

Connection Point

INFORMATION

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ E-Mail (spouse): _____

Sex: ___ Male ___ Female Birth Date: ___/___/___

Marital Status: ___ Single ___ Married ___ Widowed ___ Divorced

FAMILY INFORMATION

Spouse's name: _____ Birth Date: ___/___/___

Does your spouse attend **Living Hope Church**? _____

Children:

First & Last Name	Date of Birth	Live with you?	Attend?	Male/Female
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

MINISTRY INFORMATION

Dream Team areas in which you would like to receive more information:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communion | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dream Team Serve | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio/Video Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Usher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Impressions | <input type="checkbox"/> Small group leadership | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeters | <input type="checkbox"/> Kids Check-in | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kids | <input type="checkbox"/> International Missions | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool/Nursery | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Team | |

INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO CONNECTION POINT!

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about [Living Hope Church](#)! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this class is designed to clearly explain who we are and what we believe.

As a community of faith we want our actions and activities to be purposeful. It is too easy to become busy with religious activities and forget God in the process. We want to learn how to love God, others, and ourselves in the way He intended. Below you will see our mission, purpose, and values that are used to keep us on track.

It is our **purpose** to introduce our city, community, and surrounding area to a growing relationship with Jesus as we **gather, grow, and go**.

Gather (Loving God)- The Bible teaches us to come together to pray, to worship, and to encourage one another. Each Sunday, we create an environment where people can experience God in a real way through passionate worship and practical teaching. At Living Hope Church, Worship Gatherings are a time for people to celebrate the greatness of God in a corporate setting.

Grow (Loving Others)- Life change happens best through relationships. We're passionate about providing opportunities outside of Worship Gatherings for fostering community. Life Groups meet regularly and serve as welcoming environments for people to further develop their relationship with Jesus and others. We strongly encourage people to move to a deeper level by getting plugged in to a Life Group.

Grow (Growth Track)- Our goal is to be a catalyst to help people become fully-devoted followers of Jesus and to discover their identity in Him. At Living Hope Church, Growth Track helps believers discover their gifts, walk out their faith, and use their unique gifts for ministry.

Go (Serving our City, Nation, and World)- We are passionate about reaching people who are far from God and helping them find new life in Christ. It is our desire to invite all people to experience the life-changing message of Jesus. At Living Hope Church, Go provides regular opportunities for people to use their gifts to spread the Gospel and make a difference locally, nationally, and globally.

THE BASICS 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 us to be a _____ of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is an _____.

PART ONE:

OUR PURPOSE

“Let there be real harmony among you so there won’t be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT: WHY WE EXIST AS A CHURCH

The purpose statement of **Living Hope Church** is derived from the final words of Jesus to His followers. These words are known as the Great Commission.

Living Hope Church exists to reach people with the life-giving message of Jesus that they might become fully devoted followers of Christ.

THE GREAT COMMISSION:

“He said unto them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe...’ Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.”

Mark 16:15-20

“He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.”

Colossians 1:28-29

1. “He is the one we proclaim” is _____.

2. “Admonishing” is _____.

3. “Teaching everyone” is _____.

4. “Present everyone fully mature” is _____.

I. WE PROCLAIM – _____.

“His intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known. ”

Ephesians 3:10

SUNDAY GATHERINGS

A. _____

“I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord.”

Psalm 122:1

“...the Father seeks worshippers... and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

John 4:23-24

B. _____

“But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in...he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, ‘God is really among you!’”

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

C. _____

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

Ephesians 4:11-12

D. _____

“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 how can they hear about him unless someone tells him?”

Romans 10:13-14 (LB)

HOW TO LEAD PEOPLE TO CHRIST:

1. Accept the personal _____ .
2. Build a personal _____ .
3. Share your personal _____ .
4. Give a personal _____ .

POINTS OF PASSION

“You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

1. Jerusalem – My City.

“Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight. ”

James 1:27 Message

2. Judea and Samaria – My Nation.

“Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.”

1 Corinthians 9:22 LB

3. The ends of the earth – My World.

Jesus said to His followers, "Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone."

Mark 16:15 NCV

WHAT CAN I DO?

1. _____.

"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

Matthew 9:37-38

2. _____.

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' He said, 'Go, and tell this people...'"

Isaiah 6:8-9

3. _____.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21

II. ADMONISHING – _____.

A part of getting connected at **Living Hope Church** means participating in a life group. Some people enjoy a large church because of its focus on others while others want a small, intimate church.

We believe that our church must become larger and smaller at the same time.

"You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house."

Acts 20:20

SMALL GROUPS PROVIDE THREE THINGS:

1. A place to _____.

"...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."

1 Corinthians 9:22 LB

2. A place to _____ .

“We know what real love is because Christ gave up His life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters.”

1 John 3:16 NLT

3. A place to _____ .

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

Proverbs 27:17

HOW SMALL GROUPS WORK

1. Free market groups

Our groups are varied as we are; group leaders use their gifts and passions to create a group that allows others to join with them in serving God. Whatever the age, interest, or location there is a group that is just right for you.

2. Three semesters

New groups start and stop three times a year—spring, summer and fall semesters. Each semester is kicked off with a registration and a new small group directory.

3. Becoming a leader

We believe that everyone has areas of strength and gifting that could benefit others. The first step in becoming a small group leader is to attend the Small Group Leader Orientation. These classes are offered throughout the year to give you an overview of what it takes to start a group.

III. TEACHING EVERYONE – _____.

Living Hope Church Growth Track offers the information and experiences necessary to develop you into a fully devoted follower of Christ. From the initial decision to accept Jesus as your Lord to your final destination in ministry, Growth Track will lead you through a step-by-step process of healing, growth, and leadership.

“Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity ..”

Hebrews 6:1

GROWTH TRACK

101 _____.

Outlines the essential habits that every believer needs to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ.

201 _____.

Helps you discover your personality, gifts, and purpose in life, and see how God combines them for the best fit in ministry.

IV. PRESENT EVERYONE FULLY MATURE – _____.

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly father is perfect.”

Matthew 5:48

All of us were created by God to make a difference in the life of another person. God has a place for you where your unique abilities and passions can touch the lives of others. We believe that your life will never make sense until you find, develop, and fulfill that purpose.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:10

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me.”

Acts 20:24

Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of service 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.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27 (LB)

AT LIVING HOPE CHURCH...

...every member is a _____.

...every task is _____.

...every member is a “10” in _____.

JOINING THE DREAM TEAM

1. Complete The Growth Track

2. Training

Learn the roles and responsibilities of being a team member of the Dream team area you are choosing.

PART TWO:

OUR BELIEFS

“Watch your life and your doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

1 Timothy 4:16

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH: WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. 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

2. 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

3. 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.”

1. Corinthians 13:2 (Ph)

I. FOUR ESSENTIAL TRUTHS

1. The _____ is the Word of God.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.”

2. Timothy 3:16 NLT

“We also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men, but actually as it is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe.”

1. Thessalonians 2:13

God’s Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority and 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 and Bible study. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

2. _____ is the Son of God.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6

"For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, 'The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them."

Acts 4:11-12 NLT

Jesus Christ, second Person of the Trinity, lived a sinless life on earth and voluntarily paid for our sin by dying on the cross as our substitute. This accomplished salvation for all who receive grace by trusting in Him alone. He rose from the dead and is the only mediator between God and us. He baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit and will return to earth to consummate history.

3. You must be _____ .

"When anyone becomes a Christian he becomes a new person inside. The old passes away, a new life has begun."

2. Corinthians 5:17 LB

Jesus: "If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life."

Matthew 16:25 NLT

God created humans to have fellowship with Him, but they defied God by sinfully going their own way. As a result, we need God's saving grace to end our alienation from Him. Salvation comes only through God's grace - not human effort - and must be received personally by repentance and faith. At the end, everyone will experience bodily resurrection and the judgment. Only believers will enjoy eternal fellowship with God.

4. Believers can be _____ and _____ .

"...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. "

Acts 1:8

"...be filled with the Holy Spirit"

Ephesians 5:18

"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 11:13

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. Every believer can be filled with the Holy Spirit by simply asking. We seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right.

PART THREE:

OUR STRUCTURE

*“For God is not a God of disorder; but of peace...
Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”*

1 Corinthians 14:33 & 40

LIVING HOPE CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Believers who invest their hearts, time, families and finances in the building of a local church deserve to have confidence in church leadership. People are looking for leaders who conduct themselves with integrity and respect when making decisions that affect their lives.

1. GUIDED BY _____

The pastoral staff team is led by the Lead Pastor. This team oversees the day to day ministry and operations of the church. These staff pastors serve the congregation and are responsible for the development of the spiritual life of the church.

All pastoral staff are responsible to model a Godly lifestyle, provide a prayer shield for the members, defend and protect the integrity of the church, pray for the sick, mediate disputes, counsel, and represent the church to the community.

2. PROTECTED BY _____

The Elders are six members of the congregation, appointed by the Lead Pastor and are responsible for personal holiness and the care, oversight, and spiritual leadership of Living Hope under the direction of the Lead Pastor. They also assist in overseeing the finances and directing the provision of the physical facilities needed by the church. They provide counsel to the Lead Pastor regarding the major financial commitments of the church.

LIVING HOPE ELDERS: Mike and Pattie Oldham, Sean and Lydia Gruber, Robert and Marcelle James

3. STRENGTHENED BY _____ .

The Overseer is appointed by the Church of God over the Delmarva-DC region. The overseer loves **Living Hope Church** and its pastor and provides spiritual protection to the church.

DELMARVA-DC OVERSEER: Pastor Stan Holder

4. CHURCH FINANCES

“A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.”

Leviticus 27:30

At **Living Hope Church** 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.

Many people love to give to God, but need to have confidence in the methods and purposes used by organizations to which they give. Therefore there are a great number of people willing to give if they are able to see honesty, integrity, and genuine spiritual values reflected in the lifestyles of their church leaders.

The giving of tithes and offerings is worship to Jesus Christ and is an expression of the relationship between the individual giver and the Lord. That is why we don’t have people fill out pledge cards or make faith promises. Funds are not “income only,” they are worship, and must not be considered as a business transaction, but as an expression of gratitude toward God.

PART FOUR:

OUR HOPE FOR YOU

“...We hope that your faith will grow and that our work among you will be greatly enlarged.”

2 Corinthians 10:15 NLT

OUR HOPE FOR YOU

I. THE NEXT STEPS

1. Join a Small Group.
2. Complete Growth Track.
3. Serve on the Dream Team.

II. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

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

_____.

An Attender is a _____.

A Member is a _____.

At [Living Hope Church](#) we recognize the need for membership. We ask you to commit to membership for 4 reasons:

1. A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

“ Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it.”

Ephesians 5:25

2. 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”. Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

3. A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted on.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

4. 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.

III. LIVING HOPE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and being in agreement with the values and ideas presented in Connection Point, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the **Living Hope 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

...By following the leaders

“So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.”

Romans 14:19 (Ph)

“Live in complete harmony with each other each with the attitude of Christ toward each other.”

Romans 15:5 (LB)

“Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts.”

1 Peter 1:22 (GN)

“Do not let any 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 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 and pray for you constantly.”

1 Thessalonians 1:2

“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full.”

Luke 14:23 (LB)

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

Romans 15:7 (LB)

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

...By discovering my gifts and talents

...By being equipped to serve by my pastors

...By developing a servant's heart

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you..."

1 Peter 4:10 (Ph)

"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 that of 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 gatherings and small groups faithfully

...By living a godly life

...By giving regularly

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Acts 2:42

"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 (Ph)

"Each one 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."

1. Corinthians 16:2

"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy."

Leviticus 27:30