

Membership Class



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The purpose of the West Valley Missionary Church is to: Celebrate the living God; Cultivate personal growth in Christ; Care for the needs of one another in Christ; Communicate Christ to the world...So that in all things God may be glorified.

Three pastors got together for coffee one day and found all their churches had bat-infestation problems. "I got so mad," said one, "I took a shotgun and fired at them. It made holes in the ceiling, but did nothing to the bats." "I tried trapping them alive," said the second. "Then I drove 50 miles before releasing them, but they beat me back to the church." "I haven't had any more problems," said the third. "What did you do?" asked the others, amazed. "I simply baptized and made them members," he replied. "I haven't seen them since."

Reader's Digest, July, 1994, p. 64.

Personal Introductions

- Let's take turns sharing your name, tell us about your family, little bit of your history, how you came to know Christ, church history, etc.
- (Feel free to use this area to jot down notes about the other students.)

Packet of Information

- In your packet of information, I have supplied you with some items I think you will find useful in understanding our church and our expectations of the members. As we proceed through this class together I will refer to a few of them, but for the most part they are yours to be used as a reference.
 - "Six Things I Want You To Know Before You Become A Member"
 - "Knowing God Personally" booklet
 - Covenant of Membership *(in booklet)*
 - History of the West Valley Missionary Church *(in booklet)*
 - West Valley Membership List *(in booklet - Current January 2005)*
 - 2005 Church Budget *(in booklet)*
 - Constitution of the Missionary Church *(2001 version, new coming)*
 - Spiritual Gift Inventory
 - Membership Application

Class Introduction

- Our time together is an abbreviated time considering some churches have classes that run several weeks. Most people when they get to this point have already been part of this fellowship and they have an idea how things function. As your Pastor I wanted to share with you what I believe is vital for you to know before you join our church. As we go if you have questions feel free to ask them. I may not have the answers but I will do my best.

(Romans 10:9-10 NIV)
"That if you **confess with your mouth**, "Jesus is Lord," and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. {10} For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

(Mark 1:15 NIV) "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. **Repent** and believe the good news!"

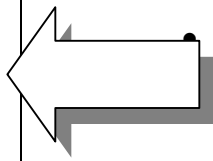
"I climbed over the young men, went down the steps and up the aisle to the altar, and took my place among the seekers. I felt undone and wept-wept because I was guilty and estranged. I fumbled for the latchstring of the Kingdom of God, missed it, for they didn't tell me the steps to find. I stood up at the close when they asked if it was all right with us. I wanted the Kingdom of God, wanted reconciliation with my heavenly Father, but took church membership as a substitute. My mother came into my room next morning and silently kissed me before I got out of bed. Her son was a Christian. But I soon found I wasn't."
(From Song of Ascents written by E. Stanley Jones, page 26)

(More of the story - read also page 27-28 of Song of Ascents)

Six Things I Want You to Know Before You Become a Member

1. Every member is expected to have a p_____ faith and t_____ in Christ before becoming a member.

- What do I mean by p_____?
 - Packet: "Knowing God Personally" Booklet
- What do I mean by t_____?
- Your testimony of faith in Jesus Christ should reflect a point or time in your life when you:
 - A_____ the work Christ did on the cross for you.
 - C_____ your sin before God
 - R_____ (turned) from your sinful ways
 - C_____ to live your life for Christ with His help.
- My testimony
- Being a member of the West Valley Missionary Church and having your name on our membership roll is **NOT** as important as being a member of the family of God and having your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life. (Revelation 21)
- **What you can expect:** Before you are accepted into membership the deacons will interview you and you will be asked to tell them how you came to know Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (testimony)
- **Questions?**



Six Things I Want You to Know Before You Become a Member

(2 Peter 3:9 NIV)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

(Mark 16:15-16 NIV)

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. {16} Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

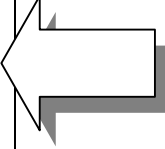
The young salesman was disappointed about losing a big sale, and as he talked with his sales manager he lamented, "I guess it just proves you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." The manager replied, "Son, take my advice: your job is not to make him drink. Your job is to make him thirsty." So it is with evangelism. Our lives should be so filled with Christ that they create a thirst for the Gospel."

(Preaching, November-December 1985.)

"Pollsters report that 72 percent of Americans don't know their next-door neighbors."

(Bill McKibben, in "the Age of Missing Information", Signs of the Times, February, 1994.)

2. Every member is expected to grow in their p_____ and r_____ to tell others about Christ.

- 
- Scripture - It is important to understand from scripture that we are to share the good news of Jesus Christ.
 - One way we can do this is through what some called **ETERNAL CPR**
 - **C**_____ - purposely building relationships with unbelievers
 - Work, School, Family, Community, Church, Access groups
 - **P**_____ - purposely interjecting your testimony of faith in Christ into the relationship with love
 - "May I share with you something that is really special to me?"
 - Sometimes this discussion is prompted by a question from the unbeliever – "Why are you so happy?" or "Why do you go to church?"
 - **R**_____ - purposely asking the unbeliever what they think of what you shared.
 - "It has been a few weeks since I share about my faith in Christ, do you have any interest in knowing Christ personally?"
 - We also want you to develop a growing **passion** to see people come to Christ. This will be evident in:
 - Your P _____
 - Your S _____ of outreaches
 - Your D _____ to learn how to share your faith.

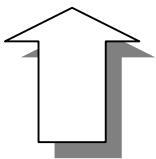
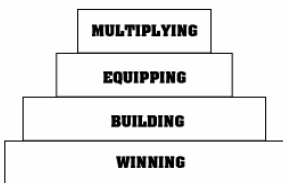
• Questions?

Six Things I Want You to Know Before You Become a Member

(Matthew 28:18-20 NIV)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. {19} Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Disciple Making Process



Where are you in the process of being a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Can you identify some of the events of the church and what the **MAIN** level of spiritual interest the event is designed for?

3. We strive to be a d_____ making church and our desire for you is to be the s_____ disciple for Jesus you can be.

- Scripture - It is important to understand from scripture that we are to be a church that is making disciples.
- A discipling ministry is one that ministers to an individual at whatever level of spiritual I_____ they are. (Outreaches designed for spiritually lost, Bible classes for helping believers grow, etc.)
- There are three areas of discipling in which we are working to present a balanced program.
 - **W**_____ - Events primarily designed to share Christ with the spiritually lost.
 - Personal
 - Small Group
 - Large Group
 - **B**_____ - Events primarily designed to help the believers grow in their relationship with Christ.
 - Sunday school class, Wednesday night Bible study, Kingdom Builders, morning worship services, etc.
 - **E**_____ - Events primarily designed to help believers minister to others.
 - Learning how to do Peer-to-peer care and evangelism
 - Organizing outreaches
 - Specialized ministries
- Our goal is to see people won to Christ, built up in their faith and equipped to minister to others.
- **Questions?**

(Ephesians 4:11-12)
"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, {12} to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up"

(2 Timothy 2:15 NIV)
"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

(James 3:1 NIV)
"Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly."

"The pastor teaches, though he must solicit his own classes. He heals, though without pills or knife. He is sometimes a lawyer, often a social worker, something of an editor, a bit of a philosopher and entertainer, a salesman, a decorative piece for public functions, and he is supposed to be a scholar. He visits the sick, marries people, buries the dead, labors to console those who sorrow and to admonish those who sin, and tries to stay sweet when chided for not doing his duty. He plans programs, appoints committees when he can get them, spends considerable time in keeping people out of each other's hair. Between times he prepares a sermon and preaches it on Sunday to those who don't happen to have any other engagement. Then on Monday he smiles when some jovial chap roars, "What a job--one day a week!""

(Source Unknown)

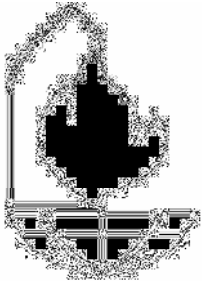
Six Things I Want You to Know Before You Become a Member

4. My job as p_____ is to help you mature in your faith in Christ (to be a growing disciple.)

- Scripture - It is important to understand from scripture that my job is to shepherd the flock God has called me.
- I want to be a _____ to you.
- I want to p_____ for you regularly.
- I want to m_____ occasionally with you to talk and hear what the Lord is doing in your life.
- I want to minister to you in times of c_____.
- I want to c_____ with you during times of happiness.
- I want to w_____ side-by-side with you as we strive to make disciples.
- My promise is:
 - To work hard to p_____ the Word of God to you each time I speak or teach.
 - To m_____ a Christ-like life
 - To do my best to s_____ you in your Christian journey.
- **Personal Note:** Being a pastor is not an easy job and it is not always rewarding. Remember God has called me to be a pastor; it was **NOT** my life's ambition. But when God called me I was obedient to respond to His call and become one of His many shepherds. Since that time it has been a learning experience for me. I have made a many mistakes and, hopefully, I have done many things correctly. I am humbled that God would call me to do this job and to work at this church. I thank God for calling me to serve Him.
- **Questions?**

(John 18:38 NIV)
"What is truth?" Pilate asked."

(1 Peter 3:15-16 NIV)
"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, {16} keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."



This is the logo of the Missionary Church.

The globe symbolizes the importance of missions for the Missionary Church. The globe represents the people, countries and nations of the world who need Christ.

The church window represents the vision of the Missionary Church. While the steeple might represent our loyalty in seeking God, it is the window that represents our desire to see and respond to the needs of the world.

The flame represents the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the world and through the church. It is by the Spirit's power that we become holy people of God ready to serve Him in this world.

Six Things I Want You to Know Before You Become a Member

5. It is important for you to know what the Missionary Church b_____.

- Scripture – it is important to understand from scripture that we are to know what we believe in and why we believe it.
- Often I hear the question: "What denomination is your church?" When I respond with "Missionary Church" they get a puzzled look on their face because they are unfamiliar with our small denomination.
- Our denomination has a constitution that contains much of this information. This constitution contains:
 - Articles of F_____ (pages 4-8)
 - What we believe in
 - Articles of P_____ (pages 8-11)
 - How we live out what we believe
 - Information regarding the L_____ church.
 - How our church (WVMC) is to operate
 - P_____ papers
 - How our denomination stands on certain issues in society
- You do not need to memorize it, but you need to k_____ what the Missionary Church believes.
- Additional Information is available:
 - Book – "Merging Streams"
 - Video – "Backward Glance"
 - Website - www.mcusa.org
- West Valley Missionary Church History – (See sheet in packet)
- **Questions?**

(Romans 12:6-8 NIV)
 “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. {7} If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; {8} if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

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

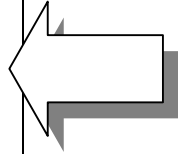
Interesting Statistic
 90% of new members will stay in the church if:

1. They can articulate their faith (implies need for membership and evangelism classes)
2. They belong to subgroups (i.e. choir, Bible Studies, Sunday School classes, etc.)
3. They have 4-8 close friendships within the church.

(Leadership, IV, 3, p. 46)

Six Things I Want You to Know Before You Become a Member

6. We need you to S_____ the ministries of the church.



- Scripture - It is important to understand from scripture that your support of our church is VITAL to our church health!
- We need you support the church in at least three major areas by:
 - **S_____ Gift Support**
 - Exercise your spiritual gift(s) in a ministry or ministries in the church.
 - “Spiritual gifts are special abilities which God gives to believers in order that they may accomplish His work of grace among men.” (Wayne E. Caldwell)
 - Lists of spiritual gifts: Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-30; Ephesians 4:7-12
 - **P_____ Support**
 - (Colossians 4:3 NIV) – “And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.”
 - **F_____ Support**
 - Genesis 14:20, 28:22; Malachi 3:8,10; Matthew 23:23; Acts 4:32; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:9, 9:6-7
 - Principle of Tithing
 - The importance of giving (see *financial report and giving record*)
- Missionary Church Covenant of Membership
 - This will be read on the Sunday that we receive new members. The members will be asked to affirm this as their covenant to the church.
- Questions?