

Connecting **101**



*New
Member
Orientation*

Delaney Street Baptist Church
1919 Delaney Avenue
Orlando, FL 32806

Discovering Church Membership

Connecting 101

Welcome to "Discovering Church Membership"! We are glad you have chosen to find out more about Delaney Street Baptist Church! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to explain clearly who and what our church is.

THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS

"... You are a member of God's very own family... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." --- Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

KEY TRUTHS:

1. The church is a _____.
2. God expects you to be a _____ of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is a _____.

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

...That I will commit myself to _____ and to the church _____.

WHAT MAKES DELANEY STREET BAPTIST CHURCH A FAMILY?

Four things unite us:

- Our Salvation (What God has done for us)
- Our Statement (Why we exist as a church)
- Our Strategy (How we fulfill our purpose)
- Our Structure (When & where we fulfill our purpose)

SEMINAR OUTLINE

SESSION ONE: OUR SALVATION

- What it means to be a Christian
- The Symbols of Salvation: Baptism & Communion

SESSION TWO: OUR STATEMENT & STRATEGY

- The mission statement of our church
- The story of our church
- Who we are trying to reach (target)
- Levels of commitment
- Our church strategy

SESSION THREE: OUR STRUCTURE

- How our church is structured
- Our affiliation
- What it means to be a member

SESSION ONE: *Our Salvation*

- *Galatians 3:26-28*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Many people live their entire lives without ever knowing “WHY?” They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “What is the meaning of life?”

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- ...Some look for happiness by acquiring possessions.
- ...Some look for happiness by experiencing pleasure.
- ...Some look for happiness by gaining prestige & power.

But real happiness comes from understanding my _____ in life.

I. WHY AM I HERE?

1. God made me to _____ me!

God says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love! – Jeremiah 31:3

"Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ...because of His love. God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children – this was God's pleasure and purpose." – Ephesians 1:4-5

2. We were created to _____ a personal relationship with God and to manage all of the rest of God's creation! This makes us special!

"God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." – I Timothy 6:17

"So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them, and said...live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge." – Genesis 1:27-28

Jesus said, "I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness!" – John 10:10

3. When we know and love God, and live in harmony with His purpose for all our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our lives.

Clear Conscience

Romans 8:1

Life & Peace

Romans 8:6

Help with Weakness

Romans 8:26

Purpose

Romans 8:28

Confidence

Romans 8:31

Security

Romans 8:39

Power & Strength

Philippians 4:13

Fulfillment

Philippians 4:19

Freedom

John 8:32, 36

This is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live. Why then aren't most people really happy?

II. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Man has a natural desire to be the _____ of his own life and to ignore God's principles for living.

"Look out for No. 1. Do your own thing."

"If it feels good, do it – regardless of what God says about it."

"It's my life, and I'll do what I please!"

The Bible calls this attitude: _____.

"All of us, like sheep have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way." – Isaiah 53:6

"If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth." – I John 1:8

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of His will.

"The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God." – Isaiah 59:2

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." – Romans 3:23

When our relationship to God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives – marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.

WHEN PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS, THEY OFTEN TRY MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF COPING BEFORE TURNING TO GOD.

"There are ways that SEEM right to man, but they only end in death." – Proverbs 16:25

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

"My mother was a Christian, so..."

"It doesn't matter what you believe, just be sincere."

"I'll give up all my bad habits."

"I'll work real hard and earn it."

"I'll be religious and go to church."

III. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Jesus Christ said, *"I AM THE WAY, 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. The Way is a Person!

JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM!

"The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." – Romans 6:23

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

"God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us." – Romans 5:8

"God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind." – I 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 individually to accept what He has done for us.

IV. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. _____ that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong." – I John 1:9

2. _____ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again on the third day, and is alive today.

"If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you 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

3. _____ God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.

"For it is by grace you are 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

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us!

4. _____ Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director ("Lord") of your life.

"To all who receive Him, He gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust Him to save us. All those who believe this are reborn! – not a physical birth --... but from the will of God!" – John 1:12-13

"Jesus says, 'Listen! I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in...'" – Revelation 3:20

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian."

"Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." – Romans 10:13

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To follow the example set by _____.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." – Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ _____ it.

"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" – Matthew 28:19-20

3. It demonstrates that I really am a _____.

"...Many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized." – Acts 18:8

"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." – I John 2:3

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It illustrates Christ's _____ and resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again." – I Cor. 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

2. It illustrates my new _____ as a Christian.

"When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life begun!" – II Corinthians 5:17

"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life." – Romans 6:4

Baptism doesn't 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, through faith...it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." – Ephesians 2:8-9

III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

Because _____ was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water."

Every baptism in the _____ was by immersion.

"...Then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." – Acts 8:38-39

The word "baptize" means to _____ in water.

The Greek word, *baptizo*, means "to immerse or dip under water."

It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection!

The founders of denominations agree:

Martin Luther – “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”

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

John Wesley – “Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has _____ in Christ.

“Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized...” – Acts 2:41

“Simon himself believed and was baptized...” – Acts 8:13

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” – Acts 8:12

At Delaney Street Baptist Church we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to confess publicly your personal commitment to Christ.

At Delaney Street Baptist Church, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though some of us were “confirmed” as children.

V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you have believed!

“Those who believed...were baptized...that day!” – Acts 2:41

“Then Philip began with the scriptures and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, ‘Look, here is water! Why shouldn’t I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.” – Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect,” you’ll never feel “good enough”!

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his / her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with the pastor for a pre-baptism conversation.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and it also delays your obedience to God.

When can I be baptized?

- At almost any church service. Meet with the Pastor for arrangements. We normally baptize in the Sunday morning service.
- The baptism usually takes place in the first part of the church service, after which you may change clothes and attend the remainder of the service.

What will happen when I am baptized?

At the beginning of the service the Pastor will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait at the edge of the pool for your turn to be baptized. The Pastor will introduce you, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the pool, dry off, and watch the others. Later you will receive a baptism certificate. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

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 visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: Baptism and The Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

I. What is The Lord's Supper? (I Corinthians 11:23-26)

1. It is a _____ act.

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

2. 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)

3. 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)

4. It is a statement of _____.

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

II. Who should take The Lord's Supper?

Only those who are already _____, (Mark 14:22-26)

III. How do I prepare myself for The Lord's Supper?

"Therefore whoever eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." – I Cor. 11:27-28

1. Self-examination

"Therefore, whoever eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and the blood of the Lord." – I Corinthians 11:27

2. Confessing my sins

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

3. Recommitment

"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

4. Restoring relationships

"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 to your brother; then come and offer your gift." – Matthew 5:23-24

IV. WHEN & 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 appropriate to observe it at an evening service. The Lord's Supper is observed at planned times in worship services, usually monthly. The date is normally printed in our bulletin and newsletter the week before and the day of our observance of The Lord's Supper.

Normally we observe the Lord's Supper monthly – one Sunday morning, one Sunday evening, and one Wednesday evening each quarter of the year.

SESSION TWO: Delaney Street Statements & Strategy

Who are we trying to reach?

"... Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him." -- I Corinthians 9:22

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

■ *Read statement*

The purpose of our church is summarized in a single sentence based on two key

Scriptures:

**"WE BELIEVE A GREAT COMMITMENT TO THE GREAT
_____ AND THE GREAT
_____ WILL GROW A GREAT CHURCH!"**

The Great Commandment: *"Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart ...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.'" – Matthew 22:36-40*

The Great Commission: *"Jesus said, '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 yourself" is "MINISTRY."
- To "go...make disciples" is "EVANGELISM."
- To "baptize..." is to incorporate into "FELLOWSHIP."
- To "teach them...all things" is "DISCIPLESHIP."

DELANEY STREET BAPTIST CHURCH EXISTS:

1. To _____ GOD'S PRESENCE (worship)
2. To _____ GOD'S LOVE (ministry)

3. To _____ GOD'S WORD (evangelism)
4. To _____ GOD'S FAMILY (fellowship)
5. To _____ GOD'S PEOPLE (discipleship)

1. We exist to celebrate God's presence – WORSHIP

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." – Matt. 4:10

"...The Father seeks worshipers...and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth." – John 4:23-24

Expressions of Worship

- Singing (Ephesians 5:19)
- Commitment (Romans 12:1-2)
- Praying (Psalm 95:6)
- Hearing the Word (John 17:17)
- Giving (I Corinthians 16:1-2)
- Baptism (Acts 8:36-38)
- Meditating (Philippians 4:8)
- Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Delaney Street Worship Style

"Celebration"

Psalm 122:1

"Inspiration"

Isaiah 40:31

"Preparation"

Ephesians 4:11-12

2. We exist to communicate God's Word – EVANGELISM

"His intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..." – Ephesians 3:10

"Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But who can ask them to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And can they hear about Him unless someone tells him?" – Romans 10:13-14

Why Our Church Must Never Stop Growing

A. BECAUSE God loves _____.

"The Lord... is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but wants everyone to come to repentance." – II Peter 3:9 (II Cor. 5:14; Luke 15:3-10; Matt. 9:12-13)

B. BECAUSE God _____ it.

"Go out into the country... and urge anyone you can find to come in, so that My House will be full." – Luke 14:23

"... You will be My witnesses..." – Acts 1:8

C. BECAUSE growth is God's _____.

"Under Christ's control, the whole Body is nourished... and grows and God wants it to grow." – Col. 2:19

"(Jesus said), I will build my church." – Matthew 16:18

Unbiblical excuses for not growing:

- "God isn't interested in numbers."
- "Our church wants quality, not quantity."
- "Large churches are impersonal."

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

"And the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and THEN the end will come." – Matthew 24:14

3. We exist to educate God's people -- DISCIPLESHIP

The heartbeat of Delaney Street is our ministry groups. Every member needs to be a part of a ministry group.

"Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity." – Heb. 6:1

"Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." – II Peter 3:18

"(God has given)... some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all... become mature... like Christ." – Ephesians 4:11-13

4. We exist to demonstrate God's love -- MINISTRY

"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples – that you have love for one another." – John 13:35 (I John 3:16-17; Matthew 25:34-40; Heb. 13:16; Romans 12:13)

"Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of services to God (ministry)...All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it." – I Corinthians 12:4-5, 27

At Delaney Street...

Every member is a: _____

Every task is: _____

Every member is an important in: _____ eyes.

Ministry

S – Spiritual Gift

H – Heart

A – Abilities

P – Personality

E – Experience

PREAMBLE TO OUR CONSTITUTION

CHURCH COVENANT

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

What we believe...

➤ In essential beliefs – we have unity.

"There is one body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all." – Ephesians 4:4-6

➤ In non-essential beliefs – we have liberty.

"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

➤ **In all our beliefs – we show charity.**

“...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains – but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.” – I Corinthians 13:2

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

1. 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; I Peter 1:2; II Cor. 13:14

2. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the 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 1:23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; Hebrews 4:14-15; I Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; I Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13

3. 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 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.

II Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; I Cor. 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18; Galatians 5:25;

4. ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to 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 living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

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

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 that separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

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

6. 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.

Romans 6:23, 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26

7. ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you 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 10:28-29; II Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10, 14; I Peter 1:3-5

8. 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; I John 2:25, 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; Matthew 25:46

OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT – *What we practice*

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 sole authority

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right.” – II Timothy 3:15

Since God’s Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is “What does the Bible say?” We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

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

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control. In relating to our “daughter churches” that we sponsor, we encourage each congregation to determine its own strategy, structure, and style.

Priesthood of every believer

“Christ loves us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God...” – Revelation 1:6

“You are...the King’s priests... God’s own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God.” – I Peter 2:9

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by

encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

Tithing

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

At Delaney Street 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.

Immersion

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

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

Spirit-led living

(Jesus said) “I 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.” – I John 15:5

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God’s power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God’s Spirit to enable us to do what is right. (Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 5:18)

Telling others about Christ

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” – I Peter 3:15

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings us into contact with. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

(Paul) “I have been all things to all sorts of people that by every possible means I might win some to God. I do all of this for the sake of the Gospel.” – I Cor. 9:22-23

Who are we trying to reach?

“... Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.” – I Cor. 9:22

Five Levels of Commitment

Core Members & Leaders

Committed – Maturing Members

Congregation – Members

Crowd – Regular Attenders

Community – Unchurched

Our church's objective is to keep people moving toward the top by encouraging personal and spiritual commitments. Specifically, we call people to four basic commitments:

1. MEMBERSHIP COVENANT – is a commitment to _____ and the Delaney Street family. (*Eph. 2:19; Rom. 12:4-5*)
2. MATURITY COVENANT – is a commitment to the _____ necessary for spiritual growth. (*II Peter 3:18; I Timothy 4:7*)
3. MINISTRY COVENANT – is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in _____ God and others. (*I Peter 4:10; I Cor. 12:5, 27*)
4. MISSIONS COVENANT – is a commitment to _____ the Gospel with others. (*Acts 1:8; I Peter 3:15*)

Why use the term “covenant”?

We become that to which we are _____.

Areas of Ministry that Enable Our Church to Go Forward

Biblical Preaching – I Corinthians 1:17-25

Worship & Celebration – Ephesians 5:18-21

Children's Ministry – Luke 18:15-17

Bible Study – Acts 2:42

Youth Ministry – II Timothy 1:3-7

Missions Support & Trips – Acts 13:46-49

Business & Administration – I Corinthians 14:40

SESSION THREE – The Delaney Street Structure

“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace... Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” – I Cor. 14:33-40

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE

1. The church is a _____.

“They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the following...” – Acts 2:42

Top priorities in a fellowship are _____ and _____.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” – Eph. 4:3

“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.” – Romans 14:19

“May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know You have sent Me, and loved them as You have loved Me.” – John 17:23b

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Col. 3:7-15, 2:2, 3:13-14; I Cor. 1:10, 14:33; II Cor. 13:11; II Tim. 2:14, 2:33; Proverbs 17:14; Phil. 1:27, 4:2; I Pet. 3:8; John 13:34-35; Rom. 15:5-6, 12:16-18; Ps. 133:1

**IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND
DOWNPLAYS _____.**

“(Often)...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you...” – I Cor. 11:17-18

2. The church is a _____.

“You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” – I Peter 3:8

Gal. 6:10; Heb. 2:10-12; I Peter 4:17

“(A pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?” – I Timothy 3:4-5

3. The church is a _____.

I Cor. 12:27; Eph. 5:23, 1:22-23; Col. 1:18, 2:19

*“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. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us.”
– Romans 12:4-6*

AT DELANEY STREET OUR STRUCTURAL GOAL IS TO ENABLE US TO
MAXIMIZE _____ & MINIMIZE MAINTENANCE.

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

OUR STRUCTURE

- **Pastor led**
- **Deacon served**
- **Committee organized**
- **Congregation ruled**

4. The church is a _____.

John 10:1-30; Matthew 25:33, 26:31

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 21:16-17 (I Pet. 5:1-2; Acts 20:17-18; Titus 1:5-7; I Tim. 5:17)

OUR AFFILIATION

Greater Orlando Baptist Association.

Florida Baptist Convention

Southern Baptist Convention

What is the Southern Baptist Convention?

- It is the largest association of Christian churches in America.
- It is one of the most diverse association of churches.
- It is one of the fastest growing groups.

Why not just be an independent church?

We are an independent church:

- Every SBC church chooses its own pastor
- Every SBC church owns its own buildings and assets
- Every SBC church determines its own programs
- Every SBC church decides how it will disperse its money

What are the advantages of affiliating with the SBC?

1. It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made "creed." The Bible is our only authority.
2. It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. Through the SBC "Cooperative Program" we help support nearly 10,000 missionaries in almost every country of the world.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between "attenders" and members can be summed up in one word:

At Delaney Street we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for 4 reasons:

A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

"...Christ loved the church, and He gave His life for it." – Eph. 5:25

A Cultural Reason: It is an antidote to our society.

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of "church shoppers and hoppers." To become a member is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted upon.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business must have a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes seriously citizenship, census and voter registration. Church membership identifies our family.

A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At Delaney Street we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant.

Delaney Street Baptist Church wants to be a caring, healthy, racially diverse community willing to change and take bold risks to spread the message of Christ locally and to the world.

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

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

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

- > By acting in love toward other members
- > By refusing to gossip and resolving conflicts using Matthew 18:15-17
- > By following the leaders

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together." – Romans 15:19

"Live in complete harmony with each other – each with the attitude of Christ toward each other." – Romans 15:5

"Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts." – I Peter 1:22

"Do not let unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..." – Ephesians 4:29

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you." – Hebrews 13:17

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 you & pray for you constantly." – I Thess. 1:2

"Go out into the hill country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full." – Luke 14:23

“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” – Romans 15:7

3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

- > By discovering and using my gifts and talents
- > By being equipped to serve with my pastors
- > By developing a servant’s heart

“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you...” – I Pet. 4:10

“God gave... some to be 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

“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 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
- > By living a growing and godly life
- > By giving regularly

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

“But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ.” – Philippians 1:27

“Each of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering.” – I Cor. 16:2

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

“Bring all the tithes, into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my temple. If you do, says the Lord Almighty, I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you!” – Malachi 3:10

Thank you for your time and attention during Connecting 101 Membership Class

You have started a fantastic journey here with Delaney Street. After prayerful consideration of your commitment and membership, don't lose the momentum!

#

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour (John 1:11-12; John 3:16; Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 10:9-10), and on the profession of our faith having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels (1 Tim. 5:21), and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ (Eph. 1:23; 4:4; 5:30).

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26),

- to study the Bible (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Tim. 2:15);
- to walk together in Christian love (John 13:34-35);
- to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort (2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 4:16; 2 Peter 3:11; Phil. 1:27);
- to promote prosperity and spirituality (2 Peter 1:5-10);
- to sustain worship (Heb. 10:25), ordinances (1 Cor. 11:23-29, Matt. 28:19), discipline (1 Cor. 5:1-13; Matt. 18:17; Rom. 16:17) and doctrines (2 Tim. 3:16);
- to contribute cheerfully and regularly as God hath prospered us (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:5; 2 Cor. 9:6-8), support the ministry (1 Cor. 9:13-14), the expenses of the Church, the relief of the Church, the relief of the poor (2 Cor. 8 and 9), and the spread of the Gospel through all nations (Acts 1:8).

We also engage

- to maintain family and private devotions (Matt. 6:6; 2 Tim. 3:14-15);
- to religiously educate our children (Deut. 6:4-7);
- to safeguard and preserve the sanctity of human life (Psalms 22: 9-10);
- to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances (Acts 10:24-33);
- to walk circumspectly in the world (Eph. 5:15);
- to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment (1 Peter 2:11- Phil. 2:14-15);
- to avoid all tattling, backbiting (James 3:10) and excessive anger (Eph. 4:3);
- to oppose all forms of pornography and its spread;
- to abstain from the sale and use of addictive drugs for other than medicinal purposes, and from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage (Eph. 5:18; Hab. 2:15); and
- to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour (1 Cor. 15:58; Matt. 5:16; Titus 2:14).

We further engage

- to watch over one another in brotherly love (1 Peter 1:22; Rom. 12:10);
- to remember one another in prayer (James 5:16);
- to aid each other in sickness and distress (Gal. 6:21; James 2:14-16; 1 John 3:16-18);
- to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech (1 Peter 3:8; Col. 4:6);
- to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation (Eph. 4:32), and mindful of the rules of our Saviour and to secure reconciliation without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church (Acts 2:40,42,47; Acts 18:27-28; Heb. 10:24-25), where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

DELANEY STREET BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY

Delaney Street Baptist Church began as a mission of Orlando First Baptist Church in November of 1923. The first meetings were held in a tent on the corner of Esther Street and Orange Avenue. The mission began with nine teachers and twenty-five pupils. On September 14, 1928, Delaney Street Baptist Church was constituted with thirty-six charter members.

Under the leadership of the first Pastor, Dr. T. E. Waldrup, the church grew to a membership of 168 in seven years. Eighty of these members were received into the church by believer's baptism. The sanctuary was moved to Delaney Street during these years and has been at this location since the early days of ministry.

The Church has grown consistently through the years with an emphasis on missions, evangelism, discipleship, and fellowship. In addition to these areas, Delaney Street Baptist Church is interested in the individual and personal needs of its members. Three of the Southern Baptist Churches in the Orlando area are the result of the ministry of Delaney. Dover Shores Baptist, Eastside Baptist, and Southside Baptist Churches were begun by Delaney Street Baptist. Another mission church is now established on the west side of Orlando with hopes of becoming a self-supporting church within the next few years. A number of ministers have been called out of our church who now serve as pastors and missionaries across the world. Millions of dollars have been given to support various mission endeavors during the history of the church. Over the past sixty years, Delaney Street Baptist Church has faithfully proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ to Orlando and beyond. Delaney works cooperatively as a member of the Greater Orlando Baptist Association, the Florida Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

THE DELANEY STREET BAPTIST CHURCH OF
ORLANDO, FLORIDA, INC.
ORLANDO, ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

PREAMBLE

The Delaney Street Baptist Church of Orlando, Florida, Inc., is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and accepts the statements of "The Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963; HOWEVER, God's Word as revealed in the Holy Bible is the sole authority in matters of faith and practice. The two ordinances observed by the Church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The government of this Church is vested in the body of believers who compose it, with each member equal in rights and privileges. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but recognizes the stewardship of mutual counsel and cooperation in autonomy with Southern Baptist Churches and other Churches of the Christian faith. The Church is organized for winning the lost to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord; to accomplish the primary functions of worship, proclamation, education and training, and ministry, and to seek to maintain a regenerate church membership constantly emphasizing the need for personal witnessing in work and life, and challenging each member to a life separated from the world.

