

# NEW DISCIPLES HAND BOOK



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**THE RIGHT REVEREND DONAVON O. COLEY, PASTOR**

*PASTOR MAHUNDIS BRICE, EXECUTIVE PASTOR*

## **NEW DISCIPLES CLASS INSTRUCTORS**

Deacon Lonnie Bennett

Deacon Danny Combs

Deacon Melvin Graham

Church Theme

***“Moving from Impression to Impact”***

*You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.  
And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses,  
commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

*II TIMOTHY 2:1-2*



A FAMILY OF FAITH, WHERE **LOVE** IS ALIVE,  
AND THE **HOLY SPIRIT** IS OUR GUIDE.

Welcome New Disciple:

The Pastor and disciples of Forrest Park Baptist Church of Columbus, Georgia would like to take this time to welcome you into our FAMILY of Faith ... Where Love is Alive, and the HOLY SPIRIT is our Guide! We are a family at Forrest Park. Our prayer is for you to receive all that God has for you, and to become an active part of the body of Christ. We believe that Christ died and was RAISED on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day with all power in his hands to save all of us, and pray that you will allow God to use you for the edifying of His Kingdom through your Time, Talents and Tithes. Through training, you will be taught the biblical truths of God's plan for the church, your life, and where you fit into the total plan of salvation.

Again we welcome you to the Family and remember "Christ is truly all!" and we are Kingdom Building from within... (Is this correct or should it be from)

Stay Well,

Donavon O. Coley  
Senior Pastor & Teacher



My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I 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

## **PASTOR**



**The Right Reverend Donavon O. Coley**

### **PASTOR'S FAMILY**

Leading Lady Tonia Harris Coley\*  
Harper, Hudson and Hilton (Kids)  
Sister Iola Harris, Mother-In-Law

Pastor's Wife  
Pastor's Kids  
Pastor's Mother In-Law

### **EXECUTIVE PASTOR**

The Reverend Mahundis Brice\*

### **PASTOR'S FAMILY**

Lady Stephanie Brice  
KeShun, Semaj, Omarion

Executive's Pastor Wife  
Executive's Pastor Kids

### **ASSOCIATE MINISTERS**

Minister Helena Anderson  
Reverend Chauncey Johnson  
Reverend Dorothy Newsome

Todd Anderson -Husbands  
Corrine Johnson – Wife

.....  
*\*Pastor's Advisor Counsel*

Please contact the church, leave a message if no answer, to schedule a meeting with the Pastor or any of the ministers. 706.569.8294 /505.0368

## **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR PASTOR**

### **Good Fellowship**

Your Pastor is the under-shepherd of the church. You should learn to follow and respect him as God's earthly leader for the church. He should be addressed in this respectful manner and referred to as Reverend or Pastor.

### **Prayer Support**

Not only do you need prayer, but so does your Pastor. Make him a part of your petition to God daily; even if he's wrong or if you dislike him, pray for him. God says, "My grace is sufficient..." (2 Corinthians 12:9a). Lift him up in prayer to God. Pray for his family; remember, he has the same needs that you do and your prayers can help keep him strong.

### **His Time and Yours**

Let the Pastor have time to rest, to study, to prepare his sermons, and, above all to pray. Give him the opportunity to be with his flock at times of rejoicing, and to strengthen the sick, the sorrowful, and those who are in need; time to counsel and absolve sinners; and time to do the office and work of a Pastor in the Church of God. Count him as a member of the household of the faithful, not a public relations officer. Support the Pastor in ministry and unshackle him from a constant round of civic affairs, routine administrative matters, and chit-chat telephone calls so that he may more effectively carry out the job he was ordained to do.

If you need help, make an appointment and go to him in his office. If for any reason you need him at home or the hospital, send for him; but never sit back and complain because he does not call upon you as often as you think he should. Remember, he is nobody's private chaplain. Others need his services as much as you do, but he is always happy to respond to your call. Try to remember, however, that he has only so many hours in the day, only so much energy, and only so much to give spiritually, emotionally, and physically. He needs your help as much as you need his.

~ Taken from the Anglican Digest

## **Who Are We?**

Forrest Park Baptist Church

## **What Are We?**

A body of Believers in Jesus Christ, who have covenanted ourselves together as a living organism called the church. The body serves the spiritual needs of the community that God has called us to minister to.

## **What Are Our Duties?**

To serve as ambassadors for Christ, and servants in His church.

## **What We Believe**

**The Bible:** We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, given to men as a testimony of the life of Jesus Christ, a guide for our lives (through principles and precepts) and is given to us unto salvation. We believe that this (THE BIBLE) is the Word of God and we must live by it for our own discipline and forgiveness (Matthew 18: 15-17). The Holy Scriptures are the source of our spiritual instruction. We read and meditate on it daily, and hide it in our hearts (Psalm 119: 11) for its revelations of old truths and Godly wisdom.

**Our Membership in the Body:** We are members of the Body of Christ and we support each other in prayer and Christian charity (Psalm 133: 1; I Corinthians 12: 12-27) and we exercise love for one another (I Corinthians 13). We are all members of one body (Ephesians 4: 25-28) and we walk as new believers and creatures with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as God's dear children prepared for war in all of life's stages as we praise and worship the victorious Lamb of God (Ephesians 4: 17 – 6:11).

**Our Duty as Leaders:** We recognize Jesus as the shepherd and that He has given us an Under-Shepherd to guard our souls and lead us as Christ's ambassadors in the field of service. We, therefore, accept our appointments as a calling (I Timothy 3: 1-13) from Jesus and the Under-Shepherd. We are called to serve His church to the glory of God, walking worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1). We are further called upon to follow the Under-Shepherd in discharging his duties and responsibilities of our leadership calling.

# **THE PURPOSE OF NEW DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

The training is designed for the disciples of the body of Christ. We understand that discipleship entails a confession of your sinful state to God, asking for forgiveness and being baptized as first steps toward discipleship.

The second step is to covenant oneself with a fellowship of Believers.

The third step is to be spiritually taught and be supportive of the ministry that God has called you to.

Forrest Park Baptist Church is a Christian church committed to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to all mankind. Our purposes for the New Discipleship Training are:

- To make you familiar with the history and organizational structure of Forrest Park Baptist Church.
- To inform you of the vision of Forrest Park Baptist Church.
- To teach the ministry's beliefs and how they will contribute to your success as a member.
- To make you familiar with Forrest Park's Family Fellowship.
- To make you familiar with various Forrest Park Ministries.
- To prepare you for volunteer service at Forrest Park Baptist Church.

This Training is mandatory for all new disciples of Forrest Park Baptist Church, and will be offered weekly on Sundays at 9 am until the course is complete, and/or twice a year on a Saturday from 9am- 1 pm at which time, New Discipleship Orientation will begin.

## **“BEING AN ACTIVE DISCIPLE”**

You can get the most out of your discipleship in this church if you purpose in your heart to be an active church disciple. This can be done by joining a ministry in which you have a real interest in and be a faithful, hard-working disciple. Through a ministry, you will begin to enlarge the area of your acquaintances and church interest. You will be known by an increasing number of the congregation through your ministry activities. Consistent participation is one of the important and gratifying aspects of church discipleship... TO BE KNOWN and to find expression through participation in an essential service in your church.

## NEW DISCIPLESHIP REQUIREMENTS

- I. To become a candidate for discipleship in this church at any invitational period offered during services, the following methods are acceptable.
  - A. Baptism: New converts or cross-denominational converts not baptized by biblical method outlined by Jesus in Matthew 28:19. Baptism edifies the church by representing symbolically our identification with Christ.
  - B. Christian experience, reinstatement, or letter – A Christian who is transferring his/her discipleship from another congregation or has been out of the church for some time and is not connected to a church can become a candidate for discipleship under Christian experience or letter of transfer from another congregation.
  - C. Watch Care – We provide Watch Care because we believe it to be consistent with the Church’s covenant which states, “We will unite with another church as soon as possible,” when we relocate to another area.
- II. All new disciples come in as candidates for discipleship and are required to complete the following prior to receiving the right-hand-of-fellowship.
  - A. New Discipleship Class – This class lasts approximately 3-4 weeks.
  - B. Upon completion of all requirements, each candidate will receive a New Disciple Certificate, have his/her picture taken and placed on the bulletin board in the Anderson Fellowship Hall.
- III. New disciples are encouraged to attend any ministry meetings that may be of interest to them. However, ministry discipleship eligibility means you must complete all requirements for New Disciples Training. Also, keep in mind the minimum on-going training requirements are attendance in Sunday school and Bible Study. **(We are not saved to sit; but to Serve!)**

## DISCIPLESHIP SPIRITUAL EXPECTATIONS

We are blessed and consider it an act of the grace and goodness of God to have you as part of our growing family. We are laborers together with Christ. As fellow believers in Christ, expect all disciples to:

**BE COMMITTED TO CHRIST** – Christianity is a lifestyle and we should live our lives by the standards of God’s Word and be representatives of our commitment to Him and His church. Our aim is to please and glorify God through Jesus Christ!

**BE COMMITTED TO STUDYING HIS WORD** – We are a bible believing, bible teaching church. Studying God’s word is not optional; it is required for spiritual growth. We desire that all disciples be involved in the teaching ministries of the church. Sunday school and Bible study are critical in developing a more intimate relationship with God. The preaching of the Word is primarily to draw the *unbeliever*; the teaching of the Word is to nurture the *believer*. All disciples should and are encouraged to attend Worship Services, Sunday school, Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer.

**BE LOYAL TO THE CHURCH AND ITS MINISTRIES**—Attendance of church functions are designed for the nourishment and spiritual development of our disciples, as well as, the fellowship (ex. Church Anniversary, Pastor Appreciation, Musician Appreciation, etc.) **VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO MOST OF THESE FUNCTIONS, HOWEVER, DISCIPLES SHOULD BE COMMITTED TO ALL FUNCTIONS.**

**BE INVOLVED IN THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH** – Disciples should not limit themselves to just attending worship services. **PLEASE COME AND GET INVOLVED IN THE CHURCH THROUGH OUR MINISTRIES.** Begin by searching the directory in the back of this manual for a listing of our ministries.

**REMEMBER THE CHURCH AND ITS MINISTRY IN PRAYER** – Prayer for the church, the leadership, and the fellowships daily so that we will remain committed. Stay focused, and maintain our desire to please and glorify God. In order to be a Godly congregation and a Holy congregation, we must be a **PRAYING CONGREGATION!**

**THE CHURCH NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT-** As believers of God’s Word, *this church believes in Tithes and Offerings to help support the church.*

## Class 1

# SALVATION

## 1. What is SALVATION?

Salvation can best be described as deliverance from sin, into eternal life with GOD. Salvation comes from the Greek word “Soteria”, which means deliverance. It is used in the New Testament to define material and temporal deliverance from danger and apprehension. Deliverance means a release from bondage, imprisonment and liberation from captivity.

Salvation does not mean that one is perfect. However, it does mean that one has been forgiven. Reference Scriptures showing the penalty and power of sin:

**Romans 3:23** “for all have \_\_\_\_\_ and fallen short of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.”

**Romans 6:23** “for the wages of sin is \_\_\_\_\_ but the gift of God is \_\_\_\_\_ life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

## 2. How do I receive SALVATION?

Salvation is gift given by GOD. It is received through confession of our sins and accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. There is absolutely no other way to obtain Salvation. (It’s **FREE!**) Salvation means to be rescued or delivered. In relation to Christian faith, salvation involves being delivered from the penalty and power of sin. Because you are a child of God nothing can (**Separate**) you from our Father except (**SIN**). As His children, we will always be His children. We may have troubled times, our fellowship may be broken, but our relationship can never be broken. We will always be His children. Nothing or nobody can change that! And once you are born again spiritually – God becomes your Father, nothing or nobody can change that!

### 3. Four (4) Steps to SALVATION:

**Conviction\*\*\*\*\* Repentance \*\*\*\*\* Acceptance\*\*\*\*\* Confession**

**Conviction** – Conviction can be defined as one coming to the realization that he/she is wrong. It is the pricking of one's heart. When conviction takes place, a sinner becomes cognizant that he/she is a sinner and has done wrong in the eyesight of God. Keep in mind that man does not come to this realization on his own; the Holy Spirit draws him.

**John 6:44** No man can come to me, unless the \_\_\_\_\_ who sent me \_\_\_\_\_ him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For He hath made him to be sin for \_\_\_\_\_, who knew no \_\_\_\_\_; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

**Repentance** – Repentance takes place when a sinner turns from sinful loving (rebellion towards God) and turns to God. Repentance is not a 360 degree turn, but a 180 degree turn. If you are walking North, you will do an about face and walk south. Let's focus on the following scriptures:

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering toward us not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to \_\_\_\_\_.

## MOVE FROM SIN (DARKNESS)..... MOVE TO GOD (LIGHT)

**Acceptance** – In order to be saved, one must accept what God did for us through His Son Jesus Christ.

**John 3:16** For \_\_\_\_\_ so loved the World that he gave his only begotten son (Jesus), that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have \_\_\_\_\_ life.

Acceptance is the realization that one cannot save him/herself. It's accepting Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior and completely trusting Him without reservation. Be assured that His blood covered all of our sins; past, present and future.

**John 1:12-13** But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of \_\_\_\_\_, even to them that believe on his name; Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

**John 3:17-18** For \_\_\_\_\_ sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not \_\_\_\_\_: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**Confession** – Confession takes place when one publicly confesses the belief that Jesus is the Christ, the only begotten Son of the living God, who died and was resurrected from the dead, who is now seated on the right hand of the Father in Heaven. Just as it is important to make a public confession, it is equally important for you to believe with all your heart that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Jesus Christ is alive and He lives forever more.

**Romans 10:9** That if thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt \_\_\_\_\_ in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 10:32** Whosoever therefore shall \_\_\_\_\_ me before men, him will I \_\_\_\_\_ also before my Father who is in heaven.

### Helpful Scriptures:

**John 14:6**  
**Acts 16:29-33**

**Romans 4:1-17**  
**Ephesians 1:12-13**

**Acts 10:44-48**  
**Ephesians 2:8-9**

## THE CONVERSION & YOUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Once a person has made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ (talked the talk), it is imperative that one lives the life of a Christian (walk the walk). God expects a faithful walk. Becoming a Christian does not mean that one is perfect and will never sin again, but it does mean that Jesus Christ saved you from your sins, and that He has also become Lord of your life. This means that His will has precedence over your will.

**What does conversion mean?** Conversion simply means that you have changed from one way of thinking to another. Your mind has been renewed. The scriptures declare that if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; and behold, all things are become new (I Corinthians 5:17). It simply means that a change has taken place. Take a look in the mirror; your physical appearance hasn't changed. If you had grey hair upon accepting Christ, you will still have gray hair (you may or may not feel differently) but rest assured that if you've truly accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord and Savior, a change has taken place. You have someone on the inside of you (the Holy Spirit) that will keep you from rebelling against God if you allow Him to do so. Because God's Spirit constantly dwells with us and in us, we can live the life Christ expects us to live.

Have you ever wondered "What does God expect of me now that I'm Saved?"

The following scriptures will help you find out what God expects of All Christians.

**Romans 12:1 &2**

**Ephesians 4:17-32 Ephesians 5:1-10**

**Galatians 5:16-26**

**II Corinthians 5:17-20**

*Now that you've reviewed the scriptures, you may have some questions. Some of the more commons questions asked are as follows;*

1. What does it mean to present my body as a living sacrifice?
2. Should I stop hanging out with my friends that are unsaved?
3. I still have some bad habits. Does this mean that I'm not really saved?
4. How can I be led by the Spirit?

## **I. Salvation and Baptism**

1. To be led by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14-15)  
For as many as are led by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, they are the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.  
For ye have not received the \_\_\_\_\_ of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
2. Receive the Lord Jesus as your Lord and as your Savior (John 1:12-13)
3. Profess your faith (Hebrew 4:14)
4. Be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)
5. To enter into a covenant with one another (Hebrew 8:10-12)

## **II. Duties to the Church**

1. To walk together in Christian love (John 13:34-35)  
A new commandment I give unto you, that ye \_\_\_\_\_ one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are \_\_\_\_\_, if ye have \_\_\_\_\_ one to another.
2. To strive for the advancement of the church and to promote its prosperity and spirituality (Philippians 1:27; II Timothy 2:15; II Corinthians 7:1; II Peter 3:11)
3. To sustain worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine (Hebrew 10:25) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves \_\_\_\_\_, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much, the more, as ye see the day approaching. (Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 11:23-26; Jude 3)
4. To give it pre-eminence in my life (Matthew 6:33) But seek ye first the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_, and his \_\_\_\_\_; and all these things shall be added unto you.
5. To contribute cheerfully and regularly (I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 8:6-7)
6. To carry my Discipleship when I move and am active in church work wherever I love (Acts 11:19-21; 18:24-28)

### III. Duties in Personal Christian Living

1. To maintain family and secret devotion (I Thessalonians 5:16-18); Acts 17:11)
2. To religiously educate our children

**II. Timothy 3:15;** And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ which is in Christ Jesus. (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

3. To seek the salvation of the lost (Acts 1:18; Matthew 4:19; Psalm 126:5-6; Proverbs 11:30)
4. To walk circumspectly in the world and to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in my deportment (Ephesians 5:15; Philippians 2:14-15; I Peter 2:11-12)
5. To avoid gossip and excessive anger

Ephesians 4:31 Let all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice (Colossians 3:8; James 3:1-2)

6. To abstain from sale or use of liquor  
Ephesians 5:18; and be not drunk with wine, wherein is \_\_\_\_\_; but be filled with the \_\_\_\_\_. (Habakkuk 2:15)
7. To be zealous in our efforts to Christ  
Titus 2:14 who gave himself for us, that he might \_\_\_\_\_ us from all \_\_\_\_\_ and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

#### **IV. Duties to Fellow Disciples**

1. To watch over one another in brotherly love (I Peter 1:22)
2. To pray for one another  
James 5:16 Confess your \_\_\_\_\_ one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availed much.
3. To aid in sickness and distress (Galatians 6:2; James 2:4-17)
4. To cultivate sympathy and courtesy (I Peter 3:8)
5. To be slow to take offense. Always ready for reconciliation; being mindful of the rules the Savior (Matthew 18; Ephesians 4:30-32)

## DEACON AND DEACONESS

### DEACON

1. Todd Anderson
2. Lonnie Bennett
3. Marquette Brockington
4. Lucky Caswell
5. Danny Combs
6. \*\*\*\*\*
7. Emanuel Fuller
8. Garry Fuller Sr.
9. Melvin Graham
10. Melvin Jones
11. Eddie Neal
12. Willie Riley
13. Nathaniel Smith
14. Richard Sebree
15. Johnny Wimberly<sup>+</sup>

### DEACONESS

Minister Helena Anderson  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Sister Shelynn Brockington  
Sister Willie Caswell  
Sister Cynthia Combs  
Sister Daisy Dunlap<sup>+</sup>  
Sister Vernita Fuller  
Sister Berderia Fuller  
Mother Ella Graham  
Sister Rozella Jones<sup>+</sup>  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Sister Beverly Smith  
Sister Fredericka Sebree  
\*\*\*\*\*

# Eight Characteristics of a Healthy Church “Transforming Congregation”

## 1. Empowering Leadership

Effective leadership begins with an intimate relationship with God, resulting in Christ like character and a clear sense of God’s call. As spiritual maturity increases, effective pastors and leaders multiply, guide, empower and equip disciples to realize *their* full potential and work together to accomplish God’s vision.

*The pastor exerts firm clear leadership, defining reality and offering hope. He/she is clearly trusted by the congregation and has developed close cooperative relationships with the leaders, elected and informal.*

## 2. Gift-Oriented Ministry

The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gift(s) to every Christian for the building of God’s kingdom. Church leaders have the responsibility to help believers discover, develop and exercise their gifts in appropriate ministries so that the body of Christ "grows and builds itself up in love."

*Lay persons are trusted to conceive and implement ministry within the bounds of the vision and mission statements with minimal control from pastor and governing bodies.*

## 3. Passionate Spirituality

Effective ministry flows out of a passionate, contagious spirituality. Spiritual intimacy leads to a strong conviction that God will act in powerful ways. The nature of this characteristic becomes evident by examining the prayer life, personal use of the Bible and other factors affecting personal spirituality.

*There are clearly defined membership responsibilities that give substance to the liturgical promises of offering our "prayers, presence, gifts and service."*

# Eight Characteristics of a Healthy Church

## “Transforming Congregation”

### **4. Functional Structures**

The Church is the living Body of Christ. Like all healthy organisms, it requires numerous systems, which work together to fulfill its intended purpose. In order to develop functional structures, look at organizational structures and systems, leadership oversight, vision, goals, planning, creativity, and managing change.

*There is a clearly defined plan (core process) for enrolling, teaching, training, developing, deploying, and nurturing disciples with the strong expectation that all disciples will be involved in it at levels appropriate to their place in life.*

### **5. Inspiring Worship**

Inspiring worship is a personal and corporate encounter with the living God. Both personal and corporate worship must be infused with the presence of God resulting in times of joyous exultation and times of quiet reverence. Inspiring worship is not driven by a particular style, but rather, the shared experience of God’s awesome presence.

### **6. Holistic Small Groups**

Holistic small groups are disciple-making communities which endeavor to reach the unchurched, meet individual needs, develop each person according to their God-given gifts and raise leaders to sustain the growth of the church. Like healthy body cells, holistic small groups are designed to grow and multiply.

### **7. Need-Oriented Evangelism**

Need-oriented evangelism intentionally cultivates relationships with pre-Christian people so they can become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who are actively participating within the life of the church and community. Using appropriate ministries and authentic relationships, believers can guide others into the family of God.

*There is at least one program or ministry designed to help with the needs of the community for which the church is positively legendary on the community grapevine.*

### **8. Loving Relationships**

Loving relationships are the heart of a healthy, growing church. Practical demonstrations of love builds authentic Christian communities and brings others into God’s kingdom. Unfeigned, practical love has a divinely generated magnetic power. People do not want to hear us talk about love, they want to experience how Christian love works.

## **A HOLY CHURCH - AN IMPERFECT FELLOWSHIP**

The church is holy because Christ, the Head, is holy. Because the church is made up of sinners saved by grace, it is made up of frail and weak human creatures that are not finished growing in the knowledge and love of God through Christ. Therefore, it is an imperfect fellowship. You may experience some expressions of weakness and frailty on the part of some church disciples. Do not lose faith in the overall church purpose and power because you see some church disciples behave at times as though they are not redeemed children of God. Be patient, tolerant, kind and understanding, and know that the grace of God is sufficient to mold us all into the likeness of Christ. It may take longer for some of us than others to become the Christians that we should be. But it is our hope that all shall achieve a true Christian character.

Do your best to be approved unto God... a Christian and a worker who has no need to be ashamed. Do not let the conduct of some weaker church disciples cause you to stumble, to be discouraged, or to lose faith. By doing your best and giving your best to the Master; perhaps, the weaker ones of the fellowship might find their way to a more acceptable life unto God and to the Church.

Let us be patient Galatians 6:9 says, and let us not be weary in well doing, in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Proverbs 11:30 He that winneth souls is wise!

### ***Kingdom Building from Within .....***

- I. Our Church Body – **Which IS US!**
- II. Our Worship – **Which IS US!**
- III. Our Outreach/Evangelism- **Which IS US!**
- IV. Our Individual Ministries- **Which IS US!**
- V. Our Facilities – **Which We Share!**
- VI. Our Church Accountable – **Which We Can Control!**
- VII. Our Fiscal – **Which We Can Determine!**

**If we are to be successful in this run, then we must stay focused on the prize of His high calling now; let us come together, to do the work, and leave the results to God.**

## OUR CHURCH BODY

### I. Our Church Body

We must have an effective vision that clearly defines WHO WE ARE, and WHERE WE ARE GOING.

Then it must clearly define WHERE WE ARE GOING and how *WE* plan to get there.

1. Who are we?
  - a. We are God's people; We are entitled to "All the blessing of the Earth" Genesis 12:3b
2. Where are we going?
  - a. We are going to lead people to understand, "that God wants involvement" in His ministry.... for His Glory!
  - b. That means: there is a place for everyone to serve.

We will teach the word of GOD, while standing firmly together as one family forever reaching out to the lost, and hurting of our community.

1. To be a Word-Driven, God-Face seeking. Prayer and Fasting Church.
2. To be a body of Christ; operated in the prophetic, and make known the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.
3. To be a place where the hurting, depressed, frustrated, and broken can find love, hope and forgiveness.
4. To be 100% Tithing Church.

I say unto you with all confidence and assurance that this vision will become a manifestation, because of Habakkuk 2:3-4 **"For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie, though it tarries, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by His faith.**

## OUR WORSHIP

To promote spiritual growth, discipleship and worship opportunities for all members of the church and community (Colossians 3: 1-25)

1. Our desire is to begin all services on time
2. Have 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday night worship services at 7 pm each month
3. Have two spiritual or spirit-filled Revivals....Pastor use one or the other
4. Fellowship with other Baptist pastors and churches
5. Highlight the Best of our Baptist faith
6. Remove the ceiling of our worship ... no limits on the Spirit

Understand that worship extends beyond the Sunday morning services

## OUR OUTREACH EVANGELISM

1. To unite our Church with its people, both materially, and spiritually behind the common objective of making an impact on the local community. To act upon the vision given to us by Jesus Christ through effective evangelism.  
**Matthew 25:31-46, Matthew 28:18-20**
2. To minister to the total man. First, within our local Church fellowship, and furthermore, within our local community. **Luke 10:25-37**
3. To create, develop, produce, and distribute quality Christian television and radio programming through local and surrounding stations on a consistent basis. **Matthew 24:14**
4. To create and promote economic empowerment within our Church and our local community. **Luke 4:18-19**
5. To create and develop a Christian Early Childhood Development Center. Also, to create a Christian Academy that will consist of grades K through 12.  
**Proverbs 22:6**

## **OUR INDIVIDUAL MINISTRIES**

1. To develop the spiritual gifts of all our people, to train them, and to be an accommodation to them in their spiritual development and spiritual work in the Kingdom. **1 Corinthians: 12**
2. To have disciples functioning within the ministry where they are spiritually gifted.

## **OUR FACILITIES**

To maintain, acquire, supply, and construct facilities for ministry (Proverbs 24: 3-4)

## **STRENGTHENING OUR CHURCH ACCOUNTABILITIES**

To become a Church that is classified as Tax Exempt with the IRS. Being a tax exempt Church will position Forrest Park Baptist Church to receive grant funding, and other means to fund various ministries of the Church. **Proverbs 13:22**

1. To provide a place of worship, edification, celebration, and instruction for the saints in the work of the ministry. **Hebrew 10:25**

## **OUR FISCAL**

To manage, record, account for, and distribute funds for ministry **Proverbs 3:9**

1. Become a 100% Tithing and Sacrificial church
2. Plan to Purchase and install play ground for church activities and child care program 2020
3. Plan to Purchase - 14 Passenger Van 2019
4. Build a New Sanctuary (350) and Nursey/Day Care 2020
5. Set up the 501 c3 2018

# CHURCH ETIQUETTE

What is Church Etiquette?

Etiquette is defined as “the customary rules for conduct or behavior in polite society.” Church etiquette is the customary rules for conduct and behavior in a church of God. It falls into several broad categories:

## Honoring the Sanctuary

- **Rule 1: Speaking from the Pulpit:** Only the ministers or invited speakers are allowed to speak from the center pulpit. Other persons are asked to use side lecterns if they are participating in the worship service.
- **Rule 2: Being in the Pulpit:** Only the minister, or persons authorized by the minister should ever be in the pulpit. Children should be taught at young ages that this is a sacred area and can never be used as a play area.
- **Rule 3: Enter and Exit as Directed:** If you must leave the sanctuary during church service, do not pass in front of the pulpit or use the center aisle. Use the side aisles and exits so that you do not disturb others.
- **Rule 4: Maintaining Silence before God:** During the service, the congregation is expected to actively participate in worship. However, God’s house is a place for reverence and worship, not loud and idle conversations between each other or on cell phones; which include the sending and receiving of text messages. All non-emergency cell phones should be silenced during service. (Emergency cell phones should be left on vibrate.)
- **Rule 5: Treatment of Church Bibles and Hymnals:** Bibles and Hymnals that are placed in pews are to be treated with care and respect. They should not be written on or used to dispose of gum. The bindings should be cared for; the spines of Bibles and Hymnals should be protected. They are the property of the church and should not be taken home by parishioners. Parishioners should let the church leadership know if Bible and Hymnals are in need of repair.
- **Rule 6: Treatment of the Communion Table:** The Communion table is used for one of two ordinances (ceremonies or rites) of the Church. Ministers and others who are in charge of the Communion service are the only persons permitted to use it. Personal items should **NEVER** be placed on the Communion table nor should it be used for any other purpose.

## CHURCH ETIQUETTE CONTINUED

- **Rule 7: Treatment of the Baptism Pool:** Baptism is the other important ordinance of the Church. The baptismal pool is typically drained of water until the day of the ceremony. No one is to ever go into the baptismal pool unless they have specific instructions to do so by church leadership (typically ministers, deacons, or trustees).
- **Rule 8: Treatment of the Pews:** Pews are the benches that we sit on Sundays and for other church services. We should treat them respectfully.
- **Rule 9: Language that Honors God:** Part of your commitment to God is to use language that honors God. Swearing in the sanctuary or any other part of the church is forbidden.
- **Rule 10: Enter and Exit as Directed:** Typically, you are not supposed to enter or leave the sanctuary during prayers, the reading of the scripture, or the sermon. You are also to remain in church until the closing benediction (final prayer of the service) has been said. Ushers, considered gatekeepers of the church, will remind you of these rules if you arrive late, have left to use the restroom, or have another reason to walk into or out of the sanctuary. Of course, emergencies are special cases and will be dealt with as they occur.
- **Rule 11: No Food, Beverages or Chewing Gum in the Sanctuary:** This is another way of respecting the sanctity of God's house. Use of these items is too casual in church and run the risk of ruining the church property and wasting tithes made to God on repairs that would not otherwise be necessary. Children should not be fed or given drinks unless they are in a spill proof container. Please see an usher if you need additional assistance.

# CHURCH ETIQUETTE CONTINUED

## Honoring the Church Building

- **Rule 1: Cleanliness is Next to Godliness:** Be certain to keep the church clean as a way to honor God. After church classes or church meals, make certain that all chairs and tables are where they are supposed to be, and throw away all paper in trash bins. Clean up after yourself in the bathroom and cooperate with any rules of the church as it pertains to sanitation.
- **Rule 2: Eat Only Where It Is Allowed:** Follow the church rules for eating in the church building.
- **Rule 3: Keep the Outside of the Church Building Neat and Clean:** The outside of the church reflects the inside of the church. Make certain that trash is picked up, that flowerbeds are tended, and that nothing unsightly mars the look of God's house.
- **Rule 4 Language That Honors God:** Refer to Honoring the sanctuary, Rule 9

## Honoring Christian Symbols

- **Rule 1: Treat Christian Symbols with Respect:** Crosses and other Christian symbols around the church building are to be looked at, honored, and respected. We should not use them for other than their intended purposes.
- **Rule 2: Respect the Ordinances of the Church:** Please refer to Honoring the Sanctuary, Rules 5 and 6. Remember also that the elements of the Communion service can only be partaken by those who have been baptized.
- **Rule 3: Respect the Bible:** Some of the rules about how the Bible is to be respected have changed over the years. Twenty years ago, people only wrote in their Bibles to record family births and deaths. Now we use our Bibles to study and learn and worship. We should never use them in ways that dishonor God.

## CHURCH ETIQUETTE CONTINUED

### Honoring the Pulpit

This is the spot from which the minister preaches God's word. Refer to Honoring the Sanctuary: Rule 10.

### Honoring Each Other

- **Rule 1: Treat One Another with Kindness:** God wants us to be good to one another so, whatever bad mood you had in the car on your way to church, you should greet each other kindly, in God's name, when you meet in church.
- **Rule 2: Row Two Is Not Your Pew:** If you like a particular seat in the sanctuary, then be sure to get there early enough to claim it. It is unreasonable to ask someone to give up a seat that they are in because you normally sit there.
- **Rule 3 Don't Say Bad Things about God's People:** God warns against gossip and backbiting. Our grandmothers recalled this lesson and tried to teach it to us by saying, "If you can't say something good about someone, don't say anything at all." We should try to remember this in all aspects of our lives, but especially in God's house.

### Honoring Ourselves

- **Rule 1: Honoring God Honors Us:** If we keep God's commandments, and honor the Lord's holy places, then we do honor to ourselves as well.
- **Rule 2: Enjoy the Worship Service:** God's house is a place to honor God where singing, handclapping, vocal praise, and other expressions of being Spirit-filled are expected and accepted.
- **Rule 3 Dress Appropriately:** Many Christian churches have relaxed their rules about dressing for church from the strict adherence to suits and ties for men and boys and dresses for women and girls. While most 21<sup>st</sup> century churches still tend to be somewhat formal, it recognizes that it is most important for Discipleship to be present in worship in a manner that is appropriate and that honors God. To that end, we are expected to wear our very best, whether it is dressy or casual. We should always dress as if we are going to meet someone important and there is no one more important than God.

# ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

An Ordinance is defined as an “authorized rule or law; a decree or command.” Laws or guidelines govern every legitimate organization. **In the church, the church covenant is a voluntary agreement by which disciples promise to conduct their lives in such a way as to glorify God and promote the continuation of His church.**

## The Church Covenant

### **(Salvation and Baptism)**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our 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, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

### **(Duties of the Church)**

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 and holiness; to give it a place in our affections, prayers and services above every organization of human origin; to sustain its worship, ordinances discipline and doctrine; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, towards its expenses, of the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. In case of difference of opinion in the church, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

### **(Duties in Personal Christian Living)**

We engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to study diligently the word of God; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be kind to those in our employ, and faithful in the service we promise others; endeavoring in the purity of heart and good will towards all men to exemplify and commend our holy faith.

### **(Duties to Fellow Discipleship)**

We engage to watch over, to pray for, to exhort and stir up each other unto every good word and work; to guard each other's reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others; to participate in each other's joys, and with tender sympathy bear one another's burdens and sorrows; to cultivate Christian courtesy; to be slow to give or take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, being mindful of the rules of the Savior in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, to secure it without delay; and through life, amid evil report, and good report, to seek to live to the glory of God, who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

### **(Closing)**

When we remove from this place, we engage as soon as possible to unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

*Basis of the Church Covenant J. Newton Brown wrote the Church Covenant in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, It is an expression of our duties to the Church, complied by men and backed by scriptures, as may be seen from the following study:*

# CHURCH ORDINANCES

## The First Ordinance

### Rituals

In the Old Testament there were numerous rituals and feast days, all pointing to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. In the New Testament, we do not look forward to what Jesus will do, but back to what he has already done. These ordinances portray the finished work of the cross as an illustration of what the Believer is to bring to mind about the covenant that God has made with those who have accepted His son, Jesus. But two ordinances for the new covenant are water baptism and communion.

**Baptism** – comes from the Greek (BAPTIZO) and is plainly a transliteration. It means to make whelmed (i.e. fully wet, wash) to cover wholly with a fluid by immersion. Therefore the word ‘Baptism’ is “to plunge under and soak thoroughly”. This is commonly called “Baptism by Immersion”.

**Baptism by Immersion** symbolizes our relationship to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1-11). Jesus set an example for his followers by being baptized by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13-17). He also commanded that His disciples be baptized when he gave the Great commission (Matthew 28:19). The act of submitting to baptism is a public profession of one’s faith in Jesus Christ. This act is the greatest “sermon” that a believer will ever preach to those who look on. Even though baptism is only a symbol, it is the outward symbol of the inner change experienced by the one being baptized.

### A. Water Baptism:

1. Water baptism has as its element, water. “Water” in the Word of God is talked about as types of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. The immersion in water is seen as having cleansing power. The Word of God washes us and the Holy Spirit sanctifies us.
2. When we make the choice to be baptized in water, we are not doing so to be saved. Water Baptism is something you do because you have already been saved, washed and sanctified by faith in Jesus Christ. It is a symbol (to the world) of an inner change that has already been accomplished by faith in Jesus Christ. It is an outward sign that you have identified yourself with Christ; that as Christ died, was buried, and raised again into newness of life, so also have you.

# CHURCH ORDINANCES

3. When you confessed Jesus as Lord and Savior, all your sins were buried and hidden in Christ and you became a new creation in Him. (II Corinthians 5:17) Water baptism says to the world publicly, “I declare to you that I have:
  - a. Died with Christ (lowering into the water).
  - b. Was buried with Christ (under the water).
  - c. And was raised again with Christ (raised out of the water).

And I make my stand with Christ Jesus.

Scripture references: John 1:25-26, 33; Mark 1:4, 9; 16:16; Matthew 3:6, 11, 13-15; 28:19; Romans 6:1-4; Colossians 11:12; I Peter 3:21; Luke 3: 21-22.

## The Second Ordinance

**The Lord’s Supper or Communion** – comes from the Greek (Koinonia) which mean a partnership i.e. (lit) participation, benefaction, distribution, partaker and fellowship with others.

### B. Communion

Communion, unlike water baptism and anointing. It has two elements, bread and wine, because it represents the two-fold work of Jesus on the cross.

In I Corinthians 11: 23-26, Paul, the apostle, received by revelation from the Holy Spirit, knowledge of what took place at the last supper. (He was not there personally.)

*“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.”*

## CHURCH ORDINANCES

The two elements were identified in verse 24 and 25. The bread represents His body and the wine represents His blood.

1. The phrase “in remembrance of me” speaks of looking back to what Jesus did for us on the cross and put faith in His finished work. Faith in Jesus for what He has done for us will make His work and promises real to us in our lives.
2. What Jesus accomplished for us on the cross: when the bible talks about the blood of Jesus, it is talking specifically and only about the removal of sins. The removal of sin is necessary for men to be received by God. A holy God cannot look upon a sinful man and accept him. All sin has to be judged. All the physical descendants of Adam and Eve (that is all of us) were born sinners.

We are not sinners because we commit the act(s) of sin, but because we were born with a mark against us – the sin nature (Romans 3:10, 23)

- A. The blood of Jesus is represented by the wine. The church of God, the individual believer was saved by the blood of Jesus Christ.

*“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” (Acts 20: 28)*

Jesus’ blood justified us, made us born again. *“Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” (Romans 5:9)*

*“Forasmuch as ye know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers. But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb, without blemish and without spot.” (I Peter 1:18.19)*

## CHURCH ORDINANCES

- B. The body of Jesus is represented by the bread. Through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus, sickness is removed.

“But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53: 5)

“That is might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.” (Matthew 8:17)

“Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” (I Peter 2: 24)

Jesus taking stripes on His back, on His own body, took on sickness so that we would not have to.

- C. The redemptive work of Jesus Christ was two-fold: forgiveness of sin and healing of diseases.

“Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.” (Psalm 103:3)

When we take communion, we are to consider the finished work of both acts of faith: the removal of sickness (the body) and a new spiritual birth.

### Scripture Reference

Matthew 26: 26      Luke 22: 17 – 20      Mark 14: 22-25  
Acts 2:42            1Corinthians 10: 1      1Corinthians 11: 27-34

# GOD'S PLAN FOR CHURCH FINANCE

## **THE DOCTRINE OF TITHING (Matthew 23:23)**

While tithing is both physical and spiritual, it gives proof of obedience and appreciation of God's blessing. (Hebrews 7:6-10)

### **Tithing Before the Law of Moses**

Did you know that tithing took place even before the law was given to Moses? Let's take a look at Genesis 14:20. The scriptures will show us tithing was practiced 400 years before the law was given to Moses (Genesis 14:22; Hebrews 7:1-11)

### **Tithing Under the Law:**

There was a commandment to Tithe. (Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:10)

### **There was a purpose for Tithing**

For the Levites (Numbers 18:21-24)

For the Priests (Numbers 18:26; Nehemiah 10:37; 12:44)

For the poor and to support the Ministry (Deuteronomy 14:24-29; 26:12-14)

To Supply God's house (Malachi 3:10)

To honor God (Proverbs 3:9-10)

Those who failed to tithe were condemned by the Lord as being guilty of sin. Non-tithers were called God robbers. (Malachi 3:8-9) Malachi challenged the people of Israel to try tithing and see the Lord's blessing for it. The people there upon brought in their tithes very readily. And what the priests had occasion for, themselves and their families, they made use of, and the over-plus was laid in the heaps. They did not hoard these for covetousness, but to show what plentiful provisions God had made for them.

### **NOTE:**

Church treasures are not to be hoarded any longer than till there is occasion for them. Even though they paid great taxes to the kings of Persia and had much hardship put upon them, they would not make that an excuse for not paying their tithes, but would render to God the things that were His, as well as to Caesar the things that were his.

# GOD'S PLAN FOR CHURCH FINANCE

**Tithing in the New Testament --- The Command (Luke 16:16-17)**

## **The Purpose:**

For the Minister (I Corinthians 9:7-14)

For the Poor and to Support Ministry (I Corinthians 16:1-2)

To supply God's House (Hebrew's 7:4-9)

To honor God (I Timothy 6:17-18)

## **Remember:**

We tithe in obedience and appreciation of God's many blessings. The needs of the House of God, the Ministry, the Mission, the Minister and God's children are met through our obedience and not our sacrifice.

## **Take a look at Proverbs 3:9-10**

**Verse 9** says "to honor the Lord with all thy substance and with the first fruits of thine increase".

**Verse 10** says "so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine".

Christ taught tithing: Jesus taught in Matthew 23:23 that acceptable living includes the tithe and also weightier matters of the law; judgment, mercy, and faith. In other words, the tithe alone is not enough. We must live right too. Yet, the Lord said that we ought to tithe. Matthew is also saying that they observed smaller duties, but omitted greater; they were very exact in paying tithes, when it came to mint, anise, and cumin (small plants used for spices), their exactness in tithing of which would not cost them much, but would be preached about and declared to God, and cried aloud and boasted about and talked about in their prayers (Luke 18:10-12). Therefore, they would buy their reputation cheap. The Pharisees boasted of this. "I give tithes of all that I possess." (Luke 18:12), Paying tithes was their duty: Christ tells them they ought not to leave it undone (They ought to pay tithes). All ought in their places to contribute to the support and maintenance of a standing ministry. They that are taught in the Word, and do not communicate (give) to them that teach them, love a cheap gospel. And fall short of even the Pharisees' tithing.

But that which Christ here condemns them for, is, that they omitted the weightier matters of the law; *judgment, mercy and faith*. All things of God's law are weighty, but those are most weighty, which are most expressive of inward holiness in the heart. Judgment and mercy toward men, and faith toward God, are the weightier matters of the law, the good things which the Lord our God requires (Micah 6:8), to do justly, and love mercy, and humble ourselves by faith to walk with God.

This is the obedience that is better than sacrifice or tithe. Mercy also is preferred before sacrifice (Hosea 6:6). Nor will judgment and mercy serve without faith in divine revelation; for God will be honored in His tithes as well as in His law. The gospel ministry is supported by spiritual things or scriptural doctrine (Like 12:39; I Corinthians 9:11-14). *Will a man rob God?* (Malachi 3:8)

### **Take a look at II Corinthians 9:6-10**

**Verse 6:** By this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

**Verse 7:** Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.

**Verse 8:** And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to very good work.

**Verse 9:** As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor; His righteousness remaineth forever.

**Verse 10:** Now he that ministereth seed to the sower; both ministers bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness.

# DISCIPLES' FINANCIAL EXPECTATIONS

We depend on the faithful, consistent gifts from all our disciples to support and sustain its ministries. This can be done once disciples realize that God holds us all accountable as stewards of our possessions. We must put all of our personal finances and priorities in order. A proposed plan of giving is recommended as follows; When God blesses us financially (Duet 8:18) we should; Give to the Lord, through the church, a minimum of 10%. Biblically, it represents the percentage sum of the whole and is a principle that God has revealed... one that He both honors and respects. When we give a tenth, we demonstrate our love for God with all our heart, soul and mind (Matt. 22:37-40). Give beyond the tenth as the Lord blesses you or moves upon your heart. What you give is between you and the Lord; it demonstrates your love for Him and His church and the Ministry of this body.

## **SUMMARY:**

Here then is God's plan for financing Churches: The church believes in God's plans in everything and that every disciple of this church should be a **tither**; and should engage in acceptable living in God and should lay up treasures in heaven. We should bring/give to the Lord cheerfully and willingly, gifts that are pleasing to God. If we love Him, we will keep His commandments.

## Questions:

### 1. What is the Church?

Is the church a divine or human institution? Is it built by man's promotion and organization or is it built by God?

**Answer:** the people called out ("ecclesia"). It is a summoned assembly of Believers gathered by God through Christ who join together in a certain location (Matthew 18: 17; I Corinthians 4:17) for a particular purpose (Acts 20:28; I Corinthians 1:2; 10: 32; Matthew 16: 15-20; Ephesians 2: 20-22).

### 2. What is Church Discipleship?

**Answer:** It is the congregation of believers, located at a certain locality, accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who through their commitment in baptism, agreed to believe in and behave like Christ, and who are committed to sharing Christ and a ministry like his with others. I Corinthians 1: 2; Galatians 1:2; II Corinthians 1:1; Philipians 1:1; I Thessalonians 1:1; II Thessalonians 1:1; Matthew 28: 19-20; Acts 1:8).

### 3. How is Discipleship received in the local church?

**Answer:** In Acts 2: 30-41, believers are baptized in water and added to the church. The disciple should agree to submit to the authority of the pastor and the discipline of the church.

### 4. What is the Spiritual Work of the Church?

**Answer:** To add discipleship to the body of Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2: 41-42). The believer is to be faithful in giving information that will help the body in present and future ministry of the body.

### 5. Where is My Place in the Body of Christ?

**Answer:** In the Scriptures (I Corinthians 12-13; Romans 12) and Gifts Assessment (I Corinthians 7:7; I Peter 4:11).

# MINISTRY LEADERS

## **CHAIRMAN OF DEACONS**

Deacon Nathaniel Smith\*  
Deacon Danny Combs (Vice)

## **SENIOR-PRAYER LEADER**

Sister Willie Ruth Caswell\*

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Brother Kevin Whitehead\*

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**

Deacon Melvin Jones

## **USHERS**

Brother Ricky Freeman  
Sister Linda Johnson

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Deacon Garry Fuller  
Deacon Marquette Brockington

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Sister Courtney Hudgins  
Brother Quentin Hudgins

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER**

Deacon Nathaniel Smith

## **CUSTODIANS**

Brother Christopher Pinckney  
Deacon Willie Riley  
Deacon Melvin Jones

## **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR**

Deacon Melvin Graham  
Deacon Danny Combs  
Deacon Richard Sebree

## **TEEN PRAISE DANCERS**

Sister Cherry Spivey

## **JUNIOR PRAISE DANCERS**

Sister Shelynn Brockington  
Deacon Marquette Brockington

## **CULINARY**

Deacon Emanuel Fuller  
Sister Vernita Fuller

## **MAINTENANCE**

Deacon Danny Combs

## **CHOIRS**

Leading Lady Tonia Coley &  
Deacon Melvin Jones

## **MID-DAY BIBLE STUDY**

Rev. Chauncey Johnson  
Rev. Mahundis Brice

## **EVENING BIBLE STUDY**

Pastor Donavon O. Coley

## **PRAISE & WORSHIP**

Lady Coley /Brother K. Whitehead

## **PASTOR & FAMILY AID**

Sisters Debbie Pacquette/ Pat Smith

**CULTURAL ARTS - Mother Ella Graham (Mother-of-the-Church)**



