

WE ARE ON MISSION FOR JESUS.

About CBC & Membership Covenant

**Community
Baptist
Church**
kodiakcbc.org

SESSION 1

**We're glad
you are here.**

SESSION 2

Our Statements

1 Corinthians 1:10

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

(TLB)

Why do we need Statements?

Our statements are important because they...

- ...enhance motivation,
- ...determine style,
- ...guide goal setting,
- ...direct decision making,
- ...regulate the management of resources,
- ...provide the basis for evaluation,
- ...and resolve conflicts.

However, more than anything else, our statements promote **Unity**, which is a high priority for the church.

Ephesians 4:3

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (NIV)

Romans 14:19

“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.” (Ph)

Why do we exist?

To share the life-changing reality of Jesus Christ.

Purpose

The purpose of this church shall be the advancement of the reign of the spirit of Christ in human life through worship, evangelism, fellowship, Christian education, missions and church operations.

Mission

To reach up to God through worship prayer and fellowship, to reach in to build up a congregation that uses its gifts in Christian ministry, and to reach out to the community and beyond with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Vision

To become a beacon of light to the lost and provide hope to the hurting through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our Beliefs

Statement of Faith

We are a people for whom worship is a priority. We believe our main purpose is to glorify God. We believe Jesus Christ calls us to mission, discipleship and service.

We Believe that:

- the Bible is the Word of God. It is our authority for faith and conduct.
- salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, who died on the cross for our sins.
- the Holy Spirit is given to believers to guide and empower us to live for Christ.
- the Church is gathered by God to express the presence of Christ in our world today.
- each believer is given spiritual gifts and abilities by the Holy Spirit for ministry. We are sinners saved by God's grace and we invite others to experience God's grace and forgiveness.
- Jesus Christ will return one day for His church.

We strive to:

- use our spiritual gifts and abilities in the ministries of the church.
- be accountable to each other in attendance, giving and prayer.
- hold the Bible as our authority for faith and conduct.
- follow Christ in our daily lives.
- share our joys and concerns with each other.
- love one another by helping each other with our common needs.
- reach out to others with the love of Christ.

Our Beliefs

In **essential beliefs**, we have UNITY.

2 Timothy 1:13

“What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching...” (NIV)

Titus 1:9

“He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.” (NIV)

In **nonessential beliefs**, we have UNDERSTANDING.

Romans 14:1, 12, 22

“1 Accept him...without passing judgment on disputable matters.... 12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God... 22 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God...” (NIV)

In **all beliefs**, we have LOVE & KINDNESS.

1 Corinthians 13:2

“If I...can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge...but have not love, I am nothing.” (NIV)

For a mature and healthy church...

saying something the right way...

is as equally important as...

saying the right thing.

Ephesians 4:15

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.” (NIV)

The Bible

Community Baptist Church believes the Bible is God's written message to humanity, which has been sovereignly preserved through the centuries. Although it was written over a span of 1,500 years and over 40 generations in various places by over 40 authors from diverse walks of life, the Bible has a central unity: God's salvation of people. The Bible is both timeless and timely, relevant to common needs of all people at all times and to the specific problems of contemporary living. It was written by people, but inspired by God.

The human authors were under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit so that what was written was the very Word of God. Because it is inspired by God, it is true and trustworthy without any mixture of error, and it has the power to transform lives. Therefore, it is the supreme source of authority for Christian belief and behavior.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

God the Father

Community Baptist Church believes there is only one God. God is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. He is personal as opposed to an abstract force. He is all-knowing, all-powerful, all-present, and all-good. He is both transcendent and immanent, and he is both holy and love. He has eternally existed in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one. Jesus refers to God as Father.

Genesis 1:1,26,27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

God the Son

Community Baptist Church believes Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, is co-equal with God and has always existed. Because of his love for the world and obedience to the Father, he chose to lay aside the benefits of being God and come to earth in the form of a man. He was both wholly God and wholly man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. Jesus lived a sinless life, taught with authority, and performed many miracles. He offered himself as a perfect sacrifice by acting as a substitute for people and dying on the cross in their place and for their sins. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate his power over sin and death and to secure the salvation of those who would believe in him. He ascended to heaven, was given all authority, and will return again someday to manifest his eternal reign.

Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4: 14-15;
1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:1

God the Holy Spirit

Community Baptist Church believes the Holy Spirit is co-equal with God and has always existed. His purpose is to be a "Counselor" who assists believers. He is present in the world to make people aware of their sin and their need for Jesus Christ. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, the Spirit brings salvation and new life in the body of Jesus Christ. He lives in believers teaching and empowering them to be like Jesus Christ as they follow his leadership. The Holy Spirit also gives believers spiritual gifts for the purpose of serving others and building up the church. All of the spiritual gifts appear to be functioning today, though some are operating in a limited sense. The chief evidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in a believer is moral, not miraculous or mystical. The litmus test for Christian growth is the fruit of the Spirit, not the gifts of the Spirit. The spiritual gifts are to be exercised in an orderly manner to build up and unify the church and are to be submitted to the overall purpose of the church which is reaching those who do not know Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8;
1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; 14:1-40; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18

Humanity

Community Baptist Church believes men and women are made in the image of God, meaning that they have a spiritual dimension allowing them to communicate with God and a moral dimension allowing them to differentiate right from wrong. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although people have tremendous potential for good, they have been marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin."

Sin separates people from God and causes a multitude of problems for people, both individually and corporately.

The ultimate result of sin is spiritual death and eternal separation from God.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2

Salvation

Community Baptist Church believes salvation is the solution to the sin of humanity.

Jesus Christ died on the cross for the sins of all people. Jesus Christ is the only way people can come to God to receive salvation. If it were possible to obtain salvation by some other means, Jesus Christ never would have had to die on the cross. Salvation is God's free gift to people, but they must accept it. People can never make up for their sin by their own efforts of self-improvement or any other good work. Both repentance (turning from sin) and faith (turning to God) are inseparable aspects of the single event of conversion. When people choose to repent of their sins and place their faith in Jesus Christ, they are converted, receiving salvation and a new life. Salvation consists of God establishing his relationship with individual believers (justification), beginning his work of making believers more like Jesus Christ (sanctification), and accomplishing his goal of making believers like Christ when they die (glorification).

Therefore, though salvation begins at a specific time, salvation is best viewed as a process in time, not a point in time.

Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of Christians. Consequently, nothing a believer does can cause him or her to lose the gift of salvation.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

The Church

Community Baptist Church believes the Head of the church is Jesus Christ. The church is both universal and local. It is universal in the sense that it is composed of all believers in all places who have ever lived. It is local in that it is a body of believers in one location who have united around a common faith in Jesus Christ and statements of beliefs, values, purpose, strategy, and vision. Church members are to strive to live lives of love and holiness as they model the life of Jesus Christ. Church members also care for one another and support the church with their time, talents, and tithes.

The two ordinances of the church are baptism and communion. The two offices of the church are Pastors and Servants.

Though the church utilizes these two offices, all Christians have equal access to God and are gifted to serve him as ministers. The leaders of the church are to model the servant leadership of Jesus. The church is an independent body, operating through both representative and democratic processes under the Headship of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16; 12:12-27; 1 Peter 2:5;

Ephesians 2:19-23; 4:15-16; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:25

Last Things

Community Baptist Church believes that God, in his own time and in his own way, will bring the world to an appropriate end. Though some of the details of the events encompassing this time period are vague, there are many certainties. Jesus Christ will return to manifest the kingdom of God. At this time, the dead will be raised and all humanity will be judged by God. Those people who have received salvation through Jesus Christ will be destined for heaven, the total presence of God. Those people who have rejected salvation through Jesus Christ will be consigned to hell, the total absence of God.

Both heaven and hell are real places of eternal consequence.

John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9

Our Values

Everyone

All people matter to God, so they matter to us.

We value people. Nothing is more important than loving God and people. All people are created in the image of God and are valuable to him, irrespective of age, race, or income. All people matter to God regardless of who they are or what they have done, so they matter to us. God is for people, not against them, so we are for people too. Wherever people are in their life journey, no matter their background, they are all welcome here. This includes people who are far from God. Just as Jesus Christ loved them and devoted himself to pursuing them, so do we. We desire to meet people wherever they are and encourage them toward a bold life in Jesus Christ.

Real

Anyone can come as they are.

We value authenticity. Anyone can be real and come as they are. We don't wear masks and no one is perfect. We admit our failures and embrace a need for growth. Being real includes the grace and freedom to fail. No one is faultless, so perfection is not a requirement. Rather, what is needed is a genuine and honest approach to life that strives for Christian growth but admits failure along the way. We don't have it figured out, but God does. Once there is authenticity, we can experience God's transformation. Being real is part of living a bold life.

Transformation

God changes us to be like Jesus.

We value transformation so people can change and become more like Jesus Christ in the various areas of their lives. We do not have to settle for a broken and dysfunctional life. We promote the process of spiritual maturity and change called discipleship where we provide environments for growth and intentionally walk with people, helping them take their next step in becoming more like Jesus Christ. It is never too late for anyone to become who God is calling them to be and to experience a bold life in Jesus Christ.

Connectedness

God created us for community.

We value people being in relationships with one another. The church is not just about individuals going to church, but a people being the church. We are the people of God who share life with one another. Life-change happens best in community. No one grows alone. People sitting in circles has more transforming power than people sitting in rows. We are to love God, one another, and our neighbors. Loving relationships permeate every aspect of living a bold life. A bold life cannot be lived alone.

Mission

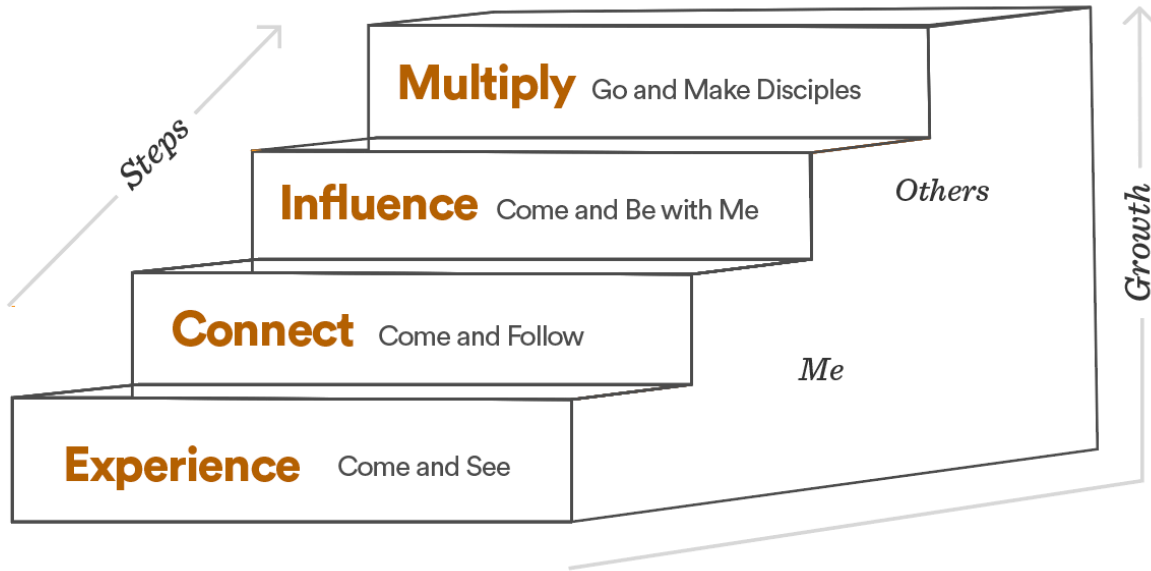
God calls every one of us to be a minister and missionary at every moment.

We value sending people out to bless our world. The church exists not just for those on the inside, but for those on the outside. We have a sending God who saved us and sent us. He is a missionary God who has made us missionaries in our world. The church is the presence of Jesus Christ sent to continue his ministry in word and deed. We are on mission every moment of every day. The church does not have a mission. The mission has a church. The church was created to fulfill God's mission. This outward missional focus is woven into everything that the church does. Our community and world should be better because we are here. We live bold lives as we partner together to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in our world.

Christian Path

Modeled after the ministry of Jesus Christ and his series of invitations, Our church also has relational focus of Christians discipling other Christians down on an intentional path of spiritual growth through Experience, Connect, Influence, and Multiply. Psalm 16:11 “*You make known to me the path of life...*”

Jesus led with an intentional path.



Experience: People who are seeking Jesus Christ.

Connect: People who are connecting to The Church, God’s Plan, His People.

Influence: People who sharing their faith and identity in Christ, growing in discipleship, and spiritual leadership.

Multiply: People who make disciples, plant churches, send missionaries.

SESSION 4

Our Structure

1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

“33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace...
40...everything should be done
in a fitting and orderly way.”

(NIV)

Our Leadership

Churches have established many elaborate leadership hierarchies consisting of such offices as bishops, elders, and deacons. All of these titles can be reduced down into two simple functional offices:

1. Overseer: In the New Testament, three different words are used interchangeably to refer to the same office: pastor (*poimen*), elder (*presbuteros*), and overseer (*episkopos*).

Acts 20:17-18, 28, “17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders (presbuteros) of the church. 18 When they arrived, he said to them: ‘... 28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers (episkopos). Be shepherds (poimaino) of the church of God...’” (NIV)

Titus 1:5, 7, “5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders (presbuteros) in every town, as I directed you... 7 Since an overseer (episkopos) is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless...” (NIV)

1 Peter 5:1-2, “1 To the elders (presbuteros) among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ’s sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds (poimaino) of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers (episkopeo)...” (NIV)

Community Baptist Church uses the title Overseer to refer to this office that has been traditionally called “elder.”

Overseers are responsible for serving the whole body of the church by leading the church (1 Timothy 3:1, 4-5; 1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-2), praying for the church (Acts 6:2, 4), teaching the church (Acts 6:2-4; 1 Timothy 3:2; 1 Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:6, 9), training the members of the church (Ephesians 4:11-12), protecting the church (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:6, 9), and nurturing the church (Acts 20:28; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:2).

Community Baptist Church is led by Overseers. Our Lead Pastor and Executive Ministry Board.

All Overseers must meet the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

2. Servant Leader Of the 29 times the Greek word (*diakonos*) from which we derive the English word “deacon” appears in the New Testament, it is only translated “deacon” three times in the New International Version. The other 26 occurrences convey the idea of helping and serving. Consequently, rather than a political or ruling office, a deacon or Servant is to receive delegated tasks of serving others and ministering to their needs (Acts 6:1-7).

Community Baptist Church uses the title Servant Leader to refer to this office that has been traditionally called “deacon.” At CBC in addition to our **Deacons, Ministry Leaders, Ministry Committee Members**, function in the Office of Servant. They are responsible for serving the individual believers of the Church.

All Servants must meet the qualifications of Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

Our Government

Our government is both democratic and representative.

Democratic (*Members*) + **Representative** (*Leaders*)

Our government has a simple structure that promotes unity and downplays differences.

When we come together, we want to avoid differences and divisions.

Paul warned in 1 Corinthians 11:17-18, “17...your meetings do more harm than good.
18...when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you...”

Congregational voting of the *Members* of the church is focused on:

- *Adopting the Annual Budget*
- *Electing Executive Committee Leadership Team*
- *Purchasing land and constructing buildings and the related incurring of indebtedness*
- *Adopting and changing the church Articles of Incorporation or Constitution and Bylaws*
- *Hiring and firing the Lead Pastor*

Community Baptist Church Structure

Under the leadership of the Spirit of Christ, the Church Council organizes and designates responsibilities for the ministry and administration of CBC.



Our Affiliation

We are first and foremost Christian church, a body of people committed to following Jesus Christ. We are a member of The American Baptist Churches, founded in February 2, 1940. We have people from various church backgrounds and no church backgrounds in particular. However, for the purposes of effectiveness, we intentionally affiliate with different organizations in an effort to partner together to expand the kingdom of God. Presently, we partner with the following organizations:

American Baptist Churches USA

American Baptist Churches are missional congregations that nurture devoted disciples of Jesus Christ who live their lives in mission and ministry for the healing of the world through the love of God.

American Baptists are a Christ-centered, biblically grounded, ethnically diverse people called to radical personal discipleship in Christ Jesus. Our commitment to Jesus propels us to nurture authentic relationships with one another; build healthy churches; transform our communities, our nations and our world; engage every member in hands-on ministry; and speak the prophetic word in love.

As a people of prayer, purpose, and passion, we are in the forefront of creating a community of faith where people of every race, nationality and culture gather as one in worship, service and work.

The heart of the gospel is God's redemptive love. In our life together, the world will see the power of forgiveness to overcome alienation, the strength of love to transform hate, the power of grace to break the bonds of guilt, the triumph of hope over despair, and the victory of faith over doubt.

Through the cross of Christ we embrace the world as neighbor. Our vision for mission energizes a multitude of servant ministries of evangelism, discipleship, leadership, new church development, social justice, healing, peacemaking, economic development and education. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we work together in mutual submission, humility, love, and giving that the gospel might be preached and lived in all the world.

“Write the vision, make it plain...” Habakkuk 2:2

SESSION 5

Our Service

1 Peter 4:10

*“Each one should use whatever gift
he has received to serve others...”*

(NIV)

We Belong Together

What is a Membership Covenant?

“Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” – Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)

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

We find our identity not in the individual parts, but in the body. We belong together.

“3 Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. 4 I always pray for you, and I make my requests with a heart full of joy 5 because you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.” – Philippians 1:3-5 (NLT)

Membership is a covenant. We commit ourselves to God and his work in the world through a local church, an expression of body of Christ on earth.

The Bible, The Body of Christ, The Church

The New Testament supports membership in a local church. Though they probably didn't have a formal membership system, the example in the New Testament is all believers being accounted for and incorporated into a local church. There are no "Lone Ranger Christians" in Scripture!

Acts 5:14, *"...more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number."* (NIV)

(see also Acts 1:15; 2:47; 4:4; 6:7; 11:21, 24; 14:27; 16:5)

Belonging to a the Body of Christ, The Church;

- **It identifies me as a genuine believer.**

Ephesians 2:19, *"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household."* (NIV)

Romans 12:5, *"So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."* (NIV)

- **It gives me a place to discover and use my gifts in ministry.**

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, *"4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."* (TNIV)

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our church family so we can care for one another, and it defines who can be counted on to serve.

- **It places me under the spiritual protection of Christian leaders.**

Hebrews 13:17, *"Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they know they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this joyfully and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit."* (NLT)

Acts 20:28-29, *"28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock."* (NIV)

- **It gives me the accountability.**

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You can't be accountable when you're isolated from other Christians.

Proverbs 27:17, "Iron is sharpened by iron, one person is sharpened by contact with another." (NJB)

Ephesians 5:21, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (NIV)

- **It provides a spiritual family to support and encourage me in my relationship with Jesus Christ.**

Galatians 6:1-2, "1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (TNIV)

- Hebrews 10:24-25, "24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 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)

- **It allows me to partner with other believers in being a part of something bigger than myself: Growing the kingdom of God.**

Philippians 1:3-5, "3 Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. 4 I always pray for you, and I make my requests with a heart full of joy 5 because you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now." (NLT)

The church is a family, an organism, and a movement, not an institution. Since the 1960s, Americans have become increasingly anti-institutional. They use the phrase "organized religion" with contempt. On the other hand, people are longing for a sense of community and meaning. Partnership offers this!

Covenant

Because I sense God leading me and because I agree with the statements, strategy, and structure of Community Baptist Church, I now want to become a member and transfer my membership if with a previous body of believers. In so doing, I commit myself to Jesus Christ and the purpose, mission and vision of His Church expressed through Community Baptist Church:

Purpose

The purpose of this church shall be the advancement of the reign of the spirit of Christ in human life through worship, evangelism, fellowship, Christian education, missions and church operations.

Mission

To reach up to God through worship prayer and fellowship, to reach in to build up a congregation that uses its gifts in Christian ministry, and to reach out to the community and beyond with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Vision

To become a beacon of light to the lost and provide hope to the hurting through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I will strive to live a full life starting with being a follower of Jesus Christ (Christian). This means that I acknowledge that Jesus Christ is my Forgiver (Savior) and Leader (Lord). If I have not been baptized since becoming a Christ follower, I will be baptized.

I will strive to attend worship services on a regular basis participating in singing praises, learn from biblical teaching, observe communion, and give my tithe consistently (public worship). I will also strive to know God more through Bible reading, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines (private worship). Because true worship is ultimately offering my whole life to God as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1), I will seek to grow in every area of my life alongside of a community of believers to help me in my journey.

I will strive to participate in a Bible study and an accountability group so I can cultivate healthy and authentic Christian relationships that will help me grow spiritually. I will promote unity in the church body by loving, encouraging, and serving others while refusing to gossip or be divisive. I will seek to influence other people to grow in their relationship with God. I will be a minister who uses my gifts and time to do ministry. I will serve in one area of primary ministry (where I have interest and gifting) and will develop a servant's heart by working in one area of secondary ministry (where the church has a need for weekly services – children's or student ministry).

I will strive to be a sent missionary outside the church daily. I will love my neighbor and do my part to the hands and feet of Jesus Christ at all times wherever I am. I will also be intentional to invest in and go out on mission to share the gospel locally and globally.

I will strive to continually seek and grow as a follower of Jesus, experiencing and connecting with God's Word and His church, influencing others with the love of Jesus Christ, and multiplying the ministry through discipleship, church planting, and gospel saturation mission activity.

Printed Name:

Signed Name:

Date:

Community Baptist Church

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