



nextsteps class

theporch community church

www.theporch.info

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about The Porch Community Church.

We want you to know what The Porch is all about and what you are getting into. We believe that it is important that you know the history and the vision of The Porch. You need to know why we exist, what we believe, and what we are seeking to accomplish. Furthermore, it is of the utmost importance that each person knows what it means to be a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ. Lastly, we want you to know the commitment that is expected of each "member" of this church. In a day and age when many churches are lowering their standards, we stand apart as a church that remains a high expectation church.

How do I join the church?

How do I become a member?..... You can't! But you can become a porch "(1)_____."

The word "membership" can imply that if you are not a member, you are not a part of our church, which is NOT true. If you are not a partner, you are still welcome to come on Sundays! You are welcome to volunteer. You are welcome to try a group! You are still part of our church. Being a partner is just the highest level of being involved/committed.

There is no membership in the Bible. But the idea of being committed to something *IS* biblical (Acts 2:42). The church is not a club to join. Instead, you are partnering with us in ministry. To be a partner is to become a part of a team, teamPorch, to help others go through the discipleship process. You are saying that you want to partner with us in ministry and committing to make The Porch your home church. This is when you take an active role in the family of God and start doing your part to reach our goal: seeing lives change

Our Sunday morning service, although it will serve as a supplement for growth, it is not the primary source of growth for our partners. The Sunday morning services are for non-believers. One main purpose of the Sunday morning service is so you can be a part of helping someone becoming a follower of Jesus for the first time. You do this by serving, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

A partner is not someone who comes on Sundays....a partner is committed to GATHERING, GROWING, GIVING BACK, and GOING. If you are not able to meet these commitments any more..... then your status will move away from an active partner. This also helps hold each other accountable.

For more details, PLEASE watch the sermon series "I Love Jesus but..." which can be found here: www.theporch.info/tv

What are the benefits of being a partner?

GATHERING – Sunday morning and daily life

- You need healthy relationships- Eccles. 4:9-10
- It helps you to focus on God. It prepares you spiritually and emotionally for the week ahead.
- It identifies you as a genuine believer- Eph 2:219, Rom 12:5
- It places you under the spiritual protections of godly leaders- Heb 12:7, Acts 20:28:29
- It helps you fortify your faith by learning the truth of God’s Word and applying biblical principles to your lifestyle.

GROWING – Growth Group and daily life

- You need a place where you can grow- Act 2:42
- It helps you face life’s problems by providing the support and encouragement of other Christians.
- It provides a spiritual family to support and encourage you in your walk with Christ- Gal 6:1-2, Heb 10:24-25, Eph 2:19
- It gives you the accountability you need to grow- Eph 5:21

GIVING BACK – GG, Sunday and daily life

- You need a place where you can use your gifts- 1 Tim 4:14
- It gives them a place to discover and use their gifts in ministry- 1 Cor 12:4-27

GOING – GG, Sunday and daily life

- You need to belong to something bigger than yourself- Rom 12:4-5, Heb 10:25
- It helps you fulfill your mission of reaching your friends and family for Christ.

3 KEY TRUTHS Regarding Church Partnership:

1. The church is (2) _____ . (Mark 3:35)
2. God expects you to be a (3) _____ of a church family. (Ephesians 2:19)
3. A Christian without a church family is an (4) _____ (John 14:18)

What is our mission?

The vision of The Porch is for Christ to change and keep changing lives through a church that is appealing to the people of today as we **gather** for public praise & preaching, **grow** closer to God & our church family, **give back** to our community & church, and boldly **go** into the world inviting others to follow Jesus! All you need to remember is seeing lives change!!! We want to help people choose to follow and continue following Christ! In other words, we our goal is to make disciples.

Col 1:6⁶This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.

All you need to remember is: (5) _____ | _____ | _____



What is our discipleship process?

Our process is: GATHER, GROW, GIVE BACK, & GO

This is the process to help people move from a non-believer to a fully devoted Christian using the church in Acts 2:1-47 as an example. Each stage is designed to move a person to the next level of maturity and life change. Rather than doing a ton of things “ok,” we want to do a few things (6) _____!



1. (7) _____ - you are empowered by public praise & preaching!

This is the stage that anyone comes to the worship service. In the Sunday morning worship service, the people will have the opportunity to connect with God and with the other people in the service. We gather together to be instructed in the Word of God, fellowship (most of which is done in step 2), worship and serve! Children will also be able to connect to God and others during worship services geared toward them. The youth will have a special weeknight service. People can come to the worship service by hearing about the church or being invited. You can move to the next stage by signing up for a Growth Group on the connection card, at the Growth Group booth or online.

Matt 4:10, Psalms 34:3, Colossians 1:28, Gen 2:18, John 17:21

2. (8) _____ - you are transformed by training & togetherness

This is the stage that a believer or non-believer can meet new people, start relationships and enjoy fellowship. We will not only study and grow, but we will do it together in a small Growth Group. Partners and non-partners can join Growth Groups. Youth will have their own Growth Groups that meet on the same night as their weekday services. Children will have their Growth Group time on Sunday mornings. Each Growth Group will also *play* together and serve the community together once a semester. This will encourage people, along with the preaching, to join the church. You can move to the next stage by attending a partnership class to join the church. You can sign up for this on the connection card, at the connection center or online. growthgroupUNITED is a combined (united) group, so it is a larger group with **no pressure** to talk. It's a **non-threatening, low commitment** chance to grow in your faith and make some new friends! A perfect place to taste test growth group and invite friends!

Eph. 2:19, Eph. 4:12, Matt 28:19-20, Colossians 1:28, 1 Cor. 5:12-13

3. (9) _____ - you are shaped to serve

This is the stage the believer will join the church and start giving back in the ministry they are passionate about and gifted in. Partners will be responsible to serve during the worship service (in alternately shifts) and are encouraged to lead a Growth Group. You will get to the next stage by taking ownership of the church as you are serving and developing the skills and desire to share your faith with others. **Previous sermon videos are available online at www.theporch.info/tv**

John 12:26, Matt. 20:28, John 13:14, John 13:34, Rom 6:13, Rom 14:18

4. (10) _____ - you are made for a mission

This is the final stage and also the mindset of all of the partners. Sharing the Gospel will be considered a lifestyle rather than a step in the process. Once the believer is gathering, growing and giving back, they will be excited to go invite others. This will also include the evangelism team, which will be a Growth Group and any mission work that is to be done or supported. Evangelism will be preached on and encouraged during the Sunday morning service and in small groups. People will be encouraged to invite other people to start the process of life change. Each Growth Group will have GO TIME together once a semester. *Matt 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47-49, John 20:21, Acts 1:8*

Circle of Commitment

Our goal is to help people move from the outside of the circle, to the inside.

- 1- porchPeople (crowd)
- 2 - porchParticipant (congregation)
- 3 – porchPartner (committed)





A disciple is: One who is (11) _____ Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and committed to Jesus' mission to save people from their sin.

"Discipleship requires real teaching and real learning. It requires conversation, modeling, encouragement, debriefing, and practice, all of which need to happen in context of relationship."¹

¹ Jim Putman, "Real-life Discipleship." Pg 22, 32

Who is our Target?

“If you aim at nothing, you’ll hit it every time!”

- Focused light has more power (flashlight vs. laser).
- No radio station plays all styles of music....no one would like it! Instead they choose a specific target to focus on and have a greater impact.
- Jesus had a target. The disciples had targets. Paul had a target.

We have been called to reach the lost, which includes any non-believers. Our Sunday service is for non-believers to connect with God and others. Although the Sunday service will supplement partner’s growth, the main bulk of personal growth should come from Growth Groups, personal Bible disciplines (like daily Bible reading), prayer and fasting.

More specifically, we are going to target people from the ages 16 to 35. This simply means our style/methods will lean more towards that group. For example: louder music, pop/rock worship, a relaxed atmosphere, simple language, fog machines, lights, and power point. Our message will remain the same.

Does this mean we don’t want older people? No way!!!! We need older people who are mature in their faith and have years of wisdom for the church to function. We need them to be willing to and possibly sacrifice some of their preferences in order to reach our target. Our goal is to continue to be “appealing to the people of (12) _____.”

What is Salvation?

Our message that we are called to take to the world is called the Gospel, which means “good news.” Good news is only good because of the bad news.

The Bad News: God is your Judge and you have sinned against Him.

The Gospel: but Jesus died so that sinners may be forgiven of their sins if they will repent and believe in Him.

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. – Rom 3:23-25

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. – John 3:16-18

And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' You are witnesses of all these things.- Luke 24:46-48

What is our Story?

I, Curtis, was raised in Louisburg. I went to a small local church most of my childhood. By the time I was in Louisburg High school I was bored with the church and looked to what the world had to offer. As a result, I was left to figure things out without a community of believers and I got into all sorts of trouble (girls, alcohol, drugs, theft.) As a young man, there was nowhere for me to **gather** and get plugged into a fun and exciting church. There was nowhere to help me **grow** in my relationship with God, support me and hold me accountable. There was nowhere for me to **give back** to God and others. There was no one teaching me how to live or **go** invite others to follow Jesus. I needed something that was biblical, fun and relevant to me! I have since surrendered to Christ as my leader and forgiver and He has changed my life. There *are* many great churches in Louisburg that we have attended but the vision God has given us is different than any other church in town. The people of Louisburg should not have to travel 20+ minutes to find a church that fits them, like I did. God has put an unstoppable passion in my heart to start his church. He has helped me become educated, has prepared me and has given me a Godly wife named Erika to help along the way. Louisburg needs a church for students and adults to connect, grow, serve and share. The Porch Community Church will be a church that is **seeing lives change!** You are now a part of our story!

Who is our Staff?



PASTOR

Pastor Curtis Riley has been in ministry since 2005, including leading worship, creating and leading a college ministry. He has been able to serve as the interim pastor at North Overland Park Baptist Church in 2011.

WORSHIP LEADER

Erika Riley has been leading worship since the age of 12. She attended and graduated from New Life School of Worship in Colorado Spring, CO. Curtis and Erika Riley both graduated from Midwestern Baptist Theological College majoring in "Biblical Studies" in 2011.



AVL COORDINATOR

Matt Mercer has been ready to give back since day 1 at thePorch! His volunteer roles as drummer, AVL tech, youth leader, usher, and whatever else is needed, has lead him to work part-time with AVL. His technical skills help with behind the scenes sets ups and weekly AVL coordination.



CHILDREN'S PASTOR

Pastor Curtis "Lee" Ray has been in ministry since 2002. He has served as Youth Pastor at several different churches over the years. He received his B.S. Degree from Blue Mountain College in the area of Bible with supporting areas in recreation and religious education. He and his wife Lauren have been married since 2011. He has always had a heart to see young people come to the saving knowledge of Jesus and he looks forward to what The Lord is going to do at thePorch!



YOUTH COORDINATOR

Nick Wilson and his family attended and volunteered at thePorch years ago before relocating. God has led them back to thePorch to answer Nick's call to ministry. He has years of experience leading Bible quiz groups and is passionate about teaching young people follow Jesus through relationships. In 2020, he began leading theporchYOUTH on Monday nights!



CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Rachel Mercer started coming to thePorch in 2016. Started attending growth groups and serving very shortly after attending. She graduated with a bachelors of science in Nursing with a minor in Business and Mathematics from Emporia State University in 2013. Rachel has served in the connection center, as a greeter, and thePorchZone. She has been one of our best growth group leader for at least 2 years. She is currently responsible for the church finances and announcements.



SERVICE COORDINATOR

Jenn Novak moved to Louisburg May 2015. Her and her husband Ron and have three kids and have attended thePorch since March 2016! She began serving as greeter, at the connection center, and in peeweePorch. She started leading growth groups and joined the worship team in 2017. She has also been serving on the Leadership team as the Service coordinator. She is currently responsible for coordinating and training all volunteers for Sunday service.

BOARD OF OVERSEERS

- Curtis Riley- Pastor of The Porch Community Church
- Tim Taylor- Pastor of Victory Baptist
- Christian Newsome- Pastor of Journey Church
- Ryan Holt- Pastor of Journey Church
- Aaron Patton- Pastor of Oak Grove Baptist

HEAD/BUILDER

Jesus

SUSTAINER

God- He was, He is, He always will be.

How is our church Organized?

We are a pastor led church. The Board of Overseers holds the pastor accountable. They do not run the church, but rather help with large decisions (land, salaries), hold the pastor accountable, and decide what steps to take in the event the pastor falls into sin. Other positions of leadership will include anyone serving, Growth Group leaders, Team leaders, and other pastors.

What is our Future?

We know it is God's will for the Church to grow. We hope to reach 150 partners by 2022 and to change the spiritual climate of Louisburg!

Ultimately, we want to see 1,000 people whose lives have been changed through The Porch!

We plan to build an addition that will seat close to 500. The fund is called the porchProject 2.0!

We want to plant another site in the future to help reach more of the lost!

What are our Affiliations?

The Porch does not claim any specific denomination, because some people have preconceived notions or have had bad experiences in the past with one denomination. But we are being somewhat supported financially by the SBC for the first year of our church. (It's hard to start a church alone!) We also agree with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

We are a Southern Baptist Church and we support the denomination through the various associations:

- THE KANSAS CITY KANSAS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION (KCKBA)

45 local churches in five counties, working together to reach our immediate area for Christ.

- THE KANSAS-NEBRASKA CONVENTION OF SOUTHERN BAPTISTS (KNCSB)
350 churches that fellowship together with the goal of reaching our individual states.
- THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION (SBC)

45,000 churches cooperating together in a worldwide effort of missions.

What is the Southern Baptist Convention?

- It is the largest association of Christian churches in America.

One out of every 10 churches in America is affiliated with SBC.

(45,000 churches and 16 million members – more than other denominations combined)

- It is the most diverse association of churches.

SBC churches include every race, nationality, and ethnic groups. Each Sunday, services are held in over 80 languages in the U.S. One out of every three black churches in the U.S. is Southern Baptist.

- It is one of the fastest growing groups.

The SBC baptizes over 1,000 new Christians a day in the U.S. and baptizes 500,000 a year internationally.

Why not be an independent church?

We are an independent church! Every SBC church is completely (13)_____. There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there is in most other denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs. For example:

- Every SBC church chooses its own pastor
- Every SBC church owns its own buildings and assets
- Every SBC church determines its own programs

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 “(14)_____”. 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 over 5,000 missionaries in 104 countries around the world.

At The Porch we give to and participate in the following organizations:

KANSAS-NEBRASKA CONVENTION OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST
KANSAS CITY KANSAS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM - NAMB

What are our Values?

THE BASICS

The Porch is driven by seeing lives change. We want to do this by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. Our values are shaped by these two things. We are not in the business of asking, "How far we can go before we have sinned?" Instead, we choose to set up some guardrails to avoid sin!

Great (15) _____ -

We want to win disciples and teach them to follow/obey Christ!

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” - Matt 28:9-20

Great (16) _____ -

We want to intentionally love God and others the best we can! We love sinners but hate sin.

Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ - Matt 22:37-39

Sanctification -

God's will for us is to grow in Christ-likeness.

So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. - Heb 6:1

Sex, Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco -

Our bodies are the Temple of God, we want to be holy because He is holy, we do not want to cause others to sin, and our lives should be a light to the world as we (17) _____

_____! **As with anything questionable, we should avoid these things and remain pure. Also, our bodies are to be treated as the temple of God.**

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. - Phil 1:27

(Also see 1 Cor 6:18-20, Rom 14:13, Rom 14:23, 1 Pet 1:15, Matt 5:14, Rom 13:13)

Serving -

Even Jesus came to serve! (see [vision](#))

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many. - Matt 20:28

Fellowship -

We need each other! (see [vision](#))

I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. - John 17:21

Be Happy -

Christians have more reason to be happy than anyone else! Eternal life!

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! - Psalms 32:1-2

Be Nice -

We want to create a warm and accepting environment for those visiting!

But—“When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. - Titus 3:5

THE HOT TOPICS

Abortion -

Abortion is wrong! Just like any other sin, you can be forgiven through repentance and faith in Jesus.

“I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.” - Jer 1:5, Ex 20:13

Marriage -

Marriage is for one man and one woman. Any sex outside of marriage is sin. Divorce is not God's desire but permitted in cases of adultery.

But 'God made them male and female' from the beginning of creation. 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together."- Mark 10:6-9 ([see beliefs](#))

Homosexuality -

Homosexuality not God's design for sex and is a sin. Just like any other sin, you can be forgiven through repentance and faith in Jesus.

"Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin." - Lev 18:22

Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. - 1 Cor 6:9-10

Politics -

We are focused on seeing lives change by people choosing to follow and continuing to follow Christ. Although there are good causes to stand for, we will not take a political stance as of now.

End Times -

We realized we are not the planning committee for the return of Christ, but the welcome committee! Rather than try to figure out when Christ will return, our focus is to help the lost be found before He comes.

However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. - Mark 13:32

Baptism of the Spirit -

At the moment of belief or conversion, the believer is "indwelled" permanently with the Holy Spirit. Throughout our lives we are commanded to be "filled with" or surrendered to the Spirit. We do not believe in baptism of the Spirit as a second, post-conversion event. ([see beliefs on salvation/baptism](#))

But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. - 1 Cor 12:13

Gifts of the Spirit -

The Spirit gives every believer certain gifts in order to build God's church and kingdom! Each gift should be used in the proper time/place, in an orderly manner and should strengthen the church! Speaking in tongues should not be done in public without a translator.

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. - 1 Cor 12:7, 14:19, 12:33

Women Pastors -

Men and women are created equal and have different roles. Women can be used in ministry, lead small groups and even teach! Women are not to be Pastors.

I do not let women teach men or have authority over them. Let them listen quietly. For God made Adam first, and afterward he made Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived by Satan. The woman was deceived, and sin was the result. - 1 Tim 2:12-14

Creation/Evolution -

Nothing "just happened." God created it all. He created man and woman (not as apes but men).
*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.- Gen 1:1, 26*

The Problem of Evil -

God has allowed evil to provide a choice. God can bring good even out of evil events.
And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. - Rom 8:28
Then Job replied to the LORD: "I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. You asked, 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?' It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. - Job 42:1-3

What do we Believe?

Bible -

God wrote a book – The Bible is God's Word to all people. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because it was inspired by God, the Bible is truth without any mixture of (18) _____ and is completely relevant to our daily lives.
(Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Psalms 119:11, 89, 105; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 22:29; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 3:16)

Trinity -

God: three in one – God has existed in relationship with Himself for all eternity. He exists as one substance in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Although each member of the Trinity serves different functions, they each possess equal power and authority. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 61:1; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 1:35; John 5:21-23; 14:10, 16; Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:8-10; James 2:19)

The Father -

God is great, God is good – God is great: He is all powerful, all knowing, ever present, unchanging, completely worthy of our trust, and above all, holy. It is in Him that we live, move and exist. God is good: He is our Father. He is loving, compassionate, and faithful to His people and His promises. (Exodus 3:14; Numbers 23:19; Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; Psalm 11:4-6; Malachi 3:6 John 3:16; 4:24; 5:26; 14:1; Acts 17:28; Romans 3:3-4)

The Son -

God became man – Jesus Christ is completely human, but at the same time completely God. He is the only plan for bringing people who are enemies of God back into a right relationship with God. He lived a perfect life, so that He could be a substitution for us in satisfying God's demands for perfection. He received the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross to satisfy God's wrath. He defeated death in His resurrection so that we could have life. (Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 14:33; 16:16; 28:5-6; Luke 22:70; 24:46-47; John 1:1, 14; 10:30; 11:25-27; 17:1-5; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 8:1-3; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6;

2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Gal 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15; 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 12:2; 13:8; 1 John 4:14-15)

The Holy Spirit –

God is always present – His presence assures us of our relationship with Christ. He guides believers into all truth, and exalts Christ. He convicts people of their sin, God’s righteousness, and the coming judgement. He comforts us, gives us spiritual gifts, and makes us more like Christ. (Genesis 1:2; Psalms 51:11; 139:7 ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Mark 1:10; Lk 1:35; 4:1; 11:13; 12:12; John 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 13:2; Romans 8:9-11, 14-16, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Peter 1:21; Revelation 22:17)

Eternity –

Somewhere forever – Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union 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 (19) _____ places of eternal existence. (John 3:16, 36; Romans 6:23; 1 John 2:25; 5:11-13; Revelation 20:15)

Man –

God’s image bearers – Man is made in the image of God and is the supreme object of His creation. Man was created to have fellowship with God, but became separated in that relationship through sinful disobedience. As a result, man cannot attain a right relationship with God through his own effort. Every human personality is uniquely created, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect and Christian love. (Genesis 1:26-30; 2:7, 18-22; 3; Psalms 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18, 23; 5:6; 6:6; 7:14-25; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19, 21-22; Ephesians 2; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11)

Salvation –

God’s only way – The blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the only way of salvation through the forgiveness of sin. Salvation occurs when people place their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as sufficient payment for their sin. Salvation is a gift from God and it cannot be earned through our own efforts. (Isaiah 1:18; 53:5-6; 55:7; Matthew 1:21; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:12; 3:16, 36; 5:24; 10:9-10; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; Romans 1:16-18; 3:23-25; 5:8-10; 6; 10:9-10, 13; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 9:24-28; Revelation 3:20)

What is a Church?

The Church –

God’s design for community – I am the church. You are the church. We are the church - The church is a local (20) _____ of baptized believers unified through faith in Christ. It is committed to the teachings of Christ, to obeying all of His commands, and it seeks to bring the gospel to the world. The Church works together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ. (Matthew 16:18-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-47; 5:11-14; 13:1-3; 14:23; 16:5; 20:28; 1

Corinthians 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:10-12; 5:22-32; Colossians 1:18; 3:15; 1 Timothy 4:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 21:2-3)

What are the Ordinances of the Church?

At The Porch we have these two church ordinances that are (21) _____ of our salvation.

1. Baptism –

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead.

What We Believe About Baptism / Who Should Be Baptized

Christians believe that the blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the sole basis for the forgiveness of sin. Therefore, salvation occurs only when a person places his or her faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as the sufficient payment for his or her sin.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then you are ready to be baptized. Just like a bride and groom show others their love for one another by wearing wedding bands, your baptism is your opportunity to show others that you have accepted Christ and are now walking with Him.

What Baptism Symbolizes

Baptism is a way of showing others that you have entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ. It symbolizes what took place in your heart at the time of salvation:

- Accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Shared in His death and resurrection, illustrated by going under the water (dead to your old life), then rising again (new life).
- Were symbolically washed clean, and sins were forgiven by His death on the cross.

Because Jesus instructed us to be baptized, baptism is an act of obedience. While it is not necessary for salvation, it demonstrates submission to God. We immerse here at The Porch because we believe Scripture shows that Jesus modeled that for us as the way to publicly acknowledge our faith in Him. Scripture to teach that only professing believers qualify for baptism. Baptism does not make you a believer; rather it shows that you already believe.

Why by immersion?

- Jesus was baptized that way! (Matt 3:16)
- Baptisms in the Bible were immersion. (Acts 8:38)
- The word “baptize” means to (22) _____ under water.

When should I be baptized?

- As soon as you have believed!

2. The Lord's Supper –

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby partners of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. It is time to remember His death and resurrection.

What is the Lord's Supper? (1 Cor 11:23-26)

- It is a sacred act (v 23)
- It is a symbolic reminder (v24) (Not transubstantiation/consubstantiation)
- It is a statement of faith (v 26)

Who should take the Lord's Supper?

Only those who are already _____ and living in obedience to God.

For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself. - 2 Corinthians 11:29

How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?

Therefore whoever eats the bread or 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. 1 Corinthians 11:27-28

By . . .

- **Self-Examination**

Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 11:27

- **Confession of Sins**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

- **Recommitment**

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20

When and how often should we observe the Lord's Supper?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe the Lord's Supper. His words were "as often as you take it, do it in remembrance of me."

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

What does it mean to become a Partner?

The difference between "attenders" and "partners" can be summed up in one word: (23)

At The Porch, we recognize the need for a formal partnership. We ask you to commit to partnership for four reasons:

- A **Biblical** Reason: Christ is committed to the church. ...as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Ephesians 5:23b
- 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, and our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers”. Partnership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.
- 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. Partnership 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 are the requirements for Partnership?

Requirements for Partnership

1. Salvation- you must have accepted Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
2. Baptism- you must have been baptized to proclaim your salvation.
3. Attendance- you must faithfully attend for at least 2 months.
4. Attend and Complete a Next Steps Class, which includes the Partnership Covenant seen below.
5. Growth Groups- Join a Growth Group!!!
6. Start giving back in one of the available positions.
7. Make sure you are not robbing God of the tithe (the first 10% of your income).

What do I do now that I am a Partner?

Become involved in the Process: Gather, Grow, Give back, Go (See covenant below)

- Join a small group
- Start giving back
- Go invite others to follow Jesus
- Start our Bible reading plan

1 Cor 8:5, John 13:34-5, 1 John 3:16

What is growth group?

It’s easy to feel alone in the crowd. We believe the best way to become more like Jesus is through authentic relationships with each other. Growth Groups are where over 50% of church happens!

In Growth Groups, we grow together by building lasting relationships. Get together with people in your community, have a good time with lots of different activities and talk about Jesus.

TYPICAL STUDY:

1. Talk, snack, hang out (15 min)
2. Pray (1 min)
3. Go over curriculum/discuss (45 min)
4. Share prayer requests and pray together (10 min)
5. Optional talk and hang out (15 min)

Our vision is "seeing lives change." The word of God is what changes lives as we read and apply it to our lives together! Be prepared to grow by reading OWNit, listening to the sermon and checking out the group questions before hand.

Each Growth Group will also PARTY, SHARE, & SERVE the community together once a semester.

How can I join a growth group?

Sign up today, on your connection card, or online at theporch.info/gg

Feel free to try any of the groups (even a couple) before you decide to commit!

How can I get involved in Ministry?

Try taking a spiritual gifting test - www.spiritualgiftstest.com or Google

S piritual gifts –	From God for using in ministry (<i>1 Cor 12, Rom 8, Eph 4</i>)
H earth –	Desires, interests, passions
A bilities-	Natural talent
P ersonality-	Introverts/extroverts, thinkers/feelers
E xperiences-	Education, vocations, spiritual/ministry, Painful

Best way to find out your gifting is to just jump in and (24) _____ !

Here is a list of serving opportunities:

Greeters / Ushers (2-4)

– Welcome with a smile and handshake. Hand out bulletins as guests walk in and say goodbye as they leave. - Help guests find a seat before service and help with the offering collection after service.

Next Steps Area (1-2)

– Welcome, inform guests, gather Connection Cards, and hand out T-shirts.

Worship Team

- Use your music abilities to serve during praise/worship.

Sound person

- Run the soundboard during service.

Lights / Powerpoint person

- Run the lights during praise/worship.
- Create the powerpoint slides for worship, run powerpoint during praise/worship and the sermon.

Nursery

- Help watch the babies Sunday mornings.

Peewee Children (2-4)

- Help watch the kiddos from ages 0-3 Sunday mornings.

Porch Kids Leaders & Helpers (2-4)

- Help watch the kiddos from ages 4-8 Sunday mornings.

theporchKIDS growth group Leaders & Helpers (3-6)

- - Help set up and facilitate teamKIDS on Wednesday nights.

preteenPorch Leaders & Helpers (3-6)

- - Help set up and facilitate preteenPorch on Wednesday nights.

Youth Group Leaders & Helpers (3-6)

- - Help set up and facilitate theporchYOUTH on Monday nights @ 7.

Clean up Crew & Maintenance

- Help keep the church building clean between services.

Video team

- Help create video content

Other

- Help out with random things that come up!
- Help create a needed ministry!

What does a typical Sunday look like? (See Schedule and Calendar in Serve Center)

7:30-8	Worship Practice
8:40	Video/Audio Test
8:45/10:15	VIP meeting/Music starts/Slide show
8:58/10:28	2-minute countdown/lights/music
9:00/10:30	1st Worship Song (5 min)
9:05/10:35	Welcome/Announcements (3 min)
9:08/10:38	Worship Set (15 min)
9:23/10:53	Sermon(30 min)
9:53/10:23	Invitation (4 min)
9:57/10:27	Offering/Announcements (3 min)
9:00/10:30	Dismiss/Music & Slide show
9:03/10:33	3 Minute Rule ends

We typically will have worship practice on Sunday morning, which includes lights, powerpoint and sound practice. The doors is always open @ (25)_____

You will be contacted to “experiment” with a position by shadowing for 1 weekend and then give your position a try until you find a position you are comfortable with. **Don’t forget to watch the training video for your position at www.theporch.info/training**

What are the church’s Bylaws?

Bylaws may be found at www.theporch.info/bylaws

Questions/Concerns?

Pastor Curtis Riley
913-749-2699

Erika Riley
913-709-4046

theporch quiz

www.theporch.info

1. Joining The Porch is committing to become a _____ in ministry!
2. The vision/mission/purpose of The Porch is:
_____ | _____ | _____!
3. The discipleship process is:

4. A disciple is: One who is _____ Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and committed to Jesus' mission to save people from their sin.
5. We are an independent church! Every SBC church is completely _____.
6. Our values are shaped by the Great _____ and the Great _____.
7. The _____ is a local community of baptized believers unified through faith in Christ. It is committed to the teachings of Christ, to obeying all of His commands, and it seeks to bring the gospel to the world.
8. The difference between "attenders" and "partners" can be summed up in one word:

9. On Sunday, the church building will be open @ _____
10. Best way to find out your gifting is to just jump in and
_____!

MY NEXT STEPS

- I'd like to start following Jesus for the first time
- I'd like to go public with my faith through Baptism
- I would like to join Growth Group (101, 102, etc.): _____
- I would like to start serving in the ministry of: _____
- I would like to partner with the Porch by connecting, growing, serving AND sharing!

theporch partnership covenant

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

By acting in love toward other partners

By refusing to gossip

By following the leaders

“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.” Rom. 14:19

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart” 1 Pet. 1:22

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” Eph. 4:29

“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” Heb. 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 give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers” 1 Thess. 1:2

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

“Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.” Rom. 15:7

3. I WILL **SERVE THE MINISTRY** OF MY CHURCH

By discovering my gifts and talents

By being equipped to give back by my pastors

By developing a servants heart

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” 1 Pet. 4:10

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” Eph. 4:11-12

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...taking the form of a bondservant.” Phil. 2:3-4, 7

4. I WILL **SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY** OF MY CHURCH

(I recognize the church’s stances against alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and sexual immorality)

By attending faithfully and participating in the “process” of the church

(GATHER – GROW – GIVE BACK – GO)

By living a godly life, causing no one to stumble and avoiding questionable situations

By giving back financially on a regular basis

“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another..” Heb. 10:25

“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” Phil. 1:27

“...decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.” Rom 14:13

“But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.” Rom 14:23

“On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.” 1 Cor. 16:2

“And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s. It is holy to the Lord.” Lev. 27:30

Signature _____ Date _____