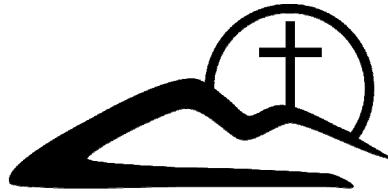


Discovering Valley Community Chapel Part 1



Valley Community Chapel

Welcome To Discovering Valley Community Chapel

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Valley Community Chapel! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is.

Discovering Valley Community Chapel is divided in two sessions of an hour each.

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." Eph. 2:19

Key Truths:

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

The Goal Of This Class

That I will commit myself to _____ and to the _____

What Makes Valley Community Chapel 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 and where we fulfill our purpose)

Session One

The Valley Community Chapel Strategy & Structure

*“...I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.
Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.”
1 Corinthians 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.” 1 Cor. 9:22

Circles of Commitment



Valley Community Chapel’s objective is to keep moving people toward the center by encouraging personal spiritual commitments. Specifically, we call people to four basic commitments:

The Four VCC Covenants:

1. The Membership Covenant...

is a commitment to _____ and _____

“You are members of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” Eph. 2:19

“We are all parts of Christ’s Body, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and need all the others.” Rom. 12:4-5

2. The Maturity Covenant...

is a commitment to the _____ necessary for spiritual growth?

*“Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
2 Peter 3:18*

“Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.” 1 Tim. 4:7

3. The Ministry Covenant...

is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in
_____ God and others.

“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other...” 1 Pet. 4:10

“There are different kinds of service to God...together you form the Body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it.” 1 Cor. 12:5,27 (LB)

4. The Missions Covenant...

is a commitment to _____ the Good News with others.

"...you will be my witnesses for me...to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect..." 1 Peter 3:15

Why do we have these covenants?

We Become What We Are _____

The Valley Community Strategy

9 Principles That Make Our Church Unique:

1. _____ groups
(Acts 5:42)
2. Driven by _____
(Matt. 22:36-40 & 28:19-20)
3. _____ target
(Colossians 4:5)
4. Life _____ process
(Ephesians 4:13-15)
5. Every member a _____
(Romans 12:5-6)
6. _____ preaching
(James 1:22)
7. _____ leadership
(Hebrews 13:7)
8. Climate of _____
(Romans 15:7)
9. Keep the structure _____
(Luke 5:37)

The Valley Community Chapel

Structure

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

1 Cor. 14:33,4

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 fellowship...” Acts 2:42

**A top priority in a fellowship is_____ 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.” Rom. 14:19 (Ph)

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

*Col. 3:15, 1 Cor. 1:10, 2 Tim. 2:14, Pr. 17:14, 2 Cor. 13:11,
Phil. 1:27, 2:1-3, Col. 2:2, Phil. 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Cor. 14:33,
John 13:34-35, 2 Tim. 2:23, Rom. 15:5-6, Rom. 12:16-18,
Col. 3:13-14, 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...” 1 Cor. 11:17-18*

“Voting” tends to_____

At Valley Community Chapel, we only vote on:

- **Purchase of land or buildings**
- **Calling the senior pastor**

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.” 1 Peter 3:8 (LB)*

Gal. 6:10, Heb. 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

So we operate on the basis of_____
not_____

“Don’t reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a father. Treat the young men as brothers, and the older women as mothers. Treat the younger women as sisters...” 1 Tim. 5:1-2 (Ph)

“(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 family, how can he take care of God’s church?” 1 Tim. 3:4-5

3. The Church Is A _____

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

We are a body — not a business!

We are an organism — not an organization!

Therefore, we function on the basis of _____

not _____

“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.” Rom. 12:4-6

In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

At Valley Community Chapel we have a simple structure so we can maximize _____

and minimize _____

“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

1. The people are the “_____”.
The pastors are the “_____”.
4. The Church Is A_____

(Jesus' favorite description of the church)

John 10:1-30, Matt. 26:31, Matt. 25:33

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

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leaders:

- “POIMEN”
- PRESBUTEROS”
- EPISCOPOS”

“To the elders I say...Be shepherds of God’s flock, serving as overseers...” 1 Pet. 5:1-2

“Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived he said to them... Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be pastors of the church of God...” Acts 20:17-18, 28