

INTRODUCTION TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Victory Christian Church
Membership Class**

WELCOME TO INTRODUCTION TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

Introduction to Our Church Family is divided into four sessions of an hour each.

THE BASICS FOR THIS CLASS

"...You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Eph. 2:19 (LB)

Key Truths:

1. The church is a _____ .
2. God expects you to be a _____ of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is an _____ .

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

...That I will commit myself to _____ and to the _____ .

The Victory Christian Strategy

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

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (Ph)

WHO ARE WE TRYING TO REACH?

"...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 Cor. 9:22 (LB)

5 CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT



Victory Christian's objective is to keep moving people toward the center by encouraging personal spiritual commitments.

The Victory Christian Structure

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

1 Cor. 14:33,40

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

I. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Children
 - Sunday Morning - King's Kids
 - Wednesday Night
- Foundations Youth Ministry
 1. Junior High Ministry (JHM)
 2. High School Ministry (HSM)
- Young Adult Ministry (Firebrand)
- IPOP Classes (In Pursuit of Purpose)

II. PASTORAL CARE

- Regular weekly worship, praise, Word-centered congregational services
- The Connection (home group ministry – Groups: Like Interest, Support, Bible Focus, Continuous)
- Family Life (general and premarital counseling)
- Ministry of Meals (MOM) (meals to new moms, after major surgery, and funerals)
- Music/Drama
- Watchcare Ministry
- Intercessory Prayer
- Men's Ministry
- Women's Ministry (Proverbs 31 Women, Solo, MomTime)
- Young Marrieds Group (Pulse)
- Zarephath Ministry (ministry to widows and widowers)
- Mailbox Ministry (sending cards/prayer sheets)
- Boaz Ministry (food table)
- Hospitality Ministry

III. EVANGELISM

- Neighborhood Outreach
 - Outdoor Movie Night
 - Community Festival
 - Vacation Bible School
 - Trunk-R-Treat
- Community Touch
 - Life Enrichment Center (serving meals to the needy)
 - Dayton Right to Life
 - Nursing Home Ministry
 - Jail Ministry
 - Christmas gifts/food baskets to needy students at Southdale Elementary School
- Neighborhood Ambassadors
 - Being a light to a block in our neighborhood by passing out flyers and praying for those on your assigned block

IV. MISSIONS

- 10% of Victory Christian's tithe goes towards Missions, Evangelism, and Alms
- Foreign Missions
 - Albania (Barry Ogden)
 - China (Precious Gift Ministries - Don and Liz Parrett)
 - China Bible School
 - China (Jay and Jackie Luthrow)
 - Ghana (New Victory Christian Church – Dan and Linda Asare)
 - Haiti/Dominican Republic (Agape Flights – Jeff and Crystal Yannucciello)
 - Iraq (World Compassion - Dr. Terry Law)
 - Israel (Christians United for Israel – Pastor John Hagee)
 - Liberia (Heart for Africa Ministries, Inc. – Thomas Siafa)
 - Mexico (Border Missions to Mexico - John and Margie Lezotte)
 - Nepal/Zimbabwe (Uttermost Missions – Mark and Pat Roser)
 - Nigeria (Victory International Church of Nigeria – Emmanuel Ihenacho)
 - Peru (Dr. Bill Pepper)
 - Philippines (Harbor Missions – George Hale)
- Annual Missions Project

Every year at the Annual Missions Banquet, mission projects are presented to VCC, which are above VCC's monthly giving towards missionaries; i.e., church built in Ghana, school bus for East European Missions in Romania, airdropping "Treasures" [Bibles in foreign languages] into unreachable countries, airlifting Jews from Russia to Israel through Wings of Eagles, etc.
- Home Missions (Alms)
 - Emergency assistance to VCC families
 - Emergency assistance to non-VCC families (We ask them to come to a service so it is not just a handout – it must cost them something).
 - Monthly support to Life Enrichment Center, Dayton
 - Monthly support to Son Reign Prison Ministry, Dayton
 - Monthly support to Navigators, Ft. Stewart, GA (John and Sarah Kreitzer)
- Short-term Mission Trips

Everyone is encouraged to go on Victory Christian short-term (1-2 week) mission trips.
- International Bible College

VCC has planted its first International Bible College at Maranatha Power Mission in Accra, Ghana. We are anticipating our next plants to be in Nigeria and Liberia.

WHAT IS A CHURCH?

I. THE CHURCH IS A _____

“They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship...” Acts 2:42 (Ph)

A top priority in a fellowship is _____ and _____ .

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

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

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Col. 3:15, 1 Cor. 1:10, 2 Tim. 2:14, Pr. 17:14, 2 Cor. 13:11,
Phil. 1:27, 2:1-3, Col. 2:2, Phil. 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Cor. 14:33,
John 13:34-35, 2 Tim. 2:23, Rom. 15:5-6, Rom. 12:16-18,
Col. 3:13-14, Ps. 133:1

IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS _____.

At Victory Christian, we are a theocracy/presbytery structure

The Pastor is responsible under God for the spiritual house, with the help of the Elders with watchcare, teaching and pastoral care. A Board of Elders and Trustees votes on all of the administrative duties of the church; i.e., budget, hiring of personnel, purchases over \$500.

Who are the Elders?

The Board of Elders is the principal ruling body of Victory Christian.

Who are the Trustees?

The Board of Trustees is the custodian of all the property of the church and represents the church in any legal business transaction.

II. THE CHURCH IS A _____

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

Gal. 6:10, Heb. 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

SO WE OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF _____, NOT _____.

*“Don’t reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a **father**. Treat the young men as **brothers**, and the older women as **mothers**. Treat the younger women as **sisters**...”* 1 Tim. 5:1-2 (Ph)

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

III. THE CHURCH IS A _____

1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 5:23, Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18, 2:19

We are a body — not a business!

We are an organism — not an organization!

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

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

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

OUR STRUCTURE

- THE PEOPLE ARE THE “_____.”
- THE PASTORS ARE THE “_____.”

IV. THE CHURCH IS A _____

(Jesus’ favorite description of the church)

John 10:1-30, Matt. 26:31, Matt. 25:33

THEREFORE, IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY _____

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

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

- “POIMEN”
- PRESBUTEROS”
- EPISCOPOS”

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

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

Victory Christian Statements

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

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

Why We Exist As a Church

The purpose of our church is summarized in a single sentence:

“A worshipping church committed to the winning of souls, making disciples, meeting needs, and healing hurts.”

VICTORY CHRISTIAN EXISTS:

I. WE EXIST TO CELEBRATE GOD’S PRESENCE

WORSHIP: _____

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

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

Expressions of Worship

- **Singing** (Eph. 5:19)
- **Commitment** (Romans 12:1-2)
- **Praying** (Ps. 95:6)
- **Hearing the Word** (John 17:17)
- **Giving** (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
- **Lord’s Supper** (1 Cor. 11:23-26)

VCC Worship Style

“Celebration”
Psalm 122:1

“Inspiration”
Isaiah 40:31

“Preparation”
Eph. 4:11-12

II. WE EXIST TO DEMONSTRATE GOD’S LOVE (MEET NEEDS AND HEAL HURTS)

MINISTRY: _____

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

1 John 3:16-17, Matt. 25:34-40, Heb. 13:16, Rom. 12:13

The heartbeat of Victory Christian is our _____ .

Every member needs to be a part of one.

*“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 Cor. 12:4-5, 27 (LB)

At VCC...

- Every member is a: _____
- Every task is: _____
- Every member is a “10” in: _____

III. WE EXIST TO WIN SOULS

EVANGELISM: _____

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

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

IV. WE EXIST TO EDUCATE GOD’S PEOPLE (MAKE DISCIPLES)

DISCIPLESHIP: _____

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

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

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

V. WE EXIST TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

BAPTISM: _____

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...” I Cor. 12:13 (Who is the body?)

Baptism is not only a sign/symbol of salvation, it is also a picture of relationship.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

What We Believe

TENETS OF FAITH OF VICTORY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Tenets of Faith for Victory Christian Church are intended as a basis of fellowship among us; i.e., that we all be of the same mind and speak the same thing (1 Cor. 1:10, Acts 2:42). No claim is made that they contain all truths in the Bible, only that they cover our present needs as to these matters.

WE BELIEVE IN:

THE SCRIPTURE

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are divinely inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct and the foundation for our doctrine (2 Tim. 3:15-17, 1 Thess. 2:13, 2 Peter 1:21).

THE ONE TRUE GOD

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deut. 6:4, Isaiah 43:10-11, Matt. 28:19, Luke 3:22).

THE DEITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- His virgin birth (Matt. 1:23, Luke 1:31,35)
- His sinless life (Heb. 7:26, 1 Peter 2:22)
- His miracles (Acts 2:22, 10:38)
- His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Cor. 15:3, 2 Cor. 5:21)
- His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matt. 28:6, Luke 24:39, 1 Cor. 15:4)
- His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11, 2:33; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 1:3)

THE FALL OF MAN

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Gen. 1:26-27, 2:17, 3:6; Rom. 5:12-19).

THE SALVATION OF MAN

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

- **Conditions to Salvation** - Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being

justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Eph. 2:8; Titus 2:11, 3:5-7).

- **The Evidence of Salvation** - The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Rom. 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24, Titus 2:12).

ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

- **Baptism in Water** - The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 10:47-48; Romans 6:4).
- **Holy Communion** - The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements -- bread and the fruit of the vine -- is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4), a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Cor. 11:26), and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Cor. 11:26), and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST

The baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire is a gift from God as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation and is received subsequent to the New Birth. This experience is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives the utterance (Matt. 3:11; John 7:37-39, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8, 2:4, 2:38-39, 19:1-7).

SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is an act of separation and of dedication unto God. The Bible teaches that without holiness, no man can see the Lord. We believe in the Doctrine of Sanctification as a definite, yet progressive, work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation at Christ's return (Heb. 12:14, 1 Thess. 5:23, 2 Peter 3:18, 1 Cor. 1:30, 2 Cor. 3:18, Phil. 3:12-14).

DIVINE HEALING

Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God through the prayer of faith, and by the laying on of hands. It is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is the privilege of every member of the Church today (Mark 16:17-18, 1 Peter 2:24, Matt. 8:17, Isaiah 53:4-5).

THE BLESSED HOPE, THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church (1 Thess. 4:16-17, Rom. 8:23, Titus 2:13, 1 Cor. 15:51-52).

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:27,30; Rev. 1:7, 19:11-14, 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezek. 37:21-22; Zeph. 3:19-20, Rom. 11:26-27), and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9, Ps. 72:3-8, Micah 4:3-4).

THE FINAL JUDGMENT

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast, and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake of eternal fire which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 19:20, 20:11-15, 21:8).

MARRIAGE

God has wonderfully and immutably created each person as male and female. These two distinct, complimentary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Therefore, marriage has only one meaning as God has stated in the beginning (Gen. 2:24): the uniting of one natural biological man and one natural biological woman in a single, exclusive union.

GENDER IDENTITY

God has made all men and women in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). Therefore, the two genders are both distinct and naturally complimentary. Attempts to change or modify in any way, physically or emotionally, the gender of an individual would deny the intent of the Creator to be in His image and likeness and would, therefore, be considered sin. (Jer. 1:5)

THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

Whereupon we are created in the image and likeness of God, God has plans for each of us, and He knew us while He was forming us in our mother's womb; we believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life at every stage of existence. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ps. 139:13-14; Jer. 1:5)

STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY:

WHAT VCC BELIEVES ABOUT MARRIAGE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe, based on the teaching of the Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments, that marriage is an institution ordained by God from the foundation of the world, and intended as a lifelong union of one man and one woman. This idea is supported by the account of creation in Genesis chapters 1 and 2. Genesis 1:26-28 provides that God created man in His own image, both male and female. The passage implies that a unity of one man and one woman is in some way necessary to fully represent the image of God in mankind.

Genesis chapter 2 provides a more detailed account in which God created the first man, Adam and decided that it was not good for him to be alone. (Genesis 2:18) God indicated that He would make "a suitable helper for him." God brought all of the animals to Adam, but none of them was a suitable helper for him, so God then created Eve, the first woman, from part of Adam himself. God did not create a second man to be Adam's helpmate, or an assortment of multiple women, but rather one woman. Together they were man and wife and had "no shame" or sin in their union with each other. (Genesis 2:15-25).

Jesus Christ reaffirmed the teaching of the Old Testament when He said, as recorded in Matthew 19:4-6, "Haven't you read, he replied, that at the beginning the creator made them male and female and said for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

The Apostle Paul states in Ephesians 5:22-32 that marriage is not merely a human institution, but is a special divine metaphor that is supposed to illustrate the union of Christ and the church. For this reason also, only a union between a man and a woman can be a proper marriage because a union between two men, two women, or one man and multiple women or any collection of people could not properly illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 condemns a variety of lifestyles including those associated with adultery, prostitution and homosexuality. The Bible condemns all forms of sexual immorality and encourages Christians to flee from it because of its destructive effects, and because the body of the Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:12-20).

Romans 1:18-32 makes it clear that it is not only sinful to engage in homosexual unions, but also to approve of such sins in others or encourage their practice. As a result, in order to maintain our consistent Christian witness, we cannot sanction, approve, or promote in any way adultery, fornication (a sexual relationship between an unmarried man and woman; i.e. "living together"), pornography, pedophilia, polyamory, polygamy, bestiality, or homosexual unions. This is made clear also by countless other verses throughout the Old Testament as well as by these and other passages in the New Testament.

Our church follows what the Bible reveals as the "sure foundation" of the teachings of Jesus Christ and his apostles (Matthew 7:24-29 and 1 Corinthians 14:37). The church is called to teach and practice these teachings and is not at liberty to depart from them for a different authority if it is to authentically bear the name "Christian". Though we strive to live peaceably with all people and to obey legitimate government authority, in instances involving matters as foundational as marriage we must ultimately obey God rather than man if the two come into conflict (Acts 4:18-22).

Sexual activities outside of marriage, including but not limited to fornication, adultery, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia, polyamory and bestiality are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the church. Lewd conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation or distribution of viewing of pornography are incompatible with God's intention.

VCC FAITH BASED POLICY ON MARRIAGE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

As a result of these above described religious beliefs and our belief in the need for a practice of fidelity to these beliefs, it is our policy that the facilities of this church may not be used for any ceremony that in any way approves of, solemnizes, supports or allows a same-sex union or a polygamist or any union which, in the judgment of the Board of Elders, in some way constitutes child abuse. It is also the policy of the church that no pastor or member of the church staff shall officiate at any ceremony designed to solemnize,

promote, create, or approve of such a union. Nor may any member of the church enter into such a union without being subject to church discipline.

A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of marriage found in the Policy Statement.

VCC POLICY REGARDING SEXUALITY

Recognizing that we all struggle with sin, Victory Christian Church will provide an environment that welcomes people who struggle with sexual sin. We will seek to love all people in Jesus' name, pointing them towards Christ's power to forgive and heal. While the Bible teaches that those who engage in sexual sin, sin against their own body we also recognize that sexual sin is not characterized in Scripture as being more severe than other forms of sin. We will seek God to discern ways that we can directly and indirectly minister and share God's love with those who struggle with every kind of sin. We also recognize that there is a difference between temptation and behavior and while temptation is sometimes unavoidable we are responsible for our behavior.

VCC PRACTICES

1. Every pastor, board member, or employee, hired by the church shall affirm their agreement with VCC's statement on marriage and human sexuality and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
2. The Board of Elders will be asked to affirm their agreement with this policy on marriage and human sexuality and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
3. Church leaders, teachers, and members are expected to teach and live in a manner that is consistent with the policies governing VCC.

STATEMENT ON CHURCH DISCIPLINE

The threefold purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Cor. 5:6), to edify believers by deterring sin and promoting purity (1 Tim. 5:20), and to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Gal. 6:1).

The Lord Jesus Christ has entrusted the local church with the authority and responsibility to discipline members for flagrant sin or serious doctrinal error, with the goal of the restoration of the offender. This discipline is entrusted to the Pastoral Staff and Church Council and is to follow the biblical pattern as set forth in Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Corinthians 2:7-8; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:10-11; and 2 John 7-11. Any member of this church who practices or affirms a doctrine or conduct that, in the judgment of the Pastoral Staff and Church Council, is opposed to the teaching of the Word of God, or is threatening to the testimony of this church, or is divisive to the body, shall be subject to church discipline.

Discipline will follow the said biblical pattern, and is an effort to bring the individual to repentance and protect the church from unrepentant sin. Discipline may involve exclusion from participation in ministry, as well as dismissal from the fellowship of this church. An individual may be disciplined by the Pastoral Staff or Church Council short of dismissal from the fellowship, as they deem appropriate for the specific circumstance (for example, an individual may remain in certain circumstances a member of this church but be denied the privilege of serving in a particular ministry).

The Pastoral Staff or Church Council, as is required by Scripture, may report to the congregation the names of those who have lost membership by reason of church discipline, and the reason for that discipline, as described in Matthew 18:15-20.

The members of this church further knowingly and voluntarily agree that a member cannot voluntarily withdraw or resign his or her membership in the midst of the discipline process, and may only voluntarily withdraw or resign his or her membership if they are not the subject of a discipline proceeding at the time, or only after a disciplinary process, of which they are the subject, has been concluded as determined by the Pastoral Staff and Church Council.

OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

What We Practice

AUTONOMY OF EACH LOCAL CHURCH

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

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control. Pastor Trenum is affiliated with and ordained through Calvary Ministries International, Inc. in Fort Wayne, IN; Covenant Fellowship International in Hamilton, OH; and Randy Caldwell Ministries in Cabot, AR.

PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER

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

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

TITHING

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

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

IMMERSION

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

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

TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST

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

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

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between “*attenders*” and “*members*” can be summed up in one word: _____

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

**I. A BIBLICAL REASON:
CHRIST IS COMMITTED TO THE CHURCH**

“...Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it.” Eph. 5:25

**II. 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.

**III. A PRACTICAL REASON:
IT DEFINES WHO CAN BE COUNTED ON**

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

**IV. A PERSONAL REASON:
IT PRODUCES SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

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

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At Victory Christian, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do.

THE VICTORY CHRISTIAN MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

“Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior, and being in agreement with Victory Christian’s statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Victory Christian church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:
(This will be done at a public presentation of membership.)

I. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By acting in love toward other members**
- ...By refusing to gossip**
- ...By following the leaders**

“So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.” Rom. 15:19 (Ph)

“Live in complete harmony with each other — each with the attitude of Christ toward each other.” Rom 15:5 (LB)

“Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts.” 1 Peter 1:22 (GN)

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...” Eph. 4:29

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.” Heb. 13:17

II. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By praying for its growth**
- ...By inviting the unchurched to attend**
- ...By warmly welcoming those who visit**

“To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.” 1 Thess. 1:2

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

“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” Rom. 15:7 (LB)

III. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By discovering my gifts and talents**
- ...By being equipped to serve by my pastors**
- ...By developing a servant's heart**

“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you...” 1 Peter 4:10 (Ph)

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

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant...” Phil 2:3-4, 7

IV. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By attending faithfully**
- ...By living a godly life**
- ...By giving regularly**

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another. Heb. 10:25

“But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ. Phil. 1:27 (Ph)

“Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering.” 1 Cor. 16:2

“A tenth of all you produce is the Lord’s, and it is holy.” Lev. 27:30

VICTORY CHRISTIAN’S COMMITMENT TO OUR MEMBERS

- ...To provide quality pastoral care**
- ...To provide a balanced diet of God’s Word to assist you to live victoriously**
- ...To equip you for your place of serving in the church, the home, and the world**
- ...To pray for you**
- ...To minister to and support you in your times of need**
- ...To love you with an unconditional love**

WE'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU!

Name..... Date.....

Address.....

Home Phone..... Cell Phone.....

E-Mail Address.....

Sex.....(M/F) Date of Birth...../...../.....

☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced

My occupation is.....

I have the following expertise; i.e., carpentry, painting, landscaping, plumbing, electrical, artwork, etc.

.....
.....

I have been active in the following churches in the past:

<u>Yrs Involved</u>	<u>Name of Church</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Member?</u>	<u>Position of Service</u>
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How long have you been born again?

Have you received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues?.....

Have you been baptized in water?.....

INFORMATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS

Spouse's Name.....Date of Birth.....

Does your spouse attend VCC?.....

Children:

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Lives w/You?</u>	<u>Attends VCC?</u>
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