



**GRAY AVENUE**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# **Membership Class Packet**

## **Our mission:**

Reaching the lost.  
Encouraging the found.

## **Our values:**

Prayer- talking to God

Preaching- sharing Gods message

Potluck- fellowship; hanging out with other believers

# **God's 5 purposes for your existence & The church...why you need it**

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for . . . part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone. Ephesians 1:11–12  
(MSG)

Everything, absolutely everything . . . got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him. Colossians 1:16 (MSG)

May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Ephesians 3:19–20 (NLT)

# **Five Purposes for your existence**

## **1. God planned me for \_\_\_\_\_.**

You created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created. Revelations 4:11b (NLT)

The LORD takes pleasure in his people. Psalm 149:4a (GNT)

“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.” Matthew 22:37–38 (NIV)

The first purpose of my existence: \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible calls this: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2. God created me for \_\_\_\_\_**

[God’s] unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

Love your spiritual family. 1 Peter 2:17 (MSG)

The second purpose of my existence: \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible calls this: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. God made me: \_\_\_\_\_.**

From the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son. Romans 8:29 (TLB)

In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5 (NCV)

As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him. 2 Corinthians 3:18b (TLB)

The third purpose of my existence: \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible calls this: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. God “shaped” me: \_\_\_\_\_.**

You shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother’s womb. Psalm 139:13  
(MSG)

S \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

P \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

The fourth purpose of my existence: \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible calls this: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. God created me for: \_\_\_\_\_**

“In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.”  
John 17:18 (MSG)

Make the most of your chances to tell others the Good News.  
Colossians 4:5 (TLB)

The fifth purpose of my existence: \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible calls this: \_\_\_\_\_

# **What's the purpose of the church and why do I need it?**

**The purpose of the church is to aid people in fulfilling Gods purposes for their lives.**

Since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.  
Romans 12:5b (NLT)

## **Your church will family will help you:**

Worship- Center your life around God

Fellowship- Connect with other believers

Discipleship- Cultivate spiritual maturity

Ministry- Contribution to the work with in/out

Mission- Communicate God's message

## **Our beliefs**

**In essential beliefs:** \_\_\_\_\_

There is one body and one Spirit . . . one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all.  
Ephesians 4:4–6 (NIV)

**In non-essential beliefs:** \_\_\_\_\_

Accept him whose faith 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 (NIV)

**In all beliefs:** \_\_\_\_\_

If I . . . hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but the very secrets of God, and if I also have that absolute faith which can move mountains, but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.  
1 Corinthians 13:2–3a (PH)

# **The Essentials we believe**

## **About God**

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

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

## **About Jesus**

Christ Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father and Holy Spirit. Jesus 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**

## **About the Holy Spirit**

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 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.

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

## **About the Bible**

The Bible is God's Word to us. Human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit, wrote it. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because God inspired it, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

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

## **About Human Beings**

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 are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

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

## **About Salvation**

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 into his life by faith.

**Acts 2:38, Matthew 28:19-20**

## **About Baptism**

We believe that Christian baptism is a public declaration of the believer's salvation in Christ, identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection symbolized by immersion in water.

**Acts 2:41; Romans 6:3-6**

## **About Eternity**

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist 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.

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

## **Why become a member of Gray Ave. Church?**

### **1. It is an act of obedience to Jesus' commands.**

God expects every believer to join a local church. In fact, there are over 50 commands in the New Testament you cannot follow unless you commit to joining a local Body of believers. Without a church family, you're a spiritual orphan.

**Be devoted to each other like a loving family.  
Romans 12:10a (GWT)**

**You are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in  
God's household with every other Christian.  
Ephesians 2:19b (TLB)**

### **2. It is a counter-culture choice that demonstrates maturity.**

Immaturity is the inability to make and keep commitments. Today's culture promotes immaturity everywhere: "Keep your options open . . . don't commit to a job, a marriage, a church . . . anything." Even many believers have a superficial consumer's attitude of "shopping and hopping"—attending different churches each week without being dedicated or loyal to any specific church family. You cannot build character without making commitments.

**My friends, stop thinking like children. Think like mature people and be as innocent as tiny babies.**

**1 Corinthians 14:20 (CEV)**

**Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for her.  
Ephesians 5:25 (NLT)**

### **3. It's a necessary step in your spiritual development.**

**First, they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God's will they gave themselves to us as well.**

**2 Corinthians 8:5 (GNT)**

**They helped the believers grow in love for God and each other.  
Acts 14:22 (TLB)**

## **4. It provides spiritual protection**

### ***To Pastors:***

Guard and [protect] the whole flock of God over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers [and guardians]. [Care for and] shepherd the Church of God which He bought with His own blood. Acts 20:28 (AMP)

### ***To Members:***

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

**What does membership mean?**

**Membership means  
I commit...**

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ of Gray Ave.  
Church

2. To \_\_\_\_\_ of Gray Ave.  
Church

3. To \_\_\_\_\_ of Gray Ave.  
Church

4. To \_\_\_\_\_ of Gray Ave.  
Church

5. To \_\_\_\_\_ of Gray Ave.  
Church

# **What does it mean to be a member of Gray Ave. Church?**

## **1. I will protect the unity of my church.**

By acting in love towards other members

By refusing to gossip and by resolving conflicts using Matthew 18:15–17

By following the leaders

**“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.”**

**Matthew 18:15–17 (NLT)**

**So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of one another’s character.” Romans 14:19 (PH)**

## **2. I will share the responsibility of my church**

By praying for its growth

By inviting the unchurched to attend

By warmly welcoming those who visit

**To the church: We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. 1 Thessalonians 1:2 (NLT)**

**“ ‘Go out into the country lanes . . . and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.’ ” Luke 14:23 (TLB)**

**So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified. Romans 15:7 (TLB)**

### **3. I will serve the ministry of my church**

By discovering my gifts and talents

By being equipped by my pastors to serve

By developing a servant's heart

**Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you. 1 Peter 4:10 (PH)**

**It was [God] who “gave gifts to people”; he appointed . . . others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God’s people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11–12 (GNT)**

**When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. Do not be interested only in your own life but be interested in the lives of others. But [Christ] gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant. Philippians 2:3–4, 7 (NCV)**

### **4. I will support the testimony of my church**

By attending faithfully

By living a growing and godly life

By giving regularly

**Let us not give up the habit of meeting together . . . let us encourage one another. Hebrews 10:25 (GNT)**

**But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Philippians 1:27 (PH)**

## Membership Agreement

As a member, I commit to the body of Christ, the church (1 Corinthians 12:27; Romans 12:4-5). As a member at Gray Ave. Christian Church, I will fulfill the following expectations:

1. I will worship the one true God with other Gray Ave. Christian Church members for as long as I am physically able (Hebrews 10:24-25; Romans 12:1). The goal of my regular weekly worship is to give God glory (Romans 11:36; Hebrews 13:15).
2. I will grow spiritually through regular involvement in groups and classes at Gray Ave. Christian Church in addition to regular personal devotional times. I understand the purpose of these groups and classes is building community with other believers and holding each other accountable (Acts 2:44-47; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
3. I will serve Christ through the mission work of Gray Ave. Christian Church. I am created to serve others through good works (Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 4:10). I am commanded by God to make disciples of every nation, tribe, people, and language through the local church (Matthew 28:16-20; Revelation 7:9). I will support the church's mission to go to the ends of the earth to share the gospel (Acts 1:8).
4. I will give to God abundantly and joyfully, recognizing God as the owner of all things (Proverbs 3:9; Psalm 24:1). Giving my tithe and time to God brings me closer to Him (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 6:19-24).
5. I will seek unity with other church members. I recognize God's design for the church is unity in diversity, and I will put the interests of others above my personal preferences (Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Peter 3:8-9). I will guard the reputation of the church and submit to discipline for any sin problems in my life (Matthew 18:15-20).
6. I will pray for and follow the leadership of Gray Ave. Christian Church (Hebrews 13:17-18). I will pray privately and with the church corporately. I will pray for people to accept Christ, and I will pray for more disciples to grow.
7. I will sacrifice by serving first, following the servant model of Jesus Christ (Mark 10:45). I will make my attitude that of Christ and through humility make the gospel my priority (Philippians 2:5-11).

If you agree with the previous 7 points and all that we have discussed throughout the class.

The next step is to acknowledge you agree with what it means to be a member of Gray Ave. Christian Church.

Please sign, date, and give a brief explanation of why you are choosing to become a member of Gray Ave. Christian Church.

**Name (print), Phone Number, Address**

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**Name (sign)**

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**Brief Explanation of why you are choosing to become a member of Gray Ave. Christian Church**

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**Date**

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