



Brian & Deb Beaver

Chuck & Char Brown

Dave & Kathy Drake

Bob & Karen La Pierre

Dennis & Margaret Smith

John & Judy Smith

Chris & Melanie Ryan

Jon & Madi Hembree

MEET THE LEADERS

Getting to Know Us

A Long Long Time Ago in a Country Far Far
Away... everyone was offered a way back to
God...

ORIGINS

It was called Christianity after Jesus the Christ...
the Son of God who lived and walked among
us, died to cover our sins, and rose on the third
day to seal the deal and lead the way to
heaven.

PS – Heaven is where God is.

ORIGINS

- ▶ All those who heard the message of salvation, answered the invitation to believe, gave their lives over to God, and then were immersed, started assembling together wherever and whenever they could.
- ▶ On the first day of the week they gathered to eat a meal of fellowship and remembrance (communion) they also took up fellowship offerings.

ORIGINS

When the church got big enough they needed a leadership form to handle their functioning together.

- ▶ “Elders” (Presbyters or Mayors) were appointed over local churches. Men were chosen from the community of believers to be its leaders, because of their age, demonstrated wisdom, and love for the assembly. Also called “Overseers” (Episcopals or Bishops) to denote their authority and responsibilities. And known further as “Shepherds” (Poimenoi or Pastors) Men who work to ensure individual members are known, cared for, and loved.

ORIGINS

When the church got big enough they needed a form to handle their functioning

- ▶ “Elders” ... “Overseers” ... “Shepherds”
- ▶ “Servants” (Deacons or Ministers) were also appointed to specific tasks or areas of service of the assembly.
- ▶ And so the assembly (kirke’ or church) sailed on for 290 plus years as independently Elderled/Overseen/Shepherded entities.

ORIGINS

- ▶ Suddenly the church had a professional clergy and other employees.
- ▶ Suddenly the church had edifices (buildings) and monuments
- ▶ Clerical Robes, Vestments, Incense, Mystical Waters, Artifacts, Altars, Sanctuaries, Holy Seasons, and Religious Orders all have their roots in what became a VERY blended church.

BOOM

In 1517 AD Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses (errors to be argued) to the Cathedral door and was excommunicated in 1520. This began the Protestant or Reformation period where churches were trying to fix and reform the perceived excesses of the church without fixing the underlying problems. (Extra-Biblical writings)

BOOM PART DEUX

1809 *"Declaration and Address of the Christian Association of Washington"* --Thomas Campbell a Presbyterian minister who became a prominent reformer during the Second Great Awakening of the United States. Born in County Down Ireland, he began a religious reform movement on the American frontier. He was joined in the work by his son, Alexander. Their movement, known as the "Disciples of Christ", merged in 1832 with the similar movement led by Barton W. Stone to form what is now described as the American Restoration Movement (also known as the Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement). The Disciples of Christ, Christian Church, & Churches of Christ.



BOOM SHAKALAKA

- ▶ The central themes and guiding principles of the “Restoration Movement” are:
- ▶ Unity is found only when using the Bible as the only source materials or Scripture.
- ▶ Salvation is only needed in ADULT believers who have chosen to place the trust, faith, and lives in God’s hands.
- ▶ Restoring the “Primitive” churches or assemblies to their independent and biblically guided roots is also needed for unity.
- ▶ Where the Bible Speaks We Speak...Where it is Silent We are Silent.

BOOM SHAKALAKA

- ▶ Community Christian Church is a Restoration Movement Church seeking to restore the love, faith, community, and evangelical fervor of the Primitive Church through Bible studies, solid Biblical Messages, a community of believers worshipping our God on the 1st day of the week and sharing a meal of fellowship and the fellowship of offerings to support the work of the church. We are independent of any and all outside authorities and are overseen, and shepherded by a congregationally chosen Eldership.

That’s Us Folks!

BOOM SHAKALAKA

INTERMISSION

Because of our commitment to restoring New Testament Christianity, here are some items that are important to the Christian Church:

- ▶ Our basis for belief is found in the Bible, the authoritative and inerrant Word of God. It is historically accurate and internally consistent, and tells one story of redemption, pointing to Jesus Christ. There are resources that may be beneficial to us as we live out our faith, but the Bible, as the standard of truth, and truth itself, is our guide.

MEMBERSHIP VS JOINING

Because of our commitment to restoring New Testament Christianity, here are some items that are important to the Christian Church:

- ▶ We are called Christians because that's the New Testament name for followers of Christ (Acts 11:26), and because He is the one we follow.
- ▶ We take Communion (also called the Lord's Supper, or the Eucharist) every week because that's the Scriptural example and it keeps reminding us what Christ did for us. Communion is a symbol of Christ's broken body and the pouring out of his blood, and we take it together as an act of unity and remembering.

MEMBERSHIP VS JOINING

Because of our commitment to restoring New Testament Christianity, here are some items that are important to the Christian Church:

- ▶ Baptism is done by immersion. The Greek word *baptizo* means to plunge, dip, or immerse. This can often be a sticky issue, but here's our take:
 - Jesus was baptized this way (Matthew 3:16), and we follow his example
 - He didn't just do it, He also commanded it (Matt. 28:18-20)
 - Baptism is our first expression of faith – how we “put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27)
 - It is a symbol of our burial & resurrection. Romans 6:3-4 says, “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

MEMBERSHIP VS JOINING

What is Membership vs Joining

- ▶ Membership in the Jesus' church happens when you come up from the waters of your immersion, God himself adds you to his church.
- ▶ Joining a local church or local church membership isn't a scary concept. It's also **not** just having your name on a list. Being a member at Community Christian Church means that this is your church home, where you worship, work, give, and grow. Being a member shows a willingness to partner with us, and perhaps one day to become a part of our leadership, as we seek to make disciples

MEMBERSHIP VS JOINING

Why become a member?

Membership is biblical

- ▶ Although we don't find the concept of "membership" in Scripture the way we use it today, the New Testament church shows us the example of Christians committed to worshiping and doing life together.
- ▶ Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:27, "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." If we're members of His body, His global, worldwide, Church, then it stands to reason that that is lived out as members of local church bodies.

MEMBERSHIP VS JOINING

Why become a member?

Membership is for your health

- ▶ A Christian with no church home is like a fish out of water. Faith is meant to be lived out with others. When we come together, we can support and lift each other up. There is strength, encouragement, and accountability in numbers, and those things lead to our spiritual growth.
- ▶ In a culture that is so focused on the self, it's healthy to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. Membership combats the consumer's thoughts of "What's in it for me?" and focuses on community and commitment as we strive for the same goal.
- ▶ Membership also helps us define who is on the team, and who can be counted on. Every team has a roster, and membership identifies our team.

MEMBERSHIP VS JOINING

How do I become a member?

Requirements for membership at Community Christian Church:

- ▶ Belief in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior
- ▶ Baptism by immersion
- ▶ Regular worship attendance

MEMBERSHIP VS JOINING

What does the church expect from me?

Worship

- ▶ Simply put, to call a place your church home means you are there regularly to worship.

Fellowship

- ▶ Part of the beauty of having a church family is being able to develop loving relationships with others in the church. It is difficult to participate in the life of the church if you are not participating in the lives of those who make up the church!

MEMBERSHIP VS JOINING

What does the church expect from me?

Giving

- ▶ We ask that our members follow a biblical model of giving back to God from what He has blessed us with. What you give is between you and God, and money given is used to further his kingdom, both here in our own community and across the globe with the missionaries the church supports.

Service

- ▶ We expect our members to be active in service. Each of us has our own gifts, talents, and interests that we can use to build up His Kingdom, both inside and outside of the church body.
- ▶ If you haven't done so already, we encourage you to find out what some of these gifts are, and make an effort to use them for His glory.

MEMBERSHIP VS JOINING

What can I expect from the church?

- ▶ Opportunities to grow in your faith, deepen relationships, and serve our community
- ▶ Leadership & Support—God has called the leaders of the church (elders, ministers, teachers, etc.) to lead those in the church to deeper maturity in their faith

MEMBERSHIP VS JOINING



QUESTION & ANSWER TIME

WITH OUR THANKS FOR ATTENDING
