

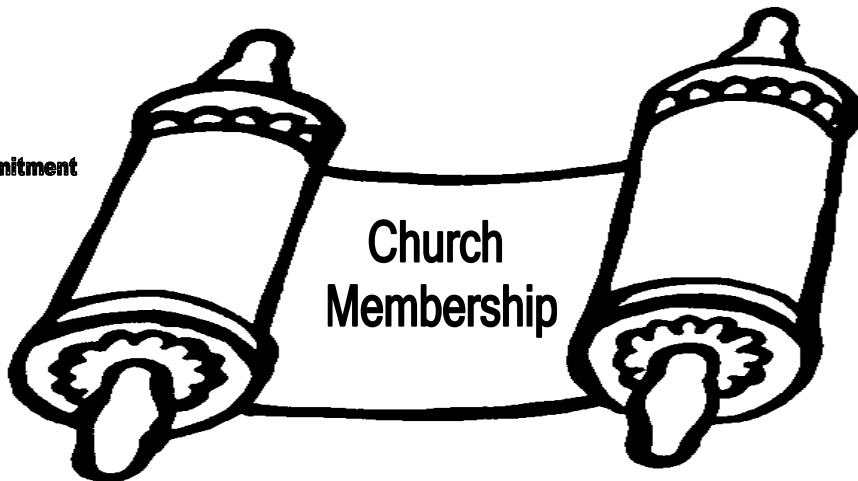
Discovering Church Membership

Warm Springs Church TRAC 101



Our Commitment

Name
Direction



Our Characteristics

Road Map
Manual



Warm Springs Church

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(510) 657-4082

Dr. Greg Walkup – Pastor

Requirements For Taking TRAC 101

- 1. Share Group Leader Recommendation**
- 2. Three Months Regular Attendance In A Share Group**
- 3. Completion Of “Beginning The Journey” Study Material**

**Welcome to
“Discovering Church Membership”
Warm Springs Church TRAC 101**

It is **exciting** to have you with us. This class is the basic introduction to our church family. We offer this course to help you explore the specifics of membership with the Warm Springs Church. Our church is unique and we are **thrilled** that you have considered joining with us. This course will consist of two sessions, each lasting two hours. We should have a great time together. So fasten your seat belt and **enjoy** the ride!!!

THE BASIS OF THIS CLASS:

*“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and earth derives its name. I pray out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so **that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.** And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge** – that you **may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.***

(Ephesians 3:14 – 19 NIV)

Key Insights:

1. The church is a _____.
2. Paul prays that:
 - a. Christ may _____ in your _____ through _____.
 - b. You may grasp the _____ of Christ’s _____ for _____.
 - c. You may be _____ to the _____ of all the _____ of _____.
3. All of this is to be experienced _____.

Biblical Teaching

“You are a member of God’s very own family. . . and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” **Ephesians 2:19**

1. God expects you to be a _____ of a church family.

2. A Christian without a church family is a _____.

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

1. I will commit myself to _____.

2. I will commit myself to the _____.



CLASS OUTLINE

SESSION ONE: OUR COMMITMENTS

PART ONE: We Have a Shared Name

- A. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN
- B. THE MEANING OF BAPTISM
- C. THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PART TWO: We Have a Shared Direction

- A. OUR SHARED PURPOSE
- B. OUR SHARED PRIORITIES
- C. OUR SHARED PERSPECTIVE

SESSION TWO: OUR CHARACTERISTICS

PART ONE: We have a Shared Road Map

- A. OUR LOCATION
- B. OUR JOURNEY
- C. OUR PLAN

PART TWO: We Have a Shared Manual

- A. OUR STRUCTURE

- B. OUR MEMBERSHIP COVENANT
- C. WHAT NOW? CONTINUING THE JOURNEY
- D. WARM SPRINGS CHURCH QUIZ

SESSION ONE: OUR COMMITMENTS

PART ONE: We have a **Shared Name**

*“For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by Him. We are no longer Jews or Gentiles, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women, but we are all the same – we are **Christians**; we are one in Jesus Christ!”*

Galatians 3:26-28 (LB)

THE FOUR LAWS OF ETERNITY

1. All of us Come _____ of What God _____

The Bible says...

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way...” **Isaiah 53:6**

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” **1 John 1:8**

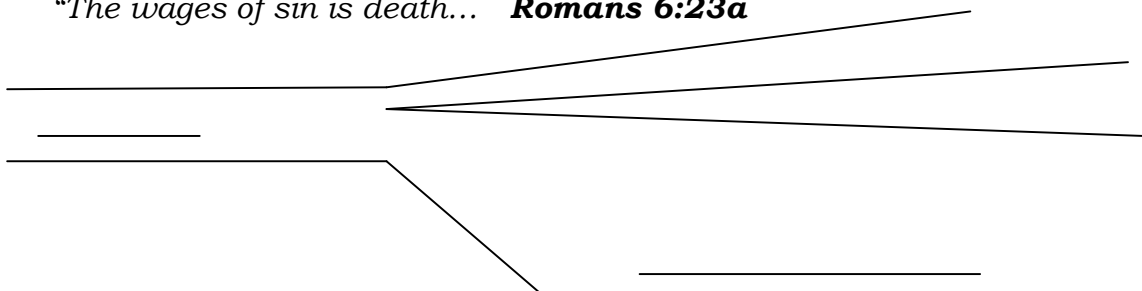
Key Point: The Bible Calls Us _____

“But your sins have separated you from your God...” **Isaiah 59:2**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” **Romans 3:23**

2. Our Natural Progression Is Complete _____

“The wages of sin is death...” **Romans 6:23a**



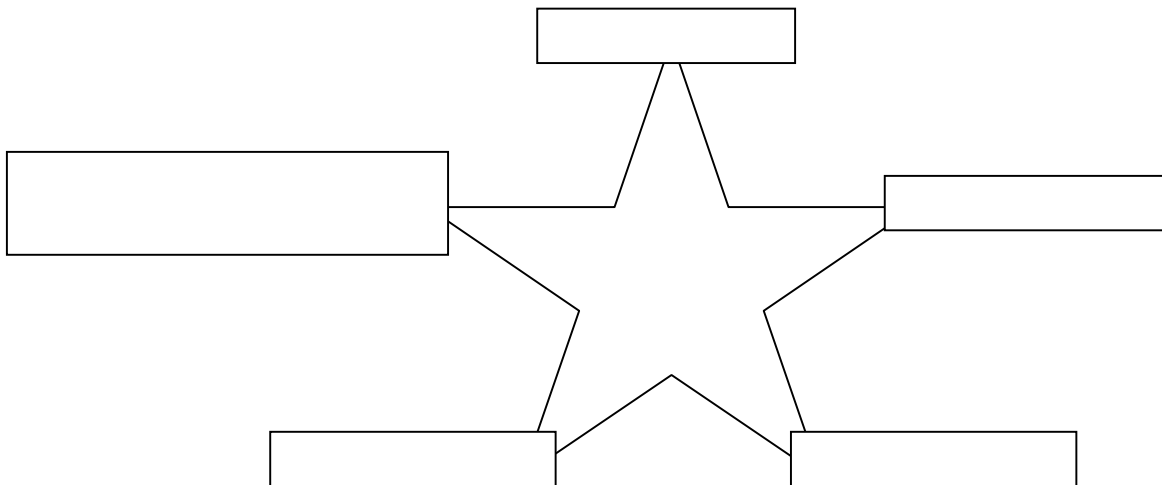
Key Point: Death Is Everlasting _____

*And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. **Revelation 20: 10 NIV***

*And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. **(Revelation 20:12-15 NIV)***

*But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death. **(Revelation 21: 8 NIV)***

Five Points Of Concern



Key Point: Death Is Progressive Movement _____ From _____

*Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. **(Colossians 1: 21 NIV)***

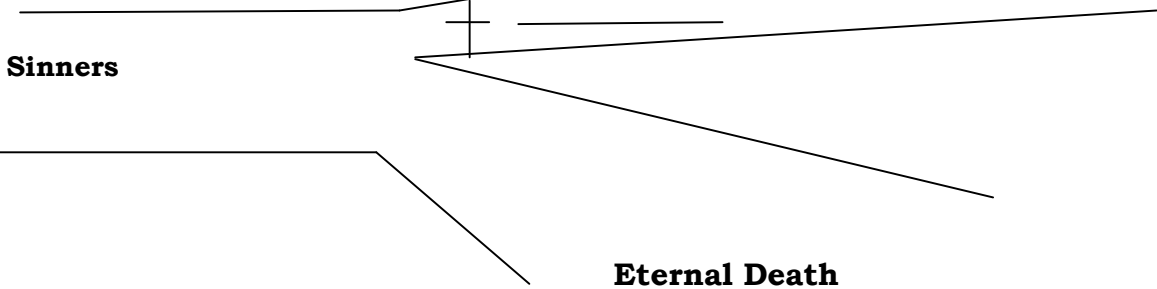
Key Point: The Majority Of People Choose To Take The Way Of _____

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road

that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. **(Matthew 7: 13 NIV)**

3. Faith In _____ Is The Only Entry Way Into _____

*"I (Jesus) am the **way**, the **truth**, and the **life**. No one comes to the Father, except through me."* **John 14:6**



Key Point: Jesus Died On A _____ So That He Might Be _____ For Your _____ Instead Of You!

"For Christ has suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God..." **1 Peter 3:18**

A. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Most people live their entire life without ever knowing why they exist or what God's purpose is for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is "What is the meaning of my life?"

Everyone wants to be happy. People try in many ways:

- ... some look for happiness by _____
- ... some look for happiness by _____
- ... some look for happiness by _____

But real happiness comes from understanding my _____ in _____.

Steps to Understanding God's Purpose for My Life

STEP ONE: WHY AM I HERE?

We were created to _____ a personal relationship with God.

The Bible says...

“For God chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love he predetermined to adopt us as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will.” **Ephesians 1:4,5**

God loves you and wants you to experience peace and life --- abundant and eternal.

The Bible says...

“...we have peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.” **Romans 5:1**

*“For God so loved the **world** that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* **John 3:16**

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I (Jesus) have come that you may have life, and have it to the full.” **John 10:10**

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13

When we know and love God and live in harmony with his purpose, it produces wonderful benefits in our life:

Clear Conscience

“Therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
Romans 8:1

Life and Peace

“The mind of sinful man is death but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.”
Romans 8:6

Help in our Weakness

“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”
Romans 8:16

Purpose

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called

Confidence

“What then shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

Security

“...Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God

according to His
purpose.”
Romans 8:28

Romans 8:31

that is in Christ Jesus
our Lord.”
Romans 8:39

Power and Strength

“I can do everything
through Him who gives
me strength.”
Philippians 4:13

Fulfillment

“And my God will meet
all your needs
according to His
glorious riches in
Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:19

Freedom

“Then you will know
the truth, and the
truth will set you
free...So if the Son sets
you free, you will be
free indeed.”
John 8:32, 36

“Since God planned for us to have peace, hope and abundant life right now, why are most people not really happy?”

STEP TWO: WHAT IS THE MATTER?

Our Problem _____

God created us in His own image to have abundant life. He did not make us as robots to automatically love and obey Him, but rather He gave us a will and freedom of choice. We chose to disobey God and go our own way. Man has a natural self-centered desire to be his own _____ and to ignore God’s principles for living.

“Look out for #1”

“Do your own thing”

“If it feels good, do it” (regardless of what God says)

“It is my life I will do what I please”

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE _____.

The Bible says...

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way...” **Isaiah 53:6**

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” **1 John 1:8**

“But your sins have separated you from your God...” **Isaiah 59:2**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:23



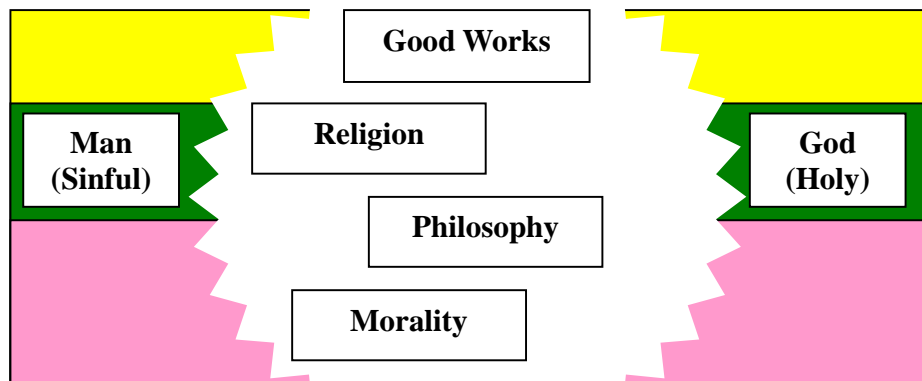
When our relationship with God is not right, it causes problems in every area of our lives – marriage, career, school, relationships, finances, etc. When people have problems, they often try many different ways of coping or solving their problems before turning to God.

The Bible says...

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.” **Proverbs 14:12**

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him

- “It doesn’t matter what you believe, just be sincere.”
- “I’ll be OK, our family is ‘Christian’.”
- “Maybe if I give up my bad habits, God will accept me.”
- “I’m religious and go to church; I even give a lot of money for church causes.”



STEP THREE: WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. Jesus Christ is the only answer to our separation problem. He died on the cross and rose from the grave, paying the penalty for our sin and bridging the gap between God and man.

The Bible says...

"The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" **Romans 6:23**

*"I (Jesus) am the **way**, the **truth**, and the **life**. No one comes to the Father, except through me."* **John 14:6**

"For Christ has suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God..." **1 Peter 3:18**

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so no one can boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

God did this for us because He _____ and wants us to _____

The Bible says...

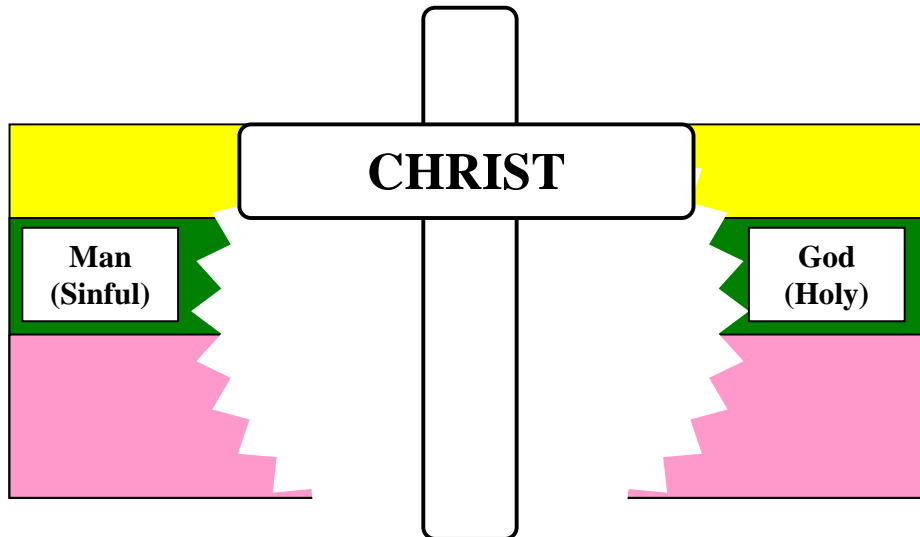
"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." **Romans 5:8**

"God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind."

1 Timothy 2:5

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took

the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.



STEP FOUR: WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

A. Admit your need for God. He has not had first place in your life so you must ask for forgiveness from Him for your sins.

The Bible says...

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." **1 John 1:9**

B. Be _____ to turn from your sin (repent).

The Bible says...

"I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will perish." **Luke 13:3**

C. _____ that Jesus died for you on the cross and rose from the grave and is alive TODAY! He is your only way to eternal life.

The Bible says...

"If you confess with your mouth that, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." **Romans 10:9**

"Salvation is found in no one else for there is no other name (Jesus) by which we must be saved." **Acts 4:12**

D. Through personal invitation, _____ Jesus Christ to come and control your life through the Holy Spirit.

b. Because Christ _____ it.

“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 will be with you always, even to the very end of the age.” **Matthew 28:19,20**

c. It _____ that I am really a Christian.

“We know we have come to know Him, if we obey His commandments.”
1 John 2:3

2. What is the Meaning of Baptism?

a. It illustrates Christ’s _____ and resurrection.

“Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again.”
1 Corinthians 15:3,4

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” **Colossians 2:12**

b. It illustrates my _____ as a Christian.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come.” **2 Corinthians 5:17**

“We were therefore buried with Him in baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” **Romans 6:4**

Baptism does not make you a believer – it shows that you **already believe**. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it’s the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

For it is by grace you have been saved, though faith – and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so no one can boast.”
Ephesians 2:8,9

3. Why be Baptized by Immersion?

a. Because _____ was baptized that way.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.”
Matthew 3:16

b. Every baptism in the _____ was by immersion.

(example) *“...Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.”* **Acts 8:38** *((then they came up out of the water))*

c. The word “baptize” means “to _____ water”.

The Greek word bapti,zw (baptizo) means “to immerse or dip under water.”

d. All great church leaders are in agreement on the significance of and the early practice of baptism by immersion.

Examples:

Pope Gregory I (Roman Catholic) from the *Order of Sacraments*: Let the priest first ask the candidate their name, then inquire if they understand the saving work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. “*Then let the priest baptize with...immersion.*”

Martin Luther (Lutheran): “*I would have those who are baptized be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.*”

John Calvin (Presbyterian): “*The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.*”

John Wesley (Methodist): “*Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.*”

4. Who Should be Baptized?

Every person who has _____ in Christ.

“*Those who accepted (believed) his message were baptized and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*” **Acts 2:41**

“*But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*” **Acts 8:12**

At Warm Springs Church, we wait until a person is old enough **to believe** and understand the true meaning of baptism before he is baptized. Some churches practice a “confirmation baptism for infants or young children”. **This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to personally believe. Baptism is a public confession of your personal commitment to Christ.** With Warm Springs Church, it is a membership requirement that every person must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of you may have

experienced a special confirmation as a child.

5. When Should I be Baptized?

“Those who accepted his message were baptized and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” **Acts 2:41**

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized.

6. What should I wear when I am Baptized?

Women should wear shorts or pants or a “muumuu” style dress and a top that won’t become transparent when wet. Men can wear pants or shorts and a shirt. Bring a change of clothes, a towel and something for storing your wet clothes. We provide changing rooms.

7. Will I have to say anything?

Yes but only a **brief** statement of your faith in Jesus. Pastor Greg will explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait on the steps until he motions for you to step into the baptismal pool. You will be asked why you have come to be baptized and you will simply respond that you have put your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Then Pastor Greg or another Pastor will lower you under the water. As soon as you come up, he will pray for you by placing his hands on your head. Then you can leave the baptismal pool, dry off and make your way to the changing rooms. Later you will receive a certificate of your baptism. You are encouraged to invite all of your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

C. THE MEANING OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two symbolic ways (called ordinances) to remind themselves of His death and resurrection. These two ordinances are Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Baptism is a _____ of public confession that represents a

great spiritual truth and a visual object lesson of your personal commitment to Christ as we have discussed above. The Lord's Supper is an _____ of worship that represents a great spiritual truth and a visual object lesson for believers.

1. What is the Lord's Supper? 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

a. It is a _____.

"The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread..." vs. 23

b. It is a _____.

"...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; eat it in remembrance of me.'" vs. 24

c. It is a _____.

"In the same way, He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me.'" vs. 25

d. It is a _____ of _____.

"For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death, until He comes back." vs. 26

2. Who should take the Lord's Supper?

a. Only those who are _____.

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples..." Mark 14:28

b. Only those who are _____.

"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread or drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself." 1 Corinthians 11:28,29

3. How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?

a. Remember _____ supper it is.

*"When you come together, is it not the **Lord's Supper** that you eat." 1 Corinthians 11:20*

b. Pause for _____.

*"A man ought to examine himself **before** he eats of the bread or drinks of the cup." 1 Corinthians 11:28*

c. _____ my sins.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

d. Recommitment to _____

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.” **Romans 12:1**

e. Restore any broken _____

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother; then come and offer your gift.”
Matthew 5:23,24

4. When and how often should we observe the Lord’s Supper?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe the Lord’s Supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night. Since it is a “supper”, it may seem more appropriate to observe it at an evening service. Since our Sunday morning service is designed so you can bring your not yet believing friends, we only take the Lord’s Supper at that service a few times per year. Instead we observe it most frequently in our Share Groups or retreats.

SESSION ONE: **OUR COMMITMENTS**

PART TWO: We have a **Shared Direction**

“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there be no divisions among you and that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.” **1 Corinthians 1:10**

A. OUR SHARED PURPOSE

The Warm Springs Church Vision Statement:

**A cheerful and expanding church comprised of growing believers
from a wide variety of ethnic groups and cultures.**

There are _____ essentials to our Vision:

1. We strive to be a _____ Church by increasing community through _____.
2. We strive to continually _____ the number of people in our church and in God's Kingdom worldwide.
3. We are a _____ dedicated to worshipping Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives.
4. We strive to _____ in our commitment and faith in Christ as our salvation and pleasure in life.
5. Our mission is to bridge the gap separating _____ and create a *new* culture of oneness in Christ.

These Five Key Essentials Fit within the _____ of the Church!

Our Church operates on the basis of the two _____ Jesus Christ has given to the church:

The Great Commandment – “Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as your self.’”
Matthew 22:36-39

The Great Commission – “Jesus said, ‘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...’”

Matthew 28:19,20

- To “Love God with all your heart” is **Worship**
- To “Love your neighbor as your self” is **Ministry**
- To “make disciples” is **Evangelism**

- To “baptize” is to incorporate into **Fellowship**
- To “teach them” is **Discipleship**

B. OUR SHARED PRIORITIES

1. To C _____ **God’s Presence (Worship)**
2. To D _____ **God’s Love (Ministry)**
3. To C _____ **God’s Word (Evangelism)**
4. To I _____ **God’s Family (Fellowship)**
5. To E _____ **God’s People (Discipleship)**

1. We Exist To Celebrate God’s Presence (Worship)

Worship: expressing _____ and _____ to _____.

Our Vision Statement on Worship: *“To present Christ in a fresh and exciting way so that God’s presence can be celebrated and experienced”*

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.” **Matthew 4:10**

“Yet a time is coming and now have come when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.” **John 4:23** ((No style is mentioned))

Expressions of Worship

Singing	(Ephesians 5:19)
Commitment	(Romans 12:1,2)
Hearing the Word	(John 17:17)
Giving	(1 Corinthians 16:1,2)
Baptism	(Romans 6:3,4)
Meditating	(Habakkuk 2:20)
Lord’s Supper	(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Worship Style

Celebration	“I was glad when they said, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord”” Psalm 122:1
Inspiration	“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up on wings of eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

Preparation “...pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the son of God and become mature...” **Ephesians 4:11,12**

2. We Exist To Demonstrate God’s Love (Ministry)

Ministry: meeting _____ with _____.

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” **John 13:35**

Our Vision Statement on Ministry: *“To identify the needs and concerns of our community and respond to them in compassionate ways that honor the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service (ministry) but the same Lord. There are different kinds of workings (results) but the same God works all of them in all men.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Ministry is central to God’s church. Every member needs to be involved.

Every member is a _____.

Every task is _____.

Every member is a “10” in _____.

Every Christian has at least one _____ to share with the rest of the world and with the _____.

3. We Exist To Communicate God’s Word (Evangelism)

Evangelism: sharing the _____ with _____.

*“His intent was that **through the church** the manifold wisdom of God should be made known...”* **Ephesians 3:10**

((Two things we can’t do in heaven are sin & witness))

Our Vision Statement on Evangelism: *“To expand the number of people in our*

congregation and in the greater kingdom of God by helping our friends and neighbors discover the relevance of Jesus Christ in their lives.”

Why Our Church Must Not Stop Growing

Because _____

“The Lord is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but wants everyone to come to repentance.” **2 Peter 3:9**
(2 Corinthians 5:14; Luke 15:3-10; Matthew 9:12,13)

Because _____ **us to** _____

“Go out into the country... and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My house will be **full**.” **Luke 14:23**

“...you will be my witness...” **Acts 1:8**

Because _____ **is** _____ **will**

“...from whom the whole body, supported by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God wants it to grow.” **Colossians 2:19**

(Jesus) “I will build my church.” **Matthew 16:18**

Unbiblical Excuses for Not Growing

- “God is not interested in numbers.”
- “Our church wants quality not quantity.”
- “Large churches are impersonal.”

We believe our church must grow _____ **and** _____ **at the same time.**

4. To Incorporate Into God’s Family (Fellowship)

Fellowship: being as _____ **to each** _____ **as we are to** _____.

Our Vision Statement on Fellowship: “To develop a warm and friendly environment where people reach out to others in caring and accepting relationships.”

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this will all men know that you are my disciples if you love one another.” **John 13:34**

“Above all, love each other deeply...” **1 Peter 4:8**

5. To Educate God’s People (Discipleship)

Discipleship: helping _____ grow _____.

Our Vision Statement on Discipleship: *“To provide vibrant Bible centered teaching designed to help people acquire the important life skills necessary for successful and meaningful living.”*

“Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity...” **Hebrews 6:1**

“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” **2 Peter 3:18**

“It was He (Christ) who gave some to be...pastors, to prepare God’s people for works of service...until we all reach unity in the faith...and become mature.” **Ephesians 4:11-13**

C. OUR SHARED PERSPECTIVE

- **In the essential beliefs – we have _____.**

“There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all...” **Ephesians 4:4,5**

- **In non-essential beliefs – we have _____.**

“Accept him who is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about these things, keep between yourself and God.” **Romans 14:1,4,12, 22**

- **In all our beliefs –we have _____**

“If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and knowledge, and I have faith so I can remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.” **1 Corinthians 13:2**

Essential Beliefs

Christ is Lord

“...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” **Philippians 2:10,11**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven’s glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

(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 2:13)

Holy Spirit

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” **2 Corinthians 3:17**

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily.

(John 16:16; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; 5:18; Galatians 5:25)

Unity of God

“...to God’s elect...who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood...” **1 Peter 1:1,2**

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. God as Father lovingly takes care over the entire universe. He is all powerful, all loving and all wise. God is Father to all who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all people.

(Genesis 1:1,26,27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 4:24; 14:6-13; Ephesians 4:6)

Return of Christ

“For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with the Lord forever.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16,18

People were created to exist forever. We will exist either eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. When Christ returns personally and visibly to the earth in His glory, all will be judged, both the living and the dead, according to each individual’s response to the call of God to repent and be saved by the grace of God offered through Jesus Christ.

(Matthew 24:36 – 25:46; Luke 16:19-26; 21:27,28; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; 8:17-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff; 2 Peter 3:7ff; Jude 14-16; Revelation 20:1 – 22:13)

Complete and Lasting Salvation

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 2:8,9

Salvation is God’s free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up

for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ as one's only savior and Lord through faith. If one is genuinely saved, one cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

(John 1:12; 10:28,29; 14:6; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1; 6:23; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10,14; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

Human Beings

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." **Genesis 1:27**

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us sin and are disobedient to God. Our disobedient lifestyle and attitude separates us from God and each other and causes many problems in life.

(Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; 59:1-2; Romans 3:23)

Essential Practices

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices.

Bible as our only authority for truth

"All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." **2 Timothy 3:16,17**

The Bible is God's word for us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and practices. There are not any errors in the Bible because it is inspired by God. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does

the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization.

Autonomy of each local church

"Christ is the head of His Body, the church. He is the source of the Body's life..." **Colossians 1:18 (GN)**

Christ is the head of the church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe that the local church should be self-governing and independent from denominational control.

Priesthood of every believer

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." **1 Peter 2:9**

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full time" service no matter her vocation. Every believer, according to the Bible is a minister. Consequently, we encourage every member of Warm Springs Church to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God. Bible reading, prayer, circumstances and the church are all used by the Holy Spirit of God to speak directly to Christians.

Telling others about Christ

"...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have." **1 Peter 3:15**

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings into our lives. We make it our practice that each of us personally shares her faith in Christ and invites friends and family to church.

Immersion

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ..." **Colossians 2:12 (GN)**

We practice baptism by immersion under water – the way Jesus was baptized, and the Bible commands.

Spirit led living

*“I (Jesus) am the vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing.” **John 15:5***

We believe the only way to live the Christian life is through God’s power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God’s Spirit to enable us to do right.

Tithing

*“A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” **Leviticus 27:30***

We practice tithing for the support of Christ’s body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the biblical standard of giving and produces mature stewards in the Kingdom of God.

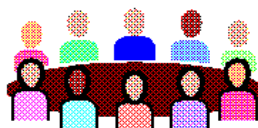
SESSION TWO: **OUR CHARACTERISTICS**

PART ONE: We have a **Shared Road Map**

A. OUR LOCATION

((3-mile radius))

Race:



White
 Asian
 Hispanic
 Black 3%
 Other 7%

Average Family Income: \$

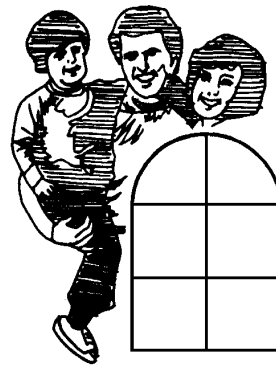
Age Groups



0-4	<u> </u>	25-34	<u> </u>
5-9	<u> </u>	35-44	<u> </u>
10-14	8%	45-54	17%
15-19	<u> </u>	55-64	<u> </u>
20-24	4%	65+	8%

Family Size:

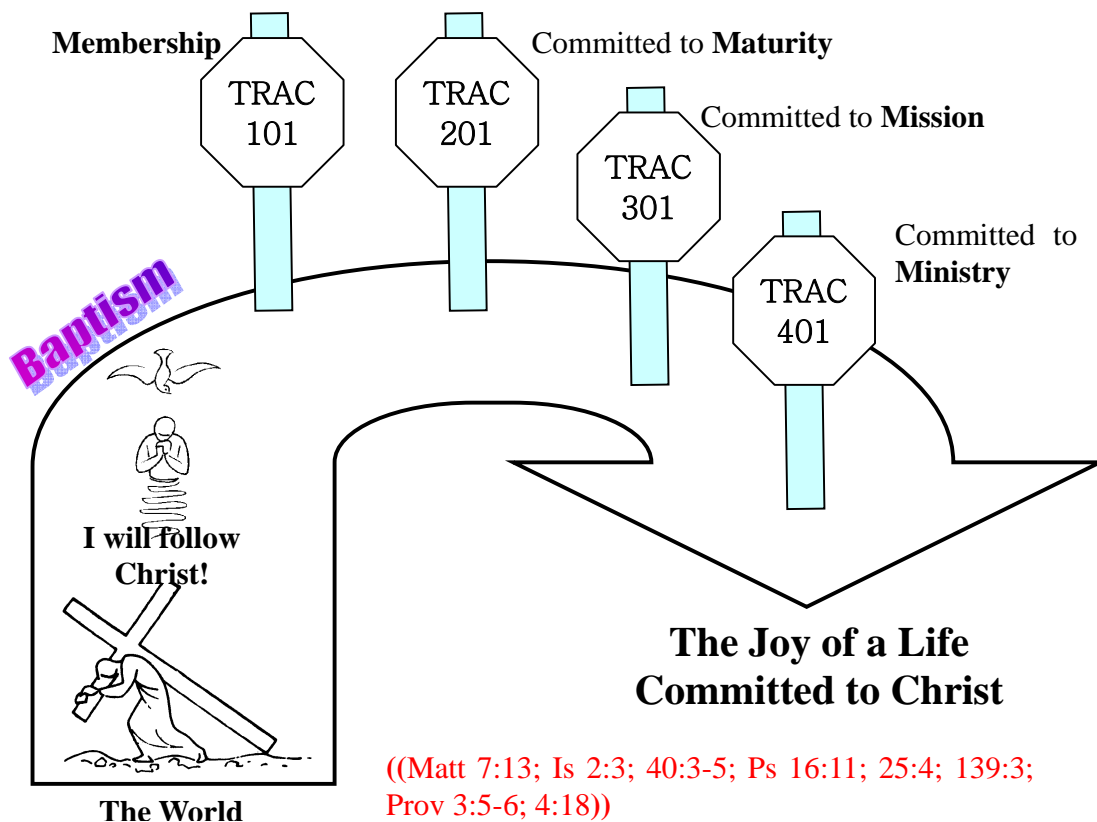
1 13%
 2
 3-4
 5+
 College Grads adults over 25
 Own Homes



Radio Arbitron Ratings Per Bay Area

News Talk	<u> </u>
Hip Hop	<u> </u>
Light Rock	<u> </u>
Mexican	3.8
News Radio	3.7
Talk	<u> </u>





The Joyful Journey

The metaphor of a road is used by Jesus to describe the “Right” kind of life. We use terms like “Christian Walk” and “Christian Journey” to describe a life sold out to God. The “**Road**” which leads to completed joy begins with an initial decision to follow Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

We are guided in our journey by **road signs** that keep us headed in the right direction. As we move along the narrow road of Christian living, we may be tempted to take an easier way but it is the narrow road which leads to the completed joy of Jesus.

The Warm Springs Church offers **four commitments** – *road signs* if you will, that help keep us on track. The Four Spiritual Commitments described below provide the foundation each of us need to be effective Christians who can make lasting contributions to the Kingdom of God.

1. The Membership Covenant ((TRAC 101))
is a commitment to _____ and _____.

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household.” **Ephesians 2:19**

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

2. The Maturity Covenant ((TRAC 201))
is a commitment to the _____ necessary for spiritual growth.

“Continue to grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” **2 Peter 3:18**

“...train yourself to be godly” **1 Timothy 4:7**

3. The Missions Covenant ((TRAC 301))
is a commitment to _____ the Good News with others.

“...you shall be my witnesses.” **Acts 1:8**

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope you have. But with gentleness and respect...” **1 Peter 3:15**

4. The Ministry Covenant ((TRAC 401))
is a commitment to discovering and using my God given gifts and abilities in _____ God and others.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” **1 Peter 4:10**

“There is different kinds of service to God, but the same Lord.”
1 Corinthians 12:5

Why do we have covenants?

WE BECOME WHAT WE ARE OUR _____.

C. OUR PLAN

“...I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do this for the sake of the gospel, that I might share in its blessings.” **1 Corinthians 9:22,23**

Eleven Principles That Drive Our Church
The W.A.R.M. S.P.R.I.N.G.S. CHURCH STRATEGY

W _____ all we do in _____

*“...for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” **Isaiah 56:7c***

A _____ of _____

*“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” **Romans 15:7***

R _____ to a _____ community

*“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.” **Colossians 4:5***

M _____ that is _____ and _____

*“Praise the Lord! Sign to the Lord a **new song**, his praise in the assembly of the saints.” **Psalms 149:1***

S _____ to those _____

*“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. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.” **1 Corinthians 9:22,23***

P _____ that is _____ and _____

*“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding for she (God’s wisdom) is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.” **Proverbs 3:13,14***

R _____

*“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” **Hebrews 13:7***

I _____ every member in _____

“so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.”

Romans 12:5,6a

N _____ leading to _____

“...teaching them to obey everything I (Jesus) have commanded you...”

Matthew 28:20

G _____ in _____

*“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.” **Acts 5:42***

S _____ organizational _____

*“No one pours new wine into old wineskins...” **Luke 5:37a***

SESSION TWO: OUR CHARACTERISTICS

PART TWO: We have a **Shared Manual**

“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...but everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” **1 Corinthians 14:33,40**

A. OUR STRUCTURE ((Structure holds the body together but shouldn't be seen))

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or denominational traditions. The structure of the church should **conform** to the way the church is described in the **Bible**.

1. The church is a _____.

“The devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” **Acts 2:42**

A priority in a fellowship is _____ and _____.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bonds of peace.” **Ephesians 4:3**

“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” **Romans 14:19**

ANY unwholesome attitude that causes disunity is SIN.

IMPLICATION: A good structure promotes _____ and downplays _____.

“...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you.”

1 Corinthians 11:17,18

“Voting” tends to _____. Therefore we minimize our “voting” to issues that are essential requirements of a religious non-profit corporation in the State of California.

Examples would be:

- Annual Budget
- Election of Trustees and Corporate Church Officers
- Indebtedness larger than 10% of the annual budget
- Calling Senior Pastor
- Changes to the church By-Laws

2. The church is a _____.

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” **Galatians 6:10**

So we operate on the basis of _____ not _____.

“Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, order women as mothers, and younger women as sisters with absolute purity.” **1 Timothy 5:1,2**

3. The church is a _____.

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

We are a Body – not a business! We are an organism – not an organization. Therefore, we function on the basis of _____ not _____.

- In an organization “maintenance” and the “bottom-line” become a focus.
- In an organism “ministry” and “people” become the focus.

At Warm Springs we are constantly working at simplifying our structures so we can maximize _____ and minimize _____.

“God gave some...as pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” **Ephesians 4:11,12**

The Biblical Structure

- The People are the _____.
- The Pastors are the _____.

4. The church is a _____.

“I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one Shepherd.” **John 10:16**

Therefore it is cared for and led by _____.

“Jesus asked Simon Peter, ‘Do you really love me? Yes Lord,’ said Peter. ‘Then take care of my sheep.’” **John 12:16,17** (“take care” is “pastor” in Greek))

The New Testament uses three *different* terms in referring to the same church leaders.

- (poimen) – _____
 - (presbuteros) – _____ (old in spiritual maturity)
 - (episcopos) – _____ (bishop)
- } ((Same Person))

*“To the **elders** I say...be **shepherds** of God’s flock, serving as **overseers.**”*
1 Peter 5:1,2

*Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the church. When they arrived he said to them...”Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers.** Be **pastors** of the church of God.”* **Acts 20:17,28**

B. OUR AFFILIATION

When Warm Springs Church began, as a daughter church from Irvington Baptist Church, we received support not only from our mother church but also from three groups with whom we remain affiliated.

1. **East Bay Baptist Association** – 100 churches that fellowship and work together to evangelize and minister to the people of Alameda County.
2. **The California Southern Baptist Convention** – 1,200 churches that fellowship and work together to reach our state for Christ.
3. **The Southern Baptist Convention** – 44,000 churches that cooperate together to evangelize our world for Christ.

What is the Southern Baptist Convention?

- *It is the largest group of Christian congregation in California and the United States.* There are 44,000 congregations with 15 million members making it larger than most other denominations combined. One out of every 10 churches are affiliated with the SBC.
- *It is also the most diverse group of Christians in America.* Cooperating Southern Baptist Churches include every race, nationality, ethnic and socio-economic group. Every Sunday the Good News is proclaimed in 103 different languages, including sign language. In the East Bay the majority of our churches are ethnic churches. Among these congregations are African American, Native African, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Filipino, Romanian, Hispanic and Native American. Black congregations compose the fastest group of Christians to affiliate with Southern Baptists. **((1/3 of all Christians are Southern Baptists))**
- *Southern Baptists’ churches are one of the fastest growing associations of churches in America.* Each year the affiliated churches baptize more than

370,000 people. That is an average of over 1,000 per day. Southern Baptists' in 1900 adopted "**Bold Mission Thrust**", which is a goal to give every person in the world an opportunity to hear the gospel by the year 2000.

Why not just be an independent church?

We **are** an independent church! Every Southern Baptist church is totally independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchical accountability as with some other denominations. Each church is self-governing and determines its own directions. For example:

- Every church chooses its own pastor
- Every church owns or rents its own buildings
- Every church determines its own programs
- Every church determines its own budget and financial support for world-wide missionary causes.

What are the advantages of affiliating with Southern Baptist?

1. It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Southern Baptists do not have any man made creeds they follow. The Bible alone is our sole authority for faith and practice. ***What do Baptists' believe?*** (See pages 21-23)

2. It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. More than 4,900 Home Missionaries serve in the United States and its Territories and 4,000 Foreign Missionaries living in 132 countries minister to 154 nations around the world. Southern Baptist churches give more than \$350,000,000 each year to the "Cooperative Program." The Cooperative Program is a unique people and financial channel that allows us to do together what we could never do independently. The Cooperative Program underwrites the education of several thousand ministerial students each year as well as supports the work of our several thousand missionaries.

C. OUR MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

The Warm Springs Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Warm Springs Church's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with Warm Springs Church's family. In doing so I commit myself to God and the other members to do the following:

Please Initial Beside Each Check Mark As A Sign Of Your Intention To Live By Each Of The Covenant Agreement

1. I will protect the unity of my church _____

➤ **By acting in love toward all members _____**

*"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification." **Romans 14:19***

*"May the god who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus." **Romans 15:5***

➤ **By refusing to gossip _____**

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs."

Ephesians 4:29

➤ **By following the leadership _____**

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you."

Hebrews 13:17

2. I will share responsibility of my church _____

➤ **By praying for its growth _____**

*"To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly." **1 Thessalonians 1:2***

➤ **By inviting the unchurched to attend _____**

*"...Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so my house may be full." **Luke 14:23***

➤ **By warmly welcoming those who will visit _____**

*"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." **Romans 15:7***

3. I will serve the ministry of my church _____

➤ **By discovering my gifts and talents** _____

“Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” **1 Peter 4:10**

➤ **By being equipped to serve** _____

“God gave some...as pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

Ephesians 4:11,12

➤ **By developing a servant’s heart** _____

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant...”

Philippians 2:3,4,7

4. I will support the testimony of my church _____

➤ **By attending faithfully** _____

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another.” **Hebrews 10:25**

➤ **By living a godly life** _____

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...” **Philippians 1:27**

➤ **By giving regularly** _____

“Each one of you, on the first day of the week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering.” **1 Corinthians 16:1**

“A tenth of all you produce is the Lord’s, and it is holy.” **Leviticus 27:30**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Warm Springs Church

1. Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trusted Him for salvation?

Yes

(When?)

(Where?)

In this class

2. Have you been baptized by immersion after you committed your life to Christ?

Yes

(When?)

(Where?)

I want to be baptized at Warm Springs Church

3. Have you completed the *“Introduction to Life at Warm Springs Church”*?

Yes

(When?)

4. Do you desire to abide by the Warm Springs Membership Covenant?

Yes, I do!

Please sign your name here and date

Print Name

Welcome to our Family!

So What's Next?

The Joyful Journey!

Warm Springs Church's Training For Christian Growth

TTraining Applied Christianity

Reach Your Second Road Sign

TRAC 201 "Mature Christian Living"

Overview of T.R.A.C.

100 Level:	To lead people to Christ and then membership at Warm Springs Church
200 Level:	To help members develop spiritual maturity
300 Level:	To train members to effectively share their faith with others
400 Level:	To equip members with the skills needed for ministry

THE W.A.R.M. S.P.R.I.N.G.S. QUIZ

Wrap all we do in p_____

How do we give attention to Prayer?

Atmosphere of a_____

In the essentials we have u_____

In the non-essentials there is f_____

In all things we show l_____

Reaching out to a d_____ community

Who are we trying to reach?

How does that affect the Sunday Morning Services?

Music that is e_____ and c_____

Why don't we sing more "old Hymns" on Sunday morning?

_____ that are Sensitive to those _____ God

Give an example to how we try to do this.

Why don't we use the Old English translations of the Bible in the service?

Preaching that is B_____ and P_____

What does "practical" mean?

Responsible L_____

Give an example of servanthood in leadership

Include every m_____ in m_____

At WSC, "every member is a _____"

What TRAC should I take to find out the ministry that's best for me?

Who can begin a new ministry at WSC?

Necessary Training Leading to C_____ M_____

How is training provided here?

What is the next seminar you should take?

Gather in _____ groups

What does the phrase "Grow larger and smaller at the same time" mean?

How many small groups do we currently have?

S_____ Structures

The People are the M_____

The Pastors are the A_____

Why do we have a simple structure?

Can you name our 5 purposes?