



Baptist Church

New Member Manual

**WEST HUNTER STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
1040 RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY BOULEVARD, SW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30310**

Dr. Cedrick Von Jackson, Pastor

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Welcome Letter from Our Pastor

Dear New Church Family Member,

It gives us great pleasure that you have chosen to celebrate the grace of the Lord with us at the Historic West Hunter Street Baptist Church. Your presence in our congregation is truly a blessing, and we look forward to praying, celebrating, and coming together as a community in the presence of our Lord. As a caring congregation, we look forward to sharing God's love and blessings with you in the years to come. May your love and faith increase during your time with us.

We designed the following pages to help you become more acquainted with West Hunter, our mission, vision, and values. We believe that God has divinely equipped each member of the "Body" with unique gifts. Our prayer is that, through these sessions, you will discover your unique gifts and realize that West Hunter is a church where you can exercise those gifts freely.

You will hear this blessing frequently during your tenure at West Hunter, so I wanted to introduce it to you now:

"May you be blessed in the city; blessed in the field; blessed when you come and when you go. May everything you touch be blessed because God is the source of your strength and the strength of your life."

In the Master's Service,

Cedrick Von Jackson, Senior Pastor



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Mission

West Hunter Street Baptist Church is a mutually supportive Christian community whose purpose is the advancement of the kingdom of God through preaching the gospel, nurture in the values and teachings of the Christian faith, consistent Christian living, and daily ministry both in the world and in the church.

Vision

We are divinely empowered by the Holy Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to transform our churches, communities, and culture.

Articles of Faith (What We Believe)

- I. The Scriptures
- II. The True God
- III. The Fall of Man
- IV. The Way of Salvation
- V. Justification
- VI. The Freeness of Salvation
- VII. Regeneration
- VIII. Repentance and Faith
- IX. God's Purpose of Grace
- X. Sanctification
- XI. Perseverance of the Saints
- XII. The Law and Gospel
- XIII. A Gospel Church
- XIV. Baptism and the Lord's Supper
- XV. The Christian Sabbath
- XVI. Civil Government
- XVII. Righteous and Wicked
- XVIII. The World to Come

*Explanation of each article can be found on pages 14 – 16 of this document.

Joining the Church

When joining the church, you must publicly answer and accept the invitation to Christian discipleship (a public profession puts one on record before God, before others, and before one's own conscience).

There are 6 ways a person may be received into membership at West Hunter.



Becoming a Christian

After becoming a member of the local church, the following precepts should be understood:

- Membership to the church is an act of submission, commitment, and acceptance of responsibilities.
- Once one becomes a member of the church, he/she must embark on the Christian journey of following a way of life that is distinctively Christ-like. For example, members of the church should exemplify traits such as love, knowledge, patience, humility, and obedience.
- A member of the church must be willing to come under the spiritual leadership of pastor-shepherd and a body of believers who will hold one another accountable to each other's commitment to Christ and a Christian way of living.
- A member of the church must understand that church membership is a covenant where one is committed to fulfilling the call to service by being focused on the needs of others.

Accepting a Christian Way of Life

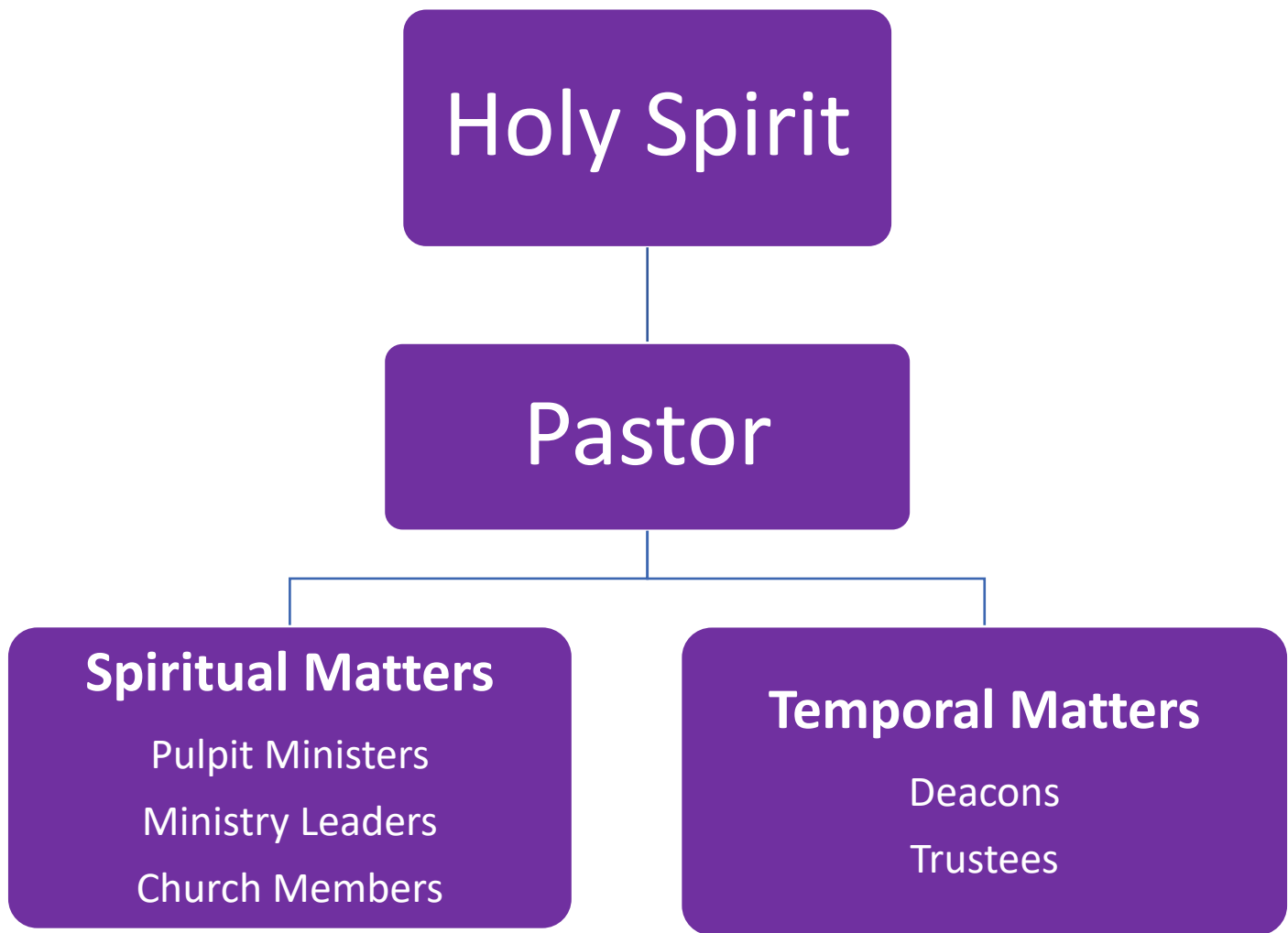
The Bible teaches that the Christian life is one of constant growth. When you were born again, you were born into God's family. It is God's purpose that you will grow into full stature and become mature in Christ. It would be against the law of God and nature if you were to remain a baby and thus become a spiritual dwarf. In 2 Peter 3:18, the Bible says that we are to grow. It implies steady development, constant enlargement, and increasing wisdom.

For one to grow properly certain practices/disciplines must be observed for good spiritual health. Here are 9 ways this is possible:

- Believe in salvation through Jesus Christ. By confessing our sins, God is merciful to forgive us. (Romans 10:5-17, 1 John 1:9)
- Pray regularly to strengthen your relationship with God. Matthew (6:5-15)
- Develop a habit of studying the word of God. (2 Timothy 2:15)
- Engage in fellowship with other believers of Jesus Christ. Spending time with like-minded individuals will strengthen our faith. It is important to attend church and Bible study groups in your area. (Hebrews 10:25)
- Have a strong will to stay away from temptations that may lead to sin. Anything that is against God's will is sin. (1 Corinthians 10:13, James 1:13-15, Hebrews 4:15, Ephesians 6:12)

- Share the love of God with others. True Christians are loving, kind, generous, and forgiving. (Luke 6:43-45, John 13:35)
- Resist from neglecting Christian commandments and adopting what the world considers right. (Exodus 20:2-17, Romans 12:2)
- Find ways that you can serve the society and spread the word of God. (Matthew 28:19)
- Do not be afraid to talk about your Christianity and the walk with Jesus Christ. (Mark 8:38, Luke 9:26)

Organizational Structure



Note: The Pastor and Deacons are the only officers referenced in the Bible.

*Should the church be in the midst of calling a new Pastor or the Pastor is unable to fulfill his or her duties for any reason, the Deacon Board along with Associate Ministers will be responsible for the pulpit.

Church Staff

Pastor

- Reverend Dr. Cedrick Von Jackson

Associate Ministers

- Reverend Gilda Parnell
- Reverend Harold Turner, Sr.
- Elder Ronald Williams
- Minister Helen Woods

Administrative Staff

- Sister Mary Kay Williams, Executive Assistant to the Pastor
- Sister Miriam R. Bowens, Administrative Support Specialist
- Trustee Clarence W. Williams, Church Administrator

Custodial Staff

- Brother Torrence Hooper
- Brother Ricky Veal

Security

- Brother Orlando Hardin

Ministries



Activities Ministry

Trustee Robert Cook
Rcook518@yahoo.com
Deacon Wayne Stokes
waystok@bellsouth.net

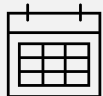
Boy Scout Troop/Pack
#221

Vacant

Girl Scout Troop
#12773

Dr. Clara Williams, Troop Leader
Claraw528@gmail.com
Dr. Jennifer Williams, Troop Leader
jennannwillia@gmail.com

Sister Iverria Henderson, President
ieh@bellsouth.net



Birth Month Council

January

Sister Dallas Campbell
dcampbell48@hotmail.com

February

Sister Toni Odom
antoniomodom@gmail.com

March

Sister Audrelyn Watkins
Miss_watkins@hotmail.com

April

Sister Fallon Stokes
fallonstokes@gmail.com

May

Sister Cynthia Parks
cynthiarenaeparks@gmail.com

June

TBD

July

Sister Bridget Bivens
Nicolebivins87@gmail.com

August

Sister Constance Parks
cdenayparks@att.net

September

Sister Anita Cook
acook95@yahoo.com

October

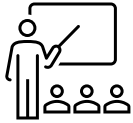
Sister Marilyn Beasley
mgb49@bellsouth.net

November

Sister Johnetta Hardy
bobbyhardy@bellsouth.net

December

Sister Claudia Stokes
claudiastokes@ymail.com



Christian Education Ministry

Trustee Angela Leach, Chairperson
Ableach08@hotmail.com

Christian Development

Sister Tiffany Stovall
tiffanycstovall@yahoo.com

Sister Audrelyn Watkins
miss_watkins@hotmail.com

New Members Ministry

Rev. Gilda Parnell
gildaparnell@bellsouth.net

Sunday School

Elder Ronald Williams,
Superintendent
Rtwilliams3@yahoo.com

Vacation Bible School

Sister Angela Hall
Angelas_hall@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry
JAM (Jesus and Me)
Ministry- Pre-K – 5th grades

Sister Robbi Nikkole Brown,
Director
theloft2016@gmail.com

The LOFT (Living Our Faith
and Truth) – 6th – 12th grades



Deacon Ministry

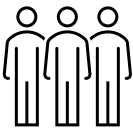
Deacon Steve Woodard,
Chairperson
swoodard40@gmail.com

Deaconess Ministry

Deaconess Hattie Worrill,
Chairperson

Fellowship of Christian Men

TBD



Fellowship of Christian Women

Sister Alva Jean Walker
Alva245jean@gmail.com



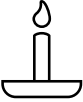


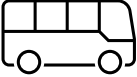
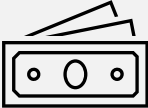

General Missionary Union

Sister Cynthia Parks, President
cynthiarenaeparks@gmail.com



Alice M. Olgetree Service
Guild

Sister Juliette McCrary

	Elnora T. Hammonds Missionary Circle	Dr. Clara Williams Claraw528@gmail.com
	Juanita Jones Abernathy Missionary Circle	Sister Althea Singletary altheasing@aol.com
	Lilla Sellers Missionary Circle	Sister Eleanor Harris eleharris@att.net
	Joy Missionary Circle	TBD
	Tempy Walker Missionary Circle	Sister Alva Jean Walker Alva245jean@gmail.com
	Rubie Mapp Missionary Circle	Sister Marjorie Pierre Mapierre1778@gmail.com
	Glowing Lights Seniors	Sister Miriam Bowens, Chairperson Mrbowens5@bellsouth.net
	Mothers Ministry	Sister Marynette Bolden, Chairperson
	Music Ministry	Brother Jarvis Wilson, Minister of Music jarviswilson@bellsouth.net
	Technology Ministry	TBD
	Transportation Ministry	TBD
	Trustee Ministry	Trustee Cheryl Lee, Acting Chairperson Cmlee0830@att.net
	Usher Ministry	Deacon Johnny Cowan, Chairperson johnny.cowan41@gmail.com

West Hunter Street Baptist Church Pastors



YEARS	PASTORS	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
1881-1902	1. Rev. Alex Allen	Named the church Mount Calvary Baptist Church and secured temporary quarters on Doray Street. Organized the first Deacon Board
	2. Rev. Joe Wilson	Served for 10 years. Led in building its first church home, a one room wooden structure on a hill on Doray Street.
	3. Rev. Matthew White	Renamed church Tabernacle Baptist Church
	4. Rev. L. R. Hall	Renamed church New Hope Baptist Church reflecting hope for continued growth and progress
	5. Rev. J. F. Dellinger 6. Rev. Clem Johnson 7. Rev. J. F. Kelsey	No documented specific accomplishments and service dates for these pastors
1902-1906	8. Rev. A. W. Bryant	Purchased land at 775 Hunter Street. Inspired members to change the name to West Hunter Street Baptist Church in anticipation of its move to the new location. Was the first church to donate \$50 to the Butler Street YMCA which encouraged other churches to support the YMCA.
1906-1917	9. Rev. Robert R. Smith	Membership increased and first church building was erected at a cost of \$18,000.00
1917-1919	10. Rev. J. A. Johnson 11. S. J. Wooden	No documented specific accomplishments and service dates for these pastors
1920-1930	12. Rev. W. F. Paschal	Outstanding debts were liquidated, former church building was remodeled and substantial improvements were made. Organized Senior Usher Board #1
1931-1935	13. Rev. J. R. Bowen	Membership tripled, the Willing Workers Club was organized and spiritual life of the church was greatly enhanced
1935-1948	14. Rev. Samuel Pettagru	Paid off lingering debt, burned the mortgage on the church building at 775 Hunter Street, left a building fund of \$9700.00 to build a final structure at the location. Organized the Finance Committee, Boy Scout Troop 194, Deaconess Board, Mother's Board and the Samuel Pettagru Club which changed to the Pastor's Aide Society after his departure.
1948-1960	15. Rev. Dr. A. Franklin Fisher	Dean of the National Baptist Sunday School and B.T.U. Congress. New church building was built at the Hunter Street location at a cost of \$87,000.00. Of the total cost, \$50,000.00 was paid in cash. Organized the A. Franklin Fisher Choir, reorganized Vacation Bible School, published the first church newspaper, The West Hunter Crusader . Organized Usher Board #4, Usher Board #2, Intermediate Choir for young people ages eleven to fifteen, Youth Choir, Children's Choir, Brownie Girl Scouts, Ward-Group System, the Altar Guild, Service Guild, Decorating Committee and Board of Christian Education.

YEARS	PASTORS	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
1961-1990	16. Rev. Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy	Nationally and Internationally known Civil Rights Leader. Organized the Courtesy Guild, Twelve Month Birth Month Council, appointed first Minister of Music, Mr. William Revere. Led church into the American Baptist Convention, organized American Baptist Men and the Baptist Youth Fellowship (B.Y.F.) Reactivated the Baptist Training Union, established the Annual Youth Retreat, instituted a weekly radio broadcast, inspired the Abernathy-Butts Gospel Choir and Sanctuary Choir. Organized the Male Chorus, appointed West Hunter's first Assistant to the Pastor. Added the first three women to the Board of Trustees, inaugurated The Messenger , a weekly news bulletin, appointed the first Lay Assistant to the Pastor, first female minister, and first female superintendent of the Sunday Church School. Acquired the present church facility for \$700,000.00 (appraised at \$3 million.) Appointed a bus committee to pick up members for church, initiated Sunday Morning Child Care, gym recreation program and led the publication of the first Pictorial Directory . Organized the Lilla Sellers, Rubie L. Mapp, Juanita Jones Abernathy and Elnora T. Hammonds Missionary Circles. Organized the Audio Visual Department, installed an Art Gallery of church Pastors and appointed a History Committee. Organized a Personnel Committee and Junior Deacon Board. Appointed a Budget Committee and secured a \$5 million plus grant to build the Ralph Davis Abernathy Tower. Burned the mortgage in 1985 and became a Charter Church in the Reaching Out to Senior Adults (ROSA) network.
1992-2003	17. Rev. Dr. T DeWitt Smith	Renovated the church edifice, organized a Health Care Ministry, Young Adult Choir, Greeters Ministry, the Fellowship of Christian Women and Christian Men Ministries, and a Facilities Use/Rental Committee. Instituted the New Messenger (a monthly publication), organized Children's Church, After Care, and Grief Care Ministries, and restructured the Youth Adult Department.
2005-2005	18. Rev. Louis R. Jones	Established Praise in Motion Dance Ministry and designed a website for the church.
2006-2020	19. Rev. Dr. Toussaint K. Hill, Jr.	Completed an independent audit system to defray all debts on the church and to help the church become a strong contributor in the community. Orchestrated the Southwest Ecumenical Emergency Assistance Center (SWEACC) to be housed at West Hunter. Initiated the STEM and Basketball Summer Camp programs, received a \$2 million Obama Green Retrofit Grant to renovate the Abernathy Tower and remodel the first floor of the church. Initiated Television and cable network companies to use the edifice of West Hunter for major filming projects. Retired the church mortgage.
2021-Present	20. Rev. Dr. Cedrick Von Jackson	Initiated the first off-campus Pop Up Church experience to bring the church and community together for worship and fellowship. Initiated Jazz and Spoken Word Fellowship, established Membership Recognition Sunday, organized Leadership Workshop, and more to come!

Church Covenant

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God 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, doctrines, and discipline; to give its sacred prominence over all institution of human origin; 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 personal devotions; 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 use our influence to combat the abuse of drugs and alcohol and the spread of pornography and other practices which lead to moral and spiritual decay; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian 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.

Articles of Faith

I. The Scriptures.

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

II. The True God.

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. The Fall of Man.

We believe the Scriptures teach that Man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgressions fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. The Way of Salvation.

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

V. Justification.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. The Freeness of Salvation.

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

VII. Regeneration.

We believe that the Scriptures teach that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith, and newness of life.

VIII. Repentance and Faith.

We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest and king, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

IX. God's Purpose of Grace.

We believe the Scriptures teach that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

X. Sanctification.

We believe the Scriptures teach that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

XI. Perseverance of the Saints.

We believe the Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XII. The Law and Gospel.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arise entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XIII. A Gospel Church.

We believe the Scriptures teach that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons whose Qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XIV. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe the Scriptures teach that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XV. The Christian Sabbath.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVI. Civil Government.

We believe the Scriptures teach that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth.

XVII. Righteous and Wicked.

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVIII. The World to Come.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

What Are Your Responsibilities?

Christian Responsibilities	What does that Mean?	Examples
Serve	Giving of your talent or ability to be used to do God's work. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Ministry • Missionary Circles • Technology Ministry 	
Learn	Gaining or acquiring knowledge about God in order that you may be better able to serve and grow. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School – Sunday at 9:30 AM • Bible Study – Wednesday at 7:00 PM 	
Give	Expressing thankfulness and praises to God by providing at least one tenth of all you receive to God. This sacred means of providing to the church allows you to have a part in enabling your church to have a saving outreach.	
Witness	Demonstrating with our words, actions and attitude what Jesus has done for the world with an emphasis on our personal experience.	
Pray	Conversing with God by talking and listening. Prayer is a communion of your spirit with God's spirit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intercessory Prayer - Monday and Thursday at 7:00 PM 	
Worship	Honoring or showing reverence for God by faithful attendance to worship services of your church. Faithful attendance allows the church to serve as a beacon of light for Jesus Christ within the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship Service – Sunday at 10:30 AM 	

