



POWERS CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP CLASS

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PART 1: GENERAL **INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1) This seminar is designed to help you understand the church and the significance of becoming a part of it. Simply attending the seminar does not bind you or the church to baptism or membership.
- 2) PCCC practices Believer's Baptism by immersion. In our understanding of the Scriptures, commitment to Christ preceded baptism, and baptism preceded membership; this is the pattern we follow.
- 3) We recognize baptism from other churches, provided it was Believer's Baptism.
- 4) If you decide to apply for membership, your application should be completed and submitted to a pastor or the church office shortly after you have taken this seminar.
- 5) If you are currently a member of a church and are now becoming a member of PCCC, please contact your previous church and notify them of your new standing. They will want to know.
- 6) Shortly after the completion of the class and affirmation of the church, there will be a formal welcoming into membership at a public service of the church.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Definition of a Christian:

A Christian is a person who has responded to God's call to become a follower of Jesus.

Of course, there is more to it than just saying "I follow Jesus." It means that you recognize that you 1) have a *need* and understand that only Jesus can meet it. It also means that you have 2) come to understand *who* Jesus is, 3) *why* Jesus came, and 4) *what* He accomplished when He came.

1. What is our need?

- a. All of Us are Sinners
*Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*¹
- b. Sin Produces Death
Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death . . ."
- c. All of Us Were Lost Without God

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission.

Ephesians 2:12 “At that time you were without Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world.”

- d. On Our Own We Could Never Be Good Enough
Quoting Psalm 14, Romans 3:10-12 says, “There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one.”

2. Who is Jesus?

- a. He is God the Son
John 10:30 “I and the Father are one.”
- b. He is the Saviour of All
1 Timothy 4:10 “. . . we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe.”
- c. He is the Atoning Sacrifice for the Forgiveness of Sin
1 John 2:2 “[Jesus] himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.”
- d. He is the Expression of God’s Love
1 John 4:10 “Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.”
- e. He is our High Priest
Hebrews 4:15 “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.”

3. Why did Jesus come?

- a. Jesus Came in Obedience to the Father
John 6:38 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do my will, but the will of him who sent me.”
- b. Jesus Came to Make Peace Between Us and God
Colossians 1:19-20 “For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”
- c. Jesus Came to Bring Life
John 10:10 “I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.”
- d. Jesus Came So That Everyone Can Experience Salvation
1 Timothy 2:4 “[God our Saviour] wants everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.”

4. What did Jesus accomplish?

- a. Jesus’ Death Covered the Sins of the Whole World

1 John 2:2 “[Jesus] himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.”

b. Jesus Defeated Death When He Rose from the Grave

1 Corinthians 54-57 “Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, death, is your victory? Where, death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

c. Jesus Intercedes for Us

Romans 8:34 “Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.”

d. Jesus Made it Possible for You to Become a Child of God

John 1:12 “But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to become children of God, to those who believed in his name . . .”

ESSENTIALS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Our lives change as we learn to walk daily with God. *Galatians 5:22-23* describes the growth that takes place when we let God’s Spirit lead us: “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*” This kind of change only occurs as we submit to God’s work in our lives.

How can we nurture a healthy spiritual life?

1. Corporate Worship

Throughout Scripture, we see God calling his people to gather in worship. When we assemble to worship, we participate in a dialogue with God: we gather in faith that we will both hear from God and have the opportunity to respond to him. Through this dialogue, worship both forms who we are and also becomes a form of our expression back to God. This kind of worship requires a variety of expressions. At PCCC, our regular rhythms of worship include prayer, the reading of Scripture, singing, teaching, giving, and Communion (usually on the first Sunday of each month).

2. Prayer

Prayer is spending time in dialogue with God. You can pray anytime and anywhere. It can be a call for help, a word of praise, or cultivating an awareness of God’s presence. Prayer is communication, and communication is two-way. It is more than just our speaking to God. It also requires the discipline of allowing space for him to speak and listening to his voice. The Scriptures tell us that if we call upon the Lord, he will hear us and answer (Ps 34:15). As the church, we should pray for one another (Eph 6:18). Don’t neglect your time with God; he wants to spend time with you.

3. Bible Study

The Spirit of God speaks to us most frequently through the Scriptures, so it is essential that we prayerfully study the Bible, both personally and with other believers. It is the truth of

Jesus' teachings that will set us free (Jn 8:31-32), the Scriptures that will provide us with correction and guidance (2 Tim 3:16), and the application of Scripture in our day-to-day lives that will provide us with a solid foundation (Mt 7:24-27).

4. Christian Fellowship

If we are to remain strong in our Christian lives, it is important to have meaningful relationships with other believers. We need each other. The New Testament description of the first Christian communities provides an amazing model for us to strive after (Acts 2:42-27). We are called to care for one another (Gal 6:2). By valuing Christian fellowship, we value our relationship with the Lord. We cannot separate our walk with the Lord and our relationship with his people (e.g. Mt 6:14-15). We must meet together often for mutual encouragement (Heb 10:24-25).

5. Faithful Stewardship

Faithful stewardship of our finances is one way to demonstrate our love for God and our commitment to his church. Really, everything belongs to God (Dt 10:14); we are only stewards of what he has entrusted to us (Ps 115:16). Following God's leading in our lives means that we will need to submit our finances to him, investing our time and money in the things he values (Mt 6:19-21). God asks us to not withhold our tithes and offerings (Mal 3:8; Mt 23:23). In the scriptures, the tithe was ten *percent* of income. Offerings were the things given above the tithe. As children of God, we must live with an open hand, giving to God freely of our time, talent and treasure (2 Cor. 9:6-7). Submitting our finances to God is an act of faith, trusting that God will supply us with all we need (Phil 4:12, 19).

PART 2: MEMBERSHIP **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

What has motivated you to come to this decision of wanting to be a member?

Let's consider some definitions so that we will be using the same language:

The Church-

- ◆ The Body of Christ is made up of all people who have given their lives to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and have become part of the family of God. This is sometimes also referred to as the Universal Church.
- ◆ The church is a local group of believers who meet together regularly for worship, fellowship, teaching, ministry, and reaching out to the community.

The larger Church of Christ is made up of all these local churches. God calls every believer to be a part of some local group. We were made to live in community.

Why Church Membership?

Membership is a way of saying I'm in, in three specific ways:

1. I'm in with the Mission, Vision, Doctrine, and Core Values of Powers Creek Church.
2. I'm in with the 5G life. (See below).
3. I'm in with the community.
See Matthew 5 & 18, etc.

Biblical Basis for Church Membership:

1. First, Membership Was Assumed.

Ezra 2- The exiles return to Jerusalem to restore their community. Ezra writes down the names of those committed to going.

Acts 2:47 "Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."

2. Membership Involves Commitment.

- Commitment to the Lord
 - *Romans 12:1 "Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship."*
 - *Romans 6: 3-5³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?⁴ 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.⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*
 - ***Believers' baptism is required for membership.***
- Commitment to each other
 - *Romans 12:13 "Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality."*
 - *Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day approaching."*
- Commitment to Service.
 - Inside The Church
 - *Galatians 5:13 "For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love."*
 - Outside The Church
 - *Matthew 28:19 "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . ."*

3. Membership is a Partnership with a Group of Believers.

- Church membership is more than just belonging; it is becoming a partner for a greater purpose.
- A partnership carries both commitment and responsibility
- It builds unity and gives ownership.
- It is you, committing your gifts to the church, that allows our mission to be fulfilled.
- It invites other members of this church—with love and grace—to hold each other accountable.
- Partnerships accomplish much more than individuals can.
- We encourage our members to serve in an area of ministry. We want them to find a place to serve that suits their giftings and passions. At PCC you do not need to be a member to serve. However, everyone who serves will need to fill out a ministry covenant to ensure we are all on the same page. *(See serving section of document)*
- Members partner with the group of Believers at PCC where they can **vote** on important decisions at church meetings.

4. Membership is an Intentional Identification with a Local Group of Believers to Accomplish God's Mission.

- Membership is our way of asking you if you are ready to partner with us to accomplish what God has called us to do.
- By becoming a member at PCCC, you're saying, "I'm in!"

THE 5 G'S OF MEMBERSHIP

The 5G's are our attempt to draw in broad strokes the picture of a healthy, thriving spiritual life. We believe that the 5G's are distinguishing marks of those who are endeavoring to be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. If our members are living lives that exhibit these characteristics, then we know that as a church we are heading in the right directions. However, if people are not progressing along these lines, then we must take action to change.

It's important to note that these are not meant to be the last word on the spiritual life and growth of members, nor are they tasks to be accomplished once and checked off our growth inventory, never to be thought about again. Instead, we would rather think of these as tools that we can all use on an ongoing basis to keep the soil of our lives well cultivated, fertile and healthy.

As members, we are asking you to be intentionally involved in cultivating these characteristics in your life; and as a church we promise to provide clearly marked avenues through which this can take place.

- 1) **Grace**- God's grace, working in advance, allows us to make a very important spiritual beginning. When you think about it, it really is all by grace – which literally means “a favour we didn't earn” - that we start a life of following Jesus. I like to think of it as the on ramp that allows us to have access to the highway of spiritual growth. There was a lot of costly work on God's part – happening behind the scenes. Therefore, a Powers Creek

member has entered into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by grace through faith, has publicly proclaimed that through baptism, and is committed to continuing to daily respond to the grace of God in their lives. Not only do they respond to God's grace but they are also marked by grace and mercy and are willing to extend this to other.

Eph 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Romans 3:23-24

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

- 2) Growth**- A Powers Creek member gratefully responds to God's grace in their life by actively pursuing a lifelong process of spiritual growth by intentionally engaging in corporate and individual activities and practices that will nurture his/her walk with Jesus Christ. This is done by commitment to the spiritual disciplines like, Prayer, Scripture reading, Christian fellowship and serving.

Ephesians 4:22-24

²² to put off your old self,^[a] which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Phil. 3:12-14

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- 3) Gifts**- A Powers Creek member has discovered/is open to discovering their spiritual gifts and is committed to joyfully serving the church according to his or her spiritual giftedness, heart, abilities, personality and experiences.

As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we begin to become aware that we have certain gifts and abilities that God would like to leverage in us for the benefit of others. You see, the Bible teaches us that all believers have been given unique spiritual gifts and talents that enable them to serve the people around them and to make an impact in the world. Paul in particular talks about the importance of these gifts in passages like Romans

12:6-8 & Ephesians 4:11-13. Paul argues that God's design is that all of us be in the game, playing key roles that only we can play, so that we all God is glorified and people are impacted with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At Powers Creek we will provide opportunities to discern your Spiritual Gifts.

- 4) Give**- A Powers Creek member understands the biblical concept of good stewardship and seeks to generously give of their time and resources. We understand that giving is a spiritual issue. Its not about equal gift, but about equal sacrifice.

OT- Genesis 14:18-20 /Leviticus 27:30, 32/Malachi 3:10

NT- 1 Timothy 6:17-19/ Luke 6:38/ Matthew 6:3-42/ Corinthians 9:6-9

- 5) Go**- A Powers Creek member is intentionally building relationships with those who don't yet know Christ and is prayerfully looking for opportunities to share the love of Jesus with them.

Matt 28:19-20

"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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

PCCC HISTORY

A Brief History of PCCC 1977-2024

In February 1977 Ben Lebsack contacted the Missionary Church of Canada, Western District, and enquired about taking over a small independent church in Westbank. In April 1977 Pastor Norman Quantz conducted the first meeting in the home of John and Elvera Klassen, at which time the church was organized. Services were held in the Westbank First Nations church for a couple of months and then moved to the Ben Lebsack home.

Ray Semeniuk was the pastor from Sep 1977 to Jun 1978 at the Glenrosa Elementary School. In Feb 1979 a building was purchased from Plymouth Brethren. Mervin Traub was the pastor from Sep 1979 until Jun 1982 when he returned to the Mission field in Brazil. From Sep 1981 church services and Sunday School were held in the Glenrosa Elementary School. Evening services were held in various homes.

In Sep 1983 the property on Powers Creek was purchased and the building of the new church building started in October of 1984. The first service was held here on May 26, 1985, and the official opening and dedication service was held on August 15, 1985.

Keith and Lillian Lauwers came to pastor for a period of time until they moved back to Alaska. In Sep 1992, John and Debbie Reimer moved to Westbank and he became the new senior pastor. The church continued to grow, and an additional Saturday evening service was begun in Jan 1993. The debt from the church building retired on Dec 31, 1995. The church hired our first Associate Pastor, Rick (and Julie) Heavenor, in Jan 1997.

Kevin Bishop was hired as the Youth & Music Pastor from May 02' - May 03'. James (and Janine) Moffat also served as second Associate Pastor later in 2003.

On January 1, 2005, our name was officially changed from Westbank Missionary Church to Powers Creek Community Church. John Reimer continued to serve as Senior Pastor until July 2005.

From April 2006 to June 2012 Troy McKnight (and Theresa) was Lead Pastor.

From Oct 2007 to July 2017 Jeff Falke (and Amy) was the Pastor of Worship Arts.

From July 2010 to Jan 2013 Matt Fitzgerald (and Kaylan) served as Pastor of Student Ministries.

In April 2013 we hired David Barbour as our Lead Pastor, he and his wife Jacki were with us until David Resigned in Nov 2023.

In 2023 we welcomed Daryl Busby to be our Interim, and then our Transitional Pastor, as we began our search for a new Pastor.

Our Pastoral search led us to Aaron and Beth Dalman, Judah, Benji, and Thea, where they had been serving for fourteen years at Martinsville Baptist Church in Saskatchewan. Aaron accepted the position of Lead Pastor effective August 15, 2024. We celebrated his Commissioning at Powers Creek Community Church on September 22, 2024.

Over the course of these years, we have seen many changes, but the Mission has remained much the same: to walk with people into a life transforming relationship with Jesus! God is faithful and we are excited to see where he will lead us in the days ahead!

OUR ASSOCIATION

We believe that theology matters! As a church and denomination, we align ourselves with Christians in the world, work together with churches in our community and are a part of the Evangelical Missionary Church in Canada:

Where we agree with all Christians:

The Apostles Creed (700 AD)

I believe in God the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate

was crucified, died, and buried.

the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right

hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church,*

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(“catholic” here describes something that is general or universal)

Where we are unique: Distinctively Evangelical

- Full *inspiration* and *authority* of the Bible
- Salvation only through *faith* in Christ
- Commitment to *sharing the life we’ve found in Christ* with the world, rooted in the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We do this through “The Way of Jesus”. Info can be found here:
<https://www.emcc.ca/can-we-help/individuals/following-jesus/seven-markers/>

Members of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada (EMCC)

- We are part of a united body of churches across Canada.
- 15 churches in British Columbia.
- 90 churches across Canada.
- National offices: Kitchener, ON. & Calgary, AB.
- We associate with the EMCC as they are our national and provincial representation. As the local church, we come under their umbrella and partner with them in the ministry of the gospel. We value the relationship with our denomination.
- For more detailed doctrinal information or about the EMCC, please visit www.emcc.ca

As with any church body, there are essentials that are non-negotiable when it comes to theology and doctrine. For us, these are the beliefs articulated in the Apostles creed. Beyond that, we recognize that members may differ on other more peripheral issues and so, as a community, we have embraced one of the sayings of the Methodist reformer John Wesley as our guiding principle. When it comes to issues of theology we practice:

“In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. In all things, charity.”

If you have further questions, make an appointment to speak with our pastor by contacting the office at 250-768-3924 or office@powerscreekchurch.com.

DOCTRINE

As evangelical Christians we hold to unifying theology as the foundation of who we are and why we gather. Further details can be found on the EMCC website at this link:

<https://www.emcc.ca/who-we-are/our-beliefs/>

As an EMCC church we rally around these statements of faith. We focus on what unifies us:

We believe the Bible is the inspired, infallible, and authoritative word of God.

We believe there is one God Who is holy, eternally existent, revealed in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe God is the Creator Who sustains all things. He makes humankind in His own image and wants to have a personal relationship with each person.

We believe Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human. We affirm His virgin birth, bodily resurrection from the dead, ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His imminent, personal return to earth in power and glory.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, who convicts the world of sin. He indwells, guides and comforts every believer who is enabled to live a godly life and serve according to his/her gifts.

We believe that Jesus Christ offered Himself on the cross as the only forgiveness of sin. This salvation becomes effective when a person turns from sin, trusts fully in the saving work of Jesus Christ and invites Him to be their Lord and Friend.

We believe in the resurrection from the dead. For those who are in relationship with Jesus Christ, into heaven and its eternal glory – and for those who are not in relationship with Jesus Christ, into hell and everlasting separation from God.

We believe that the Christian church is the entire universal body of believers in Jesus Christ. We believe that a local church is a visible expression of this global body, organized together for the purposes of worship, fellowship, discipleship and outreach through loving witness.

We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper (also known as "communion") are the sacraments instituted by Jesus for the church.

MISSION & VISION

In a world that has so many focus' that can shift our attention, we keep a clear and concise mission and vision to prevent us from getting distract on what we need to be about. Our mission is constant. It is the main goal, the only aim we are looking for as we pull together as a church. This mission is deeply tied to the great commission that Jesus gave the church.

Our vision is a statement that helps us achieve our mission. Through much prayer, discussion and work, the leadership at PCCC feel that this statement encapsulates the essence of Powers Creek and will help us hit our main goal.

PCCC Mission is to...

Walk with people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus.

PCCC Vision is to...

Powers Creek Community Church wants to fulfill the Great Commission through evangelism and discipleship. We live out the Great Commandment through purposeful fellowship, growing in spiritual maturity with Biblical understanding, while embracing repentance and reflecting Christ in all we do.

Join us as we faithfully live as ambassadors of Christ.

LEADERSHIP MODEL

We are organized under a Governance Board Model with Board Members elected in two-year cycles at the annual Fall Congregational Meeting, in November. The Board remains involved to ensure that the mission and vision of PCCC are achieved. The board of Directors is focused on the “ends”. They have the responsibility and authority to speak into each area of the church if something needs attention. The board has given the responsibility to the Pastor for the “means”, how the church ministry gets accomplished.

At PCCC when someone is given authority, they are also entrusted with the responsibility. Everyone is still under the accountability of God, His word, the members, and the board.

The ministry of the church is connected through teams. (See the Personnel Guidelines document to understand how we function on these teams.) We want to focus on a few things and do them well. It's better to be deep in a couple of areas than trying to do it all and be too shallow in our effect and efficiency. We want to remain focused and purposeful. We have various ministries that help us achieve our vision and mission. Ministries include but are not limited to:

- Children's Ministry (nursery, preschool, elementary school)
- Youth Ministry (Grades 5-12)
- Small Groups (Men's and Women's groups)
- Worship Arts (multiple teams involved)
- Sunday morning Hospitality team
- Church Care ministry
- Missions & Outreach

OUR FINANCES

As people investigate a new church home, they often have questions about the finances. How are they handled? Who handles them? What does our weekly giving support? At Powers Creek, we endeavour to be above reproach and completely transparent about the finances of our church community. The following is a summary of how our finances work here at The Creek:

- The ministries of Powers Creek Community Church are entirely funded by weekend offerings.
- With the exception of personal giving records, all financial records are open and accessible by request to the Director of Stewardship.
- The Church Board gives oversight to our yearly budget.
- The yearly budget is approved by the congregation at our annual February meeting.
- We engage an accountant to perform an audit every year and seek an external audit every three years.
- No pastors have cheque writing authority.
- No one person has cheque writing authority.
- We are currently debt-free! We own all property and facilities.
- 10% of our annual income is given to support missionaries and specific projects in developing countries.

There is one main avenue to give to:

- **General Fund:** personnel, ministries, office, buildings, and grounds, etc. This can be done in person with cash or cheque, or through digital means.

CORE VALUES

We embrace and act upon the following values:

- We value a transparent church community. (Acts 2:42, Prov. 27:17). Therefore, we will pursue love and unity while also welcoming newcomers. Ministry will be done according to giftedness and within teams.
- We value lost people because Jesus died for them. (Acts 2:47) Therefore, we will invest our energy and resources in reaching those who do not have a relationship with Christ. We will encourage everyone in our church to invite the lost to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- We value prayer as essential to our personal lives and church life. (Acts 2:42) Therefore, the ministries of this church will rely on both corporate and personal prayer.
- We value Spirit-filled, Biblical teaching as a primary catalyst for transforming lives. (Acts 2:42, 2 Timothy 3:16-17) Therefore, we will provide Biblical teaching in our worship services, ministries, and small groups.
- We value worship as a primary response to the grace of God. (Acts 2:47, John 4:23-24, Col. 3:17). Therefore, we will gather regularly for corporate worship and will encourage each person to live every day as an act of worship to God.
- We value a lifelong, full devotion to Christ (Luke 9:23-25). Therefore, we will encourage each follower of Christ to grow into full maturity in Christ and pursue Him until their last breath on earth.
- We value a compassionate and biblically grounded response to the complex issues of our world. (1 Cor. 9:19-23, Luke 5:33-39) Therefore, we will evaluate our ministries while staying true to our beliefs as we act as ambassadors to our generations and culture.
- We value godly, servant leadership exercised with accountability and integrity. (Matt. 20:25-28, 1 Timothy 3) Therefore, those in leadership will be men and women of Christ-like character who are sensitive to the Spirit, accountable to others, and open to the evaluation of the body of Christ.
- We value multi-generational ministry. (Deut. 6:7, Eph. 6:4) Therefore, we will cherish each generation input to our community of faith while passing it on to the next generations.

PERSONNEL GUIDELINES

Along with the mission and vision of PCCC we believe that there is a proper path forward on how we should function. We aim to function in a professional manner with love being the highest command. As we serve along side one another we want to keep these guidelines for all staff and volunteers:

- 1) We prioritize having a clear and concise purpose to guide and direct all our actions.
- 2) We are committed to equipping and developing godly visionary leaders.
- 3) We appreciate creating opportunities of white space for individuals to work in their areas of giftedness.
- 4) We value loving relationships as fundamental to fellowship, ministry, worship, discipleship, and evangelism.
- 5) We place a higher value on godly character than on mere ability.
- 6) We believe in allowing people the freedom to fail as a path for learning and growth.
- 7) We see accountability as a crucial tool for improvement and effectiveness.

All staff and volunteers are valuable at PCCC. We need the whole body of Christ to come together to build up God's kingdom. These guidelines will help us fulfil the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment.

SERVING

Church is not a spectator sport. We encourage everyone to grab a glove and get in the game. We want **members and non-members** to use their spiritual gifts to serve the Lord. Each person, whether paid staff or volunteer should sign our ministry covenant before they begin serving at Powers Creek. Here is an example:



Ministry Covenant

In the presence of God and my fellow congregants of Powers Creek Community Church (PCCC), I affirm the following:

- I have embraced Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and I strive each day to live under His kingship.
- I accept the Bible as the ultimate authority in my life.
- I fully endorse the Affirmation of Faith of PCCC as outlined (see reverse).
- I am dedicated to our church's mission and vision and desire myself and others to be in a continuous relationship with Jesus Christ.
- I am committed to faithfully following Jesus Christ through the responsible use of my time, talents, and resources.
- I pledge to engage in both personal and communal worship regularly.
- I vow to live with integrity and ethical conduct in all areas of my life, before God, His people, and the world.
- I support and will work alongside the Pastoral and Leadership Team at PCCC, striving to be a unifying presence within our ministry.
- I am resolved to uplift and love my fellow believers, encouraging them in their faith and supporting their individual ministries.

Name (printed)

Signature

Address

Phone Number (Home: ☐ Cell: ☐)

Date

Email

TESTIMONY

Testimonies—the public sharing of God’s work in our lives—can take a variety of forms. To become a member, you will need to share your testimony with the board. Some of the more common forms of testimony included in PCCC’s practice are:

1. **Testimony of profession**: This form of testimony is used in the context of believer’s baptism and membership. Those sharing their testimonies publicly confirm and profess their faith in Christ, usually focussing on a conversion experience or process.
2. **Evangelistic testimony**: The focus in this form of testimony is on sharing the essentials of the Gospel message, usually told through the lens of the individual’s faith experiences.
3. **Eucharistic (thanksgiving) testimony**: This type of testimony focuses on the individual’s grateful worship as a response to a particular act of God in their life.

Preparing a Testimony of Profession

All Christian worship follows the basic pattern of **revelation and response**: God takes the initiative by *revealing* himself to us and we *respond* through acts such as confession, thanksgiving, and sacrificial obedience. As acts of worship, testimonies of profession should follow this same pattern. Without being too rigid, your testimony should follow this basic structure:

1. **Introduction**: Introduce yourself to the congregation. This should include your name and could include other relevant information such as where you live, how long you have been attending PCCC, etc. Keep this brief—only a few sentences—this is not a summary of your whole life story.
2. **Revelation**: This portion should include how God revealed himself to you. What was your life like when this happened? How did God get your attention? The focal point should be on the moment or process through which God called you to follow Jesus. Again, as much as possible, be concise. Stay laser-focused on how God revealed himself.
3. **Response**: Tell the congregation about your response to God’s revelation. What challenged or convicted you? In what way? Briefly include your thoughts and emotions. What did the moment or process of becoming a Christian look like for you? And how is baptism and/or membership connected to your continued walk with God?
4. **Conclusion**: Briefly summarize your experience. You may want to conclude by thanking God for how he has called you to follow him and a person or two who has had an impact on your spiritual life. Some people like to include a favourite Bible verse or passage that has been meaningful to them. If you find it helpful, conclude with a sentence such as, “I praise God for revealing himself to me and I’m ready to follow him in this next step of baptism/membership.”

As you prepare, keep your testimony simple and concise. You are telling the story of God’s work in your life. It does not need to be dramatic or sensational. It simply needs to be true, so be honest and authentic in your storytelling. Remember, everyone’s story is different and that’s a good thing! Some people have stories of dramatic transformation. Others have stories of God’s sure and steady faithfulness. Both (and everything in between) are expressions of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives.

For the purposes of our worship services, these testimonies should be between two and three minutes. A helpful guideline is that most people speak approximately one minute for every 100 words written. This means that your written testimony would be between 200 and 300 words (or approximately one double-spaced page using a 12-point font with standard margins). Make sure to prepare well. It would be best to have your testimony completely written down. Rehearse it and time yourself. As you rehearse, speak it out loud (not just in your head). Verbal rehearsals help you to catch phrases that make sense when you write them down but are awkward when spoken aloud. When the time comes for you to deliver your testimony, make sure to speak clearly and slowly (even slower than you think you should). Stay on point. Unless you genuinely feel led by the Holy Spirit, wandering off script usually leads to confused and rambling thoughts, making your story hard to follow, and lessening its focus and impact.

And remember, everyone listening is there to encourage and cheer you on! We all love to hear how God works in each other's lives and take joy in celebrating with others as they take their next steps in their faith journey.

Below are pages that you can use to write your testimony.

[illegible]

[illegible]

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Contact Information:

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Date of Baptism, where and mode:

If you have not shared your testimony with the church board, please reach out to the church office and set a date to meet.

preferred date: _____

Have you met with the Pastor? Yes or No (circle)

Have you taken the PCCC Membership Class? Yes or No (circle)

Why do you desire to become a member at Powers Creek Community Church?

Membership Candidate Signature:

Date Signed:
