



CHISHOLM SUMMIT
COMMUNITY CHURCH

connect // prospective membership packet

WHY IS CONNECTION SO IMPORTANT?

This is God's purpose, plan and design.

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets.... We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. -Ephesians 2:19-22 [NLT]

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

-Colossians 1:15-18 [NIV]

In connection we find support and protection.

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. -Galatians 6:1-2 [NIV]

In connection we find love and acceptance.

You are citizens with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

-Ephesians 2:19 [NLT]

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. -John 13:34

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

-Romans 15:7 [NIV]

In connection we find real growth and purpose.

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others. -Romans 12:4-5 [NLT]

In Christ's Body we're all connected to each other... -Ephesians 4:25 [MES]

We are joined together in His Body by His strong sinews, and we grow as we get our nourishment and strength from God." -Colossians 2:19 [NLT]

How can I get connected to Chisholm Summit Community Church?

CONNECTION BEGINS WITH SALVATION.

So you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like him. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians - you are one in Christ Jesus. -Galatians 3:26-28 [NLT]

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. -John 1:12 [NIV]

Becoming a Christ-Follower means:

ADMITTING YOUR NEED OF SALVATION.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. -Romans 3:23 [NASB]

BEING WILLING TO TURN FROM YOUR SINS.

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation -2 Corinthians 7:10 [NIV]

BELIEVING THAT JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND ROSE FROM THE GRAVE.

if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved -Romans 10:9 [NASB]

PRAYING TO INVITE JESUS CHRIST TO COME IN AND CONTROL YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. -Romans 10:13

These steps can be taken by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God, such as:

Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow You from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian.

Remember:

God has no grandchildren; only children. Each person must make his or her own commitment to follow Christ. It's bigger than your parents' decision.

CONNECTION CONTINUES WITH BAPTISM.

The first act of obedience to Christ as a new Follower is baptism. This is important because, by being baptized, we are following the example set by Jesus Himself:

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river. -Mark 1:9 [NIV]

Baptism is also commanded by Jesus for all of His Followers, and it demonstrates the commitment you have made to follow Christ. Every person who has committed themselves to following Christ by trusting Him should be baptized:

Jesus said, "Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit..." -Matthew 28:19-20 [NIV]

Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized. -Acts 2:41 [NIV]

As soon as you have decided to follow Christ by trusting Him, you can and should be baptized.

Those who believed... were baptized... that day. -Acts 2:41 [NIV]

Then Philip...told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, "Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?" Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." -Acts 8:35-37 [NIV]

CHISHOLM SUMMIT STATEMENTS OF FAITH: WHAT WE BELIEVE

"In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. In all things, love."

-Unknown

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]

In essential beliefs, we have UNITY.

There is one body and one Spirit... there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all. -Ephesians 4:4-6 [NIV]

In non-essential beliefs, we have LIBERTY.

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about things keep between yourself and God. -Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22 [NIV]

In all our beliefs, we show LOVE.

If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains - but have no love, I amount to nothing at all. -1 Cor. 13:2 [PH]

ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

ABOUT GOD // God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1, 26-27, 3:22 // Psalm 90:2 // Matthew 28:19 // 1 Peter 1:2 // 2 Corinthians 13:14

ABOUT JESUS // Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He rose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven and will return again some day to earth to reign as Lord of Lords.

Matthew 1:22-23 // Isaiah 9:6 // John 1:1-5, 14:10-30 // Hebrews 4:14-15 // 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 // Romans 1:3-4 // Acts 1:9-11 // 1 Timothy 6:14-15 // Titus 2:13

ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT // The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17 // John 16:7-13, 14:16-17 // Acts 1:8 // 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16 // Ephesians 1:13, 5:18 // Galatians 5:25

ABOUT THE BIBLE // The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

2 Timothy 3:16 // 2 Peter 1:20-21 // 2 Timothy 1:13
Psalm 119:105, 129, 160 // Proverbs 30:5

ABOUT PEOPLE // People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude that separates us from God and causes pain in life.

Genesis 1:27 // Psalm 8:3-6 // Isaiah 53:6 // Romans 3:23 // Isaiah 59:1-2

ABOUT SALVATION // Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Christ into his life by faith.

Romans 5:1, 6:23 // Ephesians 2:8-9 // John 14:6, 1:12 // Titus 3:5 // Galatians 3:26

ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY // Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot lose it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

John 10:29 // 2 Timothy 1:12 // Hebrews 7:25 // Hebrews 10:10,14 // 1 Peter 1:3-5

ABOUT ETERNITY // People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life in heaven. Both are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16 // John 2:25, 5:11-13 // Romans 6:23 // Revelation 20:15 // Matthew 1:8; 2:44, 46

ABOUT MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY // Marriage has been instituted and ordained by God. It is defined as the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His Church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. Sexuality is assigned by God at birth, whatever that may be, and Bible does not permit an individual to alter their sexual identity physically or otherwise.

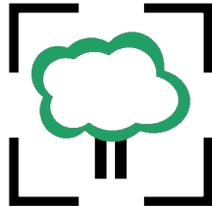
Genesis 2:24 // Matthew 19:4-6 // Deuteronomy 22:5, 23:1

THE VISION FOR A HEALTHY CHURCH

CONNECT. GROW. SERVE. REACH. // These four words represent the vision of Chisholm Summit. We expect all of our members to be connecting to God, growing to maturity, serving one another, and reaching the world for the gospel of Jesus Christ.



CONNECT.
[to God]



GROW.
[to maturity]



SERVE.
[one another]



REACH.
[the lost world]

OUR STATEMENTS OF LIFESTYLE: WHAT WE PRACTICE

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about these seven practices:

THE BIBLE IS OUR SOLE AUTHORITY // Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is: What does the Bible say? We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

2 Timothy 2:15 // The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right.

THE AUTONOMY OF EACH LOCAL CHURCH // Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating or cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control.

Colossians 1:18 // Christ is the head of...the church. He's the source of the Body's life.

THE PRIESTHOOD [MINISTRY] OF EVERY BELIEVER // 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. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

Revelation 1:6 // Christ loves us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God.

TITHING // 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.

Leviticus 26:30 // A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord.

BAPTISM BY IMMERSION // We practice baptism by immersion (under water). This is the way Jesus was baptized, and it is the way the Bible commands.

Colossians 2:12 // For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.

SPIRIT-LED LIVING // We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So we seek to practice daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right.

Philippians 2:13 // For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

WITNESSING // It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those whom God has brought us into contact. We share Christ with others and invite them to join us.

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

MEMBERSHIP: THE COMMITMENT TO CONNECT.

The difference between attenders and members can be summed up in one word: **Commitment**. We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything. This attitude has produced a generation of church shoppers and hoppers. True membership is different. It swims against the current of America's consumer religion. Membership is an unselfish decision, and is born of a commitment which will always build character.

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

Membership defines who can be counted on. Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every army has an enlistment. Membership identifies our family of believers who can be counted on in our attempt to fulfill our purpose.

Membership demonstrates a Christ-like commitment. Jesus Christ loves and is committed to the church. Ephesians 5:25 makes this clear: *Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it.*

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At Chisholm Summit, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only encourage our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant:

Having received Jesus as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized, and being in agreement with Chisholm Summit's statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Chisholm Summit church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

I will protect the unity of Chisholm Summit by acting in love toward other members and by refusing to gossip.

Romans 15:5,19 // Live in complete harmony with each other - each with the attitude of Christ toward each other....So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.

1 Peter 1:22 // You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.

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

I will furthermore protect the unity of Chisholm Summit by following the leaders of the church. Chisholm Summit Community Church is a staff-led church. Our pastoral staff does, however, make themselves accountable to the church **overseers***. This group is comprised of 7 members who, along with the pastoral staff, seek, pray, and help shape the over-all direction of the church.

Hebrews 13:17 // 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.

*board of directors

I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, by inviting others to attend, and by warmly welcoming those who are alone and/or visiting.

1 Thessalonians 1:2 // To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.

Luke 4:23 // Go out... and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full.

Romans 15:7 // So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.

I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents, by allowing myself to be equipped to serve, and by developing a servant's heart.

1 Peter 4:10 // Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you.

Ephesians 4:11-12 // 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.

Philippians 2:3-4, 7 // 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.

I will support the life of my church by attending and giving faithfully, and by living a godly life.

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

Thank you for taking the time to be with us today. We hope this time has provided you with a clear picture of who we are as a church. We would be blessed to have you join us as a member of Chisholm Summit Community Church. If you have any further questions about Chisholm Summit, please do not hesitate to contact any of the staff.

Our church office phone number is **817-297-9042**.

To speak with any of our pastors, simply enter the appropriate extension as listed below:

Larry Elsea // Senior Pastor
// ext. 104 // larry@cscchurch.org

Greg Warren // Worship Pastor/Administration
// ext. 105 // greg@cscchurch.org

Sam Dallas // Youth Pastor/Apologetics
// ext. 102 // sam@cscchurch.org

David Elsea // Children's Pastor/Missions
// ext. 101 // david@cscchurch.org





Membership Form

Name // _____

Address // _____

City // _____ Zip Code // _____

Home Phone // _____

E-mail address:

Work Phone // _____

Cell Phone // _____

Gender // _____ Birthday // _____ Marital Status // _____

Anniversary // _____ Age Group // _____

Occupation // _____

Company // _____

I have the following expertise // _____

Education // _____ School // _____

Who first invited you to Chisholm Summit? _____

How would you describe your relationship to Jesus Christ?

New Christian Committed Christian

I am a Christian, but I need to grow closer

Describe when and how you became a Christian. _____

Have you been baptized? If so, when and where? _____

Having read and thoroughly reviewed the information contained within this packet, I wish to become a member of Chisholm Summit Community Church, and in so doing, choose to actively commit myself to upholding the Membership Covenant.

Signature

Date