



***DISCOVERING
CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP***

JOURNEY 101

Student Copy
Red Letter Edition

**Written by Pastor Rick Warren
Saddleback Valley Community Church
Modified for use at Journey Ministries**

WELCOME TO DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

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

Discovering Church Membership is divided in four sessions of an hour each and is taught by our pastor or members of the Journey Ministries Leadership Team (JMLT).

THE BASIS 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** **family**
2. God expects you to be **a** **part** of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is **an** **orphan**

THE JOURNEY MINISTRIES COMMITMENT

...That I will commit myself to **Christ** and to the
 church

EPH 2:19 *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,*

Romans 12:4 *Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

WHAT MAKES JOURNEY MINISTRIES A FAMILY?

Four things unite us:

- **Our Salvation** (What God has done for us)
- **Our Statement** (Why we exist as a church)
- **Our Strategy** (How we fulfill our purpose)
- **Our Structure** (When and where we fulfill our purpose)

Seminar Outline

Part ONE: OUR SALVATION

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

Part TWO: OUR STATEMENTS

- Our Purpose Statement
- Our Faith Statement
- Our Lifestyle Statement

Part THREE: OUR STRATEGY

- The story of Journey Ministries' beginning
- Who we are trying to reach (target)
- Membership Commitment
- The Journey Ministries strategy

Part FOUR: OUR STRUCTURE

- How our church is structured
- Our affiliation
- What it means to be a member
- What Now?

Part One

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)



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “WHY?” They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “*What is the meaning of life?*”

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- ...Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions.**
- ...Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure.**
- ...Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige & power.**

But real happiness comes from understanding my purpose in
life.

I. Why Am I Here?

1. **GOD MADE ME SO THAT HE CAN LOVE ME!**

God says, “*I have loved you with an everlasting love!*” Jer. 31:3

*“Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ...**because of His love.** God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children — this was God’s pleasure and purpose.”* Eph. 1:4-5 (GN)

2. **WE WERE CREATED TO ENJOY A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND TO MANAGE ALL OF THE REST OF GOD’S CREATION! THIS MAKES US SPECIAL!**

“So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them, and said,...live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge.” Gen. 1:27-28 (LB)

“God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” 1 Tim. 6:17

Jesus said, “*I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness!*” John 10:10

3. WHEN WE KNOW AND LOVE GOD, AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES, IT PRODUCES TREMENDOUS BENEFITS IN OUR LIVES:

Clear Conscience Rom. 8:1	Life & Peace Rom. 8:6	Help with Weakness Rom. 8:26
Purpose Rom. 8:28	Confidence Rom. 8:31	Security Rom. 8:39
Power & Strength Phil. 4:13	Fulfillment Phil. 4:19	Freedom John 8:32,36

This is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live!

Jesus said, “I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness!” – John 10:10

If this is true, why aren’t most people really happy?

II. WHAT’S THE PROBLEM?

Man has a natural desire to be the boss and to ignore God’s principles for living.

This ignorance to God’s way of living is communicated in our words and lifestyle:

- *“Look out for #1.”*
- *“I want what I want, when I want it”*
- *Do your own thing.”*
- *“If it feels good, do it - regardless of what God says about it.”*
- *“It’s my life and I’ll do what I please!”*

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE: SIN.

Sin is a biblical word that means “to miss the mark.”

Key word: _____ **Rebellion** _____

“All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way.” Isaiah 53:6

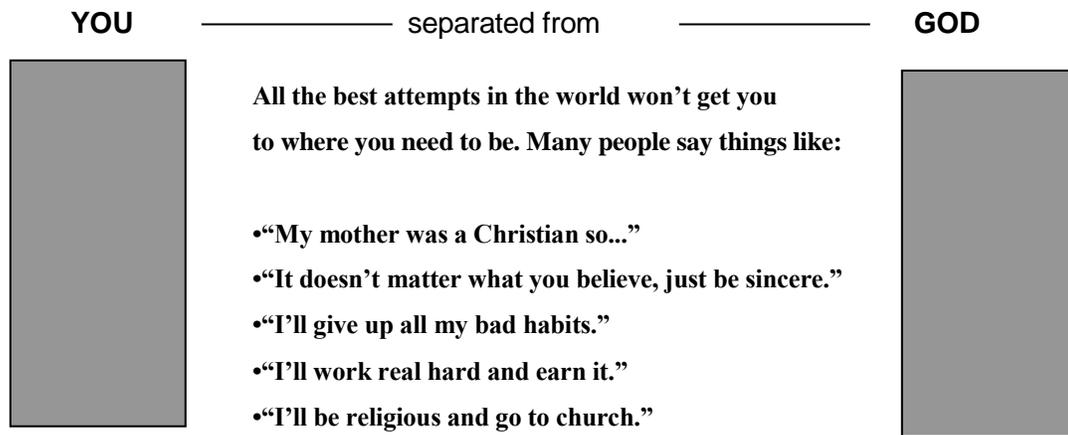
“If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth.” 1 John 1:8

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 59:2 (LB)

“All have sinned and fall short of God’s glorious ideal.” Romans 3:23

It looks like this...



SIN/DEATH

The result of these attempts is worthless. The Bible teaches us that our attempts lead to Death. A relationship with God is not based on anything you DO.

“There are ways that SEEM right to man, but they only end in death.”
Proverbs 16:25

III. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

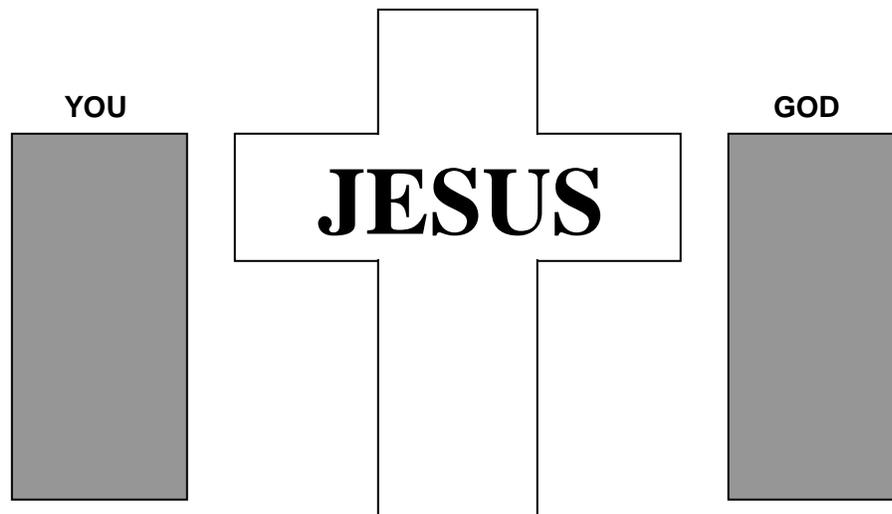
Jesus Christ said, *"I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except THROUGH ME!"* John 14:6

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The Way is a Person!

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

JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM!

"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



Why did God send Jesus to die in your place?

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

"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 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.

IV. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. _____ **ADMIT** _____ 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. _____ **BELIEVE** _____ THAT JESUS DIED TO PAY FOR YOUR SINS AND THAT HE ROSE AGAIN ON EASTER, 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. _____ **ACCEPT** _____ 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. _____ **INVITE** _____ JESUS CHRIST TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE AND BE THE LEADER (“LORD”) OF YOUR LIFE.

*“To all who **receive** Him, He gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust Him to save us. All those who **believe** this are reborn! — not a physical rebirth...but from the will of God!” John 1:12-13*

“Jesus says, ‘Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...’” Rev. 3:30

If you believe you _____ **Belong** _____ !

YOU CAN TAKE THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD:

“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.”

“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

Why Should I be baptized?

1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY JESUS.

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

2. BECAUSE CHRIST COMMANDED 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

3. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT I REALLY AM A BELIEVER.

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

*“We know that we have come to know Him, if we **obey** His commands.”*

2. What Is The Meaning of Being Baptized?

1. IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST'S **DEATH** _____ **BURIAL** _____ 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 **NEW** _____ **LIFE** _____ 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.

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith**...it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9*

3. Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

BECAUSE **JESUS** WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

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

EVERY BAPTISM IN THE **NEW** **TESTAMENT** 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

THE WORD “**BAPTIZE**” MEANS TO **DIP** **UNDER** 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.”

4. Who Should Be Baptized?

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS _____ **BELIEVED** _____ IN CHRIST.

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

*“Simon himself **believed** and was **baptized...**” Acts 8:13*

*“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 Journey Ministries, 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*” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the 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.

Journey Ministries will accept all forms of believers Baptism for membership (Believer’s Baptism is simply being “baptized” *after* someone has “believed” in Jesus as their savior). However, if an individual has not been baptized, immersion baptism will be required to become a member of the church.

5. When Should I Be Baptized?

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE _____ **BELIEVED** _____ !

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

“Then Philip began with the scripture and 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.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect”, you’ll never feel “good enough”!

CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Young children who wish to be baptized need to attend the baptism class with a parent. **However**, it is important to remember that baptism is a *personal* statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays *your* obedience.

WHAT IS THE PROCES FOR BAPTISM?

The baptism process at Journey has been designed to be both simple and meaningful. From the registration form to the baptism meeting, each step has been carefully planned with you in mind

Sign up for water baptism. While you are at our guest table, please sign up for the baptism class and plan to attend.

Pick up a baptism booklet at our guest table. You will need to read through and complete the Bible study and testimony portions in this booklet before the baptism meeting. Please bring your booklet and completed sections to the meeting.

Attend a baptism class and prepare your testimony. You will receive confirmation after you sign up at the guest table when the next meeting is. We will have a brief Q and A time at this meeting.

Your Testimony. You will need to write a short testimony of how you came to accept the Lord into your life; when it took place and how it happened. It will be good for you to put your story on paper and it's a good way to help you in preparation for your testimony.

Invite your family and friends. This is a great way for you to share your story and your experience with others in your life. Let them share the joy of this experience with you. No matter where they may be on their spiritual journey, your baptism will be a great story of commitment for them to see firsthand. Perhaps seeing you make your commitment will encourage them to follow the Lord.

Get baptized! Baptisms take place throughout the year during the Sunday morning services, as well as, at an outside special service during the summer months.

A. What Is The Lord's Supper?

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: Baptism and The Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

I. WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER? (1 COR. 11:23-26)

1. IT IS AN _____ **ORDINANCE** _____.

*"The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, **took bread...**" (vs. 23)*

2. IT IS A _____ **REMINDER** _____.

*"...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)*

3. IT IS A _____ **SYMBOL** _____.

*"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)*

4. IT IS A _____ **STATEMENT** _____ **OF** _____ **FAITH** _____.

*"For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death** until He comes back." (vs. 26)*

B. Who Should Take The Lord's Supper?

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

"For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself." 2 Cor. 11:29

C. How Do I Prepare Myself For The Lord's Supper?

You Prepare yourself by...

1. Self-examination

1 Corinthians 11:27 *Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup*

2. Confession of sins

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

3. Recommitment

Romans 12:1 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.*

4. Restoring relationships

Matthew 5:23-24 *"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.*

D. When And How Often Should We Observe The Lord's Supper?

Jesus never said "when" or "how often" believers should observe The Lord's Supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night. Since it is a 'supper', it may seem more appropriate to observe it at an evening service.

Since our Sunday morning service is designed so you can bring your non-believing friends, we only take The Lord's Supper at that service about once a month.

Part Two

The Journey Ministries Statements

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

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)



OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT Why We Exist As A Church

“Invite people to begin a personal journey with Jesus Christ, mentor them to Christ - like maturity and equip them for Christian service.”

Basically the Journey Mission Statement involves the intersection of two “Great Statements” made by Jesus:

THE GREAT _____ **COMMANDMENT** _____

THE GREAT _____ **COMMISSION** _____

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

- To “Love God with all your heart” is **“WORSHIP”**.
- To “Love your neighbor as yourself” is **“MINISTRY”**.
- To “Go...make disciples” is **“EVANGELISM”**.
- To “Baptize...” is to **“CONNECT INTO FELLOWSHIP”**.
- To “Teach them...all things” is **“DISCIPLESHIP”**.

JOURNEY MINISTRIES EXISTS:

1. To Celebrate God's Presence (Worship)
2. To Communicate God's Word (Evangelism)
3. To Equip God's People (Discipleship)
4. To Demonstrate God's Love (Ministry)
5. To Connect God's Family (Fellowship)

I. We Exist to Celebrate God's Presence

WORSHIP: EXPRESSING LOVE To GOD

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

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

Expressions of Worship

- **Singing** (Eph. 5:19)
- **Praying** (Ps. 95:6)
- **Giving** (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
- **Meditating** (Hab. 2:20)
- **Commitment** (Romans 12:1-2)
- **Hearing the Word** (John 17:17)
- **Baptism** (Romans 6:3-4)
- **Lord's Supper** (1 Cor. 11:23-26)

Journey Ministries Worship Style

"Celebration"
Psalm 122:1

"Inspiration"
Isaiah 40:31

"Preparation"
Eph. 4:11-12

We would use words like relevant, vibrant, contemporary, creative, contemplative and progressive when it comes to the actual style of worship that we embrace. We unapologetically say that we are designed to worship God. But we are also not afraid to state that we will use various styles and methods of music to create an environment of worship. We purposely see music as a tool to worship and as a way to connect with both believers and seekers. With that in mind, we will continually strive to use styles that connect with those in our culture and which may help them connect with God and his truths. In the end, worship is not about me or about my preferred style! It's about expressing our love to God.

II. We Exist to Communicate God's Word

EVANGELISM: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

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

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

WHY OUR CHURCH MUST NEVER STOP GROWING

1. Because God Loves People

*"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 God Commands Us To Reach Out

*"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

- *We feel that it is the responsibility of those that call themselves 'members' to be the leaders in inviting your personal relationships to church*
- *80% of those come to church do so because it was by invitation of a friend.*

3. Because Growth is God's Will

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

"Jesus said, "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 _____ **Larger** _____ and
_____ **Smaller** _____ at the same time.

Larger we will _____ **Reach** _____

Smaller we will _____ **Connect** _____

“And the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **THEN** the end will come.” Matt. 24:14

III. We Exist to Equip God’s People

DISCIPLESHIP: _____ **GROWING** _____ _____ **SPIRITUALLY** _____

“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

To better understand Discipleship
and how God
wants to use you,
plan to attend the next

Journey 201
Discovering Spiritual Maturity

IV. We Exist to Demonstrate God's Love

MINISTRY IS SIMPLY MEETING PEOPLE'S NEEDS WITH **LOVE**

*“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)

At Journey Ministries...

- *Every member is a* **Minister**
- *Every task is* **Important**
- *Every member has a unique* **Gift**

V. We Exist to Connect God's Family

FELLOWSHIP IS QUITE SIMPLY DOING LIFE **TOGETHER**

We believe that God has created us for and wired us to do life with others. We are not meant to do life alone.

We believe every member needs to be a part of a **Life** **Group**

For more information on Life Groups at Journey please stop at InfoCentral or contact the Journey Life Group Coordinator

Connie DeSimpelare: lifegroups@journeymn.org

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

* **We believe** that salvation comes only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

* **We believe** the scriptures, both Old and new Testaments of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings (Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic), the complete revelation of His will for our salvation and the divine and final authority of all-Christian faith and practice.

* **We believe** that there is one God, the Creator of all things, eternally existing in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, *commonly called the Trinity*. These three Persons have precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfection and are worthy of our worship and obedience.

* **We believe** that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. We believe He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, according to the scriptures. On the third day, He rose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He is our High Priest and Advocate. He will come again, personally and visibly, to complete His saving work and to consummate the eternal plan of God.

* **We believe** that the Scriptural ordinances of the local Church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We partake of these two ordinances, as an outward expression of our obedience to our Lord's commands. We encourage that Baptism be administered only to those who have the maturity to understand its profound significance, which is resurrection to new life in Christ. Baptism, by immersion, should be administered to believers only, as an identifying symbol of their belief in the death, burial and resurrection to a new walk in life. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of His death and should only be partaken by those who have accepted Christ as their personal savior. These ordinances, however, should never be regarded as a means of salvation.

Supporting Statements

If you would like to dig deeper into our 'essentials', this page provides the Biblical support behind each statement.

God

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each of Whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality. We believe that in the beginning God created out of nothing the world and all the things therein, thus manifesting the glory of His power, wisdom and goodness. By His sovereign power, He continues to sustain His creation. By His providence, He is operating throughout history to fulfill His redemptive purposes. Genesis 1:1,26; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1, 3; 4:24; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 1:20; Ephesians 4:5-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man. Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:25-38; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13

Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, was sent into the world by the Father and the Son to apply to mankind the saving work of Christ. We believe that He enlightens the minds of sinners, awakens in them recognition of their need for a Savior and regenerates them.

We believe that, at the point of salvation, He permanently indwells every believer to become the source of assurance, strength, and wisdom, and uniquely endows each believer with gifts for ministry. We believe that the Holy Spirit guides believers in understanding and applying the Scripture. We believe that His power and control are appropriated by faith, making it possible for the believer to lead a life of Christ-like character and to bear fruit to the glory of the Father. John 14:16-17,26; 15:26-27; 16:8-11,13; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14; 6:19-20; Hebrews 9:14

Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God, and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and become guilty sinners in thought, word and deed. Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1-24; Romans 3:25; 5:12-18; I John 1:8

Salvation

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; that He rose victorious from the grave on the third day; and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. Isaiah 53; Matthew 20:28; John 3:16; Romans 3:24-26; 5:1; I Corinthians 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; I John 2:2; Matthew 28:6; Romans 10:9; I Corinthians 15:14

We believe that all who come by grace through repentance and faith to accept the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God. John 1:12-13; 3:3,5; James 1:18; I Peter 1:23; Ephesians 2:8-9

The Church

We believe that there is one true Church universal, comprised of all those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We believe that the Scripture commands believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, the teaching of the Word, the observance of believers baptism and communion as the ordinances established by Jesus Christ, fellowship, service to the body through the development and use of talents and gifts and outreach to the world.

We believe that wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command, there is the local expression of the Church and that under the watch care of Elders and other supportive leadership, its members are to work together in love and unity, intent on the one ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ. Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:42-47

Christ's Return

We believe in the personal and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16-17

Eternity

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting joy of the saved and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost. John 5:28-29; I Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:4-6,11-15

Our Lifestyle Statement ***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 the following seven practices:

BIBLE AS OUR SOLE AUTHORITY

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. 2 Tim. 3:15

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 encourage daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER

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

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full time" Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

AUTONOMY OF EACH LOCAL CHURCH

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

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

GIVING

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

At Journey 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. Ultimately, like the rest of our actions in life, we are accountable to God in this area.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

BAPTISM

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

Journey Ministries will accept all forms of believers Baptism for membership. However, if an individual has not been baptized, immersion baptism will be required to become a member of the church.

TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST

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

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

SPIRIT-LED LIVING

(Jesus said), "I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right. (Phil. 2:13, Eph. 5:18)

Part Three

The Journey Ministries Strategy

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

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (Ph)



OUR HISTORY

Organized in 2004, Journey Ministries was created in an attempt to fill the need for a relevant worship experience in the Davison, Michigan area. With more than enough churches in the area, we knew that we had to be intentional to reach into this community in a unique way to connect with the unchurched. After months of prayer and dialog, a group of 30 individuals organized a church planting team. Eight (8) individuals were elected to spearhead the development of a church structure, as well as the church by-laws.

Using the Purpose Driven Church, from Rick Warren as a framework, sought God's leading on a vision for Journey. The goal was to bring people to Christ or closer to Christ by providing the worshiper with a dynamic worship experience, filled with meaningful praise music, spirited prayer and relevant messages from Gods' Word. Journey needed to be relevant in all aspects. Small groups would provide the setting for real community and deep spiritual growth. Everything we would be about and everything we would do would be based on the Word of God.

Journey Ministries held our first Sunday worship service on December 5, 2004 at Gates Elementary School in Davison, Michigan. By March, 2005 the church was formally dedicated to Christ and the by-laws were presented to the church body and voted on. In addition, twelve (12) individuals were presented as elders, known as the JMLT (Journey Ministries Leadership Team). Unanimously, the twelve were elected, eight (8) of which were the original church planting team. Our Pastor became the 13th member of the JMLT.

Initially, we identified our target audience as young families and youth in the community who did not have a church home or who were un-churched. In our brief history, we are attracting all age groups, but we do have a large number of youth and children. While averaging about 50 per service initially, we are currently averaging around 300 weekly. We began with guest speakers every week for the first year of worship. A variety of men and women from around Michigan and from as far away as Iowa came and presented God's word in new and exciting ways. Derek Turcsanyi was our first worship leader and first full time employee. Derek did a great job leading worship at Journey for two years.

In October of 2005 we hired Ron Stier as our Interim Pastor for six months while we began a Pastoral search process. Ron had been a regular guest speaker at Journey, but we wanted something a little more permanent. Ron laid a solid foundation with his special gifts of friendship and evangelism.

In April of 2006 we hired first lead pastor, Steve Gill. Steve and his wife Keisa along with their four children served faithfully at Journey during a very exciting time in our history that saw amazing growth in numbers, as well as, spiritual depth. Steve and Keisa are currently in the process of planting a new church in Bonita Springs, Florida.

Worship and Arts Director Brian Wolfcale was hired in the spring of 2007 and really helped to provide leadership for the weekend services. Brian was instrumental in helping to shape the unique style that Journey enjoys today.

We also have a growing children's ministry reaching kids and their families. In the summer of 2008, Corrie Arthur was hired as our Children's Ministry Director. Corrie's primary role is to provide leadership and vision to our children's ministry and to help empower parents in their role of leading their own families. Corrie also heads up our fantastic mentoring program, Kids Hope, as we partner with the Davison Schools at Siple Elementary.

In August 2010, Ron and Diane Stier joined the staff at Journey Ministries. For Ron, it was a reunion of sorts. Ron and Diane have been partners in ministry most of their adult lives. Ron was a missionary with Youth for Christ in the Thumb for over 26 years. Ron and Diane both served on the staff at Frankenmuth Bible Church, with Diane being the Director of Worship Arts and Ron serving as Pastor of Outreach and Adult ministries. Ron's heart is in shepherding the flock and in helping us to reach out to those around us that are looking for hope. Diane brings her lifetime of leading music and drama within the church to Journey. Diane also has a desire to be used to have a greater ministry to the women at Journey, as well.

In October 2010, Hollie Best joined the Journey staff as administrative assistant.

Our first full time Youth Pastor, Dave Weir, joined our staff in January 2014 and oversees our Student Ministries to middle school and high school students.

Diane Rhines joined the team in the summer of 2014 as the Journey Business Manager. Diane is responsible for the supervision and handling of the financial affairs of Journey. Amy Stone took over the position of administrative assistant in June of 2014. Amy is the voice of Journey to the outside world as she answers phones, produces and prints all of our curriculum, posters, fliers and promotional material. We are blessed to have such a gifted and dynamic team serving at Journey.

We are here to make a difference in the Davison community. The five areas that are a priority for us at Journey are:
1) Weekend Services 2) Children's Ministry 3) Student Ministries 4) Life Groups 5) Outreach It is our desire to be relevant in presenting the greatest message the world has ever heard. We are glad that you are along for the journey.

Who Are We Trying To Reach?

"...Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him." 1 Cor. 9:22 (LB)

JOURNEY JOE & JOURNEY JANE

A target audience simply is the primary group of people you are trying to reach in your community. Every church will reach people inside and outside of that target group. But no church can reach every person or meet every need in their community. You see this pattern in the New Testament as each church and each disciple focused on reaching a particular segment of people in the 1st century. And with that they brought clarity, focus and excellence to reach people in their spheres of influence. With that said, that does not minimize the input or value of others outside of that target group or make them less of a part of the church. It simply gives the whole church and its members a target to aim for; 'this is who WE are trying to reach together'. So what does our target audience of 'Journey Joe and Jane look like?'

Journey Joe and Jane would be a reflection of our most un-churched or de-churched people here in our region. These two groups of people have some similarities in their perspectives, their stage of life and their view of faith. The **un-churched** have had very little exposure to church or the things of Christianity. **The de-churched** may have had some church background as a child or at one point in their life. Yet, somewhere along the way that faith and participation never became real and so they never engaged in a community of faith or simply walked away. This target audience is often labeled as a 'spiritual seeker' or 'returner'. The commonality is that both groups see the church as outdated, boring and not relevant to their lives.

Many people around us have a negative perspective on church, and are most likely in a stage of life where they are looking for a fresh (and healthy) perspective on faith. They are just not sure what that foundation looks like. They look around our current culture and see the many options of faith and are not sure which 'post modern' view of faith fits them best. After all, don't all religious paths lead to the same God? (no!)

Joe and Jane most likely also deeply value the idea of community and desire to have a close group of friends to connect with and share their life. It is within this context of group that most people are hungry for things like authenticity, integrity, trust and safety. Many of our Joes and Janes know firsthand the pain of living in a struggling economy or have been wounded by family turmoil. With their experiences they are highly motivated to maintain a healthy home environment, but they are looking for practical and easy ways to accomplish this.

We want Journey to be a safe, healing, loving place where "Journey Joe" and "Journey Jane" can make a deep, life-changing connection with Jesus and His people.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At Journey Ministries 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 Commitment.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

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

Commitment

At Journey Ministries 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 BECOMING A RARE THING IN OUR SOCIETY**

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. 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.

OUR PROCESS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Attend the membership class.
2. Fulfill the step of water baptism to complete membership.
3. Review, sign and turn in the membership commitment form. (Back of booklet)
4. Review of membership applications by the leadership team.
5. Provide a time of personal accountability within our membership.

6. Be welcomed by the body of Journey at a regular service.

Part Four

The Journey Ministries Structure

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

1 Cor. 14:33,40



HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

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

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE.

A. THE CHURCH IS A FELLOWSHIP

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

A. A top priority in a fellowship is Unity and Peace

“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

B. IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY

*“(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

C. We follow the principles of **Matthew 18** to promote unity and resolve conflict.

¹⁵ “If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him—work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you've made a friend. ¹⁶ If he won't listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. ¹⁷ If he still won't listen, tell the church. If he won't listen to the church, you'll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer again God's forgiving love (Matthew 18:15-17, MSG)

II. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY.

*“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 FAMILY NOT DEMOCRACY

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

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

III. THE CHURCH IS A BODY

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!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF INTERDEPENDENCE NOT INDEPENDENCE

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

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

AT JOURNEY MINISTRIES WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN MAXIMIZE MINISTRY AND MINIMIZE COMPLEXITY.

*“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*

- THE PEOPLE ARE THE “ **Ministers** ”.
- THE PASTORS ARE THE “ **Overseers** ”.

Currently there are many, many different ministries in our church begun and operated by members.

IV. THE CHURCH ARE SHEEP.

(Jesus’ favorite description of the church)

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

THEREFORE, IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY SHEPHERDS

*“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, elders, pastors and overseers:

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

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

See also: 1 Timothy 3:1-11, 1 Tim. 5:17, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-7.

Journey is led by our leadership team (JMLT).

- Our leadership team is made up of our lead pastor and lay leaders.
- Nominations to the JMLT are affirmed by the church body.
- Our lead pastor is the ‘spiritual leader’ of our leadership team.
- Our leadership team strives for consensus in leading the church.

Our Structure EMPOWERS OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM TO:

- Lead the church in a way that honors these Biblical values.
- Lead the church with the gift of leadership rather than the tool of voting.
 - ‘Voting’ tends to divide

At Journey Ministries, we (members) only vote on:

- *JMLT members will be voted on yearly*
- *Purchase of land or buildings as needed*
- *Calling the senior pastor as needed*
- *Changes in the church By-Laws as needed*

OUR AFFILIATION

Journey Ministries is a Willow Creek Association Church. As a part of the WCA, Journey is a part of a worldwide network of Evangelical Christian Churches. WCA provides us with access to a much broader pool of training and resources than we would be able to produce on our own.

Each Journey member can access Willow Creek resources through their website at www.willowcreek.com and creating their own profile using the Journey Ministries WCA member number 14570. WCA resources are available to all members of WCA churches.

Apart from the WCA, Journey is technically a non-denominational church. We are autonomous and do not have a national, state or regional “hierarchy” that controls us.

For example:

- *We hire our own pastor*
- *We will own our own buildings and assets*
- *We determine our own ministries, direction and values.*

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING AN INDEPENDENT CHURCH RATHER THAN AFFILIATING WITH A DENOMINATION?

2. It allows us to **identify with other Christians and Christian origins** around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. The Bible is our only authority.
3. It allows our church to **participate in any missionary organization in the world.** It allows us to send our missionary money directly to the missionary and avoid denominational costs.
4. It enables and empowers our leadership team to lead our church and make decisions for our church that are based on their personal knowledge and history of our church as well as their own commitment to the church’s vision.
5. There is no denominational authority over us.

We also participate with other Davison area churches in various aspects throughout the year, including National Day of Prayer, See You At The Pole, Community Services.

We are a member of the Davison Area Chamber of Commerce, in an effort to stay current on the needs and to better reach this community with the love of Christ.

Becoming A Member At Journey Means:

1. Having a **personal relationship with Jesus Christ** and acknowledging Him as your Savior and Lord.
2. Having declared publicly your new life in Christ through **baptism in water**.
3. **Agreeing** with and believing in Journey's:
 - Mission Statement
 - Core Values
 - Basic Beliefs
4. Agreeing to **support** the ministry of Journey by fulfilling the membership commitment as explained in the Journey 101 class and in my Journey 101 membership book.

THE JOURNEY MINISTRIES COMMITMENT

1. The membership is a commitment to **Journey** **Ministries**
"You are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Eph. 2:19 (LB)

"We are all parts of Christ's Body, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and need all the others."
Rom. 12:4-5 (LB)

JOURNEY MINISTRIES MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized and being in agreement with Journey Ministries belief statements, bylaws and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Journey Ministries family. In doing this, I commit myself to God, and with his help, to the other members of Journey Ministries to do the following:

1. I will **protect the unity of Journey Ministries by**

- a. Acting in love toward other members,
- b. Refusing to gossip,
- c. Living the Journey Belief Statements,
- d. Supporting the church leadership.

“So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.”

Romans 14:19 (NLT)

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

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

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

2. I will **share the responsibility of Journey Ministries by**

- a. Praying for its growth,
- b. Inviting the un-churched and others, to attend,
- c. Warmly welcoming those who visit.

“To the church... We always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.” 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2 (NIV)

“The Master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and urge the people there to come so 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.” Romans 15:7 (LB)

3. I will serve in the ministries of Journey Ministries by

- a. Discovering my gifts and talents,
- b. Regularly serving in a ministry that suits my gifts and talents.
- c. Being equipped to serve by the leadership team and/or pastors,
- d. Developing a servant's heart

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4: 10 (NIV)

“{God} gave...some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus; Who {took on} the very nature of a servant.” Philippians 2:4-6, 7 (NIV)

4. I will support the testimony of Journey Ministries by

- a. Attending faithfully and regularly,
- b. Living a godly life
- c. Giving regularly to financially support the work of the church.
- d. Participating in a life group to grow relationally and spiritually.

“Let us not give up meeting together...but let us encourage one another.” Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

“Whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Philippians 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 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)

“A tenth of {all of your} produce...is the Lord’s and is holy.” Leviticus 27:30 (Ph)

NAME (printed)

NAME (signature)

Date

Request for Membership:

Acknowledging God drawing me to identify with the local body of believers known as Journey Ministries, and acknowledging my desire to enter into this community with mutual support of its belief and ministries,

I, _____,

submit this application for membership, on (Date) ____ / ____ / ____.

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (Cell) _____

Birthdate: ____ / ____ / ____ E-Mail: _____

I became a Christ-Follower (Date or age) _____

I was baptized as a believer (approximate date) _____

Location (church) _____

Journey 101 Completion Date ____ / ____ / ____

Signature: _____