**Overview**

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

**Why We Exist as a Church**

The purpose of this church is derived from the final words of Jesus to His followers. These words are known as the Great Commission.

**The Great Commission:**

“He said unto them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever be­lieves and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe…’ Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.” *Mark 16:15-20*

This church exists to reach people with the life-giving message of Jesus that they might become fully devoted followers of Christ.

**Our Purpose. Our Process.**

This church’s Simple Church Structure (Church shouldn’t be like a visit to the DMV, it should be simple).

We have 4 Purposes; these values are the DNA of the church both spiritually and practically.

1. Experience God (Worship Services)
2. Connect with the Our Church (Connect Track)
3. Grow in the Word and Relationships (Small Groups)
4. Serve with Purpose (Ministry Teams)

**Experience God: (WORSHIP SERVICES)**

*“We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all energy, which so powerfully works in me.” Colossians 1:28-29*

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

 **Why are worship services important?**

 \_(Celebration)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *“I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord.” Psalm 122:1*

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

 \_(Inspiration)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *“But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in…he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, ‘God is really among you!’” 1 Corinthians 14:24-25*

 \_(Preparation)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” Ephesians 4:11-12*

 \_(Salvation)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

 **Connect with the Our Church: (MEMBERSHIP)**

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

 **Key Truths**

 1. The church is a \_(Spiritual Family)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.**

 2. God expects you to be a \_(Member)\_\_\_\_\_\_ of a church family.

 3. A Christian without a church family is an \_(Orphan)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.**

 **What It Means To Be a Member**

 The difference between "attendees" and "members" can be summed up in one word: \_(Commitment)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 An attendee is a \_(Consumer)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 A member is a \_(Contributor)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**At Our Church we recognize the need for a formal membership. We believe membership is important for 4 reasons:**

1. **A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church.**

 *"...Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it." Ephesians 5:25*

1. **A Cultural Reason: It is an antidote to our society.**

 We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of "church shoppers and hoppers". Membership swims against the current of America's "consumer religion." It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

1. **A Practical Reason: It defines on whom we can depend.**

 Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

1. **A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth.**

 The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family.

 **Grow in the Word and Relationships: (SMALL GROUPS)**

Community at Our Church is accomplished by participating in a Small Group. Some people enjoy a large church because of its focus on others, while some want a small, intimate church. One can hide in a room of 100 but a person must get real in a small group. Life-change only happens through relationships.

We believe that our church must become \_(Larger)\_\_ and \_(Smaller)\_\_\_ at the same time.

*“You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.” Acts 20:20*

 **Samll Groups Provide Three Things:**

 **A place to** \_\_(Connect)\_**.**

 *“…yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.” 1 Corinthians 9:22 LB*

 **A place to** \_\_\_(Protect)\_\_\_**.**

 *“We know what real love is because Christ gave up His life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters.”*

 *1 John 3:16 NLT*

 **A place to** \_(Grow)\_\_\_\_**.**

 *“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17*

 **Serve with Purpose: (MINISTRY TEAMS)~~:~~**

*“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” Ephesians 4:11-12*

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

*10”For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10*

All of us were created by God to make a difference in the life of another person. God has a place for you where your unique abilities and passions can touch the lives of others. We believe that your life will never make sense until you find, develop, and fulfill that purpose.

Using a 2 tiered plan, everyone at Our Church is able to serve in a place they are gifted for and passionate about!

Tier 1 Gifting

*“Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.”*

*1 Corinthians 12:1*

One of the most significant things that God continues to say is that ministry must be done *by all of us*, *not just a few select people*. This is done as people, just like you, begin to discover, develop, and express your God-given gifts.

The Ministry Gifts (Romans 12)

• Administration

• Giving

• Mercy

• Encouragement

• Teaching

• Helps/Service

• Prophecy

Tier 2 Passion

Our Church has placed all ministries at our church into 8 teams. Each one of these teams has a unique purpose and distinct responsibility. Which one are you passionate about?

• OUTREACH Team

• CONNECTIONS Team

• CREATIVE Team

• WORSHIP Team

• STUDENTS Team

• KIDS Team

• NURSERY & PRESCHOOL Team

• BUSINESS Team

What’s Your Next Step?

 Essentials – Your next step in the Twin Rivers Connect Track is Essentials. In the Essentials class, we will discuss what is means to be a disciple, provide some tools necessary to help in your journey, and examine some healthy habits we can develop to be closer to Christ. During this time, we will guide you through the essential beliefs every Christian needs to find success in their walk with Christ.