



Foundations Handbook

Name: _____

Date: _____

Prepared by
Pastor: Kurt W. Wallace

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From Our Hearts to Yours,

We believe everyone needs God's love regardless of ethnicity or cultural background. It is God's heart to draw us closer to Himself. God has a purpose and plan for each of our lives. He desires for us to live a life that is progressively maturing in a manner that is morally, ethically and spiritually pleasing to Him. FFC is committed to cooperating with God's eternal plan of seeing people set free by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. We further commit to equipping believers to daily expect and experience God's presence and power by means of worship, discipleship, biblical fellowship and life style evangelism. As we commit to this endeavor we expect to witness the Lord adding to the church daily those who are being saved. Matt. 28:19-20 & Acts 2:42-46, Gal. 5:1.

FFC is a fulfillment of the vision and mission of Pohick Bay Church to plant churches relationally, therefore, it is FFC's desire to mature and do likewise. We understand that our mission is to GO and to seek the lost and not just "expect" people to seek the church; therefore we must endeavor to go out and compel them to come to Jesus and fellowship with His people. This will facilitate the harvest and keep our witness strong as we fulfill the stated purpose in God's command "to go and make disciples of all nations." As we trust and accept God's call to co-labor together as a local congregation I'm sure we will bear fruit that will be pleasing to our Heavenly Father.

Pastor Kurt W. Wallace

"God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible – what a pity that we plan only the things we can do by ourselves." A.W. Tozer

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- by Pastor Kurt W. Wallace

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Freedom Fellowship Church

Vision

Changing Lives, Changing the Community, Changing the World

Freedom found only in Jesus Christ (Gal. 5:1)

Mission

In fulfillment of the “Great Commission” (Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8) of Jesus Christ we are committed to:

GO and ProCOREaim God’s Love

Make Disciples

Baptize in the Identity of Jesus Christ, and

Teach Biblical Truth

Purpose

To impart freedom and love found only in Jesus Christ, who enables us to equip people to find their identity and function in the Kingdom of God.

Core Values

Diversity

It is our desire to be a multi-cultural church that represents our community's rich and diverse blend of families, who appreciate living, working, and serving together. FFC welcomes everyone regardless of denominational background; we believe that if the church is truly one, then we must be able to worship and serve the Lord together. We endeavor to seek the Lord for wisdom and understanding as we build meaningful relationships one-on-one, through Biblical fellowship within our small groups, community involvement, and sound Biblical counseling through life long learning and mentoring.

Covenant Relationships

With God

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength (Deut. 6:4-5 & Mk. 12:30):

- God is love and requires total commitment (1 Jn. 4:16; Deut. 6:5).
- God is holy, just and true and expects obedience (Jn. 14:15,23; Lev. 19:2; Mt. 5:48).
- God created us for His glory and pleasure (Col. 1:10; Heb. 11:6).

With People

We believe there are two kinds of people, Christians and Pre-Christians. Christians are individual's who have placed their trust and faith in God by receiving Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Pre-Christians are

individuals who have yet to place their trust and faith in God by receiving God's son as Lord and Savior. Those who are Christians should be committed to the local Church through membership. Membership provides a safe environment for:

Accountability - Submission to one another, authority, counting on someone when it counts, interdependence. Accountability is an important theme in the Bible, both for the individual believer and for the church as a whole (Heb. 4:13). Accountability should be sought in the following:

- For every careless word (Matthew 12:36)
- For ourselves (Romans 14:12)
- For those under our authority (Hebrews 13:17)
- For our lifestyle (1 Peter 4:5)

Service – Members are to selflessly give of themselves for the ministry of church. Vital signs of membership are:

- Members are all ministers (1 Cor. 5:17-20; 1 Cor. 12:4-7; Eph. 2:10)
- Members are to be equipped for service (Eph. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:17)
- Members are both "hearers and doers" of the Word (Ja. 1:22; Mt. 7:24)

Biblical Fellowship - Fellowship is a translation of the Greek term *koinonia*. Biblical fellowship is when Christians come together to build meaningful biblical relations based on our experience of God himself.

In our CORE groups it should be our aim to be transparent, to encourage, to exhort, to rebuke and give instruction in right living (when appropriate and necessary).

CORE Ministry

- COREs are organized as workable units and function as the Church (Ex. 18:21; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Acts 20:8; Ro. 17:5-7).
- COREs gather with other COREs for weekly Celebration on the Lord's Day (Heb. 10:23-25).
- COREs should not be competed with (1 Tim. 4:8; Gal. 6:10).
- COREs allow for intimacy and accountability (Gal. 6:1; Heb. 3:13; Heb. 10:24).
- COREs are a place of prayer (Mt. 18:19-20; Mk.11: 17; Eph. 6:18-20; 1 Thes. 5:17).
- COREs evangelize and multiply (Mt. 9:35-38; 28:19; Jn. 4:35).
- COREs encourage children's participation in worship (Mt. 19:13-15; Ps. 127:3; Neh. 12:43; 2 Chron. 20:13).
- COREs are empowered by the Spirit to witness and reveal God (Acts 1:8; Eph. 3:10-11).

Defining Attributes

Character

- **Honor** – Living a life above reproach through demonstrating godly attributes and habits that sustain the call of God on your life, family, and profession. (Mk. 7:6, Ex. 20:20, Pro. 3:9)

- **Integrity** – High biblical values, able to be counted on. Faithful in commitments first to God then to your fellow man. (Neh. 7:2, Ps. 25:21, Ps. 78:2, Matt. 22:16, Tit. 2:7)
- **Perseverance** – Able to follow through with a course of action, which God has set forth, not being easily swayed in the ways of the world. (Rm. 5:4, Jas. 1:3, 2Pet. 1:6, Rev. 2:19)
- **Courage** – To stand with conviction in trusting God as your strength. Able to face reality, admit needs, confess wrong, change, and make decisions as the Lord directs. (2 Chron. 15:8, Ezr. 10:4, Matt. 14:27, Acts 4:13, 1Cor. 16:13)

Leadership

- **Servant Leaders** – Leaders who lead by serving others; living a life of spiritual obedience (being an example) Matt. 20:26, Mk. 9:35, Matt. 8:9).
- **Development** – Committed to ongoing growth and learning. Demonstrating maturity, passion for holiness and unselfish pursuit for personal growth (Neh. 1:11, Ezk. 34:23).
- **Faithful** - Not pursuing leadership for selfish gain. One who can be counted upon, desiring to serve those who provide spiritual oversight (Matt. 24:45, Matt. 25:21, Lk. 14:23).
- **Capable** – Having the capacity and ability to be a disciple while at the same time disciple others (Rm. 1:1, Rm. 13:4, II Tim. 2:2).

-LESSON 1-

A NON/INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

What is a Non-or Interdenominational Church? Is it Biblical? What are the implications of my belonging to a Non/Interdenominational body of believers?

FUNCTIONAL STATEMENT

A Non-denominational Church or Interdenominational Church is nothing new. There have always been groups of believers who simply called themselves Christians (Acts 11:26). Today we would say that these people are not identified with any one denomination but emphasizes the attitude and practice of accepting other Christians of evangelical convictions, regardless of denominational affinity, for the purpose of fellowship, encouragement, edification and ministry. No one is excluded except when there are biblical grounds to do so. The Non/Interdenominational movement really became popular as a result of the missions movement and spiritual revivals during the early 1900's.

The implications are that we must practice the biblical principles of love and humility, as they relate to the unity of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:1-6). We make binding on our conscience only those teachings that are early enunciated in Scripture. Our dogmatism is inappropriate where Scripture evidence is not compelling. And we choose to accept others based on grace through faith of their confession in the Lord Jesus Christ as their savior and Lord.

UNDERSTANDING CHURCH GROWTH

According to church growth specialist like Dr. Peter Wagner former dean of Fuller Seminary, and now president and Founder of Wagner Institute, *“Healthy churches like healthy people must exhibit the vital sign of growth.”* We are committed to spreading the gospel of Christ throughout the world and this one fact alone demands a program of aggressive church growth.

There are certain factors that make churches grow. We can gain some insight into these factors by looking once again at Matthew 28:19-20. In these verses we can: 1. **Recognize** the Lordship of Christ, 2. Realize the single focus of the command (to make disciples) as given to the church, 3. **Understand** our responsibility must be equal to the task (to make and teach) that is required, 4. **Realize** that the goals are COREarly defined but strategies, methods and philosophy of ministry can be flexible, revised or scrapped all together in order to achieve the stated goals, 5. **Give** place to the Holy Spirit who is with us doing the work in us that produces growth.

Healthy churches should have three vital signs:

Celebration + Congregation + COREs (Small Groups) = A Good Healthy Church.

CELEBRATION

The Celebration is a time when people come together to meet with God. It is a time of worship (John 4:24), thanksgiving, and praise; a time of getting intimate with and knowing (Hebrew: to make love with) God. It is music, song, prayer, announcements, a sermon, joy, tears, noise and quiet all assimilated collectively and offered to God Almighty as we pledge our hearts and allegiance to Him.

CONGREGATION

Well, what then is Congregation? This is a sensation of personal fellowship. Eye contact is important to both the Congregationalist and the CORE membership. No church can expect growth without a good healthy congregation. This is where we should widen our social cirCOREEs, meet new people, and hopefully become a belonger. This is the main function of the congregation. It is in fellowship that we become a part of the Christian family at a local church. This is what attracts new members. The last component of a healthy church is called the CORE or Small Group.

CORE (Small Group)

A CORE is the place for biblical fellowship to be pursued. Let me define my idea of biblical fellowship. Fellowship is a translation of the Greek term *koinonia*. Biblical fellowship is when Christians come together to build meaningful biblical relations based on our experience of God himself. In our CORE groups it should be our aim to be transparent, to encourage, to exhort, to rebuke and give instruction in right living (when appropriate and necessary). It is here that relationships are established. This fellowship can be found in a Sunday school COREass, a home bible study group, a women's/ men's meeting, morning breakfast at the golf course, a bible study in the work place, etc. (*Acts 2:42; Philip. 2:1; Phil. 1:6*). J.I. Packer defines fellowship as: *"[Fellowship is] a sharing with our fellow-believers the things that God has made known to us about himself, in hope that we may thus help them to know him better and so enrich their fellowship with him. ...Fellowship is secondly, a seeking to share what God has made known of himself to others, as a means to finding strength, refreshment, and instruction for one's own soul."*

While there are many books that address the purpose for CORE groups/small groups. I recommend reading, "The Life Giving Church" by Ted Haggard and "Why Small Groups" Edited by C.J. Mahaney.

-LESSON 2-

PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLESHIP

In this study I will attempt to set out objectively, simple basic principles of discipleship found throughout the Scripture. This is not an exhaustive study but only an introduction.

Discipleship: In Matthew 28:19-20 (Mark. 16:15-16; Luke. 24:47; John 20:21 and Acts 1:8), we find what is commonly known as the great commissioning passages given to Jesus' disciples before His Ascension.

But what was meant by the term "His disciples"? What we know from these verses is that Jesus' followers were sent out to preach (proCLAIM or publish) to every creature and all nations. This preaching of the gospel would of itself produce faith (Romans 10:17) and thus lead others into identification (baptism) and this would lead to more disciples or the process of discipleship. The discipleship method of Jesus was "to do, then to teach", or teaching by example. The word DISCIPLE comes from the Greek word MATHETES, meaning to be a follower, pupil or learner of another's doctrine and conduct of life. It is to become attached to one's master as to put what one learns into experience. In simple terms, discipleship requires three things of us that can be seen in Matthew 11:28-29... ***Come*** to Jesus; ***Take*** His Yoke and ***Learn*** of Him.

(This term is only used in the Gospels and in Acts [272 times] and never in the verb form.)

Note: for discipleship to happen you will need to have some understanding of Biblical Authority and Submission. Every believer needs to be a disciple of Christ. In order to accomplish this, God has set in the church a certain order

(1 Cor. 12:28 and Eph. 4: 7-13) for your personal growth and discipleship. The Apostle Peter adds insight to the leadership role in the Church in 1 Peter 5:1-2, “The Elders (Greek PRESBUTEROS [or EPISKOPIS: Bishops]: Overseers or Pastors) which are among you I exhort, feed (shepherd or pastor) the flock of God, taking the oversight (lead or rule) thereof...” Since this is not a study of Church Leadership, let me just emphasize that these are God’s sheep and that the sheep must voluntarily submit themselves to being His disciples. The Bible requires all believers to submit to each other out of a reverent respect for God and to humble us for service to God (Eph. 5:21 and 1 Pet. 5:5). Yet, it is the Pastors or Elders who must lead, feed and take the oversight so that the sheep can be free to reproduce other sheep. The making of “disciples” is the mandate of Jesus’ great command. We may try to ignore our need for it but we cannot demonstrate the life of Christ without it. Jesus urged His men to “follow me” and I will make you fishers of men. The question is, will you be His disciple? *“Disciples are Made – Not Born; Walter H. Henriksen; Victor Books 1984”*

-LESSON 3-

FFC GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

The Church, like all other organisms has to have some form of order and divine structure to function properly. This is COREarly indicated in the letters of Paul as he referred to the Church as the "body of Christ with many members" and to Christ as being "...the Head of the Church." (1 Cor.12:12, 27; Eph. 1:22-23). In the Church and "Christian Family" one needs to have a balanced view of Authority and Submission in order to gain the full benefit of Godly relationships. Please note that this is not an exhaustive study on Biblical Authority but rather a solid foundational point, which you can build upon, in further study. **AUTHORITY**: To start with let's look at two basic assumptions we all hold about authority. We tend to affirm that authority can come from the TOP down (Vertical) or SIDE to SIDE (Horizontal) directionality. Yet, in our society we have witnessed a breakdown of most of our authority structures inCOREuding the family. As a result, most of our earlier views of authority have become a matter of horizontal tolerance. This is not an acceptable place for God nor Christ in the life of the Church. Jesus must be Lord over all (Vertical Authority). He is the Universal and Supreme Head of the Church (Eph. 1:22 Amplified).

THE BIBLICAL PATTERN: A PRESBYTERY

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

(Hosea 4:6). "A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength. For by wise counsel thou shalt make war: and in multitude of counselors there is safety." (Prov. 24:5-6). God wants us to have knowledge of his will. The Biblical pattern of God's authority is one of TOP down authority. God rules with **ALL POWER. In the Church, God rules by delegated authority**; that is, God has given Jesus legal right and ability to be Head over the Church (Matt. 23:1; Eph. 1:22). The Church is God's called out ones. The Greek word is **EKLOSIA**, assembly of the called. Jesus then gives gifts (Greek **DOMATA**: meaning an benefactor, possessor, the recipient's abiding possession) to his Church (Eph. 4:11-14 and I Cor: 12:28) and through these gifts JESUS rules in the Church. In the New Testament Church it is generally the "Elders, Under Shepherds or Pastors" that are charged to lead, rule or shepherd the flock of God. All Bishops or Elders must be apt to teach (I Tim: 3:2 and Titus 1:9) yet generally there is at least one Teaching/Preaching Elder who is ordained (appointed to a position) by God and by other ordained ministers (not the local congregation).

The Teaching/Preaching Elders along with other ruling Elders, who are locally ordained to minister to the congregation, carry the responsibility of the ministry of the Word and the sacraments. The extent of the authority vested in each Elder in a local Church is in accordance to the grace given them by the Lord (-I Pet. 4:10).

In this Church we will try to keep true to the biblical pattern that also allows for the local appointment of **Deacons and Deaconesses (Greek DIAKONOS: a servant)** to assist the Elders in the material ministry of the church. This kind of leadership (which also allows for each member to be heard at local Church meetings) is commonly referred to as a **Presbytery**. Next we will share our statement of faith.

-LESSON 4-

STATEMENT OF FAITH *What We Believe and Teach (Part 1)*

As a Non-denominational or Interdenominational Church, we practice the biblical principles of love, peace and humility, as it relates to the unity of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:1-6). The Pastor and the leadership of this church are committed to presenting only "Balanced Biblical Truth" in sermons or teachings as God enables us. No one-person dogmatism or particular view in which Scripture evidence is not **COREarly supportive** shall be deemed the position of this church. The teachings and positions of this Church are based on the great fundamentals of the Christian faith, all of which center in the personage of Jesus Christ, who is both Lord (Jehovah - God) and Christ (Savior - Messiah) of us all but "especially of those who believe" (John 20:26-29 and Acts 2:36 & 39). The following is a listing of the doctrines and practices affirmed by most evangelical interdenominational bodies. These reflect the position of the Pastor, his ordaining body (Pohick Bay Church), and this local Church.

STATEMENT OF FAITH
What We Believe and Teach (Part 2)

1. ***"The Bible" is the inspired Word of God, the only infallible and authoritative Word of God to man.*** The Bible (which in its original writing was verbally inspired or God Breathed and recorded without error supernaturally) is absolute in authority; complete in its revelation and final in its content. (II Tim 3:15-17; II Pet 1:19-21; Heb 1:1-2).

2. ***We believe that there is 'One God' eternally existent in three persons (The Trinity); Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*** The Father (GOD: John 3:16) sent Jesus Christ the Son (GOD in the Flesh: John 1:1-14 and Matt. 3:17) and also The Holy Spirit personality of equal deity (GOD is Spirit: John 4:24; 14:16 & 26; I Tim 3:16 and Matt. 28:19; II Cor: 13:14.). Note: The Father is called God in Romans 1:7, the Son in Hebrews 1:8 and the Holy Spirit in Acts 5:3-4).

3. ***We believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ (and the Scriptural COREaims about Christ found in the Gospels).*** His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miraCOREEs, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood (Luke 1:26-33), His bodily resurrection from death (John 20:25-27), His Ascension to the right hand of His father and the promise of His personal return to earth in power and glory (Heb 9:28: Acts 1:11; Col. 2:9).

4. ***We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful men regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential*** (Romans 3:23 & John 14:6). Salvation is by grace

(Eph 2:8-10), a free gift of God (Rom 6:23), by which we are born of the Spirit of God (John 1:12- 13 & 3:3-7) and made new creatures in Christ (II Cor. 5:17).

5. *We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose "indwelling" the Christian is "enabled" to live a godly life.* All Christians are to live the new life in the present power of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:9). All Christians are to be filled (Greek word uses the passive voice, **PLEROO**- to make full or to fill to the full by another) with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18). This is a yielding of yourself to the Holy Spirit indwelling you to a point where His ability works through you (Acts 1:8; Acts 5:32; Rom 6:13; Gal 5:16 & 25) by the Holy Spirit.

6. *We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost.* The saved unto the resurrection of life (I Cor 15:53; Phil 3:21; Rev 20:4-6) and the lost unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:23-29; Rev 20:11-15).

7. *We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.* All born again believers make up the body of Christ and are therefore one under His headship (Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:3-6; Rom. 12:4-5).

(Feel free to ask questions about any item you are unsure about. We may not have all the answers but we'll be open to what God has to say to us and search the Scriptures to find the answers.)

-LESSON 5-

STEWARDSHIP AND COMMITMENT

In this section, we will focus on the ministry of the Good Steward (Greek Oikonomos: One designated to manage the affairs or economy of another; a Treasurer; a Chamberlain of a city or a Minister of the Gospel) and what it means to be a good steward of the things of God as it relates to your role in the local Church. Again, this is not an exhaustive study; it is only a foundational point from which you can build upon with future study.

THE CHRISTIAN STEWARD: The Apostle Paul had a lot to say on the subject of Stewardship. In Romans 14:12 he wrote, "Each one of us must give an account of himself to God". It is indisputable that we who know Christ will not be judged on the basis of Heaven or Hell ... but what about our dedication to Christ concerning "our" time, "our" talents, "our" money and "our" influence on the lives of others? According to the scriptures, all that we are and all that we have is because of the LORD (Acts 17:28; Phil. 2:13; Deut. 8:17-19). Thus, a good Christian Steward is one that understands and practices daily the Lordship of Christ. As New Testament believers, we are not bound by the methods used in the Old Testament but we must apply the principles in real life applications to maintain a balanced Biblical perspective. What does the Bible reveal to us about stewardship of "time and possessions" that we can utilize today?

Time: a cognitive term that relates to one's total lifestyle within "limitations" of space. Did you know that God sets limitations on you? Faithfulness on our part is demanded. You must spend time with the "Holy One" in order to obtain Holiness (I Cor. 4:2). Sunday morning church just won't do it alone!

Possessions: Paul spent a lot of time teaching on the subject of giving to the Christians at Corinth. Paul starts by letting them know that they and their possessions are both God's (I Cor. 6:19-20). He tells them about how their **actions and attitudes** have an effect on God's blessings (2 Cor. 9:6-8) and he encourages them to support the men of God who care for the Sheep as being entitled to financial support for the preaching of the Gospel (I Cor. 9:9-11). This is the financial support system of the local church. In Old Testament times the Tithe (10%) was used as the LAW or RULE in giving to the Lord. A "storehouse" was a source of both FOOD and SEED; correspondingly the Church serves this function as God's storehouse today (Mal 3:8-10). Under grace, it is your responsibility to see to it that God's possessions are used rightly. I recommend the tithe 10%, only as a good place to start your giving in support of the Church (Acts 2:44-45).

-LESSON 6-

LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

CORE Member / Member

Member: *Gk.- mele* - Part, member. (Eph. 4:25, 5:30)

- Must be born again (John 3:3, 1 Pet. 1:23)
- Confesses Jesus is Lord and risen from the dead (Rom. 10:9-10)
- Submits to the Bible as the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16, Acts 17:11, Heb. 4:12)
- Submits to the Bible as the basis of our value system (Mt. 7: 24, Ja. 1:22)
- Submits to the Bible as the standard for our conduct (2 Tim. 2:15, Jn. 14:15)
- Understands and agrees with the FFC CORE vision (Hab. 2:1-3, Amos 3:3)
- Understands the Great Commission/Commandment (Mt. 28:18, Mt. 22:37)
- Is Committed to growing in Christ (Eph. 4:14, Heb. 5,11-14, 1 Pet.2: 1-3)
- Attends Sunday celebration regularly (Acts 2:46, Heb. 10:25)
- Attends weekly CORE meeting regularly (Acts 2:46, Heb. 10:25)
- Participates in the CORE meeting (1 Cor. 14:26, Eph. 4:29, Heb. 10:24)
- Identifying, learning about and using gifts of the Spirit to build up others (1 Cor. 12:4-7, 1 Cor. 14:26)
- Prays for other CORE members (1 Sam. 12:23, 1 Tim. 2:1, Ja. 5:16)
- Prays for the lost and reaches out to them (Mt. 9:37-38, Mt. 28:18-20)
- Is a consistent cheerful giver (Mal. 3:6-12, 2 Cor. 9:5-8, 2 Cor. 8:7)

Assistant CORE Leader

Fellow worker: Gk. "*synergoi*" - together work. (1 Cor. 3:9)

- Fulfills CORE Member responsibilities and requirements
- Calls or meets with CORE Leader for prayer, direction & strategy throughout the week (Acts 3:1, Acts 13:1-3, Heb. 10:25)
- Opens home for CORE meetings (Titus 1:8, 1 Pet. 4:8)
- Attends monthly CORE meeting (Acts 2:42, Acts 13:1, Heb. 10:25)
- Is an example of Christ-like character to CORE Members (humility, serving, sharing and giving) (Phil. 2:1-5)
- Consistently displays the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 2 Pet. 1:5-8)
- Assists CORE Leader in sponsoring younger believers (Mt. 28:18)
- Assists CORE Leader in calling CORE members
- Assists CORE Leader in visiting & counseling
- Is willing and prepared to facilitate CORE meeting in CORE Leader's absence
- Is responsible for 2-6 people in the CORE
- Recognized by the CORE Member's and CORE
- Responsible to the CORE Leader

Leadership Responsibilities

CORE Leader

- Fulfills CM and ACORE responsibilities and requirements
- Identifies and encourages potential ACORE and CORE
- Is filled with Holy Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6:3)
- Is tested as an ACORE (1 Tim. 3:10)
- Is reliable and qualified (2 Tim. 2:2)
- Is capable and trustworthy (Ex. 18:21)
- Calls ACORE and CORE Members throughout the week (Acts 4:24)
- Willing and available to visit the sick at home or in the hospital
- Willing and available to visit those in prison
- Involved in the lives of the CORE Members (Rom. 12:5)
- If married, is husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:12)
- If they have children living at home, they should be respectful and obedient (1 Tim. 3:12)
- Is blameless; consistently walking in purity (1 Tim. 3:9)
- Is temperate and respectable, and not a substance abuser (1 Tim. 3:8)
- Manages household well (1 Tim. 3:12)
- Is sincere and does not pursue dishonest gain (1 Tim. 3:8)
- Is not a lover of pleasure, power or possessions (2 Tim. 3:1-5)
- Keeps hold of the deep truths of the faith (1 Tim. 3:9)
- Performs baptisms (Mt. 28:19)
- Recognized by congregation, placed in office by pastors & elders (Acts 6:5-6)
- Is responsible for 6-12 people in the CORE
- Responsible to Elders

Leadership Responsibilities

CORE Leader

- Fulfills CORE Member AND CORE Leader responsibilities and requirements
- Cares for flock of God (1 Pet. 5:2, Jer. 3:15, Jer. 23:4)
- Is increasingly effective and productive in the Lord (2 Pet. 1:3-8)
- Oversees baptisms performed by CORE (Mt. 28:18)
- Is self-controlled, temperate, and respectable (1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:8)
- Is not a substance abuser (1 Tim. 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- Is hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:8)
- Is able to teach & keeps hold of the deep truths of the faith (1 Tim. 3:2, Ti. 1:9)
- Is not quarrelsome or violent, but gentle (1 Tim. 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- Is not a lover of money & does not pursue dishonest gain (1 Tim. 3:3, Ti. 1:7)
- Is not a recent convert (1 Tim. 3:6)
- Has a good reputation with outsiders (1 Tim. 3:7)
- Is not overbearing or quick tempered (Titus 1:7)
- Loves what is good (Titus 1:8)
- Is upright, holy, and disciplined (Titus 1:8)
- Is above reproach (1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:6)
- If married, is husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:6)
- If single, uses utmost discretion in counseling avoiding the appearance of evil, directing a member of the opposite sex to an appropriate counseling arrangement
- Manages his own household well (1 Tim. 3:4)
- Recognized by pastor and elder and set in ministry by them. (Tit. 1:5)
- Responsible for 2-5 CORE groups
- Committed to continual spiritual growth and development, willing to attend conferences and seminars to strengthen ministry gifts
- Administrative skills necessary to assist the Congregational Pastor (CP)
- Responsible to CP and CORE Church Pastor (CCP)

Congregational Pastor / Associate Pastor

Overseer (NIV)/Bishop (KJV): Gk. "*episkopon*" - Overseer. (1 Tim. 3:1-2, 5:17)

- Fulfills CORE Member and Leader responsibilities and requirements
- Feeds the flock (Acts 20:28)
- Demonstrates consistent Christian character
- Able to counsel in a variety of situations
- Able to preach and teach (2 Tim. 4:1)
- A thorough understanding of major doctrines (Tit. 2:1, 7-8)
- Great love for people
- Willing to make personal sacrifice
- Faithful steward of God's resources
- Management responsibility in the church
- Administrative skills in overseeing ministries of the church
- Assist CORE Church Pastor / Senior Pastor in overseeing the church
- Able to lead people to Christ from a diversity of cultures (Acts 17:1-34)
- Recognized as an elder by the pastoral ministry team
- Performs weddings, dedications and funerals
- Responsible for 2-4 CORE clusters of CORE
- Responsible to the CORE Church Pastor

Leadership Responsibilities

CORE Church Pastor / Senior Pastor

Pastor: Gk. "*poimen*" - Shepherd. (Eph. 4:11)

- Devoted to the Word and prayer
- Preaches the Word (2 Tim. 4:1)
- Responsible for guarding the vision
- Develop strategy to fulfill the vision
- Responsible for implementing the strategy
- Provide leadership for Congregational Pastors
- Responsible for overall management and administration of one CORE church
- Attend CORE conferences
- In relationship with other CORE church pastors in the region
- Responsible for 2-4 Congregational Pastors
- Identify, train and equip Congregational Pastors for CORE Church Pastor role
- Responsible to the CORE Church Ministry team operating as an advisory board

Appendix ONE

The Lord's Supper

At the heart of our expression of the Christian faith is the Church ordinance (sacrament or rite) of Communion. The Communion in the early church was often referred to as "the Lord's Supper" (I Cor. 11:20), "the communion of the body of Christ" (I Cor. 10:16), "the breaking of bread" (Acts 2:42 and 20:7) and also "the Lord's Table" (I Cor. 10:21). In the early church the taking of communion probably included a fellowship meal eaten in connection with the bread and the cup after the pattern of the "Last Supper" which itself was a Passover Meal (Matt. 26:26-30).

It should be noted that the Roman Catholic Mass and the sacrament of the Eucharist are not derived from the New Testament, but rather from ancient Greek and Latin traditions. The Mass derived from the Latin terms *MISSA*; and *MITTERE*, meaning, "to dismiss". This is the closing address of the Priest at the end of each service. The Eucharist is derived from the Greek word *EUCCHARISTEO*, a term used for giving of thanks in reference to Thank Offerings. They became official parts of that church sacrament during the fourth century. (The Church in God's Program, Robert L. Saucy, p. 213).

The Institution and Meaning of the Lord's Supper

Why should we take the Lord's Supper? First, the Lord's Supper was instituted by the command of the Lord Himself. It is Jesus' express will for to take communion in "remembrance of Him" (Luke 22:19 and I Cor. 11:25). Second, this practice was continued in the early church as a way of showing one's appropriation and affirmation of faith and unity in the body of Christ (Acts 2:42; 46).

As to the meaning of the Lord's Supper it can be summed up in the Lord's command, "This do in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19). It is first and foremost a memorial

rite in which we look back to the redemptive work of Christ and his death even as Passover was a looking back at how God had redeemed his people from the bondage of Egypt (Ex. 12:14; 13:3 & 9 and Deut. 16:3). A second meaning or thought that can also be seen is that of “Sharing with Christ”. The believer being one in body and one in blood with the Lord as partaker of Christ’s universality (I Cor. 10:16). It is these two thoughts that are the focus of the celebration we call the Lord's Supper.

Appendix TWO

Water Baptism

Why do I need to be baptized in water? Can't I just believe in Jesus and be saved?

It is my goal to answer some of the questions you may have about baptism.

THE SACRAMENT OF WATER BAPTISM

Let's begin with this question: *Why be Baptized in water at all?* To start with, 1) God (JESUS) told us to do so in Mark 16:16 and John 12:49. Next, 2) Jesus commands baptism for all who believe in Him (Matt. 28:19). Finally, 3) This act was accepted and practiced by the early Church as a sacrament or ordinance reflecting a co-death and co-resurrection relationship of all believers with Christ (Acts 2:38-41; 8:12 and 38; 9:18; 10:48; 16:15; 18:8; and 19:5), thus the practice continued. (Note: In the 1st and 2nd centuries, baptism was done in Jesus' name and later Triune immersion [Matthew 28:19] was introduced.

But can the act of baptism in water save anyone? Not at all, salvation comes not by works but by Grace through Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 6:23; Acts 4:12). Jesus commands us to be baptized, those that believe in him. They must first believe (faith) and after that comes the act of baptism (see Acts 8:36-37). Only a person who knows the Lord should be baptized in water.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WATER BAPTISM

What is the meaning behind Water Baptism? It is an outward expression of what has happened to a believer inwardly. It is the outward show of your identification with Christ, in his death (Rom. 6:3-6), in his burial (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12), and his

resurrected life (Gal. 3:27; I Pet. 3:21; Gal. 2:20), and it identifies you with other believers in the Church. Also of significance is the relationship of water baptism to cleansing (washing) from the defilement of sin, which is the expression of the saving work of Christ (Acts 22:16 and Heb. 10:22). The real efficacy of water baptism is its symbolic expression of our faith in Christ.

TO ALL NEW MEMBERS: Ready for Commitment?

Remember that this was only a foundation to what the church leadership would like you to know about this ministry. We believe that you need to be committed to a church where the "whole counsel of God" is presented. If you have decided to make a commitment to this Church, then we (the church body) will make a commitment to you. We see the church as a body with many members and you as a single member with a special job to do. From this point you will be called upon to do your job in the body.

Like in any natural body there will be tensions on the members that comes from a pushing and pulling on the musCOREEs from time to time, but this is how musCOREEs work. This is a healthy and natural sign of spiritual growth (I Cor. 12:14-28). It is your responsibility to be committed to this body and church leadership and also apply the things we teach to your life. NOW... if this church is for you, I as pastor/senior elder ask you to make the commitment to support it and sign the statement of commitment below, our substitute for traditional membership. God bless you and welcome aboard!

Blessings to you in Christ,

Pastor Kurt W. Wallace,
B.A., Administration & Biblical Studies and
Certified Biblical Counselor

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

I do make a commitment to support the ministry of this Church, to submit myself to the Pastor and the church leadership, to do all I can to personally grow and mature in Christ and to attend services regularly while under the spiritual covering of this ministry ... SO HELP ME GOD!

Signature: _____

Date: _____