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Welcome to
Membership Matters
West Corinth Baptist Church

We are so excited that you are taking steps toward the plan that God has for your life, and we are thankful to be a part of that journey with you!

Our goal for this course is for you to get to know West Corinth better.

Through this class you will learn who we are, what we believe, why we do what we do, and how you can be a part of our family here at WCBC!

If you have any questions at any point throughout this class feel free to ask one of our pastors.

Thank you for your willingness to participate in
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Who We Are

West Corinth Baptist Church

West Corinth Baptist Church

West Corinth Baptist Church was established in 1921 and is a Southern Baptist Church.

Meet Our Pastor

Pastor Seth Kirkland and his wife, Kim, have been serving at WCBC since 2001. Pastor Seth and Mrs. Kim have four children, Allie Grace, Eli, Ella Faith, and Lily Brooke. Pastor Seth is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Pastor Seth serves WCBC as our lead pastor.

Our Staff

We are also blessed with pastors serving in different positions within our church and a host of volunteers who serve in many capacities to fulfill the mission and vision at WCBC.

Andy Reeves – Youth & Worship Pastor

Nancy Nanney – Children’s Minister

We also have many volunteers that serve within **The Gathering** (Student Ministry), **AWANA** (Wednesday Night Children’s Ministry), **Children’s Worship** (Sunday Morning Children’s Ministry), and our various **Ministry Teams**.

Service Times:

- Sunday Morning - 9:00am (Sunday School) & 10:00am (Worship)
- Wednesday Night - 6:00pm (Children’s Ministry, The Gathering Adult Bible Study)

What We Believe

West Corinth Baptist Church

What we believe about the Bible

God has made Himself known to the world through the Old and New Testament Scriptures. We believe the Bible is the perfect Word of God and without error.

John 1:1; Hebrews 4:12

What we believe about God

We believe in one God eternally existing as one essence and three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, each of whom is fully God, yet there is one God.

John 1:14; Matthew 28:19

What we believe about Creation and the Creator

We believe that God created the world from nothing and governs all things at all times in all places.

Genesis 1; Psalm 97:9

What we believe about humanity

We believe that all humanity is created in the image of God and possesses intrinsic dignity and worth.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:14

What we believe about Sin

We believe that sin has broken all things, leaving every individual in the world in desperate need of forgiveness and salvation.

Romans 3:23

What we believe about Salvation

We believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. No person can be forgiven and have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ apart from repentance from sin and trusting in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 John 1:9; John 3:16

What we believe about eternal security

Because God gives eternal life through Jesus Christ, believers are secure in their salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by a Christian's self-effort. It is the grace and eternal power of God that gives this security. We are assured of our salvation based on the character of God who can never lie.

John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 5:13

What we believe about the Church

We believe that the Church is the body of Christ given to the world to be Jesus Christ's ambassadors. No church is perfect, but we worship a perfect Savior.

2 Corinthians 5:20

What we believe about Resurrection and the Kingdom of God

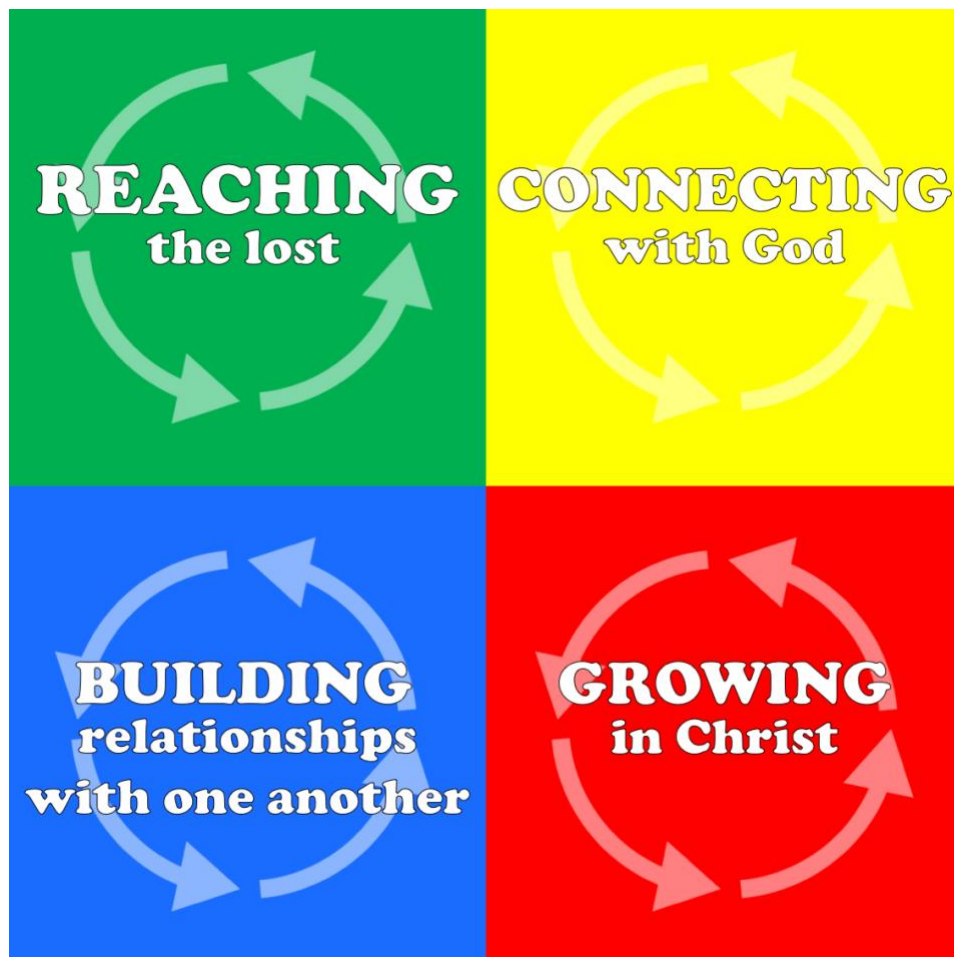
We believe that Jesus Christ is returning to the world to save those who follow Him. He will also judge the living and the dead and all people will live forever in either a place of torment or a place of perfection.

We believe that God wishes that no one would perish, but it is our choice to decide whether or not to make Him Lord of our lives.

Matthew 24:44; Revelation 1:7; Revelation 22:12; John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Matthew 25:41; 2 Peter 3:9

Our Mission

Why we do what we do



Our Vision

We believe our role as followers of Jesus is clearly shown to us in Scripture. Our mission is the same mission that Jesus gave His followers over 2,000 years ago.

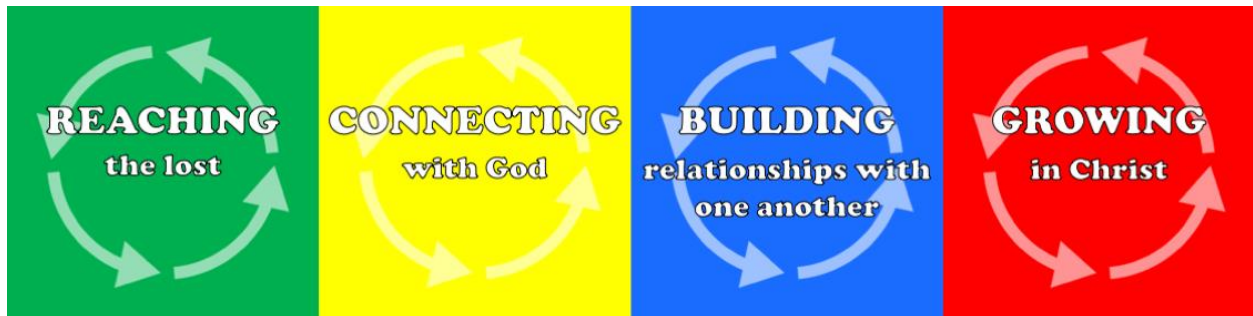
*“¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” - **Matthew 28:19-20***

*“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”
– **Mark 16:15***

*“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” – **Acts 1:8***

We believe the Great Commission is still our mission today. We have a four step process that we believe fulfills this mission.

Our Method



Reaching The Lost

Our goal as a church is to reach the lost with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Those far from God have the greatest opportunity to be able to accept Him as Lord and Savior. It is our responsibility as Christ followers to reach those far from Jesus.

How Do We Reach The Lost?

- **Personal Evangelism** – At West Corinth we believe the most effective way to reach the lost is through personal relationships. Each person within our church family is already equipped with the greatest witnessing tool; *their testimony*.
- **Worship Services** – In all of our worship services (Sunday a.m. adults and kids; Wednesday night for youth) we present the Gospel and have a time of response for people to come to know Jesus. We want to provide a worship experience that allows for the lost to be saved! We encourage our people to invite others to every service we offer.

Reaching The Lost – How Do We Reach The Lost?

- **Outreach Events** – Throughout the year we do multiple outreach events such as Heaven’s Gates Hell’s Flames, Vacation Bible School (VBS), Harvest Festival, Easter Worship Services, Christmas Programs, Youth and Kid’s Camps, and more!

Reaching The Lost – Why Do We Reach The Lost?

We believe that evangelism is of utmost importance for the local church.

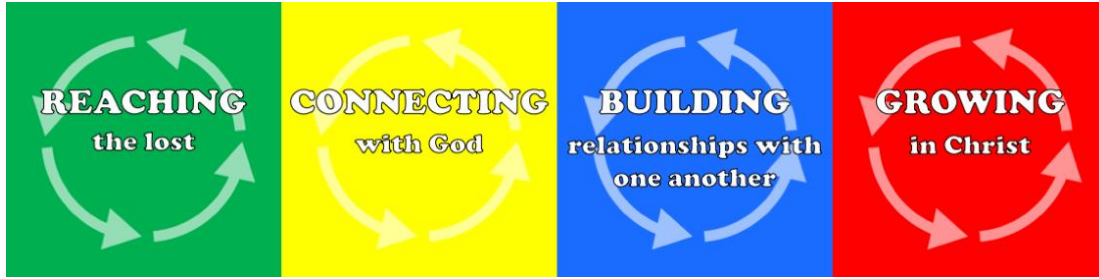
By reaching the lost we fulfill the **Great Commission** and the **Great Commandment** given in Scripture.

Great Commission

“¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:19-20

Great Commandment

*³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And He said to him, ““You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, ‘**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” – Matthew 22:36-40*



Connecting With God

Our goal as a church is for each person to have a deep connection with God. Jesus died for us not only to have eternal life, but also to have an abundant life with God here on earth. Our desire is for each Christ follower to have daily fellowship with God.

How Do We Connect With God?

At West Corinth we offer multiple services for all ages to connect with God.

Our services on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights are strategically organized to connect with God through ***Worship*** and ***The Word***.

- **Worship** - Our Sunday Morning praise team works hard to learn songs that point others to Jesus and express a deep adoration for our Lord. We also offer a ***Children's Worship*** service that includes a time of singing and teaching on a level that children can understand. At The Gathering (Youth) on Wednesday nights our students are led by a youth praise team.
- **The Word** – Our pastoral staff diligently study and prepare to preach and teach the Scripture in an effective manner. We preach through different sermon series throughout the year to help our people connect with God through the Word.

Connecting With God – Why Do We Connect With God?

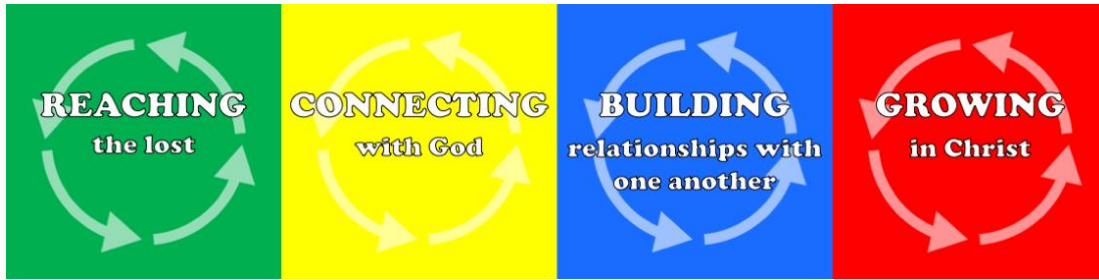
We believe that praising God through praise and worship and Biblical teaching are a vital part of fulfilling our calling as a church.

Worship & The Word

*¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth. ² Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. ³ Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. ⁴ For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. – **Psalm 96:1-4***

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. – **Colossians 3:16**

⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. – **2 Timothy 2:15**



Building Relationships With One Another

Our goal as a church is for each Christ follower to cultivate meaningful relationships with other believers as they live their lives for the glory of God. We were created for community and we want to provide opportunities for believers to build relationships with like-minded people.

How Do We Build Relationships With One Another?

- **Sunday School**
 - **Groups** - Each Sunday morning we offer groups for all ages to gather together and study God's Word. We have age specific classes, gender specific classes, and couple's classes. We have a class for any person at any stage of life!
 - **Outings** – Many of our groups meet from time to time outside of Sunday mornings. Our groups will go eat, host house parties, Christmas parties and many other outings. We don't want to simply do "church" together. We want to do life together!

Building Relationships With One Another

How Do We Build Relationships With One Another?

Group Ministries – *Group ministries are gender specific ministries that connect men and women from all different stages of life.*

- **Men's Ministry**

- **Man Church** – Every other month we have a night of fellowship and worship with the men in our church and many men outside of West Corinth. We have a great meal and then a time for men to worship and hear God's word delivered specifically for men.
- **Men's Conference** – Each year we take a group of men to a conference in Starkville, MS at Meadowview Baptist Church. It is a great opportunity for our men to build relationships with one another while growing deeper in the Lord.

- **Women's Ministry**

- **Luncheons** – Our women's ministry has an *Encourager's Luncheon* where ladies have a great time gathered together over their lunch hour. We have different guest speakers who share with our ladies.
- **Women's Conference** – Each year we take a group of ladies to different women's conferences. Some stay local, and some go to places like Gatlinburg, TN for the *Favored Women's Conference*.
- **Family Fun Night** – Once a month during our spring, summer, and fall months we have a Sunday night family fun night. We often have bouncy houses, water slides, games for students and kids and a meal provided as well. We want to encourage our people to gather and simply have fun together.

Building Relationships With One Another

How Do We Build Relationships With One Another?

Group Ministries

- **Student Ministry – 7th grade - College**
 - **Sunday School** - We have Sunday School classes for 7th-High School and then a separate class for College and young adults.
 - **The Gathering** – On Wednesday nights students are encouraged to attend The Gathering. The Gathering offers a fun time filled with games, worship, Biblical preaching and teaching, and a time in gender and age specific small groups. *The goal of The Gathering is to provide opportunities for students to gather together, in order to grow closer to one another and closer to God, and to become better equipped to go share Jesus with the world.*
 - **Camps & Trips** – Our student ministry is very active. We often take trips on Sundays after worship to go eat and have fun. We have summer camp, winter events and many other fun events throughout the year.

- **Children’s Ministry – PreK – 6th Grade**
 - **Children’s Church** – Children’s church is offered each Sunday morning during our 9:00 am worship service. Children’s church is limited to children 3years old – 3rd grade.
 - **AWANA** – Each Wednesday night (during the school year) our kids have the opportunity to attend AWANA. Children get to learn more about Jesus and have fun while doing so!
 - **Summer Activities** – Our Children’s ministry summer is packed with many fun events! We have VBS, Centrikid (Kid’s Camp), and many other fun events throughout each summer!

Building Relationships With One Another

Why Do We Build Relationships With One Another?

We believe that *We Need Each Other*.

We believe that God created us as to not only have a relationship with Him, but also to have deep relationships with other people as well.

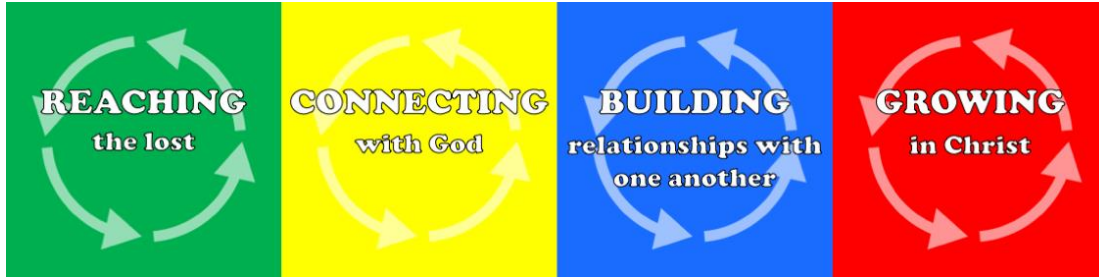
We want to provide opportunities for people to cultivate meaningful relationship with other believers.

We see the need for community throughout Scripture. Beginning at creation (Genesis) and continuing during the early church (Acts).

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." – Genesis 2:18

⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

– Acts 2:44-47



Growing In Christ

Our goal as a church is for each Christ follower to develop a deep relationship with Jesus. As a church we want to teach each follower how to grow in their relationship with Christ.

We believe in order to grow in the Lord we must follow some basic disciplines such as reading the Bible, attending church worship services, praying, and more.

As a church we want to equip each believer to be able to grow deeper in their relationship with God so that they become better equipped to reach the lost and continue our mission.

How Do We Grow In Christ?

- **Children & Students** – All of our children and student services are focused on enabling all ages to grow deeper in Christ through Bible study, worship, and teaching important Christian disciplines such as daily Bible study, praying, and evangelism.
- **Sunday School** – Each Sunday School class offers a different study for different age groups. We find ourselves growing deeper in Christ as we study His word together through various studies.

Growing In Christ

How Do We Grow In Christ?

DGroups

Discipleship Groups

At West Corinth we offer small groups of 3-5 people who study the bible over the course of a year. DGroups are limited to people who are willing to commit to meeting once a week for an hour outside of church, reading and studying 5 chapters of the New Testament each week, and sharing what they've journaled during their studies. Each year we launch new DGroups and encourage people to commit and join. DGroups have been a tremendous source of spiritual growth for those that commit to their groups.

Why Do We Grow In Christ?

We believe that God desires for each person to have a relationship *and fellowship* with Him.

Relationship – Believing in Jesus. Some call this being saved. We believe this is the first step that all believers must take in order to *Grow in Christ*.

Fellowship - Walking with Jesus. This is more than just believing. This is spending time with Jesus, studying His word, learning more about Him, living your life according to His will and His word. This is God's ultimate goal for each believer.

We believe it is critical for each believer to grow deeper in Christ in order to know Him better and to be better equipped to share the Gospel with others. As we grow in Christ we will want to reach the lost, help them connect with God, and build meaningful relationships with other believers.

The Role of a Member

West Corinth Baptist Church

The Role of A Member

Stewardship

We believe stewardship as a follower of Jesus is best defined as:

Utilizing and managing all resources God provided for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation.

The first step to being a good steward is to understand **WHAT** resources we are supposed to be utilizing and managing and **WHY** we should do so.

We believe that God has gifted each person in **three ways** that are unique to that individual.

- 1) Time
- 2) Talent
- 3) Treasures

We believe that each of these gifts are given by God to each believer. James says it like this...

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. – James 1:17

God is the giver of these gifts, but each gift we receive is unique to the individual recipient. These gifts may look different within each believer, but each person is to use these gifts for the glory of God.

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for human masters
Colossians 3:23*

Let's go over these three gifts and talk about how each one of them are different for each believer.

The Role of A Member

Stewardship

1) Time

- We believe that the very life that we have been given is from God Himself.
*“I knew you before **I formed you** in your mother’s womb...” Jeremiah 1:5a*
- We believe that we are called to be good stewards of the time that God has given us.
- With that in mind we purposefully take time throughout each week to gather together and give of our time in worship and service to Jesus.
- We understand that there are different seasons in life. Some people have more time to offer than others and that is completely fine.
- That’s why we believe it is critical to be good stewards of our time so that the business of life doesn’t keep us from the best that God has to offer.

2) Talents

- God has uniquely gifted each person with different talents.
⁴For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. - Romans 12:4-8
- We believe that each talent given by God is as equally important within the body of Christ (the church). Here at West Corinth we offer many different ways for people to utilize their talents through our various **Ministry Teams**. *(We will look at these a little closer later on)*

The Role of A Member *Stewardship*

3) Treasure

- We believe the Bible is clear on the believers responsibility of financial stewardship. What we have has been given to us from God, for God, and we are to be the best stewards possible.
- At West Corinth we believe in giving **Tithes** and **Offerings**.
- **Tithes** – We believe this is the standard for giving found in Scripture. Tithing is understood to be 10% of the believers income.
- **Offerings** – We define an offering as anything above 10% given. We have special offerings from time to time for special needs and ministries within the church.
- We believe in giving graciously because God gives graciously to us. While we do teach on giving, and we believe in giving, we do not pressure people to give more than they personally feel convicted to do.

We are not *saved because we serve*; We *serve because we are saved*.

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

Recap:

What are we given?

- 1) Time
- 2) Talent
- 3) Treasures

Why should we give back?

We give back because God has graciously given to us.

We understand and believe the Biblical mandate to give of our time, talent, and treasures.

The Role of A Member

Ministry Teams

At West Corinth we offer different *Ministry Teams* to help our members be the best stewards they can be.

Our ministry teams have the understanding that their role may seem simple at times, but each role has the potential to lead others to a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

Here is a list of our *Ministry Teams* and the different roles within each team.

Security Team

*This team is responsible for keeping our campus, and congregants secure at all times during each event and service. Our security team is made up of individuals who have each been through training for this purpose. **Each security team member has to pass a background check and an interview with our security team leader.***

First Impressions

*The goal of our **First Impressions Team** is to provide the best welcoming experience for each guest that comes to West Corinth. From assisting in parking, to figuring out where to go once guests arrive on campus, to helping them get seated and assisting in any way to help make each person feel comfortable and welcome, this team is expected to be friendly and willing to help in any way to provide the best guest experience!*

Worship Team

*Our **Worship Team** consists of musicians and vocalists who use their talents to lead our congregation in praise and worship each Sunday morning, Wednesday night during The Gathering, and for special events. The **Worship Team** consists of students (7th grade – College) and adults! **Each member of the worship team has to commit to practice and an interview process with our Worship Pastor.***

Media Team

*Our **Media Team** is over many elements of our Sunday morning and Wednesday night services. Their duties include running the computer to display lyrics, monitoring our live stream, displaying our sermon presentations, and running our sound system. **The Media Team is trained by our experienced sound techs and our Worship Pastor.***

The Role of A Member

Ministry Teams

Event Planning Team

Our Event Planning Team work with our staff to plan out each special event. This team oversees all preparations for church wide special events and all church ordinances (baptism, communion, etc). This team is ideal for those that are skilled with cooking, food preparation, decorating, and coordinating events. Our church hosts many events throughout the year that take a team to make them function properly.

*Financial Team & Building and Grounds

Our finance committee and our building and grounds committee are selected and overseen by our deacons and staff. They are responsible for overview and guidance with our finances and facilities.

The Gathering (Student Ministry)

Chaperones

The Gathering attends many conferences, camps, concerts, and other events throughout the year. We are constantly needing chaperones to attend these events.

Small Group Leaders

Each Wednesday night at The Gathering our students have an opportunity to go into small group time. Each semester we are looking for adults who are dedicated followers of Jesus and who have a heart for students.

West Corinth Children's Ministry

Children's Worship

Each Sunday morning our children 3 years old – 3rd grade have the opportunity to have a worship service with music, crafts, and teaching designed specifically for them. We have a rotation of adults and students that lead out this ministry.

AWANA

Here at West Corinth we offer AWANA on Wednesday nights for children through the 6th grade. In order for AWANA to function properly we need a large number of adults who are willing to commit to serving each Wednesday. Some will teach, play games, help lead children to their different classes, and other duties.

All adults who serve in our Student and Children's ministries must pass a background check and have an interview with our Student Pastor and/or AWANA director.

Church Polity

West Corinth Baptist Church

Church Polity

West Corinth Baptist Church

Church Structure

West Corinth Baptist church is an autonomous church body within the Southern Baptist Convention.

We are led by our Pastor, staff, and deacon body.

Church-wide decisions are typically made by the church through discussion, and business meetings following Robert's Rules of Orders.

Statement of Faith

Our statement of faith is congruent with that of the Baptist Faith and Message.

Church Finances

Our church votes annually to approve our annual budget including staff salaries, ministry budgets, and day-to-day expenses. Our finances are approved each month during our monthly business meetings.

Our goal as a church is to honor God in everything that we do. We aspire to follow the church structure displayed in the Scriptures as best as we can while we maintain church order in a God-honoring way.

We follow this church polity to assure our members that our church leadership, in every level, are held accountable both spiritually and financially with their God-given influence here at West Corinth.

Becoming A Member

West Corinth Baptist Church

Becoming A Member

3 Step Process

Becoming a member here at West Corinth is a simple process!

It's as easy as **1 – 2 – 3!**

Salvation – Baptism – Acceptance

Our goal with our *Membership Matters* course is for each person to understand who we are, what we believe, how we function as a church, and why we do all that we do.

Now that we've gone over all of that let's talk about our next steps.

1) Salvation

The first step to becoming a member of West Corinth Baptist Church is becoming a member of the Kingdom of God.

Salvation is a free gift given by God for each person who chooses to place their faith in Him. We believe that Jesus died for our sins, rose again proving He is God and that He has all authority over death and life, and that He is returning one day for His Church. If we believe this Good News, we must seek forgiveness of our sins, repent from our sinful ways, and choose to follow Him. We ask each individual person who requests membership to either share their salvation story or affirm their decision to follow Jesus to our Pastor and Church body.

2) Baptism

The next step for membership here at West Corinth is believer's baptism.

We do not require each member to be baptized here at West Corinth, however we do require that all members have been baptized by immersion, following Jesus' example in Scripture. If any person has been baptized by immersion, and has completed Step 1 then they are onto step 3!

3) Acceptance

This step is simply the person requesting to join accepting the role of a member, agreeing to our church polity, and allowing our church to accept them as a member of our church body.

Church Covenant

Next Steps

We want to provide the opportunity for each person to take their next step in their own relationship with Christ!

If at any point during or after *Membership Matters* you feel led to take a next step please let us know!

If you have any questions about any of these next steps, or if you have decided that you want to take a next step please check the corresponding box, tear this page out, and give it to a staff pastor at West Corinth.

As my next step I want to:

- Accept Jesus as Lord (Salvation)
- Follow Jesus in Baptism
- Become A Member of West Corinth
- Join a Sunday School Class
- Serve on a Ministry Team
- Other (please explain on the line provided):

*By signing this covenant I agree to the church polity describe in this **Membership Matters** course. I also agree to fulfill the **Role of a Member** to the best of my ability. I understand that my time, talents, and treasures are a gift from God and I am to be the best steward I can be with these gifts provided.*

Name: _____

Date: _____