

# **DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

**CrossTown Alliance**

**WE'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU!**

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

Address.....

City, State, Zip.....

Email .....

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

Male or Female (circle) If married, anniversary \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Single       Married       Widowed

My occupation is .....

I have the following expertise.....

.....

Before CrossTown, I have not been active in a church for .....1 year .....5 years .....10 years .....Ever  
Please check, if you are currently active at CrossTown Alliance but are not a member .....

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> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| .....               | .....                 | .....           | .....         | .....                      |
| .....               | .....                 | .....           | .....         | .....                      |
| .....               | .....                 | .....           | .....         | .....                      |

How would you describe your relationship to Christ?

- Seeker/curious       I'm not sure what I believe       New Christian  
 Committed Christian       I've been a Christian for a while, but I need to grow closer

How did you hear about CrossTown? .....

What are your hobbies?.....

**INFORMATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS**

Spouse's Name.....Date of Birth.....Attends CrossTown?\_\_\_\_\_

Children:

| <u>First Name</u> | <u>Last Name</u> | <u>Birth Date</u> | <u>School Grade</u> | <u>Which School?</u> | <u>Lives w/You?</u> | <u>Attends This Church?</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| .....             | .....            | .....             | .....               | .....                | .....               | .....                       |
| .....             | .....            | .....             | .....               | .....                | .....               | .....                       |
| .....             | .....            | .....             | .....               | .....                | .....               | .....                       |
| .....             | .....            | .....             | .....               | .....                | .....               | .....                       |

**WELCOME TO  
DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

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

Discovering Church Membership is divided into four sections.

**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.....

**THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS**

**That I will commit myself to ..... and to the \_\_\_\_\_**

## Class Outline

### SECTION ONE: OUR STORY

- The story behind the C&MA denomination
- The story behind CrossTown Alliance

### SECTION TWO: OUR STRATEGY & STATEMENTS

- Our Vision Statement (*What we are committed to*)
- Our Strategy Statement (*How we are committed to accomplishing our vision*)
- A Church Where . . . (*What this vision looks like*)
- CrossTown DNA (*Our core values*)
- Statement of Faith (*Our basic beliefs*)

### SECTION THREE: OUR STRUCTURE

- How our church is structured
- Implications of Strategy & Structure

### SECTION FOUR: OUR SALVATION

- What it means to be a Christian
- The symbols of salvation: Baptism and Communion
- What it means to be a member
- What Now?

A Quiz About CrossTown Alliance, Conclusion, and Ministry Menu

# Section One

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## Our Story

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The Alliance is a unique missionary denomination – A maverick movement into whose soul the Head of the Church breathed “Go!” from the very start.  
– L.L King, C&MA President (1978-1987)

## THE STORY BEHIND THE C&MA

The **Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA)** is an Evangelical Protestant denomination within Christianity.

Founded by Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ in 1887, the Christian & Missionary Alliance did not start off as a denomination, but rather began as two distinct parachurch organizations: The Christian Alliance which focused on the pursuit and promotion of the Higher Christian life and The Evangelical Missionary Alliance, which focused on mobilizing "consecrated" Christians in the work of foreign missionary efforts. These two groups joined together in 1897 to form The Christian and Missionary Alliance. It was only much later during the mid twentieth century that an official denomination was formed.

As of 2012, there are 2,010 C&MA churches and approximately 430,000 members in the United States. Approximately 600 of those churches are described as intercultural. The C&MA 2004 annual report estimated that outside of the U.S. and Canada, C&MA membership exceeds \_\_\_\_\_.

The heart of The Alliance has been the Fourfold Gospel, which focuses on Jesus as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. We hold a common desire to see every man, woman, and child experience a personal relationship with God in the fullness of Jesus Christ.

As an alliance of Christians committed to seeing the Great Commission completed, Alliance Great Commission Ministries include more than 900 workers serving in \_\_\_\_\_ worldwide.

Alliance workers are not required to raise their own support. Instead, they and their ministries are financed through \_\_\_\_\_ (GCF). Many C&MA church members and friends of The Alliance give to the GCF regularly and live out the example set by the early church of sacrificial giving toward the work of the gospel.

CrossTown Alliance is a unique multi-site church with a storied past. Birthed out of a "holy discontent" that God gave Pastor Jeremy, God opened up doors for a small country church to start a multi-site campus in Olean, NY.

## THE STORY BEHIND CROSSTOWN ALLIANCE

In January 2012 Pastor Jeremy started a message series on the book of Nehemiah and felt a strong impression from God that just as Nehemiah heard about something approximately 1000 miles away that broke his heart and moved him to action, similarly the Olean situation moved Pastor Jeremy's heart. Thus, began a lot of prayer and discussion (Elders and Staff) as how we as a church could impact a dying church 35 miles away. *Below is a list of some of the reasons that we originally came up with to start a satellite campus in Olean.*

- Because we believe God is leading us to do this.
- To resurrect a dead congregation.
- To equip a campus pastor to focus on developing leaders, discipling believers and doing all the other things that a pastor is responsible for without having the responsibility of preparing a sermon each week.
- To model the NT church in the book of Acts and be a part of church planting. Multi-site is a way we can do this effectively.
- To obey Acts 1:8, "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the world." "Jerusalem" is Wellsville and the surrounding community. "Samaria" is church planting (in the traditional sense). "Ends of the word" is missionaries we support through the Great Commission Fund. And "Judea" is our multi-site vision for Olean.

- To reflect the heart of God and our core value that Found People Find People. If lost people matter to God, they should matter to us no matter where they live.

With our district Executive Committee's approval on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the two churches officially became one and began pursuing the launch of our Olean campus. Pastor Andrew Hall was officially hired as the Olean Campus Pastor on February 13, 2013. Then on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the members of the Wellsville Alliance Church officially adopted CrossTown Alliance as the new name of the church, communicating both our heart (point people to the Cross) AND our multi-site strategy (one church in multiple locations, stretching across towns). The first service at CrossTown Olean was held on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with \_\_\_\_\_ in attendance.

**History behind the Olean Campus:**

Formerly known as the Grace Alliance Church, the church began in the 1930's under the leadership of \_\_\_\_\_. The current building was built in \_\_\_\_\_. Throughout its history the church had \_\_\_\_\_ pastors.

Over the years, Grace Alliance has been a lighthouse for the Gospel; however the church fell on hard times and on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Grace Alliance church officially held their last worship service. Yet, this was only the beginning...what Satan intended for evil, God used for His ultimate purpose!

**History behind the Wellsville Campus:**

The ground work and foundation for the Wellsville church was first laid in 1914 by Miss Lucy Wilcox, a home missionary. During her ministry, the church property located on West Pearl Street was purchased. The congregation continued at this location for approximately forty-eight years. The church was officially organized as a branch of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in May of 1915, with nine charter members.

It was under Rev. Sidney Harris, pastor from 1956-1964, that the present church on North Highland Avenue was built. The Service of Dedication for this facility was held September 23, 1962. Under the leadership of Rev. Samuel McGarvey (1964-1976), the Education Annex was completed in 1972. Over its history the Wellsville Alliance Church has had 13 pastors. Today, the Church is led by Rev. Jeremy Gorham. Jeremy began his ministry here as our pastor on September 8th, 2009.

We look forward to all the great things that God has waiting for our church as we seek to impact our communities for Jesus Christ. We desire to be a church that honors the past while pressing towards God's vision for the future.

# Section Two

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## Our Strategy & Statements

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*“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 VISION (WHAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO)

The purpose of our church is summarized in a single sentence... (our vision statement)

To lead people to **discover**, **develop**, and **display** full devotion to Jesus Christ.

**The Great Commandment:** *“Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.’”* Matt. 22:36-40

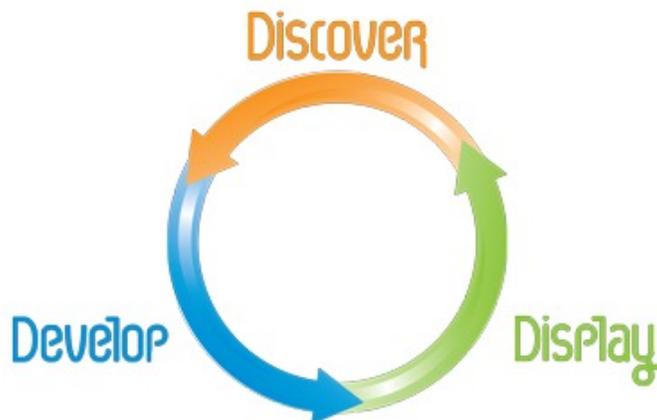
**The Great Commission:** *“Jesus said, ‘Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.’”* Matt. 28:19-20

These 3 Ds (Discover, Develop & Display) \_\_\_\_\_ our church

Our goal is not church growth, but church.....

\_\_\_\_comes from

- Our Vision is also our process... it’s our strategy for helping people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. See below:



## OUR STRATEGY (HOW WE ARE COMMITTED TO DOING IT)

We are intentional about creating environments that lead people to . . .

**Discover** – Discover what it means to have a relationship with Jesus Christ through our inspiring \_\_\_\_\_ on Sunday morning: A place where there is uplifting and inspiring music, biblical, practical and relevant messages, memorable illustrations, along with media and drama... all creating an environment where people (unbelievers and believers) are excited to come to church.

*“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)*

### **Three reasons why our church must never stop helping people discover who Jesus is**

#### **1. Because.....**

*“The Lord...is patient, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but wants everyone to come to repentance.”*

2 Pet. 3:9

2 Cor. 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matt. 9:12-13

#### **2. Because.....**

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

*“...you will be my witnesses...” Acts 1:8*

#### **3. Because.....**

*“Under Christ’s control, the whole Body is nourished...and grows as **God wants it to grow.**” Col. 2:19 (GN)*

*“(Jesus) I will build my church.” Matt. 16:18*

### **Unbiblical Excuses For Not Growing:**

- *“God isn’t interested in numbers.”*
- *“Our church wants quality not quantity.”*
- *“Large churches are impersonal”*

**We believe our church must grow ..... and ..... disciples at the same time.**

How most new people come to Church today:

..... come because of a personal invite

..... come through our website – Always up-to-date, make it your homepage and read it often

- Use an Invest & Invite card
- Pass out invite cards

**Develop** - Develop meaningful relationships while growing towards Christ-like maturity through \_\_\_\_\_. A place where you can be challenged to grow in your faith as a believer. A place where you can find support for whatever you or your family is going through. Maybe it's an illness in the family, loss of a job, or depression, or maybe it's just that you need some help with meals because you have just experienced the blessing of a new baby. Whatever the situation, you find the support you need in a small group.

*"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

**Development of meaningful relationships while growing towards Christ-like maturity takes place in Small Groups.**

*"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another."* Heb. 10:25

- The heartbeat of our church will be our .....
- Every member should be a part of one.

**Display** – Displaying our faith to the community through \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ where you will be able to invest in and invite others to become fully devoted followers of Jesus.

*"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

*"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)*

**#1 – Ministry Teams at CrossTown Alliance...**

- Every member is a \_\_\_\_\_
- Every task is .....
- To lead or start a new ministry there needs to be a request by at least ..... and the request must be approved by the Elders.
- To get into a ministry first check out the .....
- To get out of a ministry; we ask you give at least ..... notice
- We ask every member who has children ages birth through 4<sup>th</sup> grade to serve (in some capacity) in the Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings during the worship service on a rotating basis. Right now the rotation is approximately once every four weeks.

## #2 – Servant Evangelism Projects at CrossTown Alliance...

Servant Evangelism Projects happen roughly once a quarter. People usually have multiple opportunities to sign up on the back of their connection card to participate. Some examples of previous projects that we have done include:

- **Community Christmas Tree Lighting** – we passed out hot cocoa, cookies, glow sticks, and invite cards to the community.
- **Dirty Laundry Day** – we paid for people’s laundry to be cleaned at local laundry mats and helped people fold their clothes while inviting them to church.
- **Gas Giveaway** – we paid for the first \$5 of gas for each car that pulled up to the pump and then we invited them to church.
- **Balloon Rally Festivities** – we provided free water bottles, face painting, stickers and invite cards to our church.

Servant evangelism is simply serving people so they will be open to an \_\_\_\_\_ or hearing about Christ.

Let’s use yet another way to express the three Ds in our Vision Statement:



We have a lot to offer, but what things should each person who attends make a priority? Above all else, we believe that if you simply do the “Big 3” it will help you connect and grow in your faith.

### **Come on Sunday.**

Make it a priority to attend church every Sunday—learn to be a regular attender at church!

### **Be part of a group.**

Develop meaningful relationships while growing towards Christ-like maturity. Learn and apply God’s word together, encourage one another, and hold each other accountable.

### **Serve others.**

Commit to serving others by using your *time, talents, and treasures* to display God’s love within our church, in the community, and beyond.

## A CHURCH WHERE... (WHAT THIS VISION LOOKS LIKE)

When the church focuses on the 3Ds/The Big 3... not only will we see people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, we will also see:

*A church where . . .* unchurched people enjoy coming to church and where Christians feel comfortable bringing their unchurched friends.

*A church where . . .* the music is relevant and done with excellence. Where the sermons are always biblical, practical, and relevant. Where media, drama, and visuals are used to speak God's message in an irresistibly compelling way.

*A church where . . .* every member is a minister that uses his/her gifts to make a difference.

*A church where . . .* people meet in small groups at homes throughout our community and at our church where they study the Bible and share their lives with one another.

*A church where . . .* the children's ministry is the best hour of a child's week because of the fun and love they experience.

*A church where . . .* the student ministry reaches *hundreds* of teenagers for Christ and accepts and loves them the way Jesus does.

*A church where . . .* the older people of our community are not marginalized but are valued and are treated as indispensable for the future success of the church.

*A church where . . .* our members are driven by God's vision and not by tradition. A church where we are bold and innovative in doing whatever it takes to advance God's kingdom.

## CROSSTOWN DNA (OUR CORE VALUES)



### CROSSTOWN DNA

CrossTown DNA is our set of core values. It sets the tone and trajectory for everything we do. If the vision to lead people to DISCOVER, DEVELOP, and DISPLAY full devotion to Jesus Christ is the compass, then our DNA is the map that gives us direction on how to accomplish our vision.

#### **CrossTown / DISCOVER**



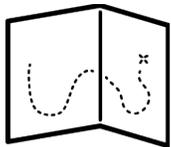
**God is the Goal** We believe there is no greater pursuit in life than knowing God; therefore, everything we do should center around Him. (Romans 11:36; Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 1:15-17; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27)



**Prayer is a Priority** We believe that apart from a relationship with Jesus, we can do nothing of eternal value; therefore, everything we do should be surrounded by prayer. (Matthew 18:19; John 15:5; Philippians 4:6-7)



**Saved People Serve People** We believe God saved us from sin when we could not earn it; therefore, we should love people when they least expect it and least deserve it. (Luke 10:25-37; Romans 5:8, 13:8; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5)



**Found People Find People** We believe when you discover something that changes your life, you should naturally want to share it with others. Lost people who don't know Jesus matter to God; therefore, they should matter to us! (Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17; Luke 15; Luke 19:10; John 9:25; Acts 16:5; 1 Corinthians 9:22-23; 2 Timothy 2:10)

#### **CrossTown / DEVELOP**



**We are a Church of Small Groups** We will be the Church to one another in smaller environments where people will be cared for and prompted to grow. (Acts 2:42-47; Galatians 6:9-10; Hebrews 10:24-25;)



**We are Generous with God's Resources** We will go above and beyond to give sacrificially to the work of God in our communities. You cannot out give God. (Luke 19:1-10; Acts 4:36-37; Acts 2:42-47; 2 Corinthians 8:6-7; Malachi 3:10)



**We are Followers not Fans** We will go beyond cultural Christianity and learn to daily deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus. Our commission is to make disciples not converts. (Matthew 16:24; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:23; John 3:30)



**We are Passionate about God's Word** We will continually seek to know and obey God by consistently reading the Bible. (1 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:105)

### CrossTown / DISPLAY



**Playing it Safe is Risky** We will be people of faith who are willing to do whatever, whenever, wherever, God calls us. Small acts of courage can change the course of history! (Luke 19; 2 Timothy 2:2; Matthew 28: 18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8; Matthew 9:36-10:1; Luke 8:25)



**Think Inside the Box** We will embrace our limitations. They will inspire our greatest creativity and innovation. (Mark 10:27, John 12:32; 2 Corinthians 12:9-11; Philippians 4:13; Zechariah 4:6)



**Go the Extra Mile** We believe in doing our best when we do something in the name of Christ. Excellence honors God and inspires people. (Colossians 3:23-24; 1 Timothy 4:15-16; Malachi 1:6-14)



**Never too Early. Never too Late** We believe you are never too young to be who God created you to be AND it's never too late to become who you might have been; Both young and old generations are indispensable for the future success of the church. (1 Timothy 4:12, Titus 2:3-4, Judges 2:10, Stories of Moses and Abraham)

## OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

### *What We Believe*

- **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...” Eph. 4:4-6*

- **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 these things keep between yourself and God.” Romans 14:1,4,12,22*

- **In all our beliefs — we show charity.**

*“...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)*

#### THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

There is one God,<sup>(1)</sup> who is infinitely perfect,<sup>(2)</sup> existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.<sup>(3)</sup>

[1] Deuteronomy 6:4, [2] Matthew 5:48, [3] Matthew 28:19

Jesus Christ is the true God and the true man.<sup>(4)</sup> He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.<sup>(5)</sup> He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust,<sup>(6)</sup> as a substitutionary sacrifice,<sup>(7)</sup> and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.<sup>(8)</sup> He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures.<sup>(9)</sup> He is now at the right hand of Majesty on high as our great High Priest.<sup>(10)</sup> He will come again to establish His kingdom, righteousness and peace.<sup>(11)</sup>

[4] Philippians 2:6–11, [5] Luke 1:34–38, [6] 1 Peter 3:18, [7] Hebrews 2:9, [8] Romans 5:9, [9] Acts 2:23–24, [10] Hebrews 8:1, [11] Matthew 26:64

The Holy Spirit is a divine person,<sup>(12)</sup> sent to dwell, guide, teach, empower the believer,<sup>(13)</sup> and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.<sup>(14)</sup>

[12] John 14:15–18, [13] John 16:13; Acts 1:8, [14] John 16:7–11

The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.<sup>(15)</sup> 2 Peter 1:20–21

Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God:<sup>(16)</sup> he fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature,<sup>(17)</sup> are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>(18)</sup> The portion of the unrepentant and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment;<sup>(19)</sup> and that of the believer, in everlasting joy and bliss.<sup>(20)</sup>

[16] Genesis 1:27, [17] Romans 3:23, [18] 1 Corinthians 15:20–23, [19] Revelation 21:8, [20] Revelation 21:1–4

Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men; and those who repent and believe in Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, and become the children of God.(21)  
Titus 3:4-7

It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly,(22) being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service.(23) This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion.(24)

[22] 1 Thessalonians 5:23, [23] Acts 1:8, [24] Romans 6:1-14

Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body.(25) Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age.(26)

[25] Matthew 8:16-17, [26] James 5:13-16

The Church consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church, (27) which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations.(28) The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.(29)

[27] Ephesians 1:22-23, [28] Matthew 28:19-20, [29] Acts 2:41-47

There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life; (30) for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment.(31)

[30] 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, [31] John 5:28-29

The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent(32) and will be personal, visible, and premillennial.(33) This is the believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service.(34)

[32] Hebrews 10:37, [33] Luke 21:27, [34] Titus 2:11-14

# Section Three

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## Our Structure

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*“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

The structure of the church should *not* be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions. The ..... determines its structure

### 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 .....**

*“(Often)...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you...”* 1 Cor. 11:17-18

**At CrossTown Alliance we only vote on:**

- Annual budget
- Purchase of land or buildings
- Calling the senior pastor
- Changes in the church bylaws
- Elected positions

### 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 .....**  
**and .....**

**Three major ways of communications:**

1. .... – Please don’t simply delete them.
2. .... – “friend” the church if you are on FB.
3. .... – The back of the bulletin contains the top 4-5 things you need to know that week for our church. Please get in the habit of reading them.

**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*

**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*

**Staff-Led, Elder-Governed Church:**

In terms of church leadership structure, we use the phrase at CrossTown that we are “staff led and elder governed.” The Elder Board is a group of men that are unpaid (with the exception of the Pastors on staff who are elders) and given the task of overseeing the life and health of our church body. Specifically, the Elder board is assigned with:

- Ultimate responsibility and authority to see that the church remains on a true course biblically, that its members are being appropriately shepherded, that the body is being fed through insightful and accurate biblical teaching, and that the life of the church is being well managed with the assistance of other competent and Godly leaders.
- Guarding the body against harmful influences, confronting those who are contradicting biblical truth and/or continuing in a pattern of destructive or harmful behavior.
- Shepherding the church by being an example or role model. To encourage, evaluate and consult with key staff and members within their particular ministries.
- Caring about the spiritual and physical well being of members, including regularly praying for the sick.

This means that a board of qualified Elders will oversee the overall mission/vision of the church, while the staff members/ministry leaders will make day-to-day operational decisions without the unnecessary challenges of a large bureaucracy. (Hebrews 13:17: 1 Peter 5:1-3)

*\*\*Note: We do have a governing board that provides accountability to the staff and helps make some important decisions\*\**

**IV. IMPLICATIONS OF STRATEGY & STRUCTURE.**

1. There are 2 main doorways into the church:

**Doorway #1 – Sunday AM Service** - Now that you know our strategy and structure, hopefully you understand why we do what we do at this church. For instance,

- Why do we put verses on the screen?
- Why do we not use an organ?
- Why do we have mostly contemporary music rather than traditional music?
- What are some other things we do to appeal to lost people?
- What are some things we don't do?

Therefore, our Sunday morning service is\_\_\_\_\_.

**Doorway #2 – Small Group**

Key Characteristics about our small group ministry:

- We have ..... of small group per year: Spring and Fall (It roughly comes out to three months of small group in the Fall and four months in the Spring).

- Right before each semester starts we have small group sign-ups. .... must sign up in order to participate. If there is one small group you must get into due to curriculum, time locations, or who is teaching/attending, then please sign up early because once a small group is filled it is .....
- This is the ..... for our church. Our goal is to have as many members as possible active in a small group.

2. We ask everyone to serve in two ministries:

- One where you are .....
- One where you are .....

3. Additionally, now that you are taking this class, on Sunday mornings you only need to fill your name and phone number on the connection card. However, please do it every Sunday. Why?

# Section Four

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## Our Salvation

*“For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by Him. We are no longer Jews or Gentiles, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women, but we are all the same — we are Christians; we are one in Jesus Christ.”*

Galatians 3:26-28 (LB)

## SALVATION – BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

### I. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

**A. God is \_\_\_\_\_**

*"I am the LORD who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy."* – Leviticus 11:45

**B. We have all \_\_\_\_\_**

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* – Romans 3:23

**C. Sin is the \_\_\_\_\_** – Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of His will

*"The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God."* – Isaiah 59:2a (LB)

### HOW DO MOST ATTEMPT TO GET BACK TO GOD?

**A. "I am a \_\_\_\_\_."**

*"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags."* – Isaiah 64:6a

**B. "I \_\_\_\_\_ In God."**

*"You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-and shudder."*  
– James 2:19

**C. "I'll be \_\_\_\_\_ and go to Church."**

### II. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

**The Solution is \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"* – John 14:6

## When Jesus died on the cross He took care of our sin problem!

*“The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” – Rom. 6:23*

*“God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us.” – Rom. 5:8*

*“God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together; by giving His life for all mankind.” – 1 Tim. 2:5*

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

### III. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. .... that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.

*“If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.” – 1 John 1:9*

2. ....that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose again on that first Easter morning, and is alive today.

*“If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you **believe in your heart** that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” – Romans 10:9*

*“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (Jesus) by which we must be saved.” – Acts 4:12*

3. ....God’s free gift of salvation. Don’t try to earn it.

*“For it is by grace you are saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God** — not by works, so that no one can boast.” – Ephesians 2:8, 9*

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us!

4. ....Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director (“Lord”) of your life.

**Prayer:** “Dear Jesus, thank you for 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. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please forgive me for all my sins. Please come into my heart—right now. Thank you for coming into my heart and making me a new person inside. I accept this free gift of salvation. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please help me to understand it more and to grow as a Christian. Amen.”  
*“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” – Romans 10:13*

# THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

## I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To follow the example set by.....

*“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.” – Mark 1:9*

2. Because Christ.....it.

*“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, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.’”  
– Matt. 28:19-20*

*“We know that we have come to know Him, if we **obey** His commands.” – 1 John 2:3*

3. It demonstrates that I really am a .....

*“...many of the people who heard Him **believed** and were **baptized**.” – Acts 18:8*

## II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It illustrates Christ’s ..... and resurrection

*“Christ died for our sins... He was buried...and He rose again.” – 1 Cor. 15:3-4*

*“For when you are **baptized**, you were **buried** with Christ, and in baptism you were also **raised** with Christ.” – Col. 2:12*

2. It illustrates my ..... as a Christian.

*“When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!” – 2 Cor. 5:17*

*“**By our baptism then**, we were **buried** with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was **raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life!**” – Rom. 6:4*

Baptism doesn’t make you a believer — it shows that **you already believe**. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring — it’s the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

## III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. Because..... was baptized that way.

*“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” – Matthew 3:16*

2. Every baptism in the .....was by immersion.

(Example) “...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” – Acts 8:38-39

**3. The word “Baptize” means to .....water”.**

The Greek word *baptizo* means “to immerse or dip under water”.

**It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection!**

The founders of denominations agree:

**Martin Luther...**“I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”

**John Calvin...**“The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

**John Wesley...**“Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

**IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?**

**Every person who has ..... in Christ.**

“*Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized...*” – Acts 2:41

“*But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*” – Acts 8:12

At CrossTown Alliance, we wait until our children are old enough to **believe** and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “*baptism of confirmation/ child baptism*” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. **This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible** which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

**It is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed” as children.**

You should be baptized .....

“*Those who believed...were baptized...that day!*” – Acts 2:41

# THE MEANING OF COMMUNION

## I. WHAT IS COMMUNION? (1 COR. 11:23-26)

1. It is a .....

“...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; eat it in remembrance of me.’” (vs. 24)

2. It is a.....

“In the same way, He took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me.’” (vs. 25)

3. It is a.....

“For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes back.” (vs. 26)

## II. WHO SHOULD TAKE COMMUNION?

Only those who are already..... (Mark 14:22-26)

“For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself.”

## III. WHEN AND HOW OFTEN DO WE OBSERVE COMMUNION?

– 1 Cor. 11:29

At CrossTown Alliance, we observe Communion once a month and it is normally the first Sunday of each month.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

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

**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?**

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. **These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant.**

**What about children?** Your children are eligible for membership at the age of 12. At that time, they are to take the Discovering Church Membership Class on their own for membership.

## CROSSTOWN ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

There are two copies of each covenant—one for you and one for the church.

**“Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with CrossTown Alliance’s statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the CrossTown Alliance family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members, to the best of my ability, to do the following:”**

### **I. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH**

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

*“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 and using them**
- ...By being equipped to serve by my pastor(s)**
- ...By developing a servant’s heart**
- ...By serving in a ministry right away**

*“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 joining a Small Group**
- ...By living a Godly life**
- ...By financially supporting this church**

*“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*

Signed .....Date\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name .....

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP QUIZ

### The Quiz

Can you draw the strategy for reaching our vision?

“Every member is a .....

How do you begin a new ministry?

How many ministries should I serve in?

Can you say our Vision Statement?

Can you name the “Big 3”?

The people are the .....

The pastors are the .....

What is God’s vision for our church?

## TO DECIDE BEFORE YOU LEAVE

1. Pick a ministry to try out – See the Ministry Menu
2. To fill out your name and email on the connection card every Sunday! (Update info as necessary)
3. Not to sit on the back 3 rows. They are for our first time guests who are either sometimes late or are shy and want to sit in the back.
4. To take some invite cards and bring friends to church!
5. To fill out and turn in:
  - The Get To Know You page (p. 2)
  - The Membership Covenant (pp. 30-31)
  - The Application for Membership

**CrossTown Alliance**  
**Application for Membership**

**1. Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trust Him for your salvation?**

(circle)      Yes      No

If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

2 follow-up questions:

1. If something were to happen to you and you were to die, what percentage of certainty do you have that you would go to heaven? \_\_\_\_\_

2. If you were to die and you were to stand in front of God and He were to ask you, "Why should I let you into Heaven?", what would you tell Him? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Have you been baptized by immersion, under water, after becoming a Christian (as a result of your salvation, not as a condition of your salvation)?**

(circle)      Yes      No

If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Have you completed the Discovering Church Membership Class?**

(circle)      Yes      No

If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Do you desire to abide by the CrossTown Alliance Membership Covenant?**

(circle)      Yes      No

Signed .....Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name .....