

# Westside Institute 101

## Membership Orientation

*Let's Get Connected*

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**What Membership Is Not**

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1. Membership is not a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Membership is not a matter of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Membership is not a \_\_\_\_\_ program.
4. Membership is not \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Membership is not about doing but \_\_\_\_\_.

**What Membership Is**

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1. Membership is \_\_\_\_\_ and engaging in the covenantal \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
2. Membership is informed by God's \_\_\_\_\_ for His church.
3. Membership is a question of Biblical \_\_\_\_\_, not personal preference.

**We Believe**

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1. We believe that membership is how believers \_\_\_\_\_ and connect in community with God's local church.
2. We believe that \_\_\_\_\_ within the local church is vital not only for the believer's spiritual growth, but also for the betterment of the church body as a whole. (*Acts 2:42, 44; Ephesians 4:11-12*)

### **Mission & Vision of Westside**

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1. The mission of Westside Baptist Church is the same mission \_\_\_\_\_ gave His followers: 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.
2. The vision of Westside Baptist Church is to be a people known for loving \_\_\_\_\_, loving others, and serving one another and our community.
3. We seek to create a \_\_\_\_\_ of connected believers and to witness a city transformed by the life-changing reality of the Gospel, as people come to know Jesus as their lord and savior.

### **Loving God**

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1. The Greatest commandment we have is to \_\_\_\_\_ God with all our heart, soul and mind (*Matthew 22:37*). We love because He first loved us.
2. As a church we love God and make \_\_\_\_\_ through worship, prayer, teaching of the word, observance of the ordinances, fellowship, the exercise of our gifts and talents, and the proclamation of the Gospel, both in the community and throughout the world.
3. The second part of our \_\_\_\_\_ is "Others." We believe that we are here for one another and that God calls us to love each other as He has loved us through Christ. (*John 13:34-35*)
4. We also believe that community is vital to spiritual \_\_\_\_\_. Some of the ways we practice biblical community include Small Groups, corporate worship gatherings and teaching and equipping one another through God's Word. (*Acts 2:42*)
5. Our third and final part of our vision is \_\_\_\_\_. We believe that God does not call us to just be hearers of His word but doers as well, putting our faith into action. (*James 1:22*)
6. We believe that Jesus Christ has structured His \_\_\_\_\_ to function in a certain way, and that He has empowered His people with spiritual gifts in order to equip the church as a whole. (*Eph. 4:11-12*)

### **Core Convictions**

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1. Centered on Christ
2. Informed by God's Word
3. Committed to Community
4. Engaged in Discipleship
5. Devoted to Missions

### **Core Convictions**

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1. **Doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_**
  - *We believe in one God eternally existing as one essence of three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.*
  
2. **Doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_**
  - *God has made Himself known to the world through Jesus Christ, the Scriptures and creation.*
  
3. **Doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_ and Providence**
  - *We believe that God created the Heavens and the Earth from nothing, reigning over all at all times and in all places.*
  
4. **Doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_**
  - *We believe that man and woman were created in God's image and that the origin of humans lies in God our Creator.*
  
5. **Doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_**
  - *We believe that sin has impaired all things, leaving the world in desperate need for salvation.*
  
6. **Doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_**
  - *We believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ.*
  
7. **Doctrine of the \_\_\_\_\_**
  - *We believe that the Church is the body of Christ, called and sent into the world to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*
  
8. **Doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_ and the Consummation of the Kingdom of God**
  - *We believe that Jesus Christ is returning to the world in the future to Judge the living and the dead.*

### **Statement on Marriage and sexuality**

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- It is the biblical position that \_\_\_\_\_ involves one man and one woman in permanent covenant fidelity. Despite many cultures and customs having various understandings of marriage, it is God alone who has the ultimate authority to prescribe and describe the marital relationship. Marriage is sacred, created to reflect the perfect communion we see in the trinity and the union of God's love for His Bride, the Church. (*Genesis 2:24; Matt. 19:1-9; Mark 10:1-12*)

## Ordinances

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*What is an ordinance?*

1. An ordinance is a specific \_\_\_\_\_ that the church was commanded by Christ to repeatedly observe, serving as symbols of salvation.
2. Here at Westside, we practice 2 ordinances:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ through immersion is the first ordinance.
  - The Lord's Supper which is also called \_\_\_\_\_ is the second ordinance.

## Baptism

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1. The precedent we find in the New Testament is baptism following \_\_\_\_\_ by immersion into water. Baptism by immersion is meant to symbolically depict the believer's union to Christ in His death and resurrection. (*Romans 6:1-14*)
2. Why be baptized?
  - Baptism is not a matter of salvation but it is an act of \_\_\_\_\_ the believer, upon conversion, who has put their faith in Christ.
  - We know that Scripture also teaches that \_\_\_\_\_ commands His followers to follow the same example. (*Matt. 28:19-20*)

## The Practice of Communion

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1. The Lord's Supper and its elements serve as a remembrance of \_\_\_\_\_ and His death on the cross for our sins. (*1 Corinthians 11:23-25*)
2. The Lord's Supper is to be observed only by those who have become genuine \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. The ordinance symbolizes the breaking of Christ's body and the shedding of His blood on our behalf and is to be observed repeatedly throughout the Christian life as a sign of continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death.

## Covenant Community

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### 1. Pastor's Covenant.

- To prayerfully seek God's \_\_\_\_\_ for our church community and steward her resources to the best of our ability, coherent with the teaching of Scripture and the direction of the Spirit. *(Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-14)*
- To care for the \_\_\_\_\_ and seek her growth in grace and love.
- To provide teaching and counsel from the whole of \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. Membership Covenant.

- To submit to the authority of the \_\_\_\_\_ as the final arbiter on all issues. *(2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)*
- To pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular \_\_\_\_\_ reading, prayer, fellowship and the practice of spiritual disciples. *(Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11)*
- To follow the command and example of \_\_\_\_\_ by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His Church:
  - By being baptized after my conversion
  - By regularly remembering and celebrating the person and the work of Christ through communion
- To regularly \_\_\_\_\_ in the life of Westside Baptist Church by attending weekly services, engaging in Gospel-centered community and serving within and outside of this church.
- To steward the resources \_\_\_\_\_ has given me (including time, talents, spiritual gifts and finances). This includes regular financial giving, service and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary.
- By God's grace through the power of the \_\_\_\_\_, to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ. *(1 Pet. 1:13-16, 4:1-3)*
- Believers should strive to put certain \_\_\_\_\_ and actions to death while stirring and stimulating love and good deeds through the Spirit.

- To submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by:
  - Following the Biblical procedure for church discipline where sin is evident in another- the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration
  - Receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached Biblically by fellow believers (*Psalms 141:5; Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11*)
- To do the following when I sin:
  - Confess my \_\_\_\_\_ to God and to fellow believers
  - Repent and seek help to put my sin to death (*Rom. 8:13; Colossians 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10*)
- To submit to the Pastors and other appointed leaders of the \_\_\_\_\_ and diligently strive for unity and peace within the church (*Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:5*)

### **Life Groups**

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1. Life Groups is where true \_\_\_\_\_ is done.
2. Our desire is to see people \_\_\_\_\_ relationally while committing to God's word, each other, communion, and prayer.

### **Called to Our Community**

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- It is our conviction to be a church on \_\_\_\_\_ in our community. Our hope and desire is to empower the church to be the church within their communities such as their workplaces and neighborhoods.
  - Jeremiah 29:7 says:  
 "But seek the \_\_\_\_\_ of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

### **Current Areas of Outreach**

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1. Fostering Together
2. Celebrate Recovery
3. Upward Sports
4. Local Community Events

## Called to the Nations

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1. We believe we are called to love and reach the \_\_\_\_\_ with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - Romans 15:20-21 says:  
“...and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written: “Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”
2. Missions we support:
  - Lottie Moon
  - Annie Armstrong
  - Missouri Baptist Convention
  - Where we want to go: Love the Nations

## Church Structure

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### ***Ephesians 4:11-13 mentions the following:***

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Evangelists
4. Pastors
5. Teachers

## Spiritual Gifts

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### *What are Spiritual Gifts?*

1. An ability given by the Holy Spirit to express our \_\_\_\_\_ effectively (in word or deed) for the strengthening of someone else’s faith.
  - 1 Peter 4:10-11 says:  
“<sup>10</sup>As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

## 2. The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts:

- For strengthening others faith
  - “For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ to strengthen you.” (*Rom. 1:11*)
  - “... and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith.” (*2 Thessalonians 3:2*)
- To build up the church in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - “<sup>12</sup>...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,<sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood,<sup>[a]</sup> to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,<sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.” (*Eph. 4:12-14*)
  - It’s not about \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves.
  - It’s not one sided.
  - Cannot be manufactured.
  - “<sup>11</sup>All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills.” (*1 Cor. 12:11*)

**Spiritual Gift Survey**

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1. We believe God created His church to be a covenant \_\_\_\_\_ that is committed to one another through prayer, teaching, fellowship and serving.
2. We believe that Christ designed His church to be a kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ that is empowered by His Spirit and given spiritual gifts meant to help equip the saints for the building up and betterment of His church for His glory. (*Eph. 4:11-12*)