



# GENESIS CHURCH

COVENANT MEMBERSHIP PACKET

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Why Membership? At Genesis Church we choose to move forward in the understanding that membership is important because it unites the body of Christ TOGETHER. It is not meant in any way to divide members from attenders, but to unite a family of people who are willing to commit to become an active part of the Church and its vision. In our day and culture too many people want to just “attend” church without making a commitment to root themselves in it. Membership calls us to participate and engage, not consume and observe.

At Genesis Church, membership happens within the idea of “covenant”. For thousands of years a covenant was a binding agreement in which covenant members had certain obligations and could expect certain benefits in return. What makes a covenant different from a simple binding agreement is that covenant implies meaningful relationship. We find covenant all through the Scriptures. In the Bible, covenant meant an agreement that lasted for life. For example, we find it happening with Noah, Abraham, Moses, the people of Israel, and a new covenant, available to all through Jesus. At Genesis we’re attempting to use this meaningful term while recognizing that membership at a local church is often not for life. This is one reason why we occasionally ask members to renew their covenant.

Any follower of Christ is invited to become a Covenant Member of Genesis Church. We believe that a follower of Christ is someone who has at some point made a conscious decision to put their faith and trust in the one true God. Believing that this God sent his son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins, whom he would raise from the dead, defeat death, and offer a new way to be restored back to the relationship God originally intended for us to have with him in this life (now) and the gift of a life everlasting (heaven), for all those who freely choose to accept gift.

In covenanting with us, you both agree to and adopt our shared values, beliefs, and INTENTIONAL way of living.

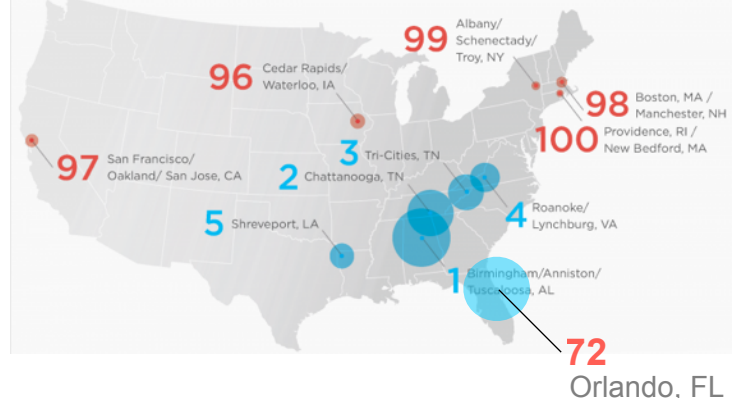
Orlando, a city that begins to conjure up thoughts of vacation, fun, and magic. People can do just about anything within the city and its surrounding opportunities, but there is a greater truth that most people miss... Orlando is a deeply disconnected city. A place where local people don't feel an ownership of their own town. A place where fun is around every corner, but true joy in life is missing. A city where diversity, language and culture often make it even more difficult to live together. It's a city that has seen many churches come, and equally as many go. People everywhere are left feeling lost, looking for relationships and a hope for something more. We however, see this city through a different lens. This is a city where the gospel has endless opportunities. This is our reason.

- Because... 2 million+ people live here
- Because... of it's diversity: 61% Caucasian / 29% African American / 18% Hispanic / 3% Asian
- Because... 80,000 new people move to the Orlando area every year
- Because... its the WORLD'S #1 tourist attraction (50 million+ visit a year)
- Because... only 14.7% of people attend a church on any given Sunday
- Because... 54% claim NO religious affiliation
- Because... there are more kids in the zip code (32828) than in any other in Florida
- Because... it is home to the countries 2nd largest university (University of Central Florida)
- Because... Orlando is considered the **2nd** most sinful city in America.  
(<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/bibleandculture/2013/08/13/the-five-most-sinful-cities-in-america/>)
- Because... Orlando is the **72nd** among the most biblically minded city in the U.S.  
(<http://cities.barna.org/americas-most-and-least-bible-minded-cities-2/>)
- Because... Orlando is the **22nd** most churchless city in America.  
(<http://cities.barna.org/barna-cities-the-top-churchless-metro-areas/>)

## AMERICA'S TOP CHURCHLESS CITIES

	%	%
1. SAN FRANCISCO / OAKLAND / SAN JOSE, CA	61	60. JACKSONVILLE, FL
2. BURLINGTON / PLATTSBURGH, VT	55	61. FRESNO / VISALIA, CA
3. BOSTON, MA / MANCHESTER, NH	53	62. RICHMOND / PETERSBURG, VA
4. PORTLAND / AUBURN, ME	52	63. TYLER / LONGVIEW / LUFKIN-NACOGDOCHES, TX
5. CHICO / REDDING, CA	52	64. LANSING, MI
6. LAS VEGAS, NV	51	65. ATLANTA, GA
7. SEATTLE / TACOMA, WA	50	66. HOUSTON, TX
8. ALBANY / SCHENECTADY / TROY, NY	50	67. BALTIMORE, MD
9. PHOENIX / PRESCOTT, AZ	49	68. WILKES BARRE / SCRANTON, PA
10. NEW YORK, NY	48	69. FT. WAYNE, IN
11. WEST PALM BEACH / FORT PIERCE, FL	48	70. MOBILE, AL / PENSACOLA / FORT WALTON, FL
12. TUCSON / SIERRA VISTA, AZ	48	71. CHARLESTON / HUNTINGTON, WV
13. PORTLAND, OR	46	72. MADISON, WI
14. LOS ANGELES, CA	45	73. YAKIMA / PASCO / RICHLAND / KENNEWICK, WA
15. PHILADELPHIA, PA	45	74. INDIANAPOLIS, IN
16. HARTFORD / NEW HAVEN, CT	45	75. OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
17. FLINT, MI	45	76. TULSA, OK
18. DENVER, CO	44	77. GREENVILLE / NEW BERN / WASHINGTON, NC
19. SACRAMENTO / STOCKTON / MODESTO, CA	44	78. DALLAS / FORT WORTH, TX
20. PROVIDENCE, RI / NEW BEDFORD, MA	44	79. ROANOKE / LYNCHBURG, VA
21. SANTA BARBARA / SANTA MARIA / SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA	44	80. PADUCAH, KY / CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO / HARRISBURG, IL / MT VERNON, IL
22. ORLANDO / DAYTONA BEACH / MELBOURNE, FL	43	81. TRI-CITIES, TN-VA
23. DENVER, CO	43	82. SAN ANTONIO, TX
24. ROCHESTER, NY	43	83. NORFOLK / PORTSMOUTH / NEWPORT NEWS, VA
25. BUFFALO, NY	42	

## AMERICA'S MOST BIBLE-MINDED CITIES 2015



After my first year of college, I was asked to do an internship at First Baptist Orlando. It was during this time that my passion and desire to live in the Orlando community began. Over the next 13 years, I would spend almost every college break and family vacation often returning to Orlando. The feel, look and even smell drew us back time and time again. Call our family crazy, but we just loved the place.

After years as a Pastor on a church staff we began to understand that God's story for our lives was bigger than what we had imagined. God was beginning to burn in our hearts a desire to take the things we had learned and experienced to people, and engage them with the message of Jesus in a different place. After much prayer and counsel, we realized that God was asking our family to live with and serve the people of Orlando. We took our thoughts in October of 2008 to our Pastor at West Ridge Church; Brian Bloye, whom we worked on staff with for almost 9 years. In our time at West Ridge we saw a leader who had a vision and passion for starting churches and it caught our hearts. This passion of his fueled the desires we carried and gave us the encouragement to begin this new journey.

In November of 2008 we announced to our church that we would be leaving. We spent months preparing, visiting the city, and prepping to start a Church from scratch. In June of 2009 we moved our family, leaving our home, job, benefits, friends, church and family to be obedient to God's call. It wasn't easy, but we knew that God was in control. We also had others willing to do the same because they too believed in the vision that God was asking of us. We had two close friends commit to moving from Georgia to be part of our staff and two others families from West Ridge who committed to move from everything they knew, just to be part of what God was going to do with this church. In the fall of 2009 we began to build a foundation by doing community events, meeting with anyone who found out about us, and building our launch team for when Sunday services began.

Over the next few months we would start to implement our vision, strategy, and purpose to prepare for the start of Genesis Church on January 24, 2010. Years of learning, years of wrestling, years of growing had led us to this... A new church that would be a new beginning for many people in city that is in desperate need of the life and hope in Jesus.

At Genesis Church we hold very high the calling of a Pastor. We believe and understand the responsibility, requirements, and roles found in 1 Timothy 3. Because of this, we believe that each Pastor is important, plays many roles and is responsible to play a vital part in helping train up the body of Christ. We don't departmentalize the Pastors at Genesis Church. We function TOGETHER to fulfill the purposes of the Church. Therefore, you might see certain Pastors using their gifts and talents in certain roles, but it does not mean that their role is their only responsibility or that they are not able to help in other areas like another Pastor.

### **Lead Pastor Tim Grandstaff / Oversees: Teaching, Staff, Intentional Living Strategy**

Wife: Tandy

Children: Cobe, Cayden & Cyndell

### **Pastor Joel Owen / Oversees: KidGenesis, iGNITE**

Wife: Holly

### **Pastor PJ Charles / Student and Groups**

Wife: Angela

Children: Jaxson, Jacob, & Judah

### **Nikki Hyatt / Worship Leader**

Husband: Scott

### **Sarah Cabral / Lead Administrator**

Husband: Jose

Children: Lucas & Alyssa

### **Griffin Campbell / Worship Assistant, Visual Coordinator, & Brazil Leader**

Wife: Jennifer

Children: Caiden, Audrey & AJ

### **Matthew Patterson / KidGenesis Assistant**

*\*There are many other positions filled at Genesis by key lead volunteers.*

# Rethinking Life the Way God Intended

**Romans 12:2** “be transformed by the renewing of your mind”

**Proverbs 23:7** “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”

*“A man is but the product of his thoughts, what he thinks, he becomes.” - Gandhi*

Reflect on that statement from a man that many have heard, and many would say are true...

Could it really be that what you think about yourself and this world is what you become? That you could be transformed by how you think? People wrestle daily with thoughts of fear, failure, jealousy, loneliness, and despair. Being trapped by these types of thoughts only hinder and add to the chaos life throws our way. This way of life binds people and leaves them lost, helplessly wandering through this world. We believe that there is a God whose thoughts are greater than ours, and because of that; what God intended for our life is very different from what we tend to think. God has a story that is full of hope, courage, redemption, and love. Understanding this invitation stirs us to find the life He originally designed for us. Once realized, our responsibility then becomes helping others rethink their invitation into this same story.

## OUR NAME: GENESIS

**Gen\*e\*sis [jen-uh-sis] – an origin, creation, or beginning**

Our name does mean something to us. It's not just something we grabbed from the sky and found that it looked good with a logo. Genesis is the beginning, the first book of the Bible... the beginning of God's story. We believe everyone has a story and at the beginning of that story is a God who loves them. Each day is a new opportunity to start over, to return and find our Creator. As we approach life it will always be with the understanding that we will go back to the beginning of Scripture and see how close we can live to the way God originally intended things to be.

Some churches have **"values"** for why they do the things they do. That's not wrong by any means, nor do we negate any church who does so. When you **"value"** something it is important to you, worth something, and useful. That importance usually stays until the **"value"** in something has diminished. However, when you are **"devoted"** to something, it requires loyalty, commitment, and faithfulness. At Genesis we choose the term **"devotions"** because it displays the heart of what we believe it takes to be followers of Jesus. It takes people who **devote** all of themselves to the mission and purpose Jesus has instructed of us. We also find that it's **"devotion"** in Acts 2 that separates the first church from the rest of the world in how it acted and cared for people. Because we want to follow in their footsteps you will find below the **6 Devotions of Genesis Church**. Everything we do and are about will revolve around these devotions.

**Acts 2:42-43** And they **DEVOTED** themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul,

## TEACHING

We are a church devoted to God's word through Sunday services, classes, and teams.  
//Deuteronomy 6:4-9 / Joshua 1:7-8 / Psalm 18:30 / Philipians 4:8-9 / 2 Timothy 3:16-17

## FELLOWSHIP

We are a church devoted to togetherness through groups, community events and serving.  
//Genesis 1:28-29 / Psalm 24:1-2 / Matthew 28:18-19 / John 3:16 / Acts 1:9 / Romans 8

## HOSPITALITY

We are a church devoted to serving other through acts of kindness, missions and outreach.  
//Acts 2:42-46 / Philipians 1:27-28 / Philipians 2:4-5

## PRAYER

We are a church devoted to prayer on behalf of others both by personal prayer and corporate.  
// Matthew 6:5-18 / Ephesians 6:18 / James 5:13-15

## GENEROSITY

We are a church devoted to giving back to God and our community with finances and resources.  
// 2 Corinthians 8:3 / Matthew 25:31-40

## REPENTANCE

We are a church devoted to being a people continually pursuing the life God intended.  
// Genesis 1 / Matthew 3:1-2 / Acts 2:38



The beliefs (*theology*) of a community are important. They are written down for others to understand where one might stand or align themselves on certain issues. While needed, this sometimes never allows the reader to truly glimpse what the community is all about. Our desire is that the ways in which we live out our beliefs would be more important than the documentation of them.

*2 Corinthians 3:2 You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. 3 You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*

We believe as a Church that there are foundational truths that can't be moved. (*example: Jesus is the only way, eternal security, fulfillments of prophecy, God, Holy Spirit, Inspired Word of God, Baptism, Sin, etc. \*see more below*) We will not change these beliefs because we believe in a God who does not change. We do however recognize that there are some interpretations of scripture that our people may see different than what we believe or teach here at Genesis Church. (*example: tongues, end times, free will vs. predestination, etc.*) We do not believe that these personal interpretations should divide the body of Christ. Genesis may believe, interpret, and teach them differently than you think or were brought up to understand, but our goal is that the foundational truths be the beliefs in which are moving us forward. For this Church it is the learning, discipleship and study of our God's Word that our theology and interpretations for how we function are made.

## THIS IS WHAT WE BELIEVE...

*We believe there is one God, and this God exists in three personalities... Father, Son, and Spirit. These three personalities are co-equal and one in God.*

*We believe the Bible is God's story, written by men inspired by His Spirit, and the foundation for every part of our lives as will live out it's instructions in this world.*

*We believe God created the world and it was good.*

*We believe man and women were created in the image of God.*

*We believe that God created a biblical foundation for marriage between a husband and a wife.*

*We believe God's design was to live together with His creation and for His creation to live in community with each other.*

*We believe sin entered into this world bringing death, and caused creation to become separated from the relationship that God intended.*

*We believe that because of man's sin the world needed a Savior.*

*We believe that God had a plan to redeem and rescue His creation and that Jesus was the only way by which this would be accomplished.*

*We believe God's son Jesus was born of a virgin and was the fulfillment of prophecy.*

*We believe that Jesus died, was buried, and then raised from the dead, defeating death, and bringing salvation for all who long to be restored, reconciled, and redeemed.*

*We believe that Salvation is received by grace, it is a gift from God, and can not be achieved by works alone.*

*We believe the Spirit of God dwells in the lives of those who accept Jesus and leads them to live a life different from the patterns of the world.*

*We believe that Baptism is a symbolic sign to others that we have chosen to follow Jesus, making our old way of living different from our new one.*

*We believe that God has chosen to use the Church as agents who reflect Him to the world.*

*We believe that God will one day return to judge the world and rid it of evil and injustice.*

*We believe that God will one day restore and renew creation according to the way He has designed it to be.*

*We believe in a day where God's Kingdom will be with His people and creation will dwell with Him forever.*

Biblical References:

[Genesis 1](#) / [Genesis 2](#) / [Genesis 3](#) / [Deuteronomy 6](#) / [Isaiah 60-61](#) / [Luke 1-2](#) / [Mark 12-16](#)  
[Acts 1-2](#) / [1 Corinthians 15](#) / [Revelation 20-21](#)

## GATHERINGS – Sundays @ Genesis & Groups

Gatherings bring an entire community of people TOGETHER. With people of all color and age groups we want to reclaim the beauty of learning, praising, serving, and growing together. During these gatherings, we also want to take part and celebrate in communion, giving, and baptism as a community. We believe that learning God's Word is the highest form of worship because it pushes us towards a new way of living. What happens during this time is the beginning of what is to take place the rest of the week. Therefore, we value a time where we can gather together to take part in this with others. //Acts 2:42-46 / Hebrews 10:25

## TOGETHERNESS – Events

We all ache for meaningful relationships, but often find it difficult to actually exist in them. We believe that we were created to live life together... with others. God designed us this way and life makes more sense when this happens. We want to help create ways for people to access and influence each other, while rethinking how to serve the life of someone else. In a home, restaurant, coffee shop, park or other, this is an opportunity for people to network in real relationships. It's in these gatherings & moments that we want to reproduce followers of Jesus Christ, who seek out others through their way of living. This is intentional living. //Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

## SERVING – at Genesis, locally, & globally

We want to do all we can to help people rethink love in this world. Together with others, we want to love in such a way that no one could deny Jesus any longer. Through engaging in the area schools; local organizations; communities of Orlando; Burkina Faso, Africa; and other local and global opportunities, we desire to let others see Jesus through our life. We do believe that the body of Christ is to serve within the church as well. We hope to engage many people in helping accomplish these moments, and we value this because it allows for more people to have an opportunity to learn how they can live the life God has designed for each of them. //Matthew 25:31-40 / Matthew 28:17-20

## BAPTISM? [Baptism or 'baptizo' (Greek) = to immerse in a body of water]

We invite you to take part in believers baptism here at Genesis Church. A moment for you to publicly identify yourself with Jesus in death and resurrection. We believe that baptism is obedience and a beautiful and sacred opportunity to display to the world, "I am a follower of a new way of living, the way of Jesus, and I commit to following this way of Jesus in the world God has place me in."

We do not believe that baptism saves you, or washes away your sin. It is obedience to Christ and we should desire to do so as quick as we can.

We are aware that there are people who come from different backgrounds with different concepts of baptism. Our understanding here at Genesis is that baptism is by immersion and is a profession of faith after you have entered into the relationship God always intended to have with you. We also believe that baptism does not automatically make you a member of Genesis Church or of any other denomination.

As for children and infants we believe that water baptism is a sign/symbol of a person's professing of faith, and as a result feel it is confusing to perform water baptism on infants. Instead we practice child dedications on infants and young children. When a child makes a choice to follow Jesus, they have the opportunity to declare to others that decision of Jesus through baptism.

**(\*read more of our understanding on our web site)**

**Romans 3:3-4** *Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

## WHAT TYPE OF CHURCH ARE YOU?

We are simply a Church. BY CHOICE we are not a certain "denomination" for those who may inquire to know. This is not because we want to be called "non-denominational" nor are we against them. Actually our heart is that we would just be known as the Church to this city. We want all walls to come down that might inhibit a person from experiencing Church. We are Kingdom minded and tired of things that separate the body of Christ. In fact we have had many different types of churches who have played a part in helping Genesis start. (see on our web site). Not being known as a certain "denomination" can help some people and hinder others depending on how you were raised. Our desire and prayer is that you would come and see what Genesis is truly about, instead of trying to just find a "church" like you were raised in.

## WHAT ABOUT KIDS?

The Bible! We are serious and concerned about the next generation of the church understanding and learning the Truth found in God's Word. In creative and fun environments we seek to teach them as much as possible to help aid you as a family to have children who love God, follow Jesus, and can't wait to return to church. We believe we are to help equip families to live the life God intended.

### *Can I bring my child in the service if needed?*

YES! We never want to hinder you from being able to learn and worship with others. We do encourage families to use KidGenesis and Genesis JUNIOR as a place to allow their children to grow, engage, and interact with others their same age. However, we understand that we do not know the circumstances, situations, or issues that might arise between you and your children. Therefore we trust you as the parent to make the best decision possible for your situation.

## CHURCH STRUCTURE?

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. The Bible, His word, clearly defines the structure, mission, and way of living in which the church functions. (*Ephesians 5:23*)

At Genesis Church we believe in the roles of Elder, Overseer and Pastor. In the early stages the Church will have a chosen board of Overseer's who help in the direction and decisions of the Church appointed by the Lead Pastor. These Overseer's in scripture were men who were to help shepherd, lead, guide, and disciple the Pastors of Genesis Church. The Pastors are the leaders of Genesis Church who make the necessary decisions through obedience to God, to shepherd the Church in it's mission, resources, and doctrine.

As time continues Genesis will appoint it's own board of Elder couples. These men & women will be guide rails to the Church and it's vision. They are chosen to be mentors who provide wisdom and accountability for the Lead Pastor and Pastors of Genesis Church. Their primary responsibility is to look after the physical health, emotional health, and spiritual health of the Pastor's and their home. They are not in place to dictate or derail the Church from its vision or the direction in which the Pastors are called to lead the Church. They are not in place to override the decisions made by the Pastors of the Church. Their heart and approach to this role must be to help progress the vision of Genesis Church. Each Overseer or Elder must meet the requirements found in 1 Timothy 3:1-11 and Titus 1:5-9.

### BIBLICAL HISTORY OF ELDER:

"Elder", from the Greek word presbuteros refers to a spiritually mature person with wisdom who guides God's people. They emerged in the Old Testament as leaders in cities (Judges 8:14), tribes (Judges 11:5), and in the nation of Israel (Exodus 3:16). By the time of the New Testament they had become a part of the Sanhedrin, the ruling Jewish body in the Roman Empire. The Sanhedrin was comprised of the chief priest, scribes, and elders who were considered lay people (Mark 11:27, 14:43, 15:1). As the first churches were Jewish in membership, it was natural for God to use this idea for church leadership. They begin appearing in Acts, where they received offerings in churches (11:30), were selected by Paul and Barnabas (14:23), were part of the decision makers with the apostles in the Gentile question (15:2,4,6,22,23), and Paul visited with them as the leaders of churches (20:17, 21:18)

## INTENTIONAL LIVING?

*“The relationships you need exist by in the intentionality by which you live”*

Colossians 4:2-6

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 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. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversations be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”*

**Intentional living** = **strategic, purposeful, and sacrificial moments engaging you with others.**

**Why?** The Greatest Commandment was... Love God & love people.

Intentional living affects where you work, play, eat, shop, and anywhere you might find yourself.

**5 Sectors of Influence:** live > work > play > shop > study

**Intentional living is a realization that YOU are the Church wherever you go!**

- Friends & Family
- Work
- School & Ball Fields
- Shopping, restaurants, gym, etc.

### How to live intentional:

1. Involve other Christians and your family.
2. Join others in service projects, sporting events, restaurants, etc.
3. Discover what God is doing in the life of others and join Him.
4. Develop far neighbors into near neighbors.
  - *to be intentional patronize the same stores / restaurants*
  - *go in the bank, use the same coffee house, same dry cleaner, etc.*
  - *play at the park, walk your kids to school, walk your street in the evening to meet others*
  - *eat with others. (grill out, invite them over, etc.)*
5. Use the holidays
  - *invite them to something*
  - *decorate and celebrate with them*
  - *involve your children*
  - *prepare other believers to engage wisely your un-churched friends*
6. Give vacation days to your neighbors. *(help them with an event, party, moving, etc.)*

*\*Our church calendar & personal calendar could be our biggest obstacle to living intentionally with others*

## SERVING

Ownership is key to the Church. It takes people who understand that they are the body of Christ. People who realize that as a member you have gifts, abilities, talents, skills, and an obligation to fulfill your part in the Church. It might be on Sundays, it might be during the week, or it might be on the other side of the world. No matter where, as a covenant member you are placing yourself in a position to help play a part in all functions of the Church. These roles are not just for some, while others choose to “attend”. As a covenant member you are willing to sacrifice your time, needs, and wants to help the Church progress forward and meet the needs of others. You understand that **the church exists for the benefit of the non-member!**

## AREAS TO SERVE

### KIDGenesis & Genesis JUNIOR

- Nursery
- Preschool
- K – 5
- Check In
- Welcome Team
- Follow Up

### Guest Relations

- Welcome Team
- Greeting
- Coffee
- Info Table
- Parking
- Farewell Team

### Audio / Visual / Band

- Sound
- Video
- Note Slides
- Singers & Musicians

### Students

- Sound
- Video
- Band
- Small Group Leaders

### Follow Up / Admin

- Weekly worship guides
- Follow up with guests

### Prayer Team

- Pray weekly for requests submitted by others & by the church
- Show up early to pray for Church & it's people

### Host Home

- Open to using your home for studies, meetings, planned activities etc.

### Activities

- Trailer pick up and return
- Grilling for activities or events
- Serving and setup for events

### Global & Local

- Community Service Projects
- Straight Street
- Women's Residential Counseling
- Missions Trips

### Set Up & Tear Down

- Signage
- Equipment
- Load Trailers

## THINGS TO KNOW

*\*Each area has specific requirements and systems.*



## TITHING

*Why do people give to the church?*

## OBEDIENCE

When we hear the Word of God and see that Scripture is very clear about giving our resources, we will respond. Most of us want to do the right thing and please God. I believe we have shied away from teaching the heart of God and Scripture in the local church. We will be teaching people very clearly about the subject of generosity as it is displayed in God's heart.

## NEED

People give if a very specific and urgent need is presented. Hurricane Katrina or any disaster is a great example of people liking to give towards needs. The gift is often times driven by urgency and tangibility. People feel good about giving to the collective solution. Our society likes to see instant results with our gifts. We will attempt to communicate with you urgent needs.

## VISION

Whether it's tangible, intangible, short-term or long-term, people give to a preferred future. People are longing to make a difference, and giving towards vision gives them a way to accomplish that.

## RELATIONSHIPS

Understand that people give to people. We all like to see friends win. This is why I believe in creating environments throughout the year (retreats, lunches, meetings, etc.) where people can connect relationally with our staff team and each other. The more relational currency we build up, the better chance we have to see how our blessings can be shared with others.

## EDUCATION

Most people can't give a portion of their income to anything because they're spending 105% or more of it. We want to use the Scriptures and modern financial guidance to show you how to give. We are looking to establish a personal finance educational ministry that helps you become financially free AND connects your heart to the heart of our God.

## WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

1. Because all I have is God's, I am only a manager of His resources

*Luke 16:1–9 (Shrewd Manager)*

*Ex. 19:5–6; (God's treasure)*

*Job 41:11Ps. 24:1; (Everything belongs to God)*

*Hag. 2:8; Dt. 8:18; (God gives you the ability to produce wealth)*

*1 Cor. 6:19–20 (Honor God with our bodies)*

a. We are held accountable for how we use our lives and our possessions

*Romans 14:12; (Give account of ourselves to God)*

*2 Cor. 5:10; Mt. 25:14–30*

2. My heart is attached to my treasure – beyond my needs, you see what I treasure by how I spend my money

*Mt. 6:19–21, 24 (Do not store up treasure on earth)*

a. There is something about money and the numbers that you can't argue with. We can talk as spiritual as we want...

b. I will move heaven and earth to get at what I treasure

c. Giving shapes my heart

3. Greed/unqualified accumulation is condemned in the Bible

a. 14 times hell is mentioned in the NT; 12 of them by Jesus.

b. 2 examples of people sent directly to hell deal with "hoarding"

*Luke 12:13–21 – "rich fool"*

*Luke 16:19 – "rich man and Lazarus" You cannot serve both God and money – Mt. 6:24*

4. Generosity is a key feature of my discipleship to Jesus

a. Act of worship (*Rom. 12:1--2*)

b. Salvation is holistic (everything is spiritual)

c. We strip money of its power and live in freedom

5. It shows my appreciation to God.

a. We give b/c he gave to us (*2 Cor. 8:9, 9:15; Gen. 4:4*)

b. It is all grace to us. We give b/c we are blessed, not to get blessed

*(example of Abraham in Hebrews 7:6 cf. Gen. 14:20/Jubilee/gleaning) 10% given to Melchizedek BEFORE THE LAW!*

c. We are to give the first fruits (*Lev. 27:30; Prov. 3:9*) "A tithe (10%) of everything from the land belongs to the LORD"

6. "We are hard pressed to find a teaching on money that doesn't emphasize giving"

## WHY TO THE CHURCH?

1. Regular part of church life

a. *1 Cor. 16; 2 Cor. 8--9; Rom. 15* \* Note Paul doesn't just talk to the rich members – all are called to participate

\*collecting the gift

2. To demonstrate I "treasure" the church

3. Demonstrates "resurrection life" *Acts 2:42; 4:32; 1; Cor. 16:1* \*a new countercultural community

4. Support the ministry of the local church (*Gal. 6:6; 1 Cor. 9:1--15*) a. Building "fellowship" – common investment

b. Building a community that says "no," your life is not about the accumulation of stuff!

5. It is impossible to disciple consumers

**\*3 WAYS TO GIVE: OUR SUNDAYS SERVICES, ONLINE, OR BY MAIL.**

## CARE

You can expect Genesis Church to care about you, and encourage accountability as you are striving to become more like Christ. We will not let you easily wreck your life. We care about you, your marriage, your family, and your career. You can expect a place that will help you fight for the life God intended for you. We expect you to stay connected so that you can expect us to help care in your time of need.

## GROWTH

You can expect Genesis Church to help create and initiate environments of authentic community where you can grow and understand more about your faith and life as a follower of Jesus.

## PRAYER

You can expect Genesis Church to pray with you and for you continually.

## SERVE

You can expect Genesis Church to serve with you as TOGETHER we function as the church that God created us to be. We are not above you but are here to do ministry WITH you.

## ABOVE REPROACH

You can expect Genesis Church to be above reproach in utilizing the resources God has given us, committed to living out the vision God has given us, and continuing to build the Christ-honoring community we have been called to build.

- 1. What you will not get from being a covenant member is authority or position to do anything that hinders, blocks, or changes the vision that God has given to the Pastors whom are called to lead this Church.*
- 2. What you put in is what you get out.*

**What's the difference between covenant and membership?**

Both models are expressions of belonging and commitment, and both are biblical. [The Old Testament refers to covenant often, and Paul develops the term 'member' in his letters.] Covenant is Genesis Church's form of membership.

**Who is the covenant between—me and God or me and Genesis Church?**

Both. As one people, we covenant with God. As a local expression of God's church, we covenant together with each other. This means we covenant with each other and with God.

**Why should someone covenant with Genesis Church?**

The ultimate question here is, "Why should someone be part of a church?" Committing your life to Christ, to others in community, and to bringing the healing of Jesus to the world is what it means to be church. Formally participating in covenant is a way of declaring that this commitment to Christ and His church is a serious reality in your life.

**How do I begin my Covenant?**

Although you can covenant with the Genesis at any time throughout the year at set Covenant meetings, Covenant agreements are annual and take place mid-August to mid-September. It is a time of focused reflection on what it means to embody our shared values as a community. At this time, our existing Covenant Community is invited to re-affirm covenant. We do this because of the transient nature of our community. of Any follower of Christ [13 years of age or older\*] is invited into covenant with the Gallery through the following procedure:

1. Prayerfully consider what you are signing and prayerfully interact with others who are already in covenant at the Gallery.
2. Personally commit to embodying our devotions and beliefs in the covenant.
3. Sign the Covenant Agreement and submit it to our Genesis Administrator.

*\*Persons 13 years of age and older are eligible to enter into Covenant; however, you must be 18 years of age or older to give input at any Church meetings.*

Covenant Members keep each other accountable in loving relationships of mutual submission. Served by leadership, gatherings, serving groups, and other forms of community, we take care of one another and help each other to live the way of Jesus.

A Covenant Member is also eligible to engage in determining the business of the church: in particular, by receiving regular updates from and by participating in dialogue with the Leadership Teams, by serving, giving, by taking part [when applicable] in the Elder nomination process, by voting on the recommended Elder Team and other matters, and by affirming the proposed budget when these matters are appointed.

Together I / We covenant to value:

**BE DEVOTED TO...**

**TEACHING - FELLOWSHIP - HOSPITALITY - PRAYER - GENEROSITY - REPENTANCE**

**BE UNITED WITH THE BELIEFS OF GENESIS CHURCH.**

**BE FAITHFUL IN GIVING, SERVING AND INTENTIONAL LIVING.**

**I covenant with Genesis Church that...**

I have committed my life to Christ       I made a commitment to Christ today

I need more time to think about pray it

I understand what it means to be a partner of Genesis Church, and want to make my commitment to the body of Christ at Genesis official. I want to be a Covenant Member.

I am reaffirming my covenant.

## **Please Print All Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Household) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

I have a City Account       I need to start my City account. Please email me

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (Month) \_\_\_\_\_ (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Year) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_