



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS :: 2012

DISCOVER412

Dear Friend,

We're glad you have chosen to learn more about 412 Community Church. This handbook is meant to give you a basic understanding of the who 412 Community Church is. This will tell you all about membership and about our doctrine, philosophy, budget, vision, mission, strategies, and expectations of all 412 Community Church members. Since there are so many people from different faith backgrounds that may be interested in joining 412 Community Church, it's extremely important that these elements of our church are explicitly spelled out for clarification.

Though the word membership carries with it a couple knee-jerk reactions- "What kind of perks do I get with my membership?" or "That's exclusivistic." or "Membership isn't in the Bible."- you will find that there is ample evidence to strongly suggest that membership is not only a Biblical concept, but it's expected of every follower of Jesus. This understanding of Membership flies in the face of a consumeristic culture (and church culture!) that is continuously searching for what will best suit their needs and desires. Sadly, choosing a church today is very similar to visiting a buffet- just pick out what you want from this church and then move on to pick out what you would like from the next one. The Bible relates this behavior to how unthinkable it would be for a hand to detach itself from the body and do whatever it pleases. Sadly, the unthinkable occurs over and over again in our church culture.

The purpose of the church is not what the vast majority of Christians in our church culture think it is. The purpose of the church is not about personal growth- but rather about God's reputation. As you decide to commit your life to building up the Bride of Christ and expressing His character, you will find joy inexpressible, discover gifts that you didn't realize that you had, and you will fall in love with Jesus.

We believe Church Membership is important because we recognize that the world is watching the church to see if there is any difference between them and "church-goers." The greatest tool to reach unbelievers is the church when they are loving one another. Can you imagine how convincing it would be to see a group of people, with nothing in common, forgiving one another, caring for one another, sharing possessions with one another, and respectfully submitting to one another? That behavior is different than the world's behavior. This behavior is extremely important- because there is much at stake. Satan is real. He roams around like a roaring lion seeking to devour his prey. Membership is a serious response to a serious foe, who longs to see every person in your family, in the DFW area, and in every nation live their lives in despair and to be sentenced to a life of eternal torment. Membership is a family, but it's also an army- fighting with the weapon of the Word of God and His Gospel- to demolish strongholds of Satan and to draw men and women to Jesus Christ, the eternal King of Kings. Unity is crucial for an army that is fighting the Enemy back-to-back- and we invite you to consider uniting with us to conquer the Enemy, and to become like the One who laid down His life for us.

Journey with us,
Kyle Walker



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. OUR MEMBERSHIP PROCESS	3
2. OUR STORY	4
3. OUR STRATEGY	5
4. OUR BELIEFS	6
5. OUR SYSTEMS.....	16
6. OUR COVENANT	18



OUR MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A MEMBER OF 412 COMMUNITY CHURCH?

1. CONNECT

Attend Sunday services and begin to develop relationships with other members of 412 Community Church.

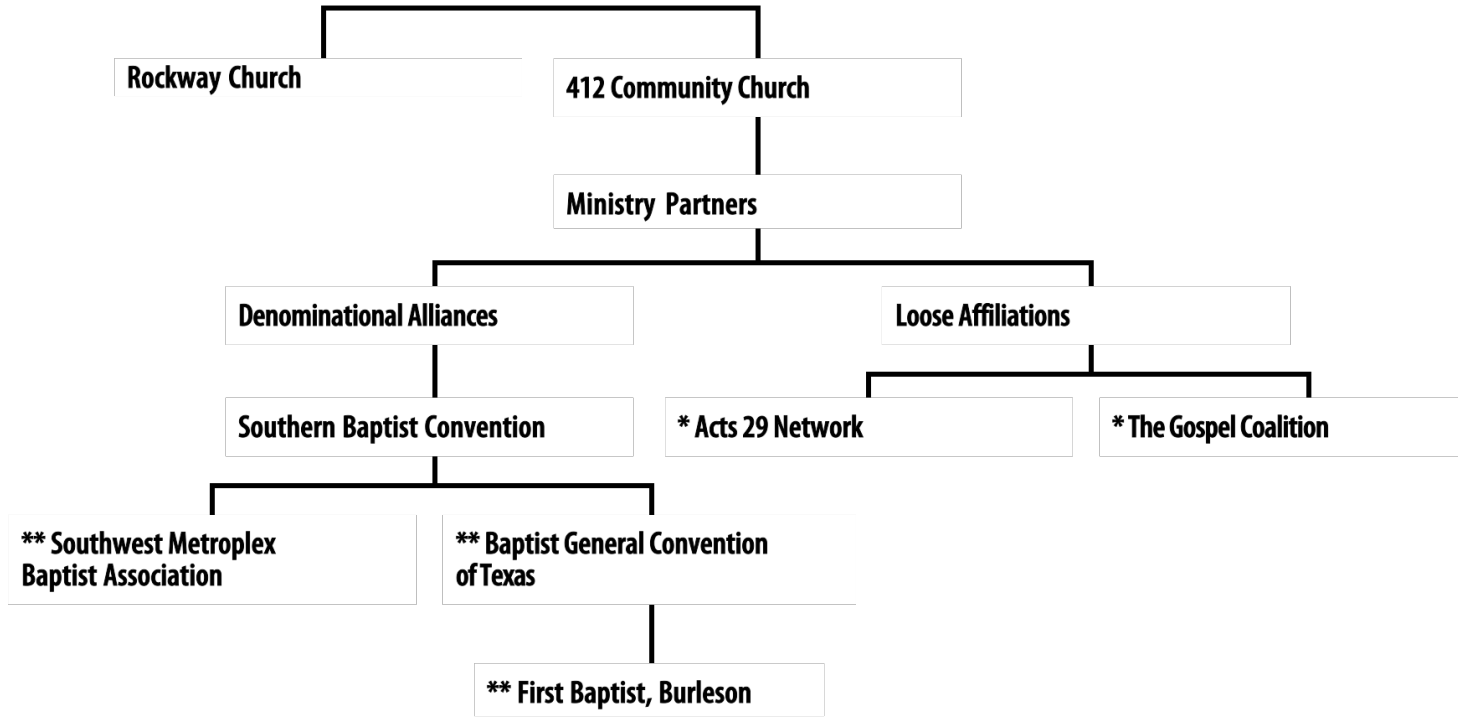
2. CHRISTIAN

Individuals must confess faith in Jesus Christ as God and Savior (and be baptized if they have not previously done so as a professing Christian).

3. COVENANT CLASS

Attend the Membership Class, which explains who we are, what we believe, and how we operate as a church, and provides an opportunity to covenant with the 412 family your intentions of providing Biblical care, accountability, and submitting to one another for the glory of God.

Our Story



* The Mission of the Acts 29 Network is to band together Christian, Evangelical, Missional & Reformed churches, who, for the sake of Jesus and the gospel, plant churches across the United States and the world. Our desire is to become an official member of the network. We are not currently a member of the Acts 29 Network. We are in the process of completing all necessary questionnaires and assessments for admission into the A29 Network. For more information and additional great resources, check out acts29network.org.

* The Gospel Coalition is a fellowship of evangelical churches deeply committed to renewing our faith in the gospel of Christ and to reforming our ministry practices to conform fully to the Scriptures. Joining The Gospel Coalition is free under the condition that we do not deny their Confessional Statement. For more information and for additional great resources, check out thegospelcoalition.org.

* * The Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Southwest Metroplex Baptist Association, and First Baptist Church of Burleson are all financial sponsors of 412 Community Church. FBC Burleson is considered our Sponsor or Mother Church.



OUR STRATEGY

VISION

It's our desire to glorify God (1 Cor 10:31) through the selfless living of Christians at 412CC (Phil 2:3) to disciple the Nations (Matt 28:19-20).

IMAGINE... A group from 412CC using all the resources (Time, Talent, Treasure) to use it for the Glory of God, using it to...

- Support a Struggling family/Single parents
- Plant churches
- Start Non-Profits
- Fund Mission Trips
- Fund Seminary Students
- Go on Mission to the Nations

MISSION

412 Community Church exists to introduce people to God by knowing, living, and sharing the Gospel.

PROCESS

We introduce people to God by

1. Knowing the Gospel
2. Living the Gospel
3. Sharing the Gospel

WHY DOES 412 COMMUNITY CHURCH PREACH EXPOSITORY SERMONS INSTEAD OF TOPICAL SERMONS?

We believe that the best method of teaching the Word of God is *primarily* through expository preaching. (2 Corinthians 4:1-6)

We believe that the future of the church depends upon its love for & obedience to the Scriptures. (Proverbs 29:18)

We equate love for God with love for His Word. (1 John 5:3)

We preach God's Word. We don't hold pep rallies. (2 Timothy 4:1-3)

We recognize that God's Word is what converts sinners, sanctifies saints. (1 Thessalonians 1:5)

Everything that we value and practice flows from this REALITY- the Word of God is without error and it is powerful.

WHY DOES 412 COMMUNITY CHURCH PRACTICE COVENANT MEMBERSHIP?

We believe that the church is about God's Reputation, not personal satisfaction and growth.

Christ did not die to make us like the world. The Bible consistently distinguishes between those who are God's people & those who are not. Covenant Membership is an expression of this line between the world & God's people. Non-Christians are welcome to participate in the life of the church, but God has made it clear: There must be a distinguishing mark that separates those who are Christians & those who are not.

WHY DOES 412 COMMUNITY CHURCH SPEND SO MUCH TIME TALKING ABOUT JESUS AND "THE GOSPEL"?

We believe the Gospel is the power of God (Romans 1:16). The Gospel, the message of Jesus, reaches farther than any method of man can ever reach. The Gospel calls sinners to repent of sin and religious people to repent of religion. And it has been effective for 2,000 years.

We believe the Gospel - not mere marketing - will grow the church.

WHY IS 412 COMMUNITY CHURCH LED BY ELDERS & NOT BUSINESSMEN?

We believe the local church is to be led by a group of qualified men, called elders, who act like the Great Shepherd. (1 Peter 5:1-4)

We believe that God desires us to develop men - not CEOs or businessmen. (1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9)

WHY DOES 412 COMMUNITY CHURCH PLACE SO MUCH EMPHASIS ON EVERY MEMBER JOINING A LIFE GROUP?

We believe that faith that lasts is faith that has deep roots. Jeremiah 9:23-24

We believe the church is defined by people who are committed to the Great Commission, not by the number of people who are sitting in the seats. This means that we are more interested in deep growth, not wide growth.

We believe that it's in these small groups where mutual submission, teaching, prayer support, and accountability take place that helps one accomplish the Great Commission.

WHY DOES 412 COMMUNITY CHURCH ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO SERVE IN A MINISTRY ON SUNDAY MORNING OR TO SERVE TOGETHER IN THE COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR?

We believe that the life & death of Jesus displayed an essential distinguishing mark that His Church must display: Sacrifice.

We believe that 412CC members are to live lives of sacrifice, not entitlement. A feeling of entitlement is the #1 reason people leave churches. Jesus was constantly reminding His disciples and followers that their lives were not about building a kingdom for themselves, but for the King of Kings. And this Kingdom would be built on sacrificial living and dying.

WHY DOES 412 COMMUNITY CHURCH CHALLENGE MEMBERS TO MAKE CORPORATE WORSHIP AND LIFE GROUP ATTENDANCE ONE OF THEIR GREATEST PRIORITIES IN LIFE?

We believe that the church is to be a place where individuals unite around Biblical truths and realities. This union is how God works in and through His people to accomplish His will for their lives. The sacraments of Baptism & the Lord's Supper are indicators of this New Biblical Community and God receives great joy when we express this unity together.

We believe that God's vision for our lives is Biblical Community, not trendy Individualism.

WE KNOW OUR ROLE.

We believe that no one at 412 Community Church can produce spiritual fruit in any particular person. That is clearly the role of the Holy Spirit. Therefore we see our responsibility as the leaders of 412CC to be simply providing opportunities for people to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. It is our job to provide the proper environments that are healthy, prayer-driven, and Scripturally sound in order for people to grow in their walk with the Lord. The best avenue for qualitative growth at 412 CC will be through small group environments that we call Life Groups. Though we believe our Life Groups are key to growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ, we also believe that there are other crucial avenues at 412 that will help you become a disciple committed to fulfilling the Great Commission. The writings in the New Testament imply that the entire life of the Christian is to be given completely to the task of becoming a mature disciple of Jesus. This understanding of the activity of the people of God guides our understanding of discipleship at 412 Community Church.

412CC MEMBERS WILL BE DISCIPLED . . .

1. THROUGH MEMBERSHIP. This is the best way for the leaders of the church to know who they are entrusted with to equip and encourage in the faith. Hebrews 13:17 makes it clear that God will hold 412CC pastors accountable with how they shepherd their flock. Therefore it's imperative that one, pastors know their flock and two, 412CC members recognize the value of uniting with a body of believers so that others can equip and encourage them to persevere in the faith.

2. THROUGH THE SERMON AND WORSHIP SERVICES. There may not be a greater expression of Christian unity than corporately feasting on the Word and praising God together. The New Testament makes it clear that consistent gatherings of believers are essential for growth. The sermons at 412CC will reflect on the Gospel as seen consistently throughout the Scriptures. Members are to come to the worship gathering looking for opportunities to listen and to love others. This is perhaps one of the most overlooked times of discipleship.

3. THROUGH SMALL GROUPS. Small Groups are the primary context for discipleship at 412CC. This is where we envision the Greatest Commandments being fulfilled at 412CC. Without these smaller support groups we run the risk of ministry never happening at 412CC. The Gospel is celebrated, the Word is discussed, and burdens are shared openly in these environments.

4. THROUGH PRAYER. The entire Christian life intersects with prayer. Our hearts and minds are shaped through prayer. Prayer is essential to the accomplishment of the mission of making disciples of all nations. *"Until you know that life is war, you cannot know what prayer is for: Prayer is for the accomplishment of a wartime mission."* John Piper

5. THROUGH SERVICE. Discipleship which only occurs over conversation and books pretends that we are disembodied minds, and is a commitment to a theoretical life only. Jesus opposed this kind of religion. Through serving one another and our community, the life of Jesus is at work in us and we sharpen one another to be more like Him.

6. THROUGH SHORT-TERM MISSIONS. From cover to cover, the Bible teaches that we are all commanded and commissioned to make disciples of all nations. Each of us must pray for the advancement of the Gospel, give to those who are in need, and join others around the world in spreading the Gospel.

7. THROUGH EDUCATION. We believe strongly in the discipleship of the mind! It is critical. Through retreats, conferences, and workshops, 412CC members will grow in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

8. THROUGH LIFE. 412CC believes that discipleship is a way of life that is centered firmly upon the Word of God and the work of God in our families. We talk about it "when we sit at home and when we walk along the road, when we lie down and when we get up." Essentially God's Word and the work of the Gospel are to be central fixtures in every area of our lives.

1. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS IMPLIED IN CHURCH GATHERINGS.

The New Testament has no category for people calling themselves Christians and not connected to a church.

2. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS IMPLIED IN CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

1 Corinthians 5:1-2

"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you."

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

"I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people - not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler - not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

3. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS IMPLIED WITH CHURCH LEADERSHIP.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

1 Peter 5:1-2

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God that is among you.

4. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS IMPLIED IN RECORD KEEPING.

Acts 2 - numerical record. 1 Timothy 5 - a record of widows. In Acts 6, there were elections. In Hebrews 13, there's accountability. And in Romans 16:1-16, there is an awareness of who the church members are.

5. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS IMPLIED BY THE METAPHOR OF THE BODY.

1 Corinthians 12:12-20

The bottom line is that if you are looking for a verse that talks about a membership class and certificates of transfer, you won't find it. But if you are looking for the concepts of a defined in/out community, record-keeping, covenant making, and submission to a recognized body that exercises authority over the circumscribed group, you can find all of that in both testaments.

*** WHY SHOULD WE COVENANT TOGETHER THROUGH 412 CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?**

{ The purpose of the church is not about personal growth (though it will certainly help you grow!). It's about God's Reputation. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 }

1. COVENANT MEMBERSHIP IDENTIFIES YOU WITH CHRIST.

Jesus so identifies himself with Christians that when he confronted Saul, he said "Why are you persecuting me?" We are so identified with Christ that when we take part in the ways of the world, it's as if we are forcing Christ into that very act! The church must do all that it can to embrace and protect this union between Christ and His people. Covenant helps enable the church to do exactly that. Acts 9; 1 Corinthians 6:15

2. COVENANT MEMBERSHIP DISTINGUISHES YOU FROM THE WORLD.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the defining marks of those who are inside the body of Christ. Being a member of the church is not about going with the flow. It's about being an outcast and belonging to another nation- a holy nation. Exodus 19:5-6; Leviticus 11:44-45; 1 Peter 1:16; 2:9-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

3. COVENANT MEMBERSHIP GUIDES US INTO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST BY PRESENTING A STANDARD OF PERSONAL AND CORPORATE HOLINESS.

We have been declared righteous and we are called to live up to that calling. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

4. COVENANT MEMBERSHIP ACTS AS A WITNESS TO NON-CHRISTIANS.

It establishes an earthly witness for God. Jesus told his followers, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." The world needs to see a distinct society that is loving one another and forgiving and sacrificing for one another. Only the gospel can create a community like that! Ephesians 3:10

5. COVENANT MEMBERSHIP IDENTIFIES YOU WITH CHRIST'S FAMILY.

We have been adopted into a family by God. We have been declared heirs with Christ. The New Testament letters are littered with references to "brothers and sisters." This designation was not a casual remark- it cost Jesus Christ His very own life. We don't just go to the dinner table because we are hungry- we go because we are members of the family. It's a part of our new identity. We are united to one another. Galatians 3:26-4:7; Ephesians 1:3-7

6. COVENANT MEMBERSHIP ASSISTS YOU IN LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE THROUGH ACCOUNTABILITY. Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:23-25

7. COVENANT MEMBERSHIP MAKES YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR SPECIFIC BELIEVERS.

It makes you responsible for other believers- even if you don't know them very well. The congregation is responsible for one another. It's not about accountability with the pastor or submitting to the elders- it's about submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Philippians 2:1-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

8. COVENANT MEMBERSHIP PROTECTS US FROM THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

James 4:7; 5:13-19

* THIS LIST IS ADAPTED FROM JONATHAN LEEMAN'S BOOK, THE CHURCH AND THE SURPRISING OFFENSE OF THE LOVE OF GOD

1. MEMBERSHIP OFFERS AN UMBRELLA OF CARE THAT IS COMMANDED IN SCRIPTURE.

- A. Elders care for the flock through teaching of the Word, prayer, and direction. 1 Timothy 3
- B. Ministry Leaders serve and care for those in need within the local church. Acts 6; 1 Timothy 3
- C. Christians are required to submit to their leaders. Hebrews 13:17
- D. Church leaders will be held accountable for how they care for and shepherd the flock that has been entrusted to them. Hebrews 13:17; 2 Peter 5:1-4

2. MEMBERSHIP NOURISHES A CULTURE OF GRACE THAT SHARPENS ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGES CORPORATE PURITY.

- A. We are called to resolve conflict within our faith family so that our prayers are not hindered and our worship is acceptable before God. Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-17; 1 Peter 3:7
- B. Excommunication exists within the local church in order to maintain a faithful witness to the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ and the purity and holiness of the God that we are called to reflect. 1 Corinthians 5:12-13; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

3. MEMBERSHIP IS A MEANS TO BRING ABOUT AFFIRMATION TO YOURSELF THAT YOU ARE INDEED SAVED.

- A. A healthy church truly cares about who the members of their church are, so they can ensure that they are safe, continuing in the faith, and pressing on to gain the prize that is Christ. Hebrews 3:12-14; 10:23-25
- B. A healthy church will be looking for those who have simply slipped away from attending, and will try to bring them back. If someone is physically able to attend a church but chooses not to, a healthy church will take them out of membership so that they are encouraged to join where they can regularly attend. Galatians 6:1-2
- C. Membership is the church's way of affirming the validity of someone's profession of faith. The church looks at a person's life, hears their explanation of the gospel and how they came to believe it, and says, "You look like a Christian to us. So join us. Watch over our lives and we'll watch over yours." So, while membership in a church doesn't guarantee that someone is a Christian, it should assure believers of the genuineness of their faith. Matthew 16:19; 18:18

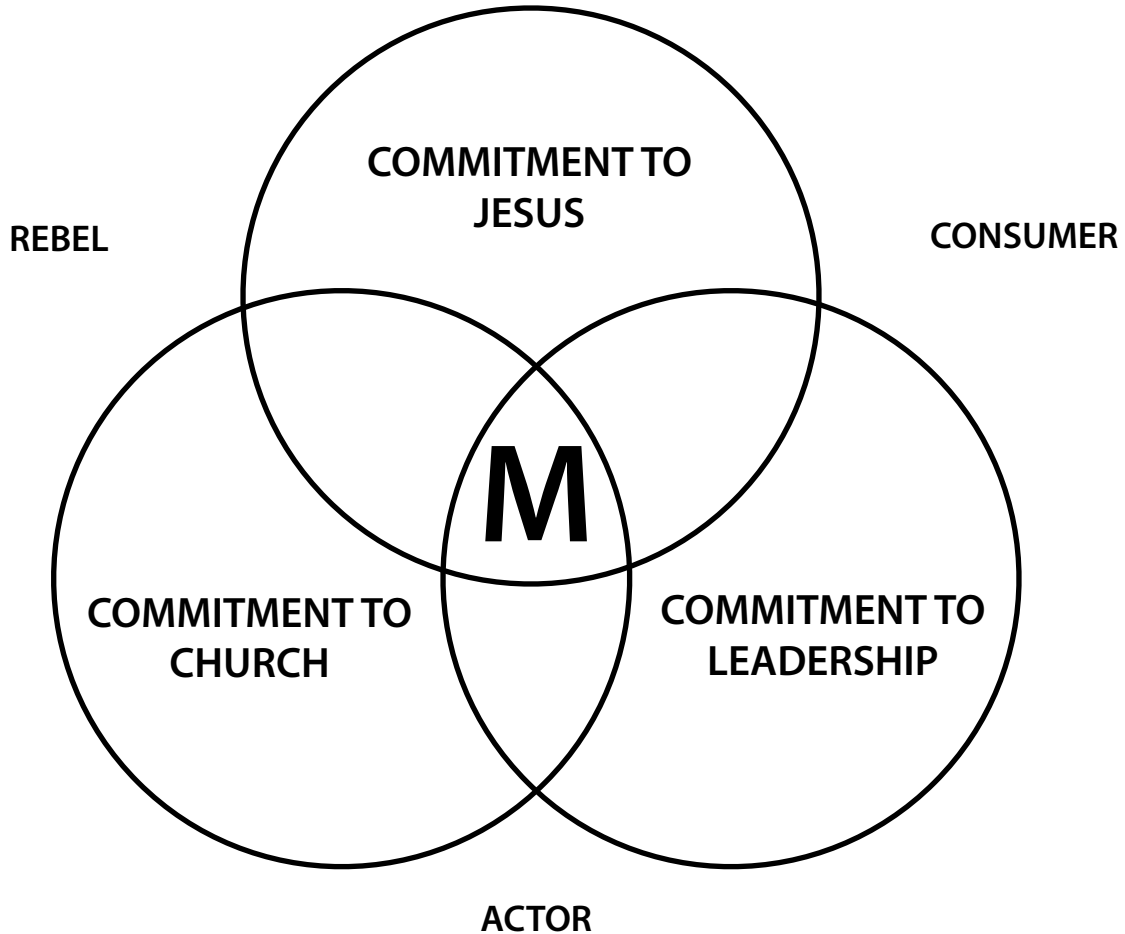
4. MEMBERSHIP GIVES YOU A VOICE TO EXPOSE FALSE TEACHING.

- A. We must be very careful what we unite ourselves to. As a church body, it is our responsibility to continuously rehearse and confirm the true Gospel. Anytime a false gospel is preached or exercised, the members of the church must take action, so not to confuse those who are lost and are looking for the truth. We cannot send people blissfully down a road to damnation. 2 Timothy 4:2-3; 2 Peter 2:1-2

5. BEING A MEMBER OF A CHURCH WILL GIVE YOU THE NOURISHMENT FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT, BECAUSE THE LOCAL CHURCH IS WHERE THE DIFFERENT SPIRITUAL GIFTS THAT YOU SO DESPERATELY NEED ARE DISPERSED. 1 Corinthians 12:1, 7, 11

6. JOINING YOURSELF AND COMMITTING YOURSELF TO A LOCAL BODY OF BELIEVERS BRINGS GLORY TO GOD.

- A. We place the love of Jesus on display when we love each other. 1 John 4:12
- B. We testify to the world about what God is like by how we love one another—and a committed, persevering, accountable love is a far greater picture of God's love than a picky-and-choosy, I'll-only-be-involved-with-the-people-I-want kind of "love." By committing to one another as members of the same church we display the glory of God's love—a committed, persevering, transforming love—as we image it in our lives together, and so bring him glory. John 13:34-35



COMMITMENT TO JESUS: (I believe) gospel centered heart, essential beliefs, sound doctrine

COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP: (I support) mission, vision, values, discipline, last line of accountability

COMMITMENT TO CHURCH: (I belong) commitment to HomeGroups, serving in the church, giving, etc.

THE CONSEQUENCE OF ONE MISSING ELEMENT:

REBEL: wants God and the fellowship of His congregation but doesn't feel committed to the Mission, Vision, Values of the local church or have any real submission to the elders.

CONSUMER: wants what the church has to offer but doesn't really want the church. They are a relational one-way street. They expect the church to provide everything to them that they have personally withheld from the church.

ACTOR: wants to check off all the organizational boxes in order to demonstrate their legalistic commitment to the church while having little to no connection with her head, Jesus Christ. This is the religious person, the elder brother, the Pharisee.

* THIS CHART IS USED BY PERMISSION FROM STONEGATE CHURCH OF MIDLOTHIAN, TX. MEMBERSHIP MANUAL, SECTION 2:10

1. THE WORD OF GOD

In God's goodness, he has graciously revealed His existence and greatness in the created order, and has ultimately revealed himself to sinful humanity in the person of His Son, the Incarnate Word (John 1:1-4, 14; 1 John 1:1-3). Moreover, in His mercy, God spoke to His creation and revealed Himself through human words: we believe that God has inspired the words preserved in the Scriptures, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, which are both record and means of his saving work in the world (2 Timothy 3:10-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21). These Scriptures are inerrant in their original manuscripts and are the supreme authority in faith and life (Hebrews 4:12; . The Scriptures are a treasure and a gift from a good God (Psalm 119). If God can create and sustain all things by His Word (Colossians 1:15-18), then His Word can certainly create new life in us and can sustain us every day. We believe that the Scriptures carry forth the same attributes of Him who spoke them, therefore as God is perfect and 100% holy and true, so is His Word (John 17:17). God cannot lie, therefore we will find no lies in the Scriptures (Titus 1:2). We confess that due to our fallenness and sinful nature we cannot know God exhaustively, yet because of His Word, we can know Him truly. As God's people hear, believe, and obey the Word, they are equipped as disciples of Christ and witnesses to the gospel (Hebrews 4:12).

2. THE TRIUNE GOD

There is only One God (Deut 6:4-5; Mt 28:19; Jn 1:1-4; Acts 5:3-4). We believe that the Father is God, the Son is God, and that the Holy Spirit is God, yet they are distinct, meaning that Father is neither the Son nor the Holy Spirit, the Son is neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son (Matt 28:17-20; Lk 3:22; John 14:16, 15:26, Eph 1:3-14). God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God. Everything originates from the Father, but through the Son, and by the Spirit. Every act of God is a Trinitarian act. The only way we have access to the Father is through the Son and by the Holy Spirit.

3. GOD THE FATHER

God the Father is good (Ps. 136:1; Mk 10:18). He is powerful and His plans and purposes cannot be thwarted (Ps. 18:1-2; Job 42:2). He is unique (Is. 40:18; 55:8-9; Ps. 50:12; 97:9) and has always existed (Ps. 90:2; Is 40:28; Acts 17:23-25). He rules over all and is the only Sovereign God (Ps. 93). Because He is good, God the Father in his infinite wisdom initiated a plan of redemption for mankind by giving His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins (John 6:37-40; Rom 8:31-39; Eph 1:3-6).

4. JESUS, GOD THE SON

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin and is both fully God and fully human, yet sinless (Matt 1:20; Lk 2:52; John 1:1-4, Heb 4:15). Christ the Son is the agent by which God the Father created all things, and by the Son's word He freely and supernaturally created the world out of nothing (Gen 1; Hebrews 1:3; John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17). He is the image of the invisible God and does all things for the glory of God the Father (Col 1:15-20; John 5:43; 6:38). Through Christ, by the work on the Cross, we have received redemption and forgiveness of our sins (Rom 5:10, 8:3-4; Eph 1:7-10). Christ will return for His people, and will judge everyone- both dead and alive. (Matthew 24; 25:31-32; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; 4:16-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12; James 5:8-9; Revelation 22:20)

4a. SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT

On the cross, Jesus was made to be our sin so that we would not have to suffer the penalty ourselves (Is. 53:5, 12; Rom 4:25; 1 Cor 15:3; Gal 3:13). He took the wrath of God by dying on the Cross (Matt 20:28; 1Pet 2:24), and showed his power over death and sin in the resurrection (Acts 2:24; 1 Cor 15:56), glorifying the father, so that anyone who believes might be reconciled to God forever (Rom 3:23-26).

4b. REGENERATION

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration is enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This regeneration is evidenced by the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life. (John 3:1-17; Galatians 5:16-26)

5. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit gives life (John 3:5-8, 6:63), is a guarantee of God's work (Eph 1:14), leads to holiness (Rom 8:14; Gal 5:16-18), empowers God's people (Acts 1:8; Rom 8:27, 15:19), and convicts the world of sin through the proclamation of the gospel (John 16:8-11; Acts 7:51). He unites believers to Jesus Christ in faith and to each other (Acts 2:44-47; Phil 2:1-2; Eph 2:18). The Holy Spirit is 'He' not 'it', and He is to be respected, honored and worshipped as God the Third Person of the Trinity.

6. THE FALL OF MAN

God made man – male and female – in His own image, as the crown of creation, that man might have fellowship with Him (Genesis 1:26-27). Tempted by Satan, man sinned and rebelled against God. Being estranged from his Maker, yet responsible to Him, he became subject to divine wrath, inwardly depraved and apart from a special work of grace, utterly incapable of returning to God. This depravity is radical and pervasive. It extends to his mind, will and affections. Unregenerate man lives under the dominion of sin and Satan. He is at enmity with God, hostile toward God, and hateful of God. Fallen, sinful people, whatever their character or attainments, are lost and without hope apart from salvation in Christ. (Genesis 3; Romans 1:18-25; 3:9-20)

7. FAITH AND REPENTANCE

The only requirement for salvation is repentant faith in Jesus Christ. This means that repentance is inseparable from faith in believing that only Jesus can save, since in order to believe in Jesus you must stop the belief in self and sin. It is a simultaneous action of repenting and believing. Repentance is turning away from sin or a hatred of sin. Mark 1:15 says that Jesus preached Repent and believe, and all throughout the Gospels, we see where Jesus commanded those who desired to follow Him to turn away from their sins (Luke 18:22; Jn 5:14; 8:11). Thus, repentance and faith are inseparable, and essential to salvation. This response to the gospel is rooted and grounded in the free and unconditional election of God for His own pleasure and glory. (John 6:29, 37, 44, 62-65; Ephesians 1:3-14)

8. THE GOSPEL

We believe that the gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ—God's very wisdom. Utter folly to the world, even though it is the power of God to those who are being saved, this good news is Christological, centering on the cross and resurrection: the gospel is not proclaimed if Christ is not proclaimed, and the authentic Christ has not been proclaimed if his death and resurrection are not central (the message is "Christ died for our sins . . . [and] was raised"). This good news is biblical (his death and resurrection are according to the Scriptures), theological and salvific (Christ died for our sins, to reconcile us to God), historical (if the saving events did not happen, our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins, and we are to be pitied more than all others), apostolic (the message was entrusted to and transmitted by the apostles, who were witnesses of these saving events), and intensely personal (where it is received, believed, and held firmly, individual persons are saved). (1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Romans 10:13-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-5, 13-22)

9. THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

God's Law is holy and just, and it is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His government. Mankind is unable to obey this law due to their wickedness and rebellion against a Holy God. Deliverance from this wickedness and inability to obey the Law is one great end of the Gospel. This deliverance involves being restored to obedience to God's Law through the work of the Christ and the Holy Spirit. (Romans 3:9-31; 7:4-25)

10. PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

We believe that only those who endure to the end are truly believers; that their persevering commitment to Christ is the primary mark which distinguishes them from those who insincerely claim Christ; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. (John 6:38-39; Hebrews 3:12-19; 6:10-12; 7:25; 10:35-39)

11. THE CHURCH

The Old and New Testaments were written to communities of God's people who regularly gathered together for such things as teaching, fellowship, worship, etc. The ultimate mission of the church is the making of disciples through the preaching of the gospel. When God transforms human nature, this then becomes the chief means of society's transformation. All members of the church universal are to be a vital and committed part of a local church. In this context they are called to live out the new covenant as the people of God and demonstrate the reality of the kingdom of God. The ascended Christ has given gift ministries to the church (including apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) for the equipping of Christ's body that it might mature and grow. The Bible is clear that every Christian is a part of the larger church body and is expected to participate in the life of a local church with the gift(s) God has given him or her (1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Romans 15:1-7). It is therefore a sin for someone who claims to be a Christian not to be actively loving his or her Christian brothers and sisters (1 John 1:7; 3:17-18; 4:21) and seeking to build up the church (1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:6, 12 & 26b).

12. CHURCH ORDINANCES

12a. COMMUNION

Communion is a sacrament/ordinance given to the church by Christ (Mt 26:17-29; Mk 14:22-25; Lk 22:14-19). It is during this time that we emphasize our fellowship with God and with each other. In addition, it is a celebration of God's work in our lives because (1) we look to the cross at Jesus, who died for the forgiveness of our sins, and at the same time we are able to examine our lives and continue to put those sins to death, (2) we look around at the unity among the believers because of Him, and (3) we anticipate the coming of Jesus (1 Cor 11:23-34). The Scriptures do not tell the church how often or how to perform a time of communion. The only thing that Scriptures tell us is that when we do commune, only believers are to participate, doing it with a right heart, and corporately (1 Cor 11:27,33). Thus, the Scriptures give the church a freedom on how often to have communion and when to perform it.

12b. BAPTISM

Baptism is a visible representation of the Gospel, a sacrament/ordinance given to the church by Christ (Mt 28:19-20). It is an outward symbol declaring a believer's inner transformation that occurs after a person believes in the Gospel, and it is identification with Christ. In baptism, when one is immersed in water it symbolizes the believers death of sin and old life, when one is brought out of the water, it expresses the believers resurrection and new life (Rom 6:1-10). When we are baptized, it symbolically displays our union with Christ and our being grafted into His family, the new community which is marked by others who have been saved and baptized (Galatians 3:25-29). Thus, baptism is only symbolic and not salvific, meaning that baptism does not save an individual, but it is done in obedience to Christ. We believe that a baptism should be performed by immersion, since the NT word for baptism means "*to be immersed*." Further, infant baptism is not consistent with Scripture, thus our belief is that only an individual who is able to understand his/her need for salvation and professes belief in the Gospel qualifies for baptism. As for the proper time, Acts seems to indicate that baptism was done soon after conversion.

13. CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that Civil Government is appointed by God in His sovereignty, for the interests and good order of human society; and that civil servants and leaders are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. (Romans 13:1-7)

Most simply, our statement says that 412CC is a **Christian, Evangelical, Baptist church**. Our statement of faith is divided into thirteen articles, which speak to the fact that we can be called by each of these names. The Christian articles simply show what Christians have always believed, in other words, issues that there has traditionally been little dispute over in Christendom. The evangelical category highlights the critical issues related to the gospel that were recovered during the Protestant Reformation (16th Century). The Baptist category highlights the distinctive features of 412CC.

Take a moment and notice just how much of our Statement of Faith is devoted to stating the essentials of the Christian faith; essentials that we would have little to no disagreement over with any other Christian denomination. Then notice what signifies us to be a Baptist church.

Doctrine	Historically Christian	Evangelical	Baptist
1. Of the Word of God		★	
2. Of the Triune God	★		
3. Of God the Father	★		
4. Of Jesus, God the Son	★		
4a. Of Substitutionary Atonement		★	
4b. Of Regeneration	★		
5. Of God the Holy Spirit	★		
6. Of the Fall of Man	★		
7. Of Faith and Repentance		★	
8. Of the Gospel	★		
9. Of the Law and the Gospel	★		
10. Of the Perseverance of the Saints		★	
11. Of the Church			★
12. Of the Ordinances	-	-	-
12a. Of the Lord's Supper		★	
12b. Of Baptism			★
13. Of Civil Government	★		

BUILDING COMMUNITY (DISCIPLESHIP)

We desire to develop dependable shepherd leaders to Know, Live, and Teach God's Word so that they will, in turn, develop men, women, and youth to be fully devoted disciples of Christ that Love God with all their heart, soul, and mind.

- Life Groups
- Youth Life Group
- Sunday Morning Bible Study

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY TEAM (SAT)

The Stewardship Advisory Team desires to lead 412CC to be good stewards of God's resources.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Our Sunday Morning Teams are groups of individuals that serve to create an environment where guests and members of 412CC will be encouraged to grow in their intimacy with Christ or commit to follow Christ.

Guest Services

The Guest Services' main objective is to show the Love of God by welcoming and valuing every guest and member at 412CC. This team is made up the Greet Team, Host Team, and the Connect Table Team.

Safari Kids

The Wild is the children's ministry, ages 6 months - 4 years of age. Our goal each Sunday is to teach Biblical truth while protecting and loving our children.

Camp 412

Children K-4th grade make up Camp 412. Our adult leaders create a fun and loving environment where children will learn to follow God's Word and come to know His attributes.

412 band

The 412 musicians and vocalists are men and women who are passionate about glorifying God by serving with their artistic gifts. They skillfully combine lyrics with music, and lead the church to worship the Greatness of God.

Preaching Team

The goal of the Preaching Team is to love, live, and teach the Word of God for His glory.

MISSIONS

It's our desire that our church be a church that is missional at heart, meaning that we cultivate a culture that seeks to fulfill the Great Commission, locally, nationally, and globally.

LifeGroup Service Projects

Mission Trips

Church Planting

LEADERSHIP

ELDER-LED

Scripture tells us that the local church government should be a plural Elder-led government (Acts 20:17, 28; 21:18; 1 Tim 5:17; Tit 1:5-6; 1 Pt 5:1-2). This means that the local church would be led by a group of qualified men, according to 1 Tim 3 and Titus 1, with a primary leader among the elders (Luke 22:31-32; Acts 1:15). Women should not hold the office of elder, but are encouraged to lead other areas of ministry. The role of elder is exclusively for a qualified man. These men are responsible for (1) teaching biblical truth (Acts 2:41-42; Tit 1:9), (2) Modeling Christ-like behavior (1 Thess 2:10; 1 Tim 4:12), (3) setting Doctrinal purity (Acts 20:30-31; 2 Tim 2:23-26), (4) Disciplining unruly believers (1 Thess 5:12-13; Mt 18:15-17), (5) overseeing financial matters (Acts 11:29-30; 2 Cor 8-9), (6) praying for the ill (Jas 5:13-16). Basically, these men lead, shepherd, guard, and protect the flock of God (1 Peter 5:1-4). Thus, by having this form of government, it allows for the church to benefit by having a combined counsel and wisdom that allows for decision to be made that are not self-willed or self-serving for a single individual (Pr 11:14), as would be the practice of other church governments.

STRONG MEN

We want a church that is filled with men who...

- love God with all their heart, soul, and mind.
- are strong enough to stand for their beliefs in the face of adversity or ridicule.
- are able to lovingly guide their wives and children in spite of unpopularity.
- are strong enough to defend the church and family, yet gentle enough to hold his wife or children in his arms.
- are characterized by humility, but are confident in God.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU...

WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP COVENANTS THE FOLLOWING:

1. We covenant that your elders will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures: striving to reflect the defining characteristics of elders, embracing the Gospel and openly confessing our sins to each other when we appear to fall short of the criteria (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-13 & 5:17-22; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
2. We commit ourselves to lovingly care for you and seek your growth in Christ (Titus 1:10; Hebrews 13:17; Thessalonians 5:12).
3. We commit ourselves to be on guard against and confront false teachers that would destroy the 412 family (Titus 1:10; Acts 20:28-31)
4. We covenant to provide reliable teaching, preaching, and counsel from the Scriptures (Titus 2:1; Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
5. We commit that this teaching will span the whole counsel of God's Word (Titus 2:1; Acts 20:27-28).
6. We covenant to consistently exhort you to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, to seek reconciliation with one another and repentance towards God (Titus 2:11-15; Matthew 5:21-26; 1 John 1:5-10)
7. We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of Church members (Titus 2:7-8; 1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 3:17, 1 Timothy 4:12).
8. We commit to help you in times of need, to pray for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35; James 5:14-17).
9. We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1).
10. We covenant to encourage you to be submissive to the rulers and authorities that God has placed in our lives, so long as our obedience to Christ is challenged. And when the time of persecution comes, we commit to standing with you as a testimony to the power of the Gospel (Titus 3:1; Philippians 2:12-16; 4:1)
11. We covenant to help you become equipped to serve Christ and build the house of God (Eph. 4:11-13).
12. We covenant to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:1-5).
13. We commit ourselves to nurturing a culture of grace that constantly points people to the necessity of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11).

OUR COMMITMENT TO ONE ANOTHER...

I covenant to pursue the 3 vital relationships: intimacy with God, community with insiders, and influence with outsiders. Recognizing that these 3 relationships are crucial to our walk with the Lord, we will express pursuit of these relationships in the following manner:

1. Live a life in **Community**:

- a. I will make an effort to join a life group at 412 Community Church and attend any events that 412 Community Church promotes.
- b. I will be careful to protect the unity of 412CC, being on guard against "godless chatter and gossip" that is not beneficial for the body of Christ.
- c. I will walk with other members of 412 in brotherly love, exhorting one another to stand firm in the faith, being willing to challenge another 412 member when I see them straying from God and the flock, carry the burdens of others, and care for one another's families and provide for them when need arises.
- d. I will seek to cultivate relationships at 412 that will naturally cause me to rejoice with them and mourn with them when the time presents itself.

2. Live a life of **Service**:

- a. I commit to using the spiritual gifts that God has given me by His Spirit.
- b. I will commit to serve in at least one ministry at 412CC.
- c. I will participate in 412 CC community service projects.
- d. I will assist in cultivating a missional environment at 412CC by going on short-term mission trips or financially supporting those who do.

3. Live a life of **Generosity**:

- a. I will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel to all nations.
- b. I will seek to steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talent, and treasure. This includes regular financial giving, service, and sacrificial and cheerful participation in the life of the 412 community. (2 Corinthians 8-9)

4. Live a life of **Holiness and Obedience to God's Word**:

- a. I will allow others to hold me accountable to walk in love, purity, and holiness.
- b. I will submit to the leadership that God has sovereignly placed over me at 412 Community Church and will not be divisive with the 412 church family when conflict may arise.
- c. I commit to being a source of encouragement to other 412CC members, as well as allow others to encourage me in my times of distress.
- d. I will seek to pursue God through the spiritual disciplines as I grow in my faith.
- e. I will be intentional about praying for my 412 brothers and sisters.

5. Live a life of **Worship**: Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter

- a. I will attend the 412CC worship gatherings regularly.
- b. I will strive to live daily for the Lord- to live out the gospel at my job, which God, in His providence, has given me.

Recognizing that no one is perfect, I therefore understand that when it seems that I have failed to uphold my commitment to the 412 Family, I will submit myself to the help of my church family and will embrace God's grace and His saving love and forgiveness.

I will, when I move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where I can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.



OUR COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized, and being in agreement with 412 Community Church's theology, ecclesiology, and culture, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the this church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the above.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature (Spouse) _____ Date _____

Printed Names _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Previous Church Membership: _____

Baptized (date/location): _____

How Introduced to 412CC: _____

Began Attending: _____

Elder Signature/Printed

Name _____