32:11; 47:6; 59:16; 66:8; 69:30; 98:1; 100:1-2; 132:9). ***Worship is a total exercise*** – we worship with our **regenerated spirits** (Romans 1:9), **renewed minds** (Phil. 2:3-5) and **revived emotions** (Romans 12:11-15). Intelligent worship is to present our whole bodies to God as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1), exercising ourselves unto godliness (1Tim. 4:7-8)
1. It’s important that churches today not suffer from unnecessary conflict over worship styles.
 2. It should reflect the style of:
 - A. The people
 - B. The leaders
 - C. The community
 - D. Most importantly, it should ***grow out of the manifestation of the Spirit of God*** in your midst.
 1. Take time to listen for God to reveal his intentions for the body in worship
 2. Ultimately leading you into a fuller expression of his style for you and the people in your care.
 3. Being ***committed to unity in the body of Christ*** means that you are open to experiencing different forms and styles of worship.
 4. ***God’s priority is not style, its substance.***

C. Substance

1. Elements in God-exalting worship – The goal is to **alter** our lives into submission of God’s will and plan (**activate**)
 - A. Prayer – adoration, praise, thanksgiving, confession, and petition
 - B. Reading the scripture
 - C. Preaching from God’s Word for instruction, guidance, encouragement, comfort, challenge, and rebuke
 - D. Baptism and communion
 - E. Singing songs and hymns that praise God and encourage believers
 - F. Affirmations of those truths we believe
 - G. Dedication to the service of God in our lives and throughout the world

1. Overlaid
 - A. Celebration – taking time to offer our praise to God for all that **He is**, all that **He has done** in creation, his Word, and all that **He means to us** today through his Son.
 - B. Continuity – entering into worship that reflects a thematic flow for the entire time you are gathered, attuned to his voice and ready to respond to his initiatives.
 - C. Confession of sin – coming clean individually and corporately before God through prayer, in brokenness and need for cleansing and forgiveness.
 - D. Communion with God – we commemorate our belonging to him through baptism and the Lord’s Supper.
 - E. Community – being united as one in him, the body of Christ relates in a new way with one another, expressing compassionated, unconditional love freely and generously.
 - F. Consecration – choosing to serve him through the living out of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, rehearsed in and through the acts of worship.
 - G. Children – passing on from one generation to the next:
 1. The stories of our faith
 2. The expressions of our love for God
 3. The joy we have throughout this journey of life in Christ.

2. **Christian Nurture (Edification)** – Mutual up building by all the members of the body. There are several means by which members of the church are to be edified: fellowship, teaching, and preaching. [2 Timothy 2:15](#) i. e. Make Disciples.

We believe that Christianity is the religion of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is therefore a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. An adequate system of schools is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ’s people. The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is coordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches.

SSPB

- COPP
- December conference

Congress of Christian Education

- NBCCE
- CMBSC Congress
- Southwest District Congress

Lonoke Studies

- Sunday School
- SEED
- Mission
- Bible Study

3. Proclamation of the Gospel (Evangelism) – Inreach and Outreach Plans – The call to evangelize is a command. The attention is on non-Christians. [Matthew 28:19](#) {Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:}

We believe that it is the duty of every Christian man and woman, and the duty of every church of Christ to seek to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life. It is also expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods sanctioned by the gospel of Christ.

A. Inreach – Identify spiritual educational needs, develop curriculum, and activate inactive members.

B. Outreach – Corporate and personal targeting witness strategy

- Stages of Ministry -- Acts 2:7-47
- Pre-Evangelism – Warm them to Christ - Acts 2:7-8, 37
- Evangelism – Win them to Christ - Acts 2:38-40
- Assimilation – Win them to the church - Acts 2:41
- Spiritual Formation – Resource them to grow - Acts 2:42-43
- Ministry/Mission – Empower them to serve - Acts 2:44-47

The Evangelistic Process is a tripod:

Attracting outsiders

Connecting visitors

Integrating new members

“Outreach” means **proclaiming** Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, **persuading** people to become his disciples, and to become responsible members of a **local church**.

Proclaiming – workman that needeth not to be ashamed ... 2 Timothy 2:15

Persuading – by the foolishness of preaching we ... 1 Corinthians 1:21

Responsible members of a local church Luke 12:48

The SEVEN LAWS of Assimilation

Law #1 - Visitors represent 100% of Lonoke's growth potential – Matthew 22:2-10, 9

Exercise: What does Lonoke do that shows you believe Law #1

Law #2 - “Visitor Retention” is between 10 to 20 times more significant than “Visitor Volume”

Exercise: What does Lonoke do that shows you believe Law #2

Leading Growth Indicators

1. **Visitor Volume rate**
2. **Visitor Retention rate**
3. **Back Door rate**

Forecasting

“Leading Growth Indicators” can be used to predict the future growth or decline of a church

The Church Growth Calculator provides an ability to run what if scenarios

[Lonoke Church Growth Calculator](#)

(see powerpoint)

Defining Church Growth Obstacles

1. “Visitor Volume” problem – are they coming and how many?
2. “Visitor Retention” problem – how many are joining?
3. “Back Door” problem – how many members are leaving?

Solving Church Growth Obstacles = how to increase and decrease?

1. Low “Visitor Volume” = increase it!
2. Low “Visitor Retention” = increase it!

3. High “Back Door” = decrease it! – John 6:66-68

Law #3 - It Takes People to Reach People – John 1:41

Rule One – Involve **lay people**; they are more effective

Enables the guest to be more at ease

Rule Two – Put volunteers in **control** of their involvement

flexibility to serve at home, ability to accept or reject calls, and control the number of assignments.

Rule Three – Find the right **people** for the right **place** – Romans 12:3-8

have a wide spectrum of volunteers to match your visitor profiles; match involvement with spiritual gifts, experiences and passion.

Rule Four – Advertise for the right **core characteristics** 1 Corinthians 12:31

The core characteristic for assimilation team members is compassion

Law #4 - Set Expectations and Meet Them

Rule #1 – Be honest with your visitors about your intentions from your first contact with them.

Rule #2 - Set expectations that you are a caring church and then fulfill them with loving contacts. It works!

Law #5 - Be Proactive to Connect People – Luke 19:10; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Rule #1 - Without intentional effort, a church will become more and more focused inward on its congregants.

Rule #2 – It takes **intentional leadership to transform a church from a passive mindset to a proactive posture towards outsiders.**

The Passive-Inward focused church

The Proactive-Outward focused church

Law #6 - It Takes Time to Connect People – 2 Corinthians 8:10-12; 1 Thess 5:14; 2 Peter 1:5-8

Rule #1 – The research shows the more a visitor visits a church the greater the odds are that they will eventually become a part of that church.

Rule #2 – Churches will receive a far greater **return on investment** in 2nd and 3rd and subsequent visitors.

Rule #3 – **Protracted** follow up is essential to effective visitor assimilation.

Rule #4 – **Timing is Critical** Contact guests within 48 hours of their visit. – Proverbs 25:11; Eccl 3:1

- Visitor retention rates
- Initial Issues
- Integration Issues

Law #7 - Listen to Your Visitors – Proverbs 18:13

Rule #1 – It is impossible to **see** yourself in the same way that others **see** you.

Rule #2 – There is often a stark contrast between the way **outsiders** and **insiders** view the same church.

Rule #3 – Establish a reliable **feedback mechanism**.

4. Minister to human needs (Elevation - Social Concerns) – Benevolent help, corporate screening, individual contact, and personal assistance. – Responsibility to perform acts of Christian love and compassion for both believers and non-Christians. It is clear that Jesus cared about the problems of the needy and the suffering. [Matthew 25:40](#) {And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me.}.

We believe that every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ regnant in his own life and in human society; to oppose in the Spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness and vice; to provide for the orphaned, the aged, the helpless, and the sick; to seek to bring industry, government and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth and brotherly love; to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and his truth. All means and methods used in social service for the

amelioration of society and the establishment of righteousness among men must finally depend on the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus.

Pastoral Position on Financial and/or Resource Assistance

My position on benevolence is, more money will not solve a management problem anymore than teaching a person just to fish will give him the resources to fish with or to fish in. We should be very sensitive to the crisis needs of persons or families who have nowhere else to turn, in spite of precipitating circumstances. We seek to integrate money, advice, counseling, referrals, classes, or any other methods to direct individuals to self-sufficiency and long range planning. To give money without a primary concern for treating the root cause of the problem, will only assist in creating an underclass of emotional cripples who will never achieve balance in their lives. Many people don't like red tape or structure; and they are often offended because of it. However, it could be the encounter with rules and procedures that will help them to become "healthy" emotionally and/or financially (discipline is necessary for healthy living).

Budgets help people to recognize the need to increase income or decrease expenses, and they give a forecast of when something is affordable. I believe there are three "Abilities" we must concern ourselves with as good stewards of the Lord: responsibility, affordability, and accountability.

1 Timothy 5:3-16 (KJV)

³ Honour widows that are widows indeed.

⁴ But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.

Criteria for Consideration

⁵ Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God¹, and continueth in supplications and prayers² night and day.

⁶ But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.³

⁷ And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless.

⁸ But if any provide not for his own⁴, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

⁹ Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man⁵,

¹⁰ Well reported of for good works⁶; if she have brought up children⁷, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.⁸

¹¹ But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry⁹;

¹² Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.

¹³ And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

¹⁴ I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

¹⁵ For some are already turned aside after Satan.¹⁰

¹⁶ If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed¹¹.

Criteria for Consideration

¹ V. 5 - A believer in God

² V. 5 - Praying persons, private and public

³ V. 6 - Thrifty manager (not a waster of resources)

⁴ V. 8 - Family first principle

⁵ V. 9, 11 - Consider what other options they have

⁶ V. 10 - What have they done to contribute to Christianity

⁷ V. 10 - Does she take care of her children

⁸ V. 10 - What is her General service to others

⁹ V. 9, 11 - It's not wrong to refuse individuals when they have alternatives

¹⁰ V. 12-15 - Advice is often necessary (salvation is to be promoted)

¹¹ V. 16 - The churches are not a cure all for everybody, but strategically assist those who have nowhere else to turn.

Benevolent Guidelines

A Missions and Education Committee - This committee shall be called upon to assess the best way to intervene and assist those who have a financial crisis or need. This committee is expected to manage a very strict appropriation (tagged donation) account which is used for the purposes of: 1) the crisis needs of people and, 2) to improve the quality of community living. This appropriation shall be used to pay gas bills, water & light bills, rent, get food, medications, doctor bills, bus tickets, national disasters, etc. 3) The need to award scholarships and to advance educational projects will be determined by Education Department.

Rules for Missions and Education Financial Fund Assistance ([1 Timothy 5:4, 8, 16](#))

1. The information needed to give financial aide:
Name
Address
Phone
Amount
Purpose of financial aide (other sources must be considered in the determination)
2. The committee will make the final decision on aiding the individual or family (occasionally the committee will consult with the pastor for advice or direction).
3. Money will not be given to anyone unless their need is determined by at least three members of the committee.
4. The \$25.00 for a deceased member will remain the same (That is \$25 will only be given to the family if the deceased is a member of Lonoke). Revised, this amount of money will be applied to purchasing food for the church-sponsored dinner for the bereaved family.
SICK: Request made by sick members, family or friend will receive \$25.00 as a token benefit. Any need beyond this shall be subject to the rules of this assistance fund.
5. The committee will give to the church a written financial report (without specific names) of the aide that was given.
6. Before the aide is given the committee will check to see if said individual or family belongs to a church or have family members that will perhaps help if they know of the need.
7. If anyone comes to the committee seeking help (beyond the token benefits) for someone else, that request will be denied, unless the individual contact the committee so that all needed information can be given (with the exception of sickness or injury preventing the recipient from communicating).
8. Individuals or families will only be given an aide once per calendar year unless an extreme emergency occurs (in such cases, the pastor will be involved in the decision).

Rules for Co-Sponsoring a Benefit Program

All requested benefit programs, which will be co-sponsored by Lonoke, must be screened before approval is granted. The pastor will be in charge of screening this request and may choose to refer the request to the Missions and Education Committee.

The information required before a benefit program will be considered shall include but not be limited to:

1. The name of the person requesting the benefit and contact information
2. Who the benefit is for and all contact information related to this person
3. The Beneficiary's household information
4. Beneficiary's status of church membership and participation
5. Amount and date finance is needed
6. Other sources contributing to Beneficiary's need

Once the contributed amounts are deducted and the remaining need is determined, the option to pay this amount from our Financial Assistance Fund will be determined before joining individuals in soliciting the community for private individual or family financial need(s).

Next Slide

VISION = How we see ourselves in the future.

- **To live in a Christian Community and help other communities become the same.**
 - ✓ Governed by Christian principles.
 - ✓ Treated by Christian doctors.
 - ✓ Taught by Christian teachers.
 - ✓ Hired by Christian employers.
 - ✓ Purchase from Christian merchants.
 - ✓ Live among Christian neighbors.

Next Slide

The Path of Community Transformation

The seven pillars of society (Community)

1. Family
 - First Family (Adam and Eve)
 - Marriage
 - Parenting
 - Sibling relationships
2. Religion
 - Variety
 - 1st Amendment

Religious Freedom

I may not believe what you believe, but
I believe you have a right to believe it!

FIRST AMENDMENT – RELIGION AND EXPRESSION

Congress shall make no law respecting an *establishment of religion*, or *prohibiting the free exercise thereof*; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

- ✓ Madison's original proposal for a bill of rights provision concerning religion read: "The civil rights of none shall be abridged on account of religious belief or worship, nor shall any national religion be established, nor shall the full and equal rights of conscience be in any manner, or on any pretense, infringed."

Sovereignty of God - Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD The biblical teaching that God is the source of all creation and that all things come from and depend upon God (Ps. 24:1; Acts 17:23-29). Sovereignty means that God is in all and overall.

Supreme Court rulings

- ✓ Establishment Clause – Governmental endorsement of religion is out of bounds, even if it is not correct as a matter of history.
- ✓ Free Exercise Clause – The Free Exercise Clause "embraces two concepts--freedom to believe and freedom to act. The first is absolute, but in the nature of things, the second cannot be." Religiously grounded conduct is not always outside the protection of the free exercise clause. Instead, the Court began to balance the secular interest asserted by the government against the claim of religious liberty asserted by the person affected; only if the governmental interest was "compelling" and if no alternative forms of regulation would serve that interest was the claimant required to yield. Thus,

while freedom to engage in religious practices was not absolute, it was entitled to considerable protection.

- ✓ Government Neutrality in Religious Disputes. – It is now established that both religion clauses prevent governmental inquiry into religious doctrine in settling such disputes, and instead require courts simply to look to the decision-making body or process in the church and to give effect to whatever decision is officially and properly made.

3. Business
4. Arts and Entertainment
5. Education
6. Media
7. Government

Covering the 7 Pillars of Society for Community Transformation



In their study of human culture and human development, many sociologists and anthropologists have agreed that every society is made up of seven pillars: (1) religion, (2) family, (3) business, (4) education, (5) government, (6) arts, and (7) media. The latter five of business, education, government, arts and media make up what is called the “marketplace.” And the Great Commission that Jesus Christ gave is not only for us to preach in every geographical nation, but to engage the social order within that territory, especially that of the marketplace. To do that, the Church has to be relevant and contemporary to the cultural context God has planted it in.

Our Corporate Vision (Target) **Mature, Ministering Members**

Connected in carrying out the “Great Commission”

PASTOR’S VISION STATEMENT: To be a Church of fully DEVELOPED and DEDICATED DISCIPLES of Jesus Christ, connected in carrying out the “Great Commission”.

Planned Vision (1998)

In consideration of God’s will and special problems in the black community, the pastor, officers, and members of Lonoke believe that we are in a unique position to make things better:

- 1) By building a multiple purpose building to promote positive socialization and interaction in the family structure. We will use the traditional family member’s roles, recorded in the Holy Bible, as the base for assessing the foundational needs.
- 2) By promoting Christian cultural growth, community collaboration, and positive socialization in the community structure.
- 3) By having adequate space and equipment; we can intensify our efforts to make the will of God regnant in all aspects of society through social, educational, and recreational means.
 - Social Mingling
 - ✓ Age appropriate activity
 - ✓ Senior citizens daycare (planned social activities)
 - Educational (Sacred and Secular)
 - Recreational (games, live entertainment)

Through Christian social functions we will promote family friendly activities. Through positive and friendly relationships we hope to eradicate many suspicions brought on by cultural differences and classism. (1 Corinthians 13)

We believe that we are offering a tool of educating people of all ages by planning and implementing crowd attentive events to get the message of Jesus Christ to those who will not participate in the traditional methods of the church. These events will also strengthen those who do participate in traditional manners. (Hosea 4:6)

We will use recreational activities to promote stress reduction, health, and religious issues from the Christian perspective. We will also use recreation to promote conflict resolution techniques. We will promote teamwork in everyday life, friendly competition (good sportsmanship), good attitudes and the ability to respectfully disagree.

Following you will find the vision collaborated with space for ongoing ministries we originally planned:

1. Classrooms = 9 on the top floor to be built in the family life center
 - Ten classes were active at the time of Executive planning
 - Senior citizens and handicap individuals were to stay in the sanctuary
 - Vision – Grow the church through the Sunday School
 - 1) Ten people per class is ideal
 - 2) Classes are to grow unto 18 and 8 are to split off to a new class
 - ✓ We were to train a teacher and a secretary to take over each new class
 - ✓ Ten classes X ten people = 100 people
 - ✓ Twenty classes X ten people = 200 people
 - ✓ Number of classes and people were to double: 20 X 20 = 400
 - Additional classroom space when needed
 - 1) Youth Lounge
 - 2) Conference room
 - 3) Parlor
 - 4) Library
 - 5) Gym/Fellowship hall
 - 6) Stage platform

In the Church

 - 7) Sanctuary
 - 8) Selena White
 - 9) Window room
 - 10) Library
 - 11) Fellowship hall
 - 12) Choir room

Total: 9 + 12 = 21 classrooms
2. Youth Lounge (picture window facing the hall)
 - Vision was an – Entertainment Center Setting
 - Christian movies (snacks and popcorn)
 - Video games
 - Relaxing and socializing
3. Walking/Jogging Track
 - Safe and Comfortable indoor environment for exercise
4. Bathrooms equipped with showers
 - Showers after sports events
5. Conference Room
 - Required to be designated as an emergency shelter
 - Executive meetings
 - Special small group meetings
 - Classroom space when needed
6. Parlor
 - Small intimacy weddings/receptions (Living room feel)
 - Leaders lounge in long meetings
 - Classroom space when needed
7. Library – Cataloged books for checkout and tracing
 - Vision: Quite time study, homework, and tutoring
 - Develop a network of computers
 - Book clubs
 - Classroom space when needed
8. Kitchen and connecting pantry
 - Kitchen – Short of a commercial grade kitchen (insurance issue)
 - Pantry – Food stocked for the purposes of:
 - 1) Funerals
 - 2) Special events
 - 3) Emergencies
 - 4) Give a ways
9. Fellowship Hall/Gym/Theatre
 - Vision: Versatile events
 - 1) Fellowship Hall – Large fellowships
 - ✓ Banquets
 - ✓ Large group dining, etc.
 - 2) Gym – Indoor basketball, running, table games
 - 3) Theatre
 - ✓ Plays/skits
 - ✓ Open mic night (showcase talent)
 - ✓ Youth church
 - Storage of tables and chairs when used as a gym and/or play area
10. Nurse's Office – equipped with a bed and a toilet
 - Vision – To promote health issues of interest
 - Nursing level screening, test, and checks
11. Recreation Director's Office
12. Pastor's Office

1. To be effectively training converts into Christian beliefs, character, and behavior.
 - See CLS manual page 84
 - 2001 New Member's Orientation
 - Christian Beliefs
 - The Meaning of the Church
 - Early Christianity
 - Christian Nurture
 - Christian Stewardship
 - Foundation of Christian Ethics
 - 2023 Creative Ways of Teaching
 - See Department of Theology page 98
2. To be united in purpose and devoted to Christ.
 - 5002 – God's Pattern of Leadership
 - 5008 – Organizational Skills
 - 5018 – The Purpose and Program of the Church
 - 5019 – Strategic Planning: Analysis, Needs Assessment, Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan
 - 5020 – Planning for the Future: Building a Church Program for Tomorrow, Today
3. To have love, respect, and obedience to God which is dominating in our life styles.
 - SP0101 – Authentic Worship
 - SP0104 – Prayer and Praise
 - SP0106 – Transformation in Worship
4. To be speaking prophetically and to have our Lord's message influence community planning (and living).
 - Page 116 – 8028 - The Church's Response to Human Needs Through Community Action
 - 8029 – The Church's Ministry to Jails and Prisons
 - 8033 – The Church's Role in Labor Relations and Social/Political Justice
 - 8037 – Church and Society
 - 8040 – Administering the Family Ministry Program
 - 8041 – The Home and Church Working Together
 - 8042 – The Christian Home
 - 8055 – Being Christian, Single, and Happy
 - 8057 – Single Parenting
5. To have support groups helping one another through life's difficult experiences.
 - 8063 – Developing a Christian Counseling Ministry
 - 8064 – Divorce from a Biblical Perspective
 - 8065 – Ministering to Married Couples in the Local Church
 - 8066 – Developing an Effective Foster Care and Adoption Ministry
 - Ministering to the Families of the Deceased
6. To have members sacrificing to be available and are providing resources for effective ministries.
 - SP0091 – The Fundamentally-Sound Church
 - SP0093 – Cooperative Leadership
 - SP0094 – Holistic Ministry
 - SP0095 – Shaping the Ordinary for Service
 - SP0096 – Skills for Ministry
7. To be coordinating individual members, their skills, and their talent in committee work, which is glorifying God and leading others to a salvation experience.
 - SP0054 – Church Staff Development (page 63)
 - SP0061 – The Formation of a Leader
 - SP0063 – Leadership Strategies

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To achieve Corporate Vision each Member Goal:
Lonoke Sam is [The Ideal Member](#)

Member Goal: Lonoke Sam – “From Membership to Discipleship”

1. To be a born again Christian
 - John 3:5
 - 2Corinthians 5:17
 - Do all belong to God – Romans 8:9; John 3:5-7; John 8:41-44
 - Covenant Preamble – 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. (Predicate)
Christian Conversion - To lead each person to a genuine experience of the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ. (Luke 19:10; 2 Peter 3:9)
2. To be a devoted church member
 - Next Slide (Characteristics of an Ideal Church Member)
Church Membership - To guide each Christian into intelligent, active, and devoted membership in a New Testament Church. (Acts 2:47)

Next Slide

Some characteristics of an Ideal Church Member.

- I. CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE SAVED AND SURE OF IT
([John 1:11-13](#); [Eph 2:8, 9](#); [1 John 5:13](#)).
- II. The Biggest Problem With Christianity Today Is - the fact that churches all over America are filled with unregenerate church members. Paul challenged the church of Corinth to, Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? [2 Cor 13:5](#).

Switch the powerpower

The Power of Faith

Definition

FAITH – Trusting commitment of one person to another, particularly of a person to God. Faith is the central concept of Christianity. One may be called a Christian only if one has faith. Our English word "faith" comes from the Latin *fides*, as developed through the Old French words *fei* and *feid*. In Middle English (1150-1475) "faith" replaced a word that eventually evolved into "belief." "Faith" came to mean "loyalty to a person to whom one is bound by promise or duty." Faith was fidelity. "Belief" came to be distinguished from faith as an intellectual process having to do with the acceptance of a proposition. The verb form of "faith" dropped out of English usage toward the end of the sixteenth century.

Introduction

Throughout the Scriptures faith is the trustful human response to God's self-revelation via His words and His actions. God initiates the relationship between Himself and human beings. He expects people to trust Him; failure to trust Him was in essence the first sin (Gen. 3:1-7).

- Hebrews 11:1 – Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
 - Faith has a object – Ours is God (Who God is)
 - Substance is in what God has said Romans 10:1-3
 - The evidence is revealed in the trusting human response (Trusting commitment) – Faith without works is dead – James 2:18, 20, 26

- Heb. 11:4 – By Faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain (by faith he spoke after death)
- Heb. 11:7 – By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house;
- Heb. 11:22 – By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

1. The elements of faith.

a) The intellectual element.

Faith is not a blind leap into the dark. It has been erroneously called, “A step in the dark which leads to the light.” On the contrary, faith is walking in the light—the Light of God’s Word. Faith that is needed for salvation is based on the very best of evidence, the Bible, as the Word of God. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). We need to know the Gospel in order to believe on Christ as our Savior.

b) The emotional element.

This element is sometimes seen in the joy that accompanies the first realization of God’s goodness in providing for one’s needs. It is illustrated by Israel’s experience, as described in Psa 106:12, 24-25 : “Then believed they his words, they sang his praise.” Unfortunately, the emotion of joy soon passed, for in verses twenty-four and twenty-five we read: (Mk. 4:16, 17).

c) The voluntary element.

After knowing what God has promised, and after assenting to the truth of that promise, then faith reaches out and appropriates what is provided. Knowledge itself is not enough. A man may have the knowledge that Christ is Divine and yet reject Him as Savior. Knowledge affirms the reality of these things, but it neither accepts or rejects. Nor is assent enough. There is an assent of the mind which does not convey a surrender of the heart, and it is “with the heart man believeth unto righteousness” (Rom. 10:10). Real faith is in the realm of the will. It appropriates. It takes. Faith always has the idea of action in it. “Faith has legs.” It is the soul leaping up to embrace the promise. “And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform” (Rom. 4:21).

Thus, this phase of faith is comprised of two elements:

- 1) surrender of the heart to God and
- 2) the appropriation of Christ as Savior.

2. The importance of faith.

a) Salvation through faith.

Proclaimed by the following:

- 1) For by grace are ye saved through faith (Eph. 2:8).
- 2) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved (Mk. 16:16).
- 3) Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved (Acts 16:31).
- 4) As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name (Jn. 1:12).
- 5) To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness (Rom. 4:5).
- 6) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1).

b) The fullness of the Holy Spirit through faith.

“That we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Gal. 3:14). “This spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive” (Jn. 7:39)

c) Sanctification through faith.

“And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith” (Acts 15:9). “That they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me” (Acts 26:18).

d) Security through faith.

“Who are kept by the power of God through faith” (1 Pt. 1:5). “Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith” (Rom. 11:20). “Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith we stand” (2 Cor. 1:24).

e) Perfect peace through faith.

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee” (Is. 26:3). “We which have believed do enter into rest” (Heb. 4:3).

f) Healing through faith.

“And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up” (Jas. 5:14). “The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed” (Acts 14:9).

g) Victory over adversaries through faith.

The chief adversaries of the Christian may be summed up as: the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

h) The world overcome through faith.

“This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 Jn. 5:4).

i) The flesh overcome through faith.

“Reckon”—an act of faith—“ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:11).

j) The Devil overcome through faith.

(Eph. 6:6–16). (Lk. 22:31, 32).

k) The entire Christian life is lived through faith.

Four times in the Scripture we read: “The just shall live by faith” (Hk. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38).

People treat the church like a:

1. Club
2. Governmental Institution
3. Personal Corporation

I. CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE SAVED AND SURE OF IT

([John 1:11-13](#); [Eph 2:8, 9](#); [1 John 5:13](#)).

The Biggest Problem With Christianity Today Is - the fact that churches all over America are filled with unregenerate church members. Paul challenged the church of Corinth to, Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? [2 Cor 13:5](#).

II. CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE BAPTIZED BIBLICALLY ([Matthew 28:18-21](#); [Rom 6:1-7](#)).

Baptism Is A Picture Of Christ Death, Burial & Resurrection (Identification).

Baptism Is A Picture Of The New Birth (New Creation).

Baptism Is The First Step Of Obedience In The Christian Life (Submission).

Three Things Are Necessary For Scriptural Baptism.

1. Proper Candidate.
2. Proper Method.
3. Proper Authority.

III. CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD ATTEND THEIR CHURCH FAITHFULLY

([Acts 14:27](#); [Heb 10:25](#)).

http://www.cwtoday.org/article_view.asp?article_id=243

IV. CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE COOPERATIVE ([Acts 2:46](#), [Acts 4:32](#)).

We Are To Exhort, Build-Up And Encourage One Another ([1 Thess 4:1](#), [1 Thess 5:12-22](#)). [Heb 3:13](#) exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

We Should Never Be Guilty Of Causing Dissension Within God's Church ([2 Thess 3:11-15](#)).

V. CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE CONSISTENT ([2 Corinthians 6:14-18](#)).

One Of The Most Difficult Problems A Church Faces Is A Testimony Damaged By The Inconsistent Living Of Careless Church Members.

We Should Be Careful About Our - Associations, Activities, Music, Language, and Appearance.

- VI. CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE STUDENT'S OF THE BIBLE ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)).
- VII. CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER ([Luke 18:1](#)). Praying for souls, unity, missionaries, pastor, deacons, Sunday school teachers, etc.
- VIII. CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE GIVERS ([Malachi 3:7-11](#)).
- IX. CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE SPIRIT FILLED SOUL WINNER'S ([Acts 1:8](#); [Eph 5:18](#); [Gal 5:22-25](#)).
- X. CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE COMMITTED ([1 Cor 15:58](#)).

Member Goal: Lonoke Sam – “From Membership to Discipleship”

1. To be a born again Christian
 - John 3:5
 - 2Corinthians 5:17
 - Do all belong to God – Romans 8:9; John 3:5-7; John 8:41-44
 - Covenant Preamble – 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. (Predicate)
Christian Conversion - To lead each person to a genuine experience of the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ. (Luke 19:10; 2 Peter 3:9)
2. To be a devoted church member
 - Next Slide (Characteristics of an Ideal Church Member)
Church Membership - To guide each Christian into intelligent, active, and devoted membership in a New Testament Church. (Acts 2:47)

Next Slide

3. To be in constant worship (Closet and corporate)
 - Psalm 34:1-3
Christian Worship - To help each person make Christian Worship a vital and constant part of his expanding experience. (John 4:24)
4. To have mature Christian knowledge, understanding, and conviction
 - Matthew 28:20; 2Peter 3:18; 2Peter 1:5-8
Christian Knowledge and Conviction - To help each person grow toward mature Christian knowledge, understanding, and conviction. (2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 2:1-3)
5. To walk by Faith
 - 2Corinthians 5:7
Christian Attitude and Appreciations - To assist each person in developing such Christian attitudes and appreciations that he will have a Christian approach to all of life. (Romans 8:28)
6. To live like Christ
 - John 13:15; Romans 13:13
Christian Living - To guide each person in developing habits and skills which promote spiritual growth and in applying Christian standards of conduct in every area of life. (Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Peter 1:5-8)
7. To know my Purpose
 - 2Peter 1:3-10 (10)
Christian Service - To lead each person to invest his talents and skills in Christian service. (Matthew 25:24-30)

Corporate Objectives (Overlay Key)

-Victory through Jesus Christ-

Next Slide

Mission Statement

Mission = the end result of a task
Specific plans of action to accomplish the particular objective.

LONOKE'S MISSION STATEMENT: We present Jesus Christ as the absolute solution to sin. As His servants, we will provide services which will consistently meet the holistic need of people and God's expectation. ([Matthew 25:31-40](#))

Next Slide

THE MISSION STATEMENT FOCUS

An ideal church member defined

An ideal church member is defined as being a person who attends at least one corporate service a week, involved in at least one small group a week, and actively ministering to and/or serving others in some form (John 12:26; Matt 20:25-28; Matt 25:43-46); unless certain extenuating circumstances apply.

Message

Messenger

Ministry

1. "We present Jesus Christ" – The **Message** -- as the absolute solution to sin
 - John 1:29
 - Matthew 16:13-19
 - Mark 1:14-15
 - 1 John 1:9
 - Colossians 1:12-20
2. "As His servants" – The **Messengers** -- we will provide services
 - Matthew 20:26-28
 - Ephesians 4:11-14

Servant Leader

- 1 Peter 5:1-4
 - Acts 20:28-30
3. "Will provide services" – The **Ministries** -- which will consistently meet the holistic need of
 - 1) people and
 - a. A traditional list of immediate "basic needs" is
 - 1.[food](#)
 - 2.(including [water](#)),
 - 3.[shelter](#) and
 - 4.[clothing](#).
 - b. Many modern lists emphasize the minimum level of consumption of 'basic needs' of not just,
 1. food, water, clothing and shelter (Matthew 4:4)
 - 2.but also [sanitation](#),
 - 3.[education](#), and (salvation)
 - 4.[healthcare](#).
 - 5.Different agencies use different lists.
 - 2) God's expectation.
 - a. Matthew 25:31-40

- b. Do justly... Micah 6:8
- c. "Great Commission" Matthew 28:19-20
- d. "Great Commandment" Matthew 22:37-40

LEADERSHIP TOWARD THE VISION REQUIRES CERTAIN THINGS

- Coordination – the ability to move different parts of the body smoothly and at the same time.
 - Ephesians 2:18-22
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-6
- Participation – be involved; join in (an activity)
 - James 1:21-27
 - James 2:14
 - Ephesians 2:10
- Cooperation – willing to be of assistance; work together towards the same end.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- Brings Elevation – height above a given level.
 - Acts 2:44-47

<u>Corporate Objectives</u>	<u>Corporate Vision</u>	<u>Member Goal</u>
(Overlay Key)	<u>Mature, Ministering Members</u> Connected in carrying out the “Great Commission”	To achieve Corporate Vision each Member Goal: Lonoke Sam (The Ideal Member)
1. Christian Conversion - To lead each person to a genuine experience of the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ. (Luke 19:10; 2 Peter 3:9)	1. To be effectively training converts into Christian beliefs, character, and behavior.	1. As a born again Christian.
2. Church Membership - To guide each Christian into intelligent, active, and devoted membership in a New Testament Church. (Acts 2:47)	2. To be united in purpose and devoted to Christ.	2. To be a devoted church member.
3. Christian Worship - To help each person make Christian Worship a vital and constant part of his expanding experience. (John 4:24)	3. To have love, respect, and obedience to God which is dominating in our life styles.	3. To worship regularly.
4. Christian Knowledge and Conviction - To help each person grow toward mature Christian knowledge, understanding, and conviction. (2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 2:1-3)	4. To be speaking prophetically and to have our Lord’s message influence community planning. (Matthew 28:20; 2Peter 3:18; 2Peter 1:5-8)	4. To have mature Christian knowledge, understanding, and conviction. (Hebrews 5:12-6:2)
5. Christian Attitude (Romans 12:17-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:11-22) and Appreciations (Matthew 6:33; Mt 5:11, 12; Romans 8:28) - To assist each person in developing such Christian attitudes and appreciations that he will have a Christian approach to all of life.	5. To have support groups helping one another through life’s difficult experiences. (Galatians 6:2; Romans 15:1-2)	5. To walk by Faith. (2Corinthians 5:7)
6. Christian Living - To guide each person in developing habits and skills which promote spiritual growth and in applying Christian standards of conduct in every area of life. (Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Peter 1:5-8)	6. To have members sacrificing to be available and are providing resources (Lev 23:22; Acts 3:6) for effective ministries. (Romans 12:1)	6. To live like Christ. (John 13:15)
7. Christian Service - To lead each person to invest his talents and skills (Matthew 25:14-15) in Christian service. (Matthew 25:24-30)	7. To be coordinating individual members, their skills, and their talent in committee work, which is glorifying God and leading others to a salvation experience. (see Motto)	7. To know my Purpose.

Next Slides

Other Topics of Study (See PowerPoint)

1. Motto

Lonoke Motto:

Our motto is: **“One Mind, One Church, With Singleness of Heart ...”**

This motto combines three scriptures for one thought.

1. **One Mind** from *Philippians 2:5, 2:1-11* – **PURPOSE**

• **Romans 12:16, Proverbs 3:5-7**

1. Rom. 15:5; 2 Cor. 13:11; [Phil. 2:2; 4:2]; 1 Pet. 3:8
2. **Rom. 15. 5. 2 Cor. 13. 11. Phil. 2. 2, 3. 16, 4. 2 in the Gk. So; 1 Cor. 1. 10. 1 Pet. 3. 8.**
 - a. 1 Cor. 1:10-13 – speak the same thing
 - b. and *that* there be no divisions among you,
 - c. but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind
 - d. and in the same judgment.

• **Romans 14:1-19**

• **Romans 15:1-7**

1. 1 Cor. 9:22; 10:24, 33; 2 Cor. 13:9
- 2.

• **2 Corinthians 13:11; Romans 12:18-21**

• **How do we accomplish one mind? Philippians 2:5 = Think like Christ**

2. **One Church** from *Romans 12:5*, **VISION**

- 1 Corinthians 6:15-17
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 20
- Ephesians 4:4-6
- Colossians 3:15-17 – “*whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus” = Vision can be locally unique, however, it should never be apart from our **PURPOSE**. Therefore, **VISION** needs a process to fulfill purpose. With that in mind, it brings into focus, what our intentions (**OBJECTIVE**) are and what efforts will we make (**MISSION**); or what efforts are we making?
- Discipline, Matthew 5:29 – “pluck it out and cast *it* from you” = **PURPOSE** – remove the threat, salvage the person.
VISION – Unity
OBJECTIVE – Reconciliation
MISSION =
 1. Offence and removal – Matthew 18:15-17
 2. Overtaken in a fault – Galatians 6:1-2 – Aim at restoration!!!

3. **With Singleness (humbleness/simplicity) of Heart** from *Acts 2:46*. - The “simple” person is not merely disparaged in Proverbs; this Wisdom collection also recognizes that the untaught are able to draw lessons merely by observing the punishment of another (Proverbs 19:25; 21:11). The Psalms refer to the law of God as instruction for the simple (Ps. 19:7 [Matt 8]; Psalm 119:130) and note God’s protection of the simple (Psalm 116:6).

OBJECTIVES – Our objectives establishes our agenda.

- Acts 1:14
- Acts 3:1
- Luke 24:51-53
- Ephesians 6:5-8

The motto has a response to each phrase:

Leader: One Mind

Congregation: Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Leader: One Church

Congregation: So we, being many, are one body in Christ,

Leader: With Singleness of Heart

Appropriate responses from the **Congregation:**

Call to worship:

“Let us praise God”

Welcome to visitors:

“We welcome you”

“It’s better to have the hundreds working as one, rather than one doing the work of hundreds.”

2. Key Topics: WAEOFF

- [Worship](#)
- [Administration](#)
- Education
- Outreach
- Fellowship
- [Finance](#) -- [Promotion](#)

Administration

- **Congregational Government**

Two things are stressed in a congregational governed church:

1. **Autonomy** - No authority outside of the local church has any power over the local church.
2. **Democracy** - Democratic in their government; all the members of the local congregation make the decisions that guide and govern the church. This is particularly argued from the standpoint of the priesthood of all believers.

- **Autonomy**

Independent and self-governing. A congregational church is autonomous in that no authority outside of the local church has any power over the local church.

- Each local church is self-governing
- Calls its own pastor
- Determines its own budget
- Purchases and owns property independently of any outside authorities.

- **Autonomy Continued**

- A congregation may enter into cooperative affiliations (associations, conventions, conferences, etc.), but joining such groups are voluntary on the part of the local congregation. The relationship may be terminated whenever it chooses. The benefits are to:

- Display the visible unity of the universal church.
- Provide and promote Christian fellowship on a wider basis.
- Enable service and ministry in a more effective fashion.

- **Autonomy Continued**

- Associations or conventions may want to be informed of the actions of a local body and may have some guidelines and restrictions.
- Guidelines from these larger fellowship groups should be democratic in nature.
- Agreements entails assuming certain obligations and restrictions.
- Guidelines and restrictions are voluntarily assumed.
- Individual churches should not be compelled without opportunity to agree or disagree in a democratic process.

- **Democracy**

Democracy - Democratic in their government; all the members of the local congregation make the decisions that guide and govern the church. This is particularly argued from the standpoint of the priesthood of all believers.

- **Democracy Continued**

- Exercising lordship ([Luke 22:25-27](#); [Matthew 23:8](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#))

- There are some elements of representative democracy within congregational polity!
 - Certain persons are elected by a free choice of the members of the body to serve in special ways
 - Constitutions and bylaws delegate such representative authority.
 - They are not to exercise authority independently of or contrary to the wishes of the people.
- All major decisions are made by the church as a whole:
 - Calling a pastor
 - Purchase or sell of property
- **Biblical Support for Congregational Government**
- **Biblical Support for Congregational Government Continued**
- 4. Discipline was carried out by the entire church (1 Cor. 5:12; 2 Cor. 2:6-7; 2 Thess. 3:14);
- 5. All believers are responsible for correct doctrine by testing the spirits (1 John 4:1), which they are able to do since they have the anointing (1 John 2:20).

Outreach

An “Engaging Church” is ...

1. A church that has the highest priority for **making disciples**. ... continued in the apostles doctrine.
2. A church that is willing to meet and connect with unreached people **where they are**.
 - A. Unreached people
 - 1) Unsaved
 - 2) Unchurched
 - 3) Inactive Members
 - a. While our membership is above 200 the Attendance is often less than 100
 - b. Inactive members of other churches
 - 1) Connect them to Christ
 - 2) Advise them to work out their attendance with their membership church.
 - 3) Remember the goal is to get them in a Christian environment.
 - 4) Sick and Shut-in (Mission work)
 - B. Where are they?
 - 1) Streets
 - 2) Clubs (other entertainments)
 - 3) Distracted by others:
 - 4) Working
 - 5) Bed
 - a. Sick
 - b. Tired
 - c. Lazy
3. A church that prioritizes **relationships** rather than **programs**
 - Relationships
 - A. Leaders
 - B. Fellow Members
 - 1) Family
 - 2) Friends
 - 3) Associates

- 4) Foes
 - C. Visitors
 - D. The Lost
 - Programs
- Activity merely for entertainment

FELLOWSHIP The [bond](#) of common purpose and devotion that binds [Christians](#) together and to [Christ](#). “Fellowship” is the English translation of words from the [Hebrew](#) stem *hbr* and the Greek stem *koin-*.

Fellowship (“a common life together”) is essential for the church. In away, Fellowship involves being together, loving each other, and communing together. It includes listening to someone who has a concern, praying with someone who has a need, visiting someone in a hospital, sitting in a class or a Bible study, and even singing a hymn with someone you've never met. Fellowship also involves sharing prayer requests.

Do you open your life to others? Do you share your problems with others who also have problems so you can minister together? Be committed to fellowship!

1. The Hebrew *hbr* was used to express ideas such as
 - a. common or shared house ([Prov. 21:9](#)),
 - b. “binding” or “joining” ([Ex. 26:6](#); [Eccl. 9:4](#)),
 - c. companion ([Eccl. 4:10](#)), and even a wife as a companion ([Mal. 2:14](#)).
 - d. *Haber* was used for a member of a Pharisaic society. [Pharisees](#) tended to form very close associations with one another in
 - social,
 - religious, and
 - even business affairs.
 - A most important dimension in the [life](#) of these *heberim* was a sharing together in the study of [Scripture](#) and [law](#), and table fellowship.

3. Organizational Chart
4. Ministry Plan

SUSTAIN ITS DISCIPLINE

- I. What is the discipline of this Church?

Encouragement in what is right and discouragement in what is wrong.

 - A. The TEACHING and TRAINING that we get from God's word that helps us to develop character and self-control.
- II. Why SUSTAIN Discipline?
 - A. Disciplinary action helps to eliminate lost unregenerated members.

Proverbs 23:14
 - B. Reminder of the judgment of God. Mark 9:45-47
 - C. Will help all weak members to live better. 1 Timothy 5:20
 - D. Gains respect Matthew 5:16
 - E. God will bless a church that will keep herself clean, morally and doctrinally.

Ephesians 5:27

F. It will bring the whole church closer together. Philippians 3:15-16

G. We have given our word. James 4:13-15 III. Church's right to administer discipline.

AUTHORITY ----- Matthew 16:18-19, John 20:23

PROCEDURE ----- Matthew 18:15-18

EXAMPLE ----- 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

PERSONAL DECISION ---- Romans 12:1-2, John 3:5-7

NOTE:

The Scriptures plainly set out those offenses which are stumbling-blocks to the world and bad examples to others must be dealt with in order that God's church may be true to His law. Some of these are:

1. DISORDERLY WALKERS (2 Thessalonians 3:11)
2. IMMORAL CONDUCT (1 Corinthians 5:11)
3. STIRRING UP STRIFE (1 Corinthians 11:16)
4. UNRULY BEHAVIOUR (Matthew 18:18)
5. TEACHING FALSE DOCTRINE (Galatians 1:9; 2 John 10)
6. COVETOUS AND PENURIOUS (Ephesians 5:5; 1 Cor. 5:11)
7. ARROGANT AND DOMINEERING (3 John 9-10)
8. PROSECUTING BROTHERS--BEFORE UNBELIEVERS (1 Cor. 6:5-7)

RIGHTS OF AN ACCUSED MEMBER

1. He must be given every opportunity for vindication.
2. He is entitled to
 - (a) copies of the charges against him;
 - (b) names of accusers and witnesses;
 - (c) a chance to see them and hear their statements;
 - (d) opportunity to present his own witnesses and make his own statement to the church.

NOTE: No member under discipline can have the right to bring in any person as a witness, or advocate, who is not a member of the church; however, such a witness or advocate may appear before a committee appointed by the church.

3. He should be permitted to have copies of the church records of proceedings in his case.

DISCIPLINE IN A BAPTIST CHURCH

To be successful in operation, every organization must have rules and regulations by which the body is governed, and a church is no exception. Baptist churches have few laws but they must conform to them for they are simple and founded upon Divine law as laid down by Jesus Christ Himself. If neglected or allowed to be passed over the good order of the church suffers and in many cases, lawlessness and finally dissolution results. Loose discipline hurts churches more than great severity, and the only safe method is to keep out everything and to remove everything that may bring reproach, scandal or disgrace upon the 'household of faith.' When one becomes a member of a church he not only pledges it his support, but binds himself to be governed by the New Testament standards of life and principles.

The universal law of love comes first barring out suspicious jealousies, hatred and bitterness (John 13:34).

Law for the offended--confession: This law urges one who thinks his brother is offended with him to go to his brother and attempt a reconciliation. This is obligatory whether or not he may consider his brother has just cause for the grievance. He must seek to restore harmony without delay (Matthew 5:23,24).

The third law is for the guidance of the offended one--forgiveness: A continual, everlasting forgiveness is enjoyed when the injury is confessed and the offender expresses penitence. Cases might arise, however, where it is impossible to hold as favorable opinion of the moral worth of the transgressor as before hand, but this does not lessen the requirement to forgive him (Matthew 18:22). In cases where personal difficulties arise between members, the officers and other members are to strive to restore harmony, if possible, without bringing the case publicly before the church. If their efforts fail, the welfare of the church demands that the matter be taken before the church, even if the member who has been mistreated make no complaint. When a member brings a private grievance or injury to the attention of the church, after he has failed in his attempts to settle it, he must thereafter abide by the disposition which the church makes, not carrying it further and not complaining if their decision does not please him.

PREFERRING CHARGES

'Let all things be done decently and in order' (Titus 1:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-23; Ephesians 4:11-12).

Whenever a member has been charged with misconduct in the community, two or three members should with great tact and kindness go to the erring member to discuss his fault. The object of discipline being not so much punishment as to make the offender see his guilt and leave off the sin. In no case should the brother thus dealt with revile or breathe out threatenings against those who seek to maintain the good name and high standing of God's church. Above all other organizations the church should be just to condemn sin and have no fellowship with it. Unless the offender repents, we are plainly taught that he must be excluded and delivered over to the master he is serving, i.e., Satan (1 Corinthians 5:1-6). However, only that which is contrary to the Scriptures or that which has been specifically fixed by that church as an offense, can reasonably be brought before the church for discipline. No offense can be considered as just cause for excluding or withdrawing fellowship from a member, unless this offense is either contrary to the Scriptures, or would have prevented the offender from being admitted to the church, if this had existed at the time of his reception into the church.

The Scriptures plainly set out that offenses which are stumbling-blocks to the world and bad examples to others must be dealt with in order that God's church may be true to His law. Some of these are: 'DISORDERLY WALKERS' (2 Thessalonians 3:11); 'IMMORAL CONDUCT' (1 Corinthians 5:11); 'STIRRING UP STRIFE' (1 Corinthians 11:16); 'UNRULY BEHAVIOUR' (Matthew 18:18); 'TEACHING FALSE DOCTRINE' (Galatians 1:9; 2 John 10); 'COVETOUS AND PENURIOUS' (Ephesians 5:5; 1 Corinthians 5:11); 'ARROGANT AND DOMINEERING' (3 John 9-10); 'PROSECUTING BROTHERS--BEFORE UNBELIEVERS'(1 Corinthians 6:5-7).

RESTORATION

To be admitted again to fellowship, an excluded member must acknowledge the justice of his exclusion, and give evidence of his repentance by assurance of discontinuance of his offense, and, having thus vindicated the church's action may apply for restoration to membership. The church should always be willing and even anxious to forgive. A wholesome custom obtains in many churches of praying publicly for the excluded member that he may deeply and sincerely repent (Galatians 6:1).

One of the best ways of dealing with error in the church is for the pastor to preach in strong and no uncertain words against sin wherever and whenever found. Good judgment and mother wit will show that especially where the offense is repeated and where it is needed, a church should exercise its power of discipline,

notwithstanding. It may take time for the erring brother to regain the confidence of his fellow members, but he should be treated with kindness and restored to fellowship if he seems sincerely penitent.

DISCIPLINE In the Bible, discipline has a positive and essential place in the lives of God's people. God had prescribed a way of life for His people. They had to learn how to be obedient. The process by which God's people learned obedience was the "discipline of the Lord" (Deut. 11:2 NIV).

Discipline comes from a Latin word "disco" which means to learn or get to know, a direct kind of acquaintance with something or someone. Discipline refers to the process by which one learns a way of life. A disciple was like an apprentice who was learning a trade or craft from a master. Such learning required a relationship between the master who knew the way of life (discipline) and a learner (a disciple). Within this relationship, the master led a learner through a process (the discipline) until the learner could imitate or live like the master.

Discipline, biblically understood, results in blessing. God's people learn how to serve Him. Through praise and correction, their lives are shaped into a pattern of consistent obedience and love. Within "the discipline of the Lord," expressed in and through the Lord Jesus Christ, one can live the kind of life which is pleasing to God and of benefit to others.

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