

Discovering Church Membership

Devoted
Community



STURGIS MISSIONARY
C H U R C H

We're glad that you have chosen to find out more about the Sturgis Missionary Church! Discovering Church Membership is a basic introduction to our church family. The class is divided into five sessions taught by the pastors and leaders of Sturgis Missionary Church (SMC). Since we believe God's word gives us the answers that are necessary for life, as you proceed through this course, you will find scriptural references for all beliefs. All scriptural references are from the English Standard Version.

Fellow Citizens

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God," -Ephesians 2:19

What does this mean?

- (1) Before one comes to the faith, that person is far from God. Meaning, God is a stranger to that individual.
- (2) When one accepts Jesus' sacrifice for their sins, he or she is considered a fellow citizen. Indicating unity with other believers.
- (3) And, he/she becomes a member of God's family.

UNITY MAKES STURGIS MISSIONARY CHURCH A FAMILY?

United in our common faith

Nature in need of deliverance

Identify as a church organization

Tactics used for effective ministry

Yearning for reaching the lost

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UNITED IN FAITH

“I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.”

1 Corinthians 1:10

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“Helping people know, love, and follow Jesus!”

Everyone is at a different place in their journey of knowing, loving and following Jesus. Some are looking to learn more about who Jesus is and why Christianity is important to life. Others have personally accepted Jesus’ atoning work of salvation for his/her own sins. Some are further along in the sanctification process, having committed every area of their life to the Lord’s control.

At Sturgis Missionary Church, we desire to help people navigate the Christian walk during each part of the journey. Coming alongside people as they live out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

The Great Commandment:

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’” -Matthew 22:36–40

The Great Commission:

“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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” -Matthew 28:19-10

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| To “love the Lord your God with all your heart” is... | Worship |
| To “love your neighbor as yourself” is... | Kingdom Living |
| To “go...make disciples” is... | Outreach |
| To “baptize” is... | Ministry |
| To “teach them...all that I have commanded” is... | Spiritual Development |

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

What we believe theologically

In essential beliefs... we have unity

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” -Ephesians 4:4–6

In non-essential beliefs... we have liberty.

“As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.” - Romans 14:1

“Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.”-Romans 14:4

“So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” -Romans 14:12

In all our beliefs... we show love.

“And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” -1 Corinthians 13:2

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE

God

The one and only true God is Spirit: infinite, personal, unchangeable, true, uncreated, eternally existing in three distinct, coequal persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory, having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections. He is perfect in holiness, love, justice, goodness, and wisdom. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent; creator and sustainer of all things, visible and invisible; both immanent and transcendent to creation. (Deut 6:4; Jn 1:1; Ac 5:3f; Mt 28:19f; Isa 44:8).

Jesus Christ

Jesus is God incarnate. He is equal to God the Father (Phil 2:6; Jn 10:30), recognized as deity through His attributes of eternality (Jn 17:5; Heb 1:11f), omnipresence (Eph 1:23), omniscience (Col 2:3), omnipotence (Heb 1:3), and immutability (Heb 1:12).

Jesus also came to earth and took on humanity by virgin birth (Mt 1:18-23), as prophesied (Isa 7:14), thus uniting the divine and human natures. Though Jesus took on humanity, He did not inherit a sinful nature (Lk 1:35; 1 Jn 3:5). Jesus' became incarnate to confirm His promise (Gen 3:15), reveal the Father (Jn 14:9), become a faithful High Priest (Heb 4:15), put away sin (Heb 9:26), destroy the works of the devil (1 Jn 3:8), be an example (1 Jn 2:6), and to prepare for His second coming (Heb 9:28).

Jesus lived a sinless life, died to make atonement for the sins of all mankind, was bodily resurrected, ascended, and is now mediator at the right hand of the Father. He will one day return in power and glory for His believing followers, and is the only Savior of men. (John 1:1,14; Titus 2:11-14)

Christ was resurrected with a real body. After the resurrection, Jesus declared He had flesh and bones (Lk 24:39), He was held (Mt 28:9), He ate food (Lk 24:41-43), and He was recognized with His scars (Lk 24:34-39). Jesus was not only resurrected with a real body; His body was also unique being immortal (Rm 6:9f).

Christ's resurrection is important because the credibility of the Apostle's witness and the believer's salvation hinges on its authenticity (1 Cor 15:12-19). It is through the resurrection that forgiveness of sin is assured (Ac 5:31; Rm 5:8-10). The resurrection assures the believer Jesus' sacrifice was accepted by the Father (Rm 4:25; Jn 14:20). The resurrection declares Jesus' power and divinity (Rm 1:4). Further, the resurrection was necessary so Jesus could send the Holy Spirit (Jn 16:7).

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and is sent by the Son. The Holy Spirit's deity is confirmed by the proclamation of Him as God (Ac 5:3, 4) and His equality to God (Mt 28:19; 2 Cor 13:14). The Holy Spirit has the attributes of God. He is eternal (Heb 9:14), omnipresent (Ps 139:7-13), omniscient (1 Cor 2:10), omnipotent (Rom 15:19), and creator (Gen 1:26).

The Holy Spirit directed the writers of Scripture (2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pe 1:21), is a source of wisdom (1 Co 12:8), a source of miraculous power (Ro 15:19), regenerates those who repent (Tit 3:5), dwells in the believer (1 Co 14:25); to guide, empower, teach, comfort, and sanctify (Jn 16:13; Ro 15:16; 1 Co 6:11); cleansing the heart of the believer (Heb 9:14). He convicts people of their sins, of righteousness, and of judgment (Jn 16:8-11). He reveals the things of God (1 Co 2:10, 13), the things of Christ (Jn 16:14), and the future (Lu 2:26; Ac 21:11).

Bible

The sixty-six books of the Bible (Old and New Testament) are the Word of God divinely inspired in their entirety (2 Tim 3:16f). Inspiration was the work of God by the Spirit, through human writers (2 Pe 1:21). Though the origin of Scripture is divine, God allowed each

author's distinctive personality and literary style to show through. The original autographs are the verbal, complete, confluent, inerrant, infallible Word of God; they are the final authority in faith and life (Jn 17:17). The copies and translations of Scripture are the Word of God to the extent they faithfully represent the original.

Salvation

God created a wonderful universe, but the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, chose to disobey God. This disobedience is called sin. Sin separated humanity from God. Since the first man and woman, all people have personally chosen to sin. The result of sin is death. There are two types of death spoken of in the Bible. All humans will suffer the first death, which is physical, but God loves the world so much He provided a way for humanity to be reconciled to Himself, sparing humanity from the second death, separation from Him forever. (Gen 1:31, 3:11f; Rm 3:23; 6:23; Jn 3:16; Rev 20:6; 1 Pe 1:18-21)

God the Father sent His Son, Jesus, to redeem everyone through the work of Jesus' voluntary sacrifice for our sins. Jesus, being without sin, payed the penalty of death for our sins. Since all people are sinners and guilty before God, only Jesus' death and resurrection can bring them into a right relationship with God. It is by faith alone, and not by works, a person is saved. This saving faith leads to repentance which is the changing of one's behavior, heart, thoughts, and attitude; to be conformed with the requirements of God. Although Jesus' sacrifice is for all, a person must personally accept Jesus' sacrifice for it to apply to his or her life. (Lev 17:11; Gen 2:17; Heb 9:22; 2 Cor 5:21; Rm 3:25, 4:35; Heb 9:14, 10:10; Jn 15:26; 2 Cor 1:22; Isa 65:17)

Church

We believe in the invisible and universal Church as an organism. It is composed of all believers in the Lord Jesus who have been vitally united by faith to Christ, its living Head and sovereign Lord. (Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 12:22-24)

Eschatology

The second coming of Christ is the hope of the church and will be personal, bodily, visible, and redemptive. It is the Christian's source of encouragement and consolation, the motive for purification and holiness, and the inspiration for activity and service. (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

OUR STATEMENT OF CORE VALUES

1. Lost people matter to God, and therefore matter to the church

This involves relational evangelism and evangelism as a process

Luke 5:30-32; Luke 15; Matthew 18:14

2. The church should be culturally relevant while remaining doctrinally pure

This involves providing God's resources in a way people will receive them

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

3. Christ-followers should pursue holiness and continually take steps toward intimacy with Christ

This involves sacrifice, diligence, perseverance, and hope

Ephesians 4:25-26, 32; Hebrews 12:1; Philippians 1:6

4. The ministries of the church should be based on the spiritual gifts, temperaments, and talents of its Christ-followers

This involves gift-based ministry, unity, servanthood, spiritual gifts, and ministry callings

1 Corinthians 12 and 14; Romans 12; Ephesians 4; Psalm 133:1

5. The church should offer opportunities for people to serve Christ

This involves ministry opportunities

Proverbs 22:6

6. Excellence honors God and inspires people

This involves preparation, evaluation, critical review, focus, and intensity

Colossians 3:23; Malachi 1:6-14; Proverbs 27:17

7. The church should be led by Christ-followers with leadership gifts who have embraced the mission, vision and core values of their church

This involves empowerment, servant leadership, strategic focus and intentionality

Nehemiah 1-2; Romans 12:8; Acts 6:2-5

8. Living a life of full devotion to Christ and His cause is God's will for every Christ-follower

This involves following Christ's example in stewardship, servant leadership, individual responsibility, and obedience

1 Kings 11:4; Philippians 2:1-11; 2 Corinthians 8:7, Colossians 3:23

OUR CHURCH CULTURE

Sturgis Missionary Church's focus is on helping people know, love, and follow Jesus. We minister with a habit of excellence in a loving atmosphere where we invest in each other's lives embracing adventure together.

Godliness

Emulating God's attributes

Joyful

Keeping in good spirits because of what Christ has done

Unity

Engaged in ministry together

Hospitable

Looking for ways to bless people

Diligence

Giving our best efforts

Faithfulness

Trusting in God and fulfilling our commitments

Forgiving

Giving grace and mercy to those who do not meet our expectations

Loving

Putting other's needs and feelings before our own desires

SACRAMENTS

I. Baptism

Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward reality. Baptism does not make a person a believer, it shows that he/she is already believe. Nor does baptism save an individual. Only one's faith in Christ saves. Baptism is like a wedding ring. It is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

A. Why Baptism?

1. Christ's Example

"And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets." -Mark 1:19

2. Commanded of Us

"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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." -Matthew 28:19-20

3. Demonstrates Belief

"Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized." - Acts 18:8

"And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments."

-1 John 2:3

B. Meaning of Baptism

1. Illustration (Christ's death, burial and resurrection)

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures," -1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead." - Colossians 2:12

2. Illustrates (new life)

“And all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,” -1 Corinthians 10:2
“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.” -Romans 6:4

3. Outward Symbol (commitment)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,” -Ephesians 2:8

“Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,”
-Romans 4:4–5

C. Why Immersion?

According to the Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, and other Greek Lexicons, the Greek word translated as baptize (βαπτίζω) carries the idea to dip in or under something, to dye something, to immerse, or to sink.¹

D. Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has become a Christ follower.²

At Sturgis Missionary Church, baptism is a membership requirement.³ Although it is not a requirement for membership that this baptism take place by immersion after making a commitment to a relationship with Jesus Christ, in most cases Sturgis Missionary Church performs baptisms this way.

II. Communion

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 visible symbols (often called “ordinances”) as reminders of His death. Sturgis Missionary Church recognizes the two symbols of Baptism and Communion. Communion is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

¹ Oepke, A. (1964–). βάπτω, βαπτίζω, βαπτισμός, βάπτισμα, βαπτιστής. G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament (electronic ed., Vol. 1, pp. 529–546)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

² At Sturgis Missionary Church, we wait until children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

³ Baptisms done outside of Sturgis Missionary Church are accepted

A. What is Communion?

1. Reminder

“And when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’” -1 Corinthians 11:24

3. Symbol

“In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’”

-1 Corinthians 11:25

4. Statement of Faith

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” -1 Corinthians 11:26

B. Who Should Take Communion?

Those who acknowledge Jesus as their Savior.

“For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.” -1 Corinthians 11:29

C. Preparation for Communion?

“Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” -1 Corinthians 11:27–28

How?

Self-examination	1 Corinthians 11:27
Confessing sin	1 John 1:9
Recommitment/Repentance	Romans 12:1
Restoring relationships	Matthew 5:23-24

NATURE IN NEED OF DELIVERANCE

“For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:26–28

BACKGROUNDS

People who have recognized Jesus as their Lord and Savior come from a multitude of backgrounds. This is what makes the Christian experience so amazing. As Christians, we associate with people, we otherwise, do not have commonalities with.

I. In Scripture

A. Disciples

1. Fisherman average Jew
2. Tax collector despised by most citizens
3. Zealot hated the government

B. Antioch

1. Hellenists pushed Greek culture
2. Saul former Pharisee
3. Nigar probably a black man
4. Cyrene region of Africa
5. Manaen brought up with Herod

C. Biblical Authors

1. Shepherd Moses
2. King Solomon
3. Musician Asaph
4. Inventor David
5. Prophet Jeremiah
6. Manufacturing Paul
7. Fisherman Peter
8. Doctor Luke
9. Captive Daniel
10. Broken family Hosea
11. Agriculture Amos
12. Government Nehemiah
13. Priests Ezra
14. Military Joshua

II. In the universal church

1. Ideology
 - a. Political
 - b. Worship
2. Subjective
 - a. Occupation
 - b. Hobbies
 - c. Cognitive
 - d. Physical
 - e. Spiritual
3. Family
 - a. Roots
 - b. Ethnicity
 - c. Race
 - d. Matrix

III. What unites is?

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” -John 14:6

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked; Jesus Christ would not have had to come. Jesus took the initiative to restore our relationship with God the Father. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

FUNCTION

Why different backgrounds?

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

-1 Corinthians 12:12–27

IDENTITY AS AN ORGANIZATION

“For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints . . . But all things should be done decently and in order.”

1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

Church Board

The business of the church is governed by the church board. The church board is composed of the lead pastor, church board secretary, church treasurer, head deacon, head trustee, and two members-at-large.

The church board gives prayerful and diligent oversight of the church and its ministries; reviews annually the work of the lead pastor; and makes available to the church a written report of church board decisions.

Lead Pastor

The Pastor's duty is to preach the Word; to exercise prayerful and diligent oversight of the church, watching for the souls, and to seek earnestly the salvation of the lost. The pastor is head of the local church and is responsible for the public services and general promotion of the church activities.

Board of Deacons

The board of deacons consists of four deacons/deaconesses who serve for three-year terms. All deacons are chosen from among members of the church in good standing, and shall have been members of this church for at least one year.

Deacons/deaconesses assist the lead pastor in the spiritual duties of the church; assist in the preparation and serving of communion; assist with spiritual counseling; assist the lead pastor in a spirit of love and prayer when it is necessary to discipline members; review the membership roll annually; and provide encouragement and support for the lead pastor and staff.

Board of Trustees

The trustees hold in trust the church property; are responsible for the care and maintenance of the church property; are responsible for the safekeeping of all legal papers; have power to mortgage, encumber, sell, and convey any real or personal property of the church, and enter into any lawful contract in the name of and in behalf of the church, when so directed and authorized by the church membership; and anticipate major repairs

Finance Committee

The finance committee prepares a total church budget to be approved by the church board and presented at the first church business meeting; oversee church finances and make recommendations for the operation of the budget; and keep the church board informed of the financial status of the church.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee shall select nominees for church offices from among members of the church in good standing. The nominating committee is composed of the lead pastor, two deacons, and two additional members.

OUR AFFILIATION

Sturgis Missionary Church is a part of the Missionary Church, and is located in the North Central District. As of this writing⁴, the Missionary Church is almost two million people in more than 20,000 congregations⁵ in 100 countries. There are eleven full districts and five mission districts in the U.S.

The Missionary Church came into existence as a result of the spiritual revivals that swept across North America in the late nineteenth century. The evangelistic fervor continued through an aggressive program of missionary activity.

The Missionary Church is an evangelical denomination committed to church planting and world missions. With its national office in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the Missionary Church communicates the message of Christ with an aggressive strategy. Committed to the Great Commandment, the Missionary Church strives to be focused on the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

⁴ 5/15/2018

⁵ 500 in the United States

TACTICS FOR MINISTRY

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Colossians 2:6-8

Walking in Him

Walking carries the idea of movement. As Warren Wiersbe says, “In the Christian life, we never stand still: we either go forward or gradually slip backward.”⁶ To walk with someone means you’re in agreement on the destination.⁷ Walking with God allows us to know what choices to make in this life because we agree with God’s destination for our lives. At Sturgis Missionary Church, we equip people to implement God as their guide on this journey through life. Allowing them to be complete through submitting to God’s leading.

Rooted

Rooted is a person’s ability to be immovable. Since every word of God is true,⁸ Sturgis Missionary Church assists people as they take root into this reality. Producing in them the assurance that what they believe is true. Roots also are used by plants to gather nutrients. Being rooted in God, focuses our attention on God, for our sustenance and guidance in life.

Built up

To build something up, a person adds layers upon previously laid layers. Sturgis Missionary Church accomplishes this through three avenues. Heightening the listener’s reflective and critical thinking about a biblical text, guiding the listener through a process of actively thinking about what God is saying and helping the listener relate new facts and concepts learned through Scripture to their own experiences.

Established in the faith

The Greek word being translated as “established” means to receive more inner strength. To accomplish this, one of Sturgis Missionary Church’s focuses is on assisting our people in the process of knowing what they believe and why they believe it. When we know what we believe, we become stronger in our faith and unfearful in our witness. This inner strength also heightens one’s ability to apply biblical principles to his/her life so he/she can grow.

See to it that no one takes you captive

There are many false doctrines the enemy tries to use to bring people back under the bondage of sin and personal works as a means of salvation. Sturgis Missionary Church protects its congregation from these doctrines. Creating an open environment where questions about one’s own faith and the philosophies of the world are encouraged to be asked.

⁶ Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#), vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 124.

⁷ Amos 3:3

⁸ Pro 30:5

OUR VISION

A devoted community of believers rooted, built up, and walking in Christ in their worship of God, making disciples, spreading the gospel so all acquaintances have heard and no believer is left without a church

KNOW	LOVE	FOLLOW		
Spiritual Development	Kingdom Living	Worship	Ministry	Outreach
<i>Rooted & Built Up</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Worship</i>	<i>Walking</i>	<i>Spreading</i>
GOALS	GOALS	GOALS		
Apply biblical principles to our lives in such a way we see growth in our Christian walk	Strong bonds between church members.	Engaging in spiritual conversations with our acquaintances	Involve SMC attenders in ministry	Share the gospel with all our acquaintances. Invite believers who do not attend church
STRATEGIES	STRATEGIES	STRATEGIES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doctrine Classes ○ Use of Apologetics ○ Hermeneutics ○ Discipleship ○ Communication Tactics ○ Inspire Faith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connect People ○ Church Activities ○ Small Groups ○ Fellowship Times ○ Special Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understanding God's Character ○ Purposeful and Progressive use of Technology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministry Placement ○ New Ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Easy Invitation Events ○ Testimony Times ○ WITNESS Training ○ Service Projects

OUR THREE COVENANTS

Sturgis Missionary Church's objective is to come alongside the church in their spiritual growth. Equipping each member of the church for the ministry God has called them to.

THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Is a commitment to be devoted to Christ and the Sturgis Missionary Church community.

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God," -Ephesians 2:19

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." -Romans 12:4-5

THE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COVENANT

Is a commitment to be built up in Christ for spiritual growth.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." -2 Peter 3:18

"Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness;" -1 Timothy 4:7

THE MINISTRY COVENANT

Is a commitment to discovering and using your God-given gifts and abilities to walk in Christ.

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
-James 1:22

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands," -2 Timothy 1:6

Why Do We Have These Covenants?

We want to encourage one another with our common faith as Paul exclaims in Romans 1:12.

YEARNING FOR THE LOST

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

Matthew 28:18–20

OUR HEART

William Barclay proclaims, "The missionary task of the Church at home and abroad is not an optional extra; it is a primary and essential obligation".⁹ Here at Sturgis Missionary Church, we are committed to sharing the gospel message throughout the world while discipling those who come to faith.

Sturgis Missionary Church exists to:

- Establish relationships with God through worship
- Care for one another as a family through living out kingdom principles
- Promote the witnessing of the gospel through outreach
- Nurture multifaceted growth through involvement in ministry
- Equip the saints for ministry through spiritual development

I. Worship

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellences' of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." -1 Peter 2:9

"So that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places." -Ephesians 3:10

Expressions of Worship

Praise	Hebrews 13:15
Singing	Ephesians 5:19
Giving over ourselves	Romans 12:1
Commitment	Romans 12:1-2
Praying	Psalms 95:6
Hearing God's Word	Luke 11:28
Studying God's Word	2 Timothy 2:15
Teaching God's Word	2 Timothy 2:2
Following God's Commands	1 Corinthians 11:2
Giving	1 Corinthians 16:1-2
Meditating	Psalms 1:1-2
Good works	Hebrew 13:16
Truth	John 4:24
Faith	Philippians 2:17

⁹ Barclay, William. *Fishers of Men*. The Westminster Press. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 1966. P3.

II. Kingdom Principles

“That there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.” -1 Corinthians 12:25–26

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” -Hebrews 10:24–25

III. Outreach

“And said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’”

-Luke 24:46–48

1. The lost need someone to tell them about Jesus.

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” -Romans 10:14

2. God asks us to be a part of His witness.

“And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.’” -Luke 14:23

3. Love for people

“And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” -Revelation 20:15

IV. Ministry

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,”

-Ephesians 4:11–12

V. Spiritual Development

1. Knowledge

“Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,”

-Hebrews 6:1

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,”
-Ephesians 4:11–12

2. Character

“For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness” -2 Peter 1:5–6

Information

Membership Requirements

Members of this church must be born-again believers in Jesus Christ, exhibit genuine evidences of their salvation, and have been baptized by immersion upon their confession of faith. Candidates who have been baptized in another manner subsequent to faith in Christ may be admitted to membership if they are willing to be immersed as the Lord may lead them.

Applicants are required to attend a preparatory course of instruction and complete appropriate application forms. Applicants will be interviewed by a member of the pastoral staff and approved by the church board upon recommendation from the pastor.

Each applicant must affirm a covenant of membership in agreement with the one given in the Constitution of the Missionary Church. For all other issues related to membership, refer to the section on membership in the Constitution of the Missionary Church.

Discipline of Members

All members of Christ's church are expected to conduct their lives according to the standards set forth in Scripture. Such conduct includes moral purity, personal honesty, and biblical fidelity. Members are to be consistent examples of authentic Christianity as they seek to emulate the character of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, members shall promote the unity of the church rather than seeking to divide it.

Purpose of Discipline

The church is commanded to discipline its members when they continue in open and habitual sin. Church discipline has multiple purposes including the following:

- Encouraging the sinning members to repent, thus restoring him/her to fellowship with Christ and the church.
- Warning other members against such sin.
- Upholding and maintaining the moral purity and blameless testimony of the church.

Process of Discipline

Should any member depart from the standard of Scripture and engage in conduct which conflicts with biblical principles of holiness, the steps of discipline outlined in Scripture shall be followed. Hence, some or all of the following steps shall be taken in the process of enforcing church discipline:

- Private reproof of the sinning member.
- Reproof before two or three witnesses.
- Public reproof before the church.

- Termination of membership and possible disassociation and severance of fellowship.
The entire process of church discipline outlined above shall be carried out and enforced in a spirit of Christian love, care and sensitivity.

Enactment of Discipline

It is hoped that the preliminary steps of discipline outlined above will result in repentance on the part of the sinning member. However, if there is no indication of repentance after these steps are taken, the sinning person's membership shall be terminated in accordance with what is stated above. Such termination of membership shall be decided by the Governing Board after due consideration and prayer. The reason for termination shall be stated in a pastoral letter and delivered to the terminated member. d. Agreement of Members to Submit to the Process of Church Discipline. Every person who makes application for membership or who maintains membership in a local Missionary Church explicitly consents to submit to the process of church discipline outlined above.

Inactive Members

A member failing to share in the fellowship and responsibilities of his/her church for a period of one year without just cause shall, after due personal counsel, forfeit his/her membership.

WE WOULD LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Business Phone: () _____

Cell Phone: () _____ E-mail Address: _____

Sex: M F Date of Birth: ___/___/___ Single Married Widowed Divorced

My occupation is: _____

Business: _____

I have the following expertise: _____

Prior to attending STURGIS MISSIONARY CHURCH:

- I came directly from another church
- I had not attended another church within the previous six months
- I have never attended church

How would you describe your relationship to Christ?

- Seeker/Curious
- Agnostic
- I am not sure what I believe
- New Christian
- Committed Christian
- Other: _____

Information on Family Members

Spouse's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Does your spouse attend STURGIS MISSIONARY CHURCH? _____

Children:

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Lives with you?</u>	<u>Attends SMC</u>
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

The Sturgis Missionary Church Membership Commitment

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized, and being in agreement with Sturgis Missionary Church's statements, strategy and structure, I choose to unite myself with the Sturgis Missionary Church family. In doing so, I commit myself, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to God and to the other members to do the following:

- 1 To work together in Christian love; to join in mutual labors for the kingdom of Christ; to strive loyally for the advancement of this church in holiness, knowledge, and love; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines;
- 2 To contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God prospers us, to the support of this church and its worldwide ministries;
- 3 To maintain private devotions and family devotions where possible, to endeavor to bring early to a saving knowledge of Christ all over whom we have the care and influence, to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings and faithful in our engagements;
- 4 To care for one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense and always ready for reconciliation; and
- 5 To witness faithfully to the saving and keeping power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ so that in every way we bring lost men and women to a saving knowledge of Him.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sturgis Missionary Church Four Requirements

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

Yes _____
(When) (Where)

Or

Yes, in this class

2. Have you received water baptism?

Yes

Or

I want to be baptized at the next church baptism opportunity.

3. Have you completed SMC 101: Discovering Church Membership?

Yes _____
(Date)

4. Do you desire to abide by the Sturgis Missionary Church Membership Covenant?

Yes, I do!

Please sign your name and date

Please print your name