

# Connected with God

## **We are the church**

### **The Church is a body**

*Romans 12:4-5, "For 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, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."*

### **The Church is Christ's Body**

*Ephesians 4:15-16, "Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."*

### **The Church is a Family**

*John 1:12, "Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God"*

*Romans 8:15, "So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, "Abba, Father."*

*II Corinthians 6:18, "And I will be your Father, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."*

### **Who may belong?**

*Acts 2:21 (Joel 2:32), "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

# What Unifies us as Family?

## Our Shared Problem

### Sin

*Genesis 2:16-17 & 3:1-8*

They did what God told them not to do; became “self-aware” and hid from God who made them, loved them and provided for them.

*Romans 3:23, “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”*

## Our Shared Provision

### Christ

*Romans 5:8, “But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”*

*John 3:16-17, “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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”*

## Our Shared Calling

### Follow Christ

*Matthew 4:19, “Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”*

*John 10:27, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”*

## Our Shared Cause

### Multiply Loving Relationships

*Matthew 28:19-20, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*

*II Corinthians 5:17-20, We are completely new in Christ Jesus, and He has sent us to reconcile people to the Father and each other in Him.*

## With all of that being true - How should we respond?

### Turn to God and be baptized

*Acts 2:37-38, When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"*

*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

### We identify ourselves with Christ's death, burial & resurrection

*Romans 6:3-11, (vs. 4) We were therefore buried with Him through 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 10:8-13, But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

# Aligned with God's Word and His Ways

What is the church's purpose?

## Love God and grow the family

*Mark 12:28-31, One of the teachers of the law asked Him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"*

*"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.*

*Matthew 28:19-20, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

*Ephesians 4:11-16 – Christ empowers us all to serve to build up His body, the church until together we represent the fullness of who He is. He wants us knit together and growing in love.*

## There is only ONE Family, and NO denominations in Christ.

*I Corinthians 1:10-13, "I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. For some have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. Has Christ been divided into factions?"*

*John 17:20-23, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."*

## Created for perfect relationship

*Genesis 1:26-27, "Then God said, "Let us make mankind in Our image, in Our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."*

## God's calling remains the same

**Adam** – Multiply & Subdue (before sin)

*Genesis 1:28, Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."*

**Abram (Abraham)** – Go, be blessed and bless others

*Genesis 12:1-3, "The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."*

**Jesus** – Follow Me and make disciples

*John 13:34-35, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."*

*John 20:21, "Again He said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I am sending you."*

*Matthew 28:18-20, Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

# Aligned by our beliefs

In the essentials – **UNITY**,  
In the non-essentials – **LIBERTY**,  
In all things – **LOVE**.

## **Our Essential Beliefs**

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has **always** existed as God the **Father**, God the **Son** and God the **Holy Spirit**; Three individual expressions of the One God.

*Genesis 1:1, 26-27; John 1:1, 14:26 & 15:26; Deut. 6:4; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; I Peter 1:2*

**The Father** has always loved us. He paid and accepted the price for our redemption

*Jeremiah 31:3, The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying:*

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."*

*John 3:16, "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."*

**The Son** sacrificed His life to save ours

*John 10:11-18, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."*

*John 14:6-7, Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you really know Me, you will know My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him."*

**The Holy Spirit** reveals God's truth to us, empowers us to live as Christ's representatives, and distributes God's gifts that enable us to serve effectively.

*John 14:16-17 & 26, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."*

*"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*

*Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

*I Corinthians 12:4-11, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them... Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines."*

**The Bible** is God's very Word. It was written by people inspired by the Holy Spirit and is our source of knowledge and understanding for life and truth. It is complete and without error because God has preserved it to be so. We will not add to or remove anything from God's Word.

*John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

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

**Salvation** is God's gift to **all who believe and obey Him**. Salvation is the **forgiveness of our sins** and safe, secure **membership in God's eternal family**. God's salvation is provided for and **offered to everyone**. We **must receive** it to participate. His salvation gift translates us **from death to life** and is demonstrated by **living to please, honor, obey and serve Him**. Salvation is **ONLY** available through Jesus.

*John 1:12 & 14:6; Romans 5:1, 6:23 & 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9;*

*I Timothy 2:4; II Peter 3:9*

## Non-Essential Beliefs

**Spiritual Gifts** are not a salvation issue. We believe that all spiritual gifts, as defined in the Bible, are at work today and some are given to every believer. Differing beliefs are not reason for division among His followers.

Differing beliefs about the gift of tongues may prompt more division among some of Christ's followers than any spiritual gift. **I Corinthians 14** gives clear and explicit instruction about the use of the gift of tongues and **our practices will be governed by God's Word.**

**Eternal Security** is also a non-salvation issue. Agreement about whether salvation can be forsaken is not a requirement for becoming a disciple of the Lord Jesus. Our identification as His disciples will be best known by His fruit in our life.

**Communion** is our remembrance of Christ's sacrifice for our redemption and the forgiveness of our sins. Partaking of the elements is our **identification by faith with His death, burial and resurrection**. Participation in our communion service is open to all who believe in Christ Jesus, trust Him for salvation and receive Him as the Lord and Master of their life. The status of children is best known by the adults responsible for their upbringing.

# Alive in Our Conduct

## LOVE ALL

- **Love God/Jesus/Holy Spirit**
- **Love Yourself**
- **Love Others**

*Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

*1 Corinthians 13:13-14:1, Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. Let love be your highest goal!*

## SPEAK LIFE

- **Encouragement**
- **God's Promises**
- **Praise**
- **To The Good In...**

*1 Thess 5:10b, So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.*

*Jesus did. John 1:47*

## PROCLAIM HOPE

- **Because it's true**
- **Because we need to hear it**
- **Because the world needs to hear it**
- **Because it glorifies God**

*Romans 8:24, "We were given this hope when we were saved."*

*1 Peter 3:15, Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.*

## LIVE TRUTH

- **Embrace God's words and ways as Absolute Truth**
- **Live Life On Purpose for His Purpose**
- **Receive His Truth/Know His Truth/Live His Truth**

*Colossians 2:7, Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.*

**James 1:22 & 2:14-26**

*If we only listen to God's word and don't act on it, we become deceived. Faith not demonstrated by action taken is of no value to anyone.*

## **Our first priority is within God's family**

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

*John 13:34-35, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."*

## **Then among those who live around us**

*Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*

## **Our greatest strength is living this out together**

*Ephesians 4:11-16 (16), "He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."*

# **Relational Environments**

## **Life Groups – Disciples making disciples**

Jesus came to put the life of God on display (John 1:18)

He demonstrated and modeled that life with 12 disciples.

We will follow His example in similar Relational Size Environments we call Life Groups

*John 2:6, Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.*

## **A disciple of Jesus is:**

Following Him as Lord of their life. (Luke 9:23 & John 8:31) - **HEAD**

Being Changed by Jesus and becoming more like Him. (John 15:5 & 8, Romans 8:29,

Galatians 5:22-23, John 13:34-35) - **HEART**

Committed to the Mission of Christ. (John 15:8, Matthew 4:19, II Corinthians 5:19-20)

- **HANDS**

# **Demonstrations of Faith**

## Prayer

When (not if) Matthew 6:5-15 & Luke 18:1-8

Where (Everywhere) II Timothy 2:8

## Service

Why (Jesus did) Matthew 20:28

Who (Family, Church & World)

## Our Finances

Jesus taught consistently about the temptation to value money more than faith and obedience.

*Matthew 6:19-21 & 24, 13:22*

We worship and honor God with our money through the Biblical practice of tithing – giving the first 10% of all income to glorify God and empower the work of Christ's Body, the church.

We believe the tithe belongs to God, and that to withhold it is to rob Him. 100% belongs to Him, He has just told us where He wants the first 10% to go.

He has always reserved a portion for Himself.

*Genesis 2:16-17*

*Malachi 3:7-10*

*Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.*

*"But you ask, 'How are we to return?'*

*"Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.*

*"But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'*

*"In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*

Offerings are contributions given over and above the tithe, and may be given to any worthy expression of God's love. Alms are given to directly benefit a specific personal need, and like offerings are given in addition to tithes.

All three forms of giving are not about the dollar amount, but the love and thanks we give with.

**Mark 12:43-44** –

*Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."*

**II Samuel 24:24** – King David

*"I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."*

**Connect, Align, Live**

As disciples of Jesus we are **Connected** to God as members of Christ's Body, with Jesus as the head. We are Connected to each other as members of God's Family.

We are United as family through our shared problem and God's provision. Our shared calling and cause unite us in mission and purpose.

Baptism is the testimony of our biblical response that unites with Christ Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection.

We are **Aligned** with God's Word and His ways through His purpose for the church and our relationship with Him. From Adam to Jesus, God's calling has always been for His people to help others join His family.

We also align with God by our essential beliefs in Him as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We align ourselves with His Word, the Holy Bible as the source of our knowledge and understanding for life and truth.

We align in God's gift of salvation for all who believe and obey Him.

We are **Alive** in Christ Jesus by our conduct as we Love All, Speak Life, Proclaim Hope and Live Truth. We commit to live out our faith first within God's Family, then among those who live around us.

Our commitment is to do this as Biblical disciples of Jesus in relational environments; especially in Life Groups that gather regularly to strengthen and encourage others as His followers.

We will demonstrate our life of faith through prayer, service and our finances.

## Our Commitment to Each Other

***Romans 12:4-5,***

*For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*

## **Commitment**

As Family Members of Peninsula Christian Fellowship we will not ask each other to do anything contrary to what is clearly taught in the Bible.

Having received Christ Jesus as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with PCF's statements, beliefs and practices, in agreement with the Holy Spirit I now unite with the Family of Peninsula Christian Fellowship. By doing so, I commit myself to God and the other members of the family to faithfully do the following:

### **I will protect the unity of my church family by:**

Acting in love towards other members

Refusing to gossip

Following the leaders as they follow Christ

*Romans 5:5 & 19; Ephesians 4:16; Hebrews 13:17; I Peter 1:22*

### **I will share in the mission of our church (making disciples who make disciples) by:**

Praying for its healthy growth

Inviting un-churched people to attend

Warmly welcoming those who visit

*Luke 14:23; Romans 15:7; I Thessalonians 1:2*

**I will serve the ministry of my church by:**

Discovering and using my gifts and talents

Participating in a discipleship Life Group

Being equipped to serve by my leaders

*Ephesians 4:11-12; Philippians 2:3-4 & 7; I Peter 4:10*

**I will support the testimony of my church by:**

Attending services faithfully

Living a godly life as a representative of the Lord Jesus and PCF

Regularly bringing my tithe to PCF, along with offerings & alms at times

*Leviticus 27:30; I Corinthians 16:2; Philippians 1:27; Hebrews 10:25*