



 *Catch the Vision*



Welcome!

We are glad that you have chosen to find out more about Cornerstone Community Church. *Catch the Vision* exists as an opportunity for you to gain a foundational understanding of what we believe and value as a church. As the class proceeds, we invite you to ask questions so that you may gain all the necessary information you need in order to decide whether our church family is the community for you.

If you would like any additional information about Cornerstone Community Church that is not presented during the class, please contact me.

My prayer is that you find this class informative and that it assists you in discovering a local church to call home.

In Christ,

Pastor Leon Hayduchok

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# *Our History*

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In July 1999, a local couple, after listening to a taped sermon from Eastern Hills Bible Church (EHBC), began attending church services there. Word spread about the quality of services at EHBC and by the spring of 2000 many more families were traveling to Manlius, NY to attend the services.

Eventually, under the direction and ministry philosophy of EHBC, the idea of beginning a church in Utica was born. Our first service was held at Hamilton College on June 11, 2000. The main purpose of the service was to determine if there was enough interest in pursuing this vision. The service was standing room only with over 100 people in attendance.

By January 2001 it was determined that regular Sunday evening services needed to begin. The members of Norwich Corners Church graciously allowed us to use their building on Sunday nights. Being fully committed to the new church, a pastoral search committee was created in September of 2000. Additionally, a building committee was formed to locate a more permanent place for worship.

In April of 2001 the search committee unanimously voted to hire Leon Hayduchok as Pastor upon his graduation from Dallas Theological Seminary. With subsequent approval from the EHBC pastoral staff, Elder Board, and church members, Leon was made a formal offer to serve as Pastor. Leon and his wife, Anne-Marie, moved to Utica in August of 2001.

Shortly after hiring Leon, we took on the name Cornerstone Community Church and continued to search for a building to hold services. On November 19, 2001 the New York Mills Community Center, a former church built in 1873, was found to be available. Immediately, we began pursuing the purchase of the property. The closing took place on May 6, 2002, and after much renovation work, we held our first public church service on September 8, 2002.

Since that time, Cornerstone has hired another Pastor. Mike Ballman is also a Dallas Theological Seminary grad. Our Director of Children's Ministry is Kelly Hildreth. She has a Masters in Reading and teaches in the public school system. In March of 2005, we hired Lori Weber to handle our finances. Lori has a bachelors degree in mathematics from UCLA.

Cornerstone continues to exist under the legal and spiritual authority of EHBC, functioning under the By-laws of EHBC and observing the EHBC Statement of Faith (see Doctrinal Statement on page 29). Cornerstone is in the process of establishing its own formal structure. Once the appropriate organizational and leadership structure is in place, it is the intention of EHBC to incorporate Cornerstone Community Church as an independent entity.

# Our Name

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## **What's in a name?**

Coming to understand Cornerstone Community Church begins with understanding the name of our church. Our name is based on the following passage of Scripture:

*Ephesians 2:19-22*

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone <sup>21</sup>In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (NIV)*

## **Cornerstone**

Jesus Christ is the "Cornerstone" of our church. He is the spiritual "Cornerstone" on which the church is built. Without Jesus the church would not exist. Everything we say and do at Cornerstone Community Church is intended to honor our Founder and Foundation, our "Cornerstone", Jesus Christ.

## **Community**

Although our goal is to be a church that is active in and open to the local community, the term "Community" in Cornerstone Community Church refers to the interdependence we experience as a unified church body. The Bible clearly teaches that although our faith in Jesus Christ may be personal, our personal faith is integrally connected to the church community. This unity in community comes through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is by the Holy Spirit that we have community. The greater we rely on the Holy Spirit, the greater we will experience community, and the greater we will bring honor to Jesus Christ.

## **Church**

"Church" does not refer to our building. "Church" refers to the people who willingly allow themselves to be joined to the community by Jesus Christ. It is Jesus Christ who builds this church by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **What's in a name?**

Our name, Cornerstone Community Church, reflects our unwavering foundation that Jesus Christ is the "Cornerstone" of our existence and that He builds people into a "Community" that we call "Church" by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is on this foundation that our mission, vision, and values are built.

Cornerstone's  
Mission



Now embracing the Triune God  
as the sole Giver and Sustainer of life,  
we seek to radiate God's glory  
by participating in God's transforming our lives,  
our church, our community, and our world.

# Our Mission

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## **Mission Statement:**

***Now embracing the Triune God as the sole Giver and Sustainer of life, we seek to radiate God's glory by participating in God's transforming our lives, our church, our community, and our world.***

## **Why have a Mission Statement?**

Admittedly, reading our mission statement can be like trying to quench your thirst by drinking water from a fire hose. It gives you what you are looking for, but it can be too intense to take in.

What is the point of our mission statement? The mission statement is intended to be a succinct statement summarizing the Christian life. To summarize the Christian life in one sentence requires that it be packed with content. The objective of the following discussion is to unpack our mission statement. Once unpacked the hope is that you will see the intended purpose of each word in the statement and that you will come to understand our philosophy for Christian living.

## **Unpacking the Mission Statement**

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***Now embracing the Triune God as the sole Giver and Sustainer of life...***

The mission statement begins with the term "Now" to indicate that we now embrace something that we didn't embrace before.

Ever since Adam and Eve decided to trust themselves instead of God by eating from the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden (see Genesis 3), humankind has been born with a self-centered nature we call sin.

*1 John 1:8*

*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. (NIV)*

This self-centered nature causes us to first and foremost trust in ourselves. Our nature causes each of us to turn to our own way, doing what we think is right in our own minds. This self-centered nature separates us from God. Sin separates us from God because it causes each of us to believe that we are god, able to decide and control what is good, what is evil, what is truth, what is a lie, when life begins, and when life ends.

*Isaiah 53:6*

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way... (NIV)*

Unfortunately, sin leads to death – physical and spiritual separation from God.

*Proverbs 16:25*

*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. (NIV)*

Why does sin lead to separation from God? This is an important question for which there is a straightforward answer. Sin leads to separation from God because God will not allow his glory to be given to another.

*Isaiah 42:8*

*I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. (NIV)*

Although God's unwillingness to give His glory to another may sound selfish, it makes perfect sense. All created things are intended to reflect the glory of their creator – that is the nature of created things. Therefore, everything God has created should glorify Him. Since we are God's creation, we should only worship and glorify Him. To worship anything or anyone other than our Creator is to deny the glory rightly due Him alone.

*1 Corinthians 8:6*

*Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. (NIV)*

The problem with self-centeredness/sin is that it causes us to believe that we have a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Instead, we should recognize that all we are and have are gifts from God. Sin causes us to not rightly embrace God, and thus, results in our being separated from Him.

God, in His unfailing love for us, provided a remedy for sin. God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die as a sacrifice for our sin.

*Romans 5:8*

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.(NIV)*

*1 Peter 3:18*

*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. (NIV)*

Thanks solely to the loving kindness and sacrifice of God, we are no longer stuck in sin. By believing in Jesus' sacrificial death for our sin(s), God the Father restores our relationship with Him, giving us eternal life, by sending the Holy Spirit to cleanse us of our sin and to indwell us.

*Titus 3:4-7*

*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (NIV)*

Through the combined effort of the "Triune God" – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – we are no longer bound by a sinful nature, but we can now embrace the Triune God "as the sole Giver and Sustainer of life".

"Now embracing the Triune God as the sole Giver and Sustainer of Life" marks the beginning of the Christian life as the statement acknowledges one's turning away from a self-centered lifestyle of independence and a turning toward a lifestyle of complete submission to God.

***...we seek to radiate God's glory...***

As we enter into the Christian life, embracing the Triune God as the sole Giver and Sustainer of life, the meaning and purpose of our lives change. To be a Christian means that one is a follower of Christ, following His example and His teachings.

Christians no longer go their own way and do what's right in their own minds. Rather, Christians entrust their lives to God and seek to live out His intended purpose for them.

*John 12:25-26*

*The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. (NIV)*

Part of following Jesus' example is to live with the same purpose that He lived with. On one occasion Jesus prayed the following towards heaven:

*John 17:4  
I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. (NIV)*

Jesus brought God the Father glory by completing the work that the Father gave Him to do. Although Jesus Himself was God, He came to earth not to do His will, but the will of the Father.

*John 6:38  
For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. (NIV)*

In following Jesus' example we are to live according to the will of our heavenly Father for the glory of God. In pursuing this way of life it is helpful to understand our earthly purpose – what work has God given us to do? Jesus' following prayer for all Christians answers this question:

*John 17:20-23  
My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (NIV)*

As verse 23 reveals, our purpose for living is for people to see and believe that the Father has sent the Son into the world to die for the sin(s) of humankind.

This passage from John 17 is not only helpful in revealing our purpose for living, but it also aids in supporting the second portion of the mission statement. The second portion of the mission statement begins with the term "we". Jesus prays for all Christians to be one as He and the Father are one. Christians living in unity is vital to the church effectively informing the world of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the main clause of the mission statement begins with the term "we" because our individual purposes for living are integrally connected to the unity and purpose of the church. Christians must be unified if we are to do what God has called us to do.

After “we”, the second portion of the mission statement continues with these words: “seek to radiate”. The unity between the Father and the Son hinges on the Father being in the Son and the Son being in the Father. Likewise, our unity rests in our being in the Father and the Son. How is it that we are brought into unity with the Father and the Son? Jesus said the following:

*John 14:15-17,26*

*If you love me, you will obey what I command. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— <sup>17</sup>the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ...<sup>26</sup>But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (NIV)*

Our unity as Christians and our unity with the Father and the Son rest squarely on our willingness to abide in the Holy Spirit who lives with us and in us. The Holy Spirit alone will guide us in truth and lead us to do what God has for us to do. Again, this is the “Community” of Cornerstone Community Church.

Therefore, “we seek to radiate” conveys our reliance on the Holy Spirit to guide us from the core of our souls and the heart of our church. We are to radiate. We are to glow “God’s glory” – displaying that the Triune God alone is the Giver and Sustainer of Life. As we radiate God’s glory as a unified community the world will see the love of God the Father that has come through the sacrificial death of His Son.

How exactly are we to radiate God’s glory? And how does living in this manner cause the world to see the love of God? The final portion of the mission statement answers these questions.

***...by participating in God’s transforming our lives, our church, our community, and our world.***

Radiating God’s glory occurs “by participating in God’s transforming” work. As discussed earlier, before submitting our lives to God we were helplessly self-centered. Accepting the death of Christ for our sin(s) marks only the beginning of our becoming God-centered people. The Holy Spirit’s cleansing and indwelling restores our relationship with

## *Our Lives*

God, but it's just the beginning of a lifelong process. Our life of becoming more God-centered and less self-centered is the process of life transformation. It is through this process that we more fully radiate God's glory through the indwelling Holy Spirit, allowing Him to lead us to be and do what God wants us to be and to do.

The process of life transformation is not something we can do in our own strength. Remember, when we rely on our own strength we are helplessly self-centered. Life transformation is the process of becoming new people. It's like a caterpillar's transformation into a butterfly. The caterpillar doesn't make itself into a butterfly, it simply does its part in engaging in the process of transformation. Likewise, our life transformation occurs when we do our part by submitting ourselves to God, and allowing God to change us from the inside out. Which is why the final portion of the mission statement reads: "by participating in God's transforming." We participate in God's transforming us.

Life transformation occurs on four fronts. The first is in "our lives".

*Romans 12:2*

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)*

Life transformation happens in us as individuals when we allow God to transform the core beliefs in our minds. When God changes are core beliefs we begin to think differently. As we think differently we increasingly become more able to understand and accept God's plan for our lives.

## *Our Church*

The second front of life transformation is in "our church". As we each become less self-centered we will become more unified in our God-centeredness. We as a church must submit to the Spirit of God, so that He can lead us to glorify our heavenly Father.

*Romans 15:5-6*

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)*



*Our  
Community*



*Our World*

As the church becomes more unified in heart and mouth our words and actions become more led by God, and thus, more glorifying to Him. As we more fully submit to God, the more His glory radiates through us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our participation in God's transforming our lives and our church, results in two amazing privileges – our participation in God's transformation of "our community and our world". As we become more God-centered, God leads us to serve and reach out to our local community. Through this God - directed and empowered outreach, the local community will see the love of God that unifies us and they will come to believe the Good News of Jesus Christ. God gives us the privilege of being involved in the life change of "our community." In time, our influence will spread around "our world" as God leads us to send out and support those from our immediate community who will share Christ with people around the world.

*Matthew 28:18-20*

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (NIV)*

In Matthew 28:18-20 we find Jesus' final words to His followers. His command to "go and make disciples of all nations..." is often referred to as the Great Commission. We end our discussion on Cornerstone Community Church's mission statement with the Great Commission because the church's mission is ultimately the Great Commission.



Cornerstone's  
Vision

Creating a safe environment  
for experiencing  
God-centered life change.



# Our Vision

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***Vision Statement:  
Creating a safe environment for experiencing God-centered life change.***

## ***Why have a Vision Statement?***

You may be asking, "Why does a church have a vision statement?" Well, we believe that in order to live with clear purpose and direction we must have vision. Without vision we will wander, reacting to the circumstances that surround us. Therefore, at Cornerstone Community Church everything we do is intended to display and promote our vision.

Our vision statement compliments our mission statement. While the mission statement conveys our philosophy for Christian living, the vision statement takes that abstract philosophy and gives it concrete direction. The vision statement answers the question, "How do we fulfill our mission?" At Cornerstone Community Church we fulfill our mission by *creating a safe environment for experiencing God-centered life change*.

The objective of the following discussion is to bring clarity to the vision statement. What is "God-centered life change"? What does it mean to be "creating a safe environment"? By addressing these two questions the hope is that you'll gain an understanding of the intended purpose behind everything we do at our church.

## ***Understanding the Vision Statement***

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***...God-centered life change.***

As mentioned above, the vision statement takes the philosophy of the mission statement and gives it concrete direction. What the vision statement takes from the mission statement is summarized in the phrase "God-centered life change". What is "God-centered life change"? "God-centered life change" is the process of being transformed from independent self-centered people into interdependent God-centered people. As discussed in the Our Mission portion of this class, this transformation process begins the moment we *embrace the Triune God as the sole Giver and Sustainer of life*, and continues as we

*participate in God's transforming our lives.* To gain a greater understanding of "God-centered life change": (1) revisit Our Mission in this manual, (2) enroll in Spiritual Life I, and/or (3) contact the Life Stage Ministries Director.

### ***Creating a safe environment...***

God-centered life change cannot be contrived, manipulated, mandated, institutionalized, coerced, or programmed. For God-centered life change to be authentic it must be a personal encounter between an individual and God.

*2 Corinthians 3:18*

*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (NIV)*

The vision of *creating a safe environment* is intended to acknowledge that we can't force God-centered life change. All we can do is create an environment for God-centered life change to happen.

Creating a safe environment is also intended to address the issue that although God-centered life change is a deeply personal transformation, God-centered life change is not an individual endeavor separate from the church body. As explained in the discussion of our church name, our personal faith is integrally connected to the church community. The Spirit does not just indwell each of us individually, but He also indwells us as a community. As Ephesians 2:22 states, we "are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." Our individual transformation must be respected as personal, but it should not be viewed as being distinct from the church body.

Recognizing both the personal and communal nature of God-centered life change, the heart of creating a safe environment is to create a place of grace where we are free to come clean.

*1 Peter 4:7-10*

*Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.<sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.<sup>10</sup> Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (NIV)*

If we want to experience God-centered life change, if we want to experience authentic and deep personal transformation, then we need a safe environment – a context where we feel physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually safe – to explore all of our being and expose the sin that lies deep within us. When sin is exposed we are freed to experience anew the love and grace of God. This process of seeing more of our sin and experiencing God’s grace more fully is the maturing process of the Christian life, the process we call God-centered life change.

## ***Our Vision in Practice***

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Everything we do at Cornerstone Community Church is intended to display and promote our vision. Every event of every ministry is driven by our commitment to create an environment of grace, where physically, emotionally, and spiritually safe relationships can be developed that encourage participants to experience the freedom to explore and expose who they really are. It is in the context of these relationships that we pray people will experience the love and grace of God as they are transformed into more faithful followers of Jesus Christ.



C.O.R.N.E.R.S.

- Connected Community
- Organizational Flexibility
- Raising Spiritual Leaders
- Need-oriented Outreach
- Empowering Worship
- Realization of Spiritual Gifts
- Spiritual Passion

Core Values

Core Values

# Our Core Values

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The purpose of our core values is to establish a culture that cultivates the fulfillment of our mission and vision. Commitment to our core values reflects a commitment to radiating God's glory and creating a safe environment for experiencing God-centered life change. Therefore, recognizing that we will fulfill our mission and vision only to the degree to which our core values define and permeate our church community, we are deeply committed to our core values. We call our core values our Seven C.O.R.N.E.R.S.

## Seven C. O. R. N. E. R. S.

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### **Connected community**

Our desire is for every participant in our church community to be connected to another participant in our church community in a network of life change relationships.

#### **Why?**

1) Becoming a more faithful follower of Jesus Christ happens best in community

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. <sup>25</sup> Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV)*

2) A connected community is a better protected community

*1 Peter 5:8b*

*Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (NIV)*



### **Organizational flexibility**

Our ministries and ministry structure are always open to change based on the gifts of our church participants and the needs of our church and community.



### **Raising spiritual leaders**

Spiritual leadership is living by the power of God, for the glory of God, with the intent to influence others.

We all have a responsibility to be spiritual leaders, and the extent to which we reach our spiritual leadership potential correlates to the extent to which our church creates a safe environment for experiencing God-centered life change.



### ***Need-oriented outreach***

Outreach events and methods of presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ are determined by the needs of those being reached and not by our personal preferences.

*1 Corinthians 9:19-23*

*Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews...<sup>21</sup>To those not having the law I became like one not having the law...<sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup>I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. (NIV)*



### ***Empowering worship services***

Worship services are intended to radiate the love of God so that attendees are encouraged to submit to and live by the power of God.

*Ephesians 3:16-19*

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,<sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,<sup>18</sup>may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,<sup>19</sup>and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (NIV)*



### ***Realization of spiritual gifts through service***

Our desire is for all participants in our church community to identify and contribute their spiritual gift(s) out of a heart for serving the church community.

*1 Peter 4:10*

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (NIV)*

Recognizing that spiritual gifts are granted for the common good of the community, it is important to note that we come to truly know our gifts when we see them effectively at work. It is also important to note that one's gifts may change as one's place in the community changes. Therefore, each person should remain sensitive to God's leading and gifting of oneself within the context of the church community.

*1 Corinthians 12:7*

*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (NIV)*

*1 Corinthians 12:27*

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (NIV)*

*1 Corinthians 12:11*

*All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. (NIV)*



### ***Spiritual passion***

We are committed to pursuing the Christian life, not out of obligation or guilt, but out of a passion to experience the joy and peace that come from trusting God more fully.

*Romans 15:13*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (NIV)*

# Membership

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We live in a culture where people generally shy away from commitment. "Leaving my options open" is a core value for those who are always looking for more or something better. This attitude has even permeated our churches with "shoppers" and "hoppers" – people who pursue the newest trends in church models and ministries that "meet their needs". Membership swims against the current of America's "consumer religion". Membership reflects a commitment to protect and persevere with a specific church community, trusting in God's leading the spiritual development of that community.

At Cornerstone Community Church we recognize the importance of formal membership.

## ***Why is membership important?***

### *Membership provides connection and protection*

Because the devil is prowling around looking for someone to devour (1 Pet. 5:8), members of a church community need to stay connected and protected by the community. If we wander alone we are more susceptible to the attack of the devil. Only when we become members of the community are we entrusting ourselves to the community, asking the community to protect us. When a member seems to disappear from the community, the community has a responsibility to pursue and protect that member. On the other hand, when "shoppers" and "hoppers" disappear they have not given the community the right to pursue them, and besides, they might simply be moving on. Membership defines who wants to protect and persevere with the church community.

### *Membership provides voting rights*

Only church members have the privilege of voting on church matters.

## ***What is expected of a member?***

As a member of Cornerstone Community Church it is expected that one support and engage in the church's mission and vision by committing to the Seven C.O.R.N.E.R.S. as they apply to membership.

### *Connected community*

Every member is expected to connect to another member of the church in a network of life change relationships.

### ***Organizational flexibility***

Every member is expected to support the changes that occur in our ministries and ministry structure as our church recognizes the gifts of our church participants and the needs of our church and community.

### ***Raising spiritual leaders***

Every member is expected to pursue their full spiritual leadership potential.

### ***Need-oriented outreach***

Every member is expected to pursue their role in our church's commitment to reaching those who don't have a faith in Jesus Christ and embrace any resulting church growth.

### ***Empowering worship services***

Every member is expected to view worship services as a time to radiate the love of God so that we may foster an environment where all attendees are encouraged to submit to and live by the power of God.

### ***Realization of spiritual gifts through service***

Every member is expected to identify and contribute his/her spiritual gift(s) out of a heart for serving the church community.

Every member is further expected to remain sensitive to a change in God's leading and gifting so as to appropriately serve the church community.

### ***Spiritual passion***

Every member is expected to pursue the Christian life, not out of obligation or guilt, but out of a passion to experience the joy and peace that come from trusting God more fully.

### ***How do I become a member?***

- 1) Read and sign the Cornerstone Community Church Membership Covenant
- 2) Schedule a meeting with the pastor to discuss and ensure that membership is the right step for you.

As mentioned in the welcome letter to the membership class our desire is not for you to become a member of Cornerstone Community Church. Rather, our desire is that you discover the local church where you best fit.

# ***Cornerstone Community Church***

## ***Membership Covenant***

In becoming a member of Cornerstone Community Church I understand and agree to support and engage in the church's mission and vision by committing to the Seven C.O.R.N.E.R.S. as they apply to membership as follows:

### **Connected community**

Every member is expected to connect to another member of the church in a network of life change relationships.

### **Organizational flexibility**

Every member is expected to support the changes that occur in our ministries and ministry structure as our church recognizes the gifts of our church participants and the needs of our church and community.

### **Raising spiritual leaders**

Every member is expected to pursue their full spiritual leadership potential.

### **Need-oriented outreach**

Every member is expected to pursue their role in our church's commitment to reaching those who don't have a faith in Jesus Christ and embrace any resulting church growth.

### **Empowering worship services**

Every member is expected to view worship services as a time to radiate the love of God so that we may foster an environment where all attendees are encouraged to submit to and live by the power of God.

### **Realization of spiritual gifts through service**

Every member is expected to identify and contribute his/her spiritual gift(s) out of a heart for serving the church community.

Every member is further expected to remain sensitive to a change in God's leading and gifting so as to appropriately serve the church community.

### **Spiritual passion**

Every member is expected to pursue the Christian life, not out of obligation or guilt, but out of a passion to experience the joy and peace that come from trusting God more fully.

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Print Name

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Signature

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Date

After having met with the pastor I hereby express my desire to become a member of Cornerstone Community Church and pledge my commitment to protect and persevere with this church community.

Membership approved by:

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Signature

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Date

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Signature

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Date

# *Doctrinal Statement*

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## ***The Bible***

**We believe** in the verbal inspiration of the original writings of the Old and New Testaments, and we believe that they are of supreme and final authority for faith and life (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21, 3:16; John 14:26, 16:13; 1 Timothy 5:18; Luke 24:27-44).

## ***God***

**We believe** in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 8:4-6; Psalm 90:2; Acts 5:3-4; Revelation 1:8; Hebrews 9:14; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19).

## ***Jesus Christ***

**We believe** that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born of the virgin Mary, and in Him perfect humanity and undiminished deity are united forever (Luke 1:27, 31, 35; John 1:1, 14; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 2:14, 17, 4:15, 7:24). We believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross, was raised from the dead three days later, ascended bodily into the presence of God in Heaven, and lives there now to intercede on our behalf (Philippians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Roman 8:34; Luke 24:51).

## ***Man***

**We believe** that man was created by God and in God's image (Genesis 1:27). We believe that man sinned by disobeying God and thus incurred spiritual death, which is separation from God, and physical death (Genesis 2:17; 3:6-8, 3:19; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1, 12). We believe that man is affected by this sin in such a way that no human being on his own has any merit before God (Romans 3:9-12, 7:17-18; Ephesians 4:18).

## ***Salvation***

**We believe** that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ took place so that man might be reconciled unto God (1 Peter 2:24; Romans 4:25; 2 Corinthians 5:18). We believe that anyone who believes in Jesus Christ as personal Savior receives right standing before God and eternal life (John 6:47; Acts 16:31; Romans 3:20-22). We believe that a true believer, once saved, will be kept in his salvation by the power of God forever (Romans 8:29, 35, 38-39).

### ***The Church***

**We believe** that the church consists of all Christians with Christ as the head (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 1:22-23). We believe that the purpose of the Church is to glorify God by drawing together, through world-wide proclamation of the Word of God, all who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior, and by building up each Christian so that he becomes progressively Christ-like (Ephesians 4:7, 11-16; Romans 8:29-30). We believe that each Christian has at least one specific capability given by the Holy Spirit and one or more specific positions of service by God. Each capability and position is necessary for fulfilling the purpose of the Church (1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 11-12, 18-27; Romans 12:3-8). We believe that groups of local Christians should meet together regularly for worship, study, service, and fellowship (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25).

### ***Ordinances***

**We believe** that there are two ordinances: baptism by immersion following conversion, and the Lord's supper (Acts 2:38, 41; 1 Corinthians 11:23-27).

### ***The Future***

**We believe** in the imminent, and personal return of Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:16; James 5:8; Revelation 20:2-6. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and the unsaved (John 5:28-29). We believe in the eternal blessedness of the saved, and the eternal punishment of the unsaved (1 Thessalonians 4:17; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 19:20, 20:10-15).

### ***Word of Perspective***

Recognizing that the Bible is the very Word of the Living God to all people, and understanding the priority of knowing and obeying its truths, the Elders of Eastern Hills Bible Church are deeply committed to studying and teaching with diligence and authority. Through their years of study, training, and teaching, the Elders have come to convictions regarding major theological truths of the Bible, as outlined above. Those who support these stated doctrines will be encouraged to serve in positions of influence within the Body. It is our hope that those who disagree will not separate from our fellowship. It is our sincere desire that the central ministry of EHBC be the continuous imparting of the Scripture to all people of God that meet us; that they may know God, serve Him in worship and ministry, and meet one another's needs in a loving manner.