



Covenant
Church
Presents

AMBASSADORS
TRAINING
COURSE

©2015 Covenant Church

Class I

Covenant
Connection

Welcome to Covenant Church! We are excited about you and the plan God has for your life. This ministry was designed specifically with you in mind. We are here to equip you to know Jesus Christ and to fulfill His plan for your life. The purpose for this class is to clearly communicate the *Purpose, Identity, Structure and Strategy* of Covenant Church. We understand it is important for you to get the facts about this ministry before you consider becoming a member.

We believe the *local church* is essential in the development of individuals, marriages, families, communities and nations. It is a place where you can worship God, receive revelation of His Word and develop life-giving relationships. Church membership is a great opportunity to grow together within a family of believers. As a local church, we hope to win your confidence through *integrity*, earn your respect through *excellence* and influence your life with *Jesus Christ*. May the following pages provide helpful information in your consideration of Covenant Church as your church home.

-Sean Cook

CONTENTS

Purpose.....	3
Identity.....	8
Structure.....	9
Strategy.....	11
Membership.....	13
We Believe.....	14
Core Values.....	16
Salvation.....	18
Ministry Team.....	19

PURPOSE

The Local Church

Jesus Himself has commissioned the *church* to influence the world with His message. Many people have misunderstood the definition of church. Some of the inappropriate interpretations have been: a building, a social club, an institution, an organization, or even a religion. These concepts do have an appropriate function in our society. However, the accurate definition for “church” is *to be called out of darkness into His marvelous light*. Therefore, the church represents all people who have *received* the Lord Jesus Christ into their heart for the forgiveness of sins.

It is the message of Jesus Christ and the testimony of those whom He has changed that causes people to believe in God. It is the opportunity and responsibility for every *Christian* to share their faith with those who do not know Christ. Many people think it is the sole responsibility of the pastor & church staff to win people to Jesus. However, it is actually the collective effort of individual Christians as well as the activities of the local church, which bring people to Jesus.

Furthermore, the *local church* is a gathering of Christians in a specific location with pastoral oversight. No local church can meet all the needs in a community. Therefore, it is necessary to have a variety of local churches within every community. It is essential for every Christian to become a member of a local church to ensure a fruitful life in serving God. The bible defines the function of the church as found in Ephesians 4:11-13.

*“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the **equipping** of the saints for the work of **service**, to the **building** up of the body of Christ; until we all **attain** to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **mature** man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”*

The following outline defines the process, which local churches throughout the world are to use in serving the purposes of God.

Equipping

God has established five *ministry offices* identified as Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. These specific ministry gifts provide the necessary leadership for local churches throughout the world. God has called *every Christian a minister* of reconciliation. Therefore, it is the responsibility for Christians to be equipped in serving God. The primary purpose for the local church is to provide the necessary biblical knowledge and influence for Christians to grow in Christ.

Serving

The purpose for growing in Christ is to develop the ability to *serve others well*. Faith works through love and love is expressed in our attitudes and actions toward others. *Applying biblical knowledge* is the most essential characteristic in Christianity. This is the lifestyle, which by God has ordained for Christians to practice. The very nature of God is that of a servant. Therefore, the fruit of ministry should be people who serve others with joy.

Building

The church is also referred to as the body of Christ. Each member in the body of Christ has a role to embrace for *building up the body*. As each member uses their *gifts and abilities* to serve others, the whole body is strengthened.

Attaining

There are two primary truths God wills for the church to attain. The first truth is the *unity of the faith*. The second truth is the *knowledge of the Son of God*. Unity of the faith is attained when *Christian Community* is practiced through the local church. Knowledge of the Son of God is attained when Christians *reflect the character of Christ* through revelation of His word.

Maturity

The ultimate purpose for the local church is to bring Christians to a place of maturity. The measuring stick that is used for determining maturity is the stature, which belongs to the *fullness of Christ*. The *environment* of the local church *enables and provokes* the development of every member.

OUR VISION

“Releasing People into their Purpose and Potential”

A Guiding Concept

We have a desire to see every person, who is exposed to our ministry, have a life changing experience with Jesus Christ. The central message that Jesus preached when He was on the earth was *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17)*. This statement simply means that when we turn our hearts to God through faith in Jesus Christ, then we will begin to experience the essence and reality of heaven in our own hearts and lives. This relationship with Jesus Christ empowers us to overcome bad habits, poor attitudes, broken relationships and the hurts and failures of our past. Our desire to see people discover their freedom in Christ is a guiding concept in all that we do as a ministry.

Our Foundational Scripture

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are downtrodden, To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord”

-Luke 4:18-19

OUR PURPOSE

Evangelism, Discipleship, Worship, Ministry & Fellowship

EVANGELISM: Communicating the Message of Jesus Christ

God created mankind originally to be just like Himself. His purpose for this was and still is to have a family. However, mankind lost fellowship with God through disobedience. A fallen angel, whose name used to be Lucifer, used the influence of deception to entice the first created man and woman (Adam & Eve) to rebel against the will of God. As a result, all of creation has been placed under the dominion of Satan (Lucifer's new name).

It is the desire of God for every individual to have fellowship with Him. The problem with this desire is that God is holy and cannot have unholiness in His Presence. The consequence of unholiness is certain death. That is why there has to be the shedding of blood and a sacrifice offered to God on behalf of unholiness to satisfy justice. Jesus is the Lamb of God who shed His blood for the sins of all mankind.

When an individual hears the message of Jesus Christ, then a way is made for that individual to repent of their sins and to receive forgiveness from God. We as believers are called by God to spread the message of His Son to all the world. We literally become messengers for God to those who are in need of reconciliation with God. This is why it is essential for believers to share their faith with others who need to hear it.

DISCIPLESHIP: Learning the Word of God

Discipleship is simply learning the Word of God and doing it. Christians cannot rely on their personal feelings or their own understanding to grow spiritually. Receiving Jesus into our heart is only the beginning of our spiritual journey. To continue to grow, we have to feed on God's Word habitually.

When we embrace discipleship as a lifestyle, then we are able to work through unhealthy attitudes, overcome difficult situations and move into our God-given destiny. An absence of discipleship will ultimately lead to spiritual frustration and disappointment. However, a commitment to discipleship will prosper our soul and bless our life.

As we give our attention to what God has said in his Word, we begin to renew our minds. The Holy Spirit gradually transforms our thinking by leading us into all the truth. Therefore, discipleship literally becomes a tool the Lord uses to conform us into His image.

WORSHIP: Expressing the Greatest of God

The most significant reality a human heart can experience is expressing the greatness of God. There are many things throughout our lives that our hearts express value towards. It could be another person such as a spouse or parent. It may be a pet like a cat or a dog. Or it could be certain activities like sports or shopping. The list could go on and on. The idea is our hearts need to be expressed.

When we develop our heart to express the greatness of God, then we discover total satisfaction and fulfillment in Him. Even though worshipping God is the highest purpose for our heart, we still have a free will. Because of this, we have to take the initiative and practice perfecting our praise to God. This is what worship is all about.

After understanding our need to worship God, then we begin the process of practicing it. This process starts by thinking of the greatness of God. It then moves into some form of expression. This expression could be a prayer or a song, maybe playing an instrument or dancing, even sacrificially giving or serving. The point is our heart expressing toward God His greatness.

MINISTRY: Serving the Purposes of God

Every member in the body of Christ is a minister of the Gospel. Therefore, every member is called into the ministry. Even though the five-fold ministry offices of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor & teacher function in the ministry as their occupation, the whole body of Christ is called to minister. Ministry means to serve the purposes of God. Our first ministry is to our own family, then to our local church. As we begin to seek out needs in the body of Christ, then offer ourselves for service, we are actually ministering. Ministry causes us to really come alive in Christ. There are various spiritual gifts and natural abilities within each individual member. As these gifts and abilities are exercised in the body, then everyone grows together.

FELLOWSHIP: Experiencing Redemptive Community

Fellowship is when we come together in the Name of the Lord, and in doing so facilitate an opportunity for experiencing the work of redemption in our lives. We are all called by our heavenly Father to rise above the limitations, distractions, irritations and speculations of our time. He desires to see us assume our place in Him where the life of Christ flows freely through us. However, this desired place of purpose and power does not happen simply because you are a disciple or because you really want it. Our adversary the devil will most certainly use every evil scheme and deceitful weapon imaginable to keep us from the truth. Furthermore, the worldly culture in which we live is always competing for our attention and our affections. Even more, the memory of our own flesh nature will wrestle with Christ for control of our lives. Understanding these enemies of our faith and the real danger they represent helps us to realize just how much

we need to be actively engaged in redemptive community. Through participation in redemptive community we are empowered to overcome our past, our weaknesses and our enemies. Furthermore, we are empowered to discover our purpose, develop our potential and fulfill our destiny.

OUR MISSION

“Producing Effective Ambassadors for Jesus Christ”

Our Business

After we have received Jesus Christ into our hearts, then we begin the life long journey of growing in our new life in Christ. It is the desire of God our Father that we as His children make a difference in this world. Listen to what Jesus said in, John 15:8 *“By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples”*. We are committed to equipping people with revelation of God's word and with the inspiration of God's Spirit. When our lifestyle comes into harmony with the new life we have in Christ, then we begin to affect the world with the kingdom of heaven. Our business as a ministry is to equip people so they are empowered to represent Jesus Christ effectively in every area of their lives.

Foundational Scripture

“We are Ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God”

-II Corinthians 5:20

IDENTITY

About Our Name

There was much thought and prayer given prior to selecting *Covenant Church* as the name for this ministry. We understood the importance for having an appropriate name to represent the character of this ministry. Therefore, let's take a look at the significance of the word *covenant*.

The word **covenant** means a *binding agreement* between two or more parties. The word *testament* means a covenant between God and man. The Bible is made up of two testaments. The Old Testament, which was before Jesus Christ and the New Testament, which is after Jesus Christ. Therefore, according to the Bible we are living in the New Testament (Covenant) right now. The New Testament consists of twenty-seven books explaining God's new covenant with man. The central theme of the *New Covenant* is the righteousness of God. Those who come to God through faith in Jesus Christ receive God's righteousness. In other words, when we trust Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Savior, God declares us righteous and gives us His nature through

His Spirit. Now, as mentioned previously, the word **church** literally means the called out ones. Jesus has supernaturally called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). The name Covenant Church identifies our ministry as a community of people who have entered into a covenant with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

COVENANT CHURCH

About Our Logo

As the saying goes, “A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words”. People are greatly influenced by what they see. So, we wanted to design a logo that was creative and catchy. Using a spirited font extending beyond a circle, together with a structured font within a circle conveys the idea of both freedom and foundation. The official church logo color is rustic red, although other colors may be used for various applications.



STRUCTURE

Legal Matters

Covenant Church is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. We are in good legal standing with the Secretary of State as well as the State Comptroller, being recognized as an Incorporation. We identify ourselves as a Spirit-filled, evangelical church. Covenant Church is a debt-free ministry and diligently strives to maintain financial freedom.

Ecclesiastical Government

This ministry governs itself according to the standards found in the New Testament Scriptures. The *legal affairs* of this ministry are managed by its Board of Elders, also referred to as the Official Board.

The *spiritual affairs* of this ministry are managed by its pastors, elders and deacons. The pastors, elders and deacons are responsible for equipping, leading, and caring for the congregation. They all work together in unity to fulfill the mandate for this ministry. The *administration* for all church business is managed by the church staff. Office hours are 9:00am-5:00pm Monday thru Thursday.

The various *ministries* of this organization are (generally) managed by the official members of this church. These members have been trained through this ministry and are accountable to the pastors and elders. We believe every member is a minister.

Affiliation

The pastor(s) of Covenant Church meet frequently with pastors from other local churches. These essential meetings include prayer, fellowship, counsel and accountability. There is representation from numerous denominational and non-denominational backgrounds. The diversity of these meetings brings a rich experience for all the leadership involved. Covenant Church is also in fellowship with Gateway Church led by Pastor Robert Morris.

Organizational Structure

Covenant Church represents the individuals and various ministries that constitute our local church. Covenant Church consists of various weekly ministries, which take place throughout our community, a mid-week lift on Wednesday's, and celebration services on Sundays. The following list includes the current ministries within our local church:

Celebration Services

Corporate Community Services

Worship Arts

Song, Music, Dance & Drama

Tech Arts

Sound, Lighting & Video

Prayer Partners

Altar Ministers

Media Ministry

Website, Social Media & Streaming

Life Groups

Small Group Ministry

Covenant Kids

Nursery, Pre-School & Elementary

TLC Food Pantry

Local Benevolence Ministry

Covenant Youth

Jr. High & High School

Covenant Men

Men's Ministry

Covenant Women

Women's Ministry

Missions

Strong Marriages Int. & Merry Hearts Orphanage

Short Term Missions

Missionary Outreach Trips

Guest Services

Ushers, Greeters & Connection Team

Ambassadors Training Course	Systematic Discipleship Program
Bridge Events	Interest Based Community Outreach
A.L.I.V.E.	Ministry Rally & Leadership Training
Young Adults	18-35 yrs. old Ministry
The Wild Bunch	60 yrs. old and Up Ministry
Mid-Week Lift	Topical Teaching for Spiritual Growth
Internship Program	Education, Mentoring & Training
Celebrate Recovery	Freedom & Recovery Ministry

STRATEGY

Approach

Our approach toward developing the vision of this ministry is to effectively *EQUIP* you to serve the living God. We understand becoming mature in Christ is a process, therefore we facilitate opportunities for you to discover your purpose and to develop your potential. The following summary briefly describes the process we use to equip you to become an effective Ambassador for Jesus Christ.

Relational Evangelism

Reaching people with the message of Jesus Christ is our first priority. We gear the whole ministry toward winning people to Jesus. One-on-one witnessing is the most practical and effective way to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ. This is known as *relational evangelism*. When you have the testimony of a changed life, you have the ability to influence others for Christ. As a member of Covenant Church you will be equipped and challenged to reach out to your five primary spheres of influence. These five areas include the following:

- Family Members**
- Friends**
- Neighbors**
- Co-Workers**
- Acquaintances**

Jesus has given us *The Great Commission* (Matthew 28: 18-20) to fulfill during our time here on earth. And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, *“All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Devotional Life

Once you are born of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, there remains the need for maturing in the knowledge of God. It is essential to expose yourself to life-giving relationships, as well as an environment where you can grow in faith. The Holy Spirit brings us to maturity through a process. This process is rooted in the Word of God (The Bible). Mature Christians have allowed the Word of God to cultivate their attitudes, habits and lifestyle. Covenant Church will support you in your commitment to becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. There are four *basic* habits you need to embrace to become a true disciple of the Lord. These habits include:

- **Daily bible study and prayer time.**
- **Hearing the word of God being preached frequently.**
- **Applying the truths of the word of God consistently.**
- **Developing Godly relationships for accountability.**

Redemptive Community

It's a tremendously rewarding experience to have fellowship with other believers. Sharing your life is so important for finding fulfillment in life. Fellowship helps us to stay honest and to keep our lives in perspective. Life Groups represents our small group ministry. There are many different needs people have. Therefore, Covenant Church supports various topically based small groups, which are led by the members of the church. These groups facilitate opportunities for people to get *connected* with others so they can *grow* together in redemptive community. Before and after services are great opportunities for connecting with other too. Also, serving in an area of the church helps you feel connected to the body. When you know you are helping the growth of the church through serving, then you sense the blessing of God on your life.

Loving God

God created us for His glory. We believe we are here to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. The Bible teaches us to love God with all our being. (Matthew 22:37)

"...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Our celebration services provide anointed worship to help you enter into the Presence of God. *Loving God is central in all that we do.* There are many ways to love God, but the most effective way is to love Him with our lives. To love God is to worship Him and this is the passion of Covenant Church. As you participate in this family of believers you will certainly be equipped to live a life worthy of the Lord.

Serving People

We believe God owns everything and is the giver of all good things. Every person has unique gifts, which we recognize as potential. This potential comes from God. However, we have the responsibility to develop our potential. This ministry was developed with a desire to see you

released into your purpose and potential. We believe it is essential to continually expose yourself to an environment where you can be encouraged and provoked. Encouraged, so you can find the strength to overcome the cares of this world. Provoked, so you will accept the responsibility to make a difference with your life. We view every member of Covenant Church as ministers of the grace of God. All of our ministry opportunities are geared towards enabling you to become an effective Ambassador for Jesus Christ. We desire to see you serve the Lord with joy and to fulfill your destiny in God.

MEMBERSHIP

BENEFITS

Becoming a member of Covenant Church will help you find **FAVOR** in your life with both God and man.

Family

You will be connected to a family of believers who will accept you, encourage you and share the gift of life with you.

Accountability

You will have people to hold you accountable in living for Christ without compromise.

Vision

You will have spiritual leadership to equip you in serving God.

Oppportunity

You will have opportunities to discover and use your gifts in ministry.

Resources

You will have access to ministry tools for meeting your needs.

Requirements

There are four requirements that must be met before becoming a member of Covenant Church.

- 1 – Repent of sin and unbelief and trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.
- 2 – Be water baptized by submersion as a public sign of your faith in Jesus Christ.
- 3 – Complete the Covenant Connection class.
- 4 – Sign the Membership Covenant for Covenant Church.

Responsibilities

The following responsibilities help you work together with the church in making a difference:

Protect the unity of the church.	(Romans 14:19)
By acting in love toward others.	(I Peter 1:22)
By refusing to gossip.	(Ephesians 4:29)
By following the leaders.	(Hebrews 13:17)
Share the responsibility of the church.	
By praying for its growth.	(I Thess. 1:1-2)
By inviting the unchurched to attend.	(Luke 14:23)
By welcoming those who visit.	(Romans 15:7)
Serve the ministry of the church.	
By discovering my gifts and talents.	(I Peter 4:10)
By being equipped to serve.	(Ephesians 4:11-12)
By developing a servant’s heart.	(Philippians 2:3-7)
Support the testimony of the church.	
By attending faithfully.	(Hebrews 10:25)
By living a godly life.	(Philippians 1:27)
By giving regularly.	(Malachi 3:10)

This outline was adopted from the book “Purpose Driven Church” written by Pastor Rick Warren.

Involvement

It is essential for all members to get involved within an area of ministry. Jesus did not call us to be spectators, but rather to participate in building His kingdom. The pastors and church staff are available to meet with you to find a place where you can get involved.

WE BELIEVE

Article 1 – The Trinity

It is the testimony of both the Old and New Testaments and of the Christian Church that God is both One and Triune. The biblical revelation testifies that there is only one God and that He is eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A. God the Father

God the Father is the creator and sustainer of all things, and He created the universe in love. He created man in His own image for fellowship and called man back to Himself

through Christ after the rebellion and fall of man.

B. The Son

Jesus Christ is eternally God. He was together with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning, and through Him all things were made. For man's redemption, He left heaven and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit through the virgin Mary; henceforth, He is forever one Christ with two natures—God and man—in one person.

C. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God, the Lord and giver of life, who was active in the Old Testament and given to the Church in fullness at Pentecost. He empowers the saints for service and witness, cleanses man from the old nature and conforms us to the image of Christ. The baptism in the Holy Spirit, subsequent to conversion, releases the fullness of the Spirit and is evidenced by the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Article 2 – The Scripture

We affirm that the Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments, is alone the only infallible, inspired Word of God, and that its authority is ultimate, final and eternal. It cannot be added to, subtracted from or superseded in any regard. The Bible is the source of all doctrine, instruction, correction and reproof. It contains all that is needed for guidance in godliness and practical Christian conduct.

Article 3 – The Atonement

Christ's vicarious death on the cross paid the penalty for the sins of the whole world, but its benefits are only applicable to those who receive Jesus as their personal Savior. Healing—body, soul and spirit—and all of God's provisions for His saints, are provided for in the atonement, but these must be appropriated.

Article 4 – Salvation

The Word of God declares clearly that salvation is a free gift of God, based on the merits of the death of His Son, and is appropriated by faith. Salvation is effected by personal repentance, belief in the Lord Jesus (justification) and personal acceptance of Him into one's life as Lord and Savior (regeneration). The new life in Christ includes the privileges of adoption and inheritance in the kingdom of God's beloved Son. Salvation is an act of free will in response to God's personal love for mankind. It is predestined only in the sense that God, through His omniscience, foreknew those who would choose Him. It is secure in the eternal, unchanging commitment of God who does not lie and is forever the same. Salvation should produce an active lifestyle of loving obedience and service to Jesus Christ our Savior.

Article 5 – The Christian Life

We believe that the Scriptures portray the life of the saint in this world to be one of balance between what is imputed to us as Christians and what is imparted to us according to our faith

and maturity. Hence, God's provision for His children is total, and the promises are final and forever. The shortcomings of the individual and of the Church are because of the still progressing sanctification of the saints. The Christian life is filled with trials, tests and warfare against a spiritual enemy. For those abiding in Christ until their deaths or His return, the promises of eternal blessing in the presence of God are assured. To remain faithful through all circumstances of life requires dependence upon the Holy Spirit and a willingness to die to personal desires and passions.

Article 6 – The Church

The goal of the Church is to make disciples of all nations and to present the saints complete in Christ. The five-fold ministry of Ephesians 4 governs the Church, the offices of elder and deacon, as well as other offices mentioned in scripture. Church policy is a balance between congregation and eldership authority, emphasizing the final authority of the Church leadership. It is essential to the life of the Church that scriptural patterns of discipline are practiced and that oversight for Church discipline, individual and corporate, is exercised by the leadership of the Church.

Article 7 – Baptism & the Lord's Supper

The Word of God enjoins on the Church two perpetual ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first, baptism, is the outward sign of what God has already done in the individual's life and is a testimony to all that the person now belongs to Jesus. It is identification with Jesus and is affected in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the death of the Lord and is done in remembrance of Him until He comes again; it is a sign of our participation in Him. Both institutions are restricted to those who are believers.

Article 8 – Eschatology

We affirm the bodily, personal, second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the saints, the millennium and the final judgment. The final judgment will determine the eternal status of both the saints and the unbelievers, determined by their relationship to Jesus Christ. We affirm with the Bible the final state of the new heavens and the new earth.

CORE VALUES

The following *Ten Core Values* represent the ideals that shape the culture for Covenant Church, which in turn fosters an environment where people can grow together in Christ.

Spreading the fame of Jesus. We desire for Jesus to be honored and celebrated in all that we do and in the way we do it. It's always because of Him, about Him and for Him that we minister to those in the church and in the world.

Anointed Preaching. We desire to proclaim the word of God under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The church has been entrusted with this sacred message where those who hear it have the opportunity to experience all the benefits of salvation.

The Presence of God. We desire to pursue and encounter the Presence of God in such a way where He will make His dwelling among us. In His Presence we find joy, holiness, and intimacy with the Father.

Creative Leadership. We desire to give space for the creative spark to inspire our leadership efforts. Being creative is being like our Creator God and is the most attractive way to approach leadership in the church.

Balanced Living. We desire to manage personal life, family time, and ministry with a sense of balance. Being accountable with our rest, our time, and our energy is essential for balanced living.

Transformational Ministry. We desire for all ministry to empower people to experience life change. Transformational ministry gives Jesus the opportunity to intersect with people and change them through the inner workings of the Holy Spirit.

Redemptive Community. We desire for every person to experience the strength of redemptive community. Sharing our lives in close proximity with one another is essential in receiving true restoration.

Multi-Generational Church. We desire to be a connected church for all generations where no one is forgotten and no one is left behind. Everybody is somebody in the kingdom of God.

Gospel of Grace. We desire to present the Gospel with an emphasis on the grace of God. It's not about our religious efforts which are riddled with condemnation, but instead it's about what Jesus has accomplished for us and freely offers to us.

Honoring One Another. We desire to create a culture of honor where we regard one another as more important than ourselves. Valuing each other's ideas, preferences and expectations demonstrates honoring one another.

SALVATION

What's My Purpose in Life?

The ultimate purpose in life for every person is to know God. In the book of Genesis 1:27 the bible says, "And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." It's only when an individual has right relationship with God does that individual experience their essential purpose in life.

Our Problem: Humanity is Broken

In the third chapter of Genesis we discover the story of the first created man and woman (Adam & Eve) and how they disobeyed God. Through their rebellion against God sin was introduced to humanity. The consequence of this tragedy resulted in broken relationship with God. God is holy and requires holiness from the people He created.

The Solution: Jesus Christ

God was not willing to leave us forever separated from Himself. So, He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to bear the consequence of our sin. As a result, Jesus willingly took the wrath of God against us upon Himself through His death on a cross. This courageous act of love was to satisfy the justice of heaven and to create a way for man to be reconciled back to God.

Our Response: Faith Alone in Christ Alone

God is not asking anyone to pay for their sins, nor to become religious. He is however, asking us to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. When we put our trust in Jesus and accept His forgiveness, then God gives us the gift of His righteousness. This is the context for right relationship with God that ultimately results in eternal life for those who will believe.

Suggested Prayer for Salvation

Almighty God, I come to you in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. I recognize my separation from You and the brokenness in my life. I repent of my sin and unbelief and ask for Your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus die for me and rose from the dead, so that I could be reconciled back to You. So, I now accept Jesus into my heart as Savior of my life. Thank You for hearing my prayer in Jesus Name. Amen!



Pastors Sean & Lori Jo Cook

Education

In 1999 Sean earned his bachelor's degree (B.A.) in Theology with an emphasis in Leadership. He graduated Cum Laude. Then, returning to seminary to pursue his graduate studies, he earned a Master of Ministry (M.Min.) in 2015 receiving highest honors.

Lori Jo graduated from The University of Texas in San Antonio in 1993 with a bachelor's degree (B.A.) in business. In the spring of 1996, she graduated from Texas Bible Institute in Columbus, Texas as salutatorian.

Experience

Sean served at Living Branch Church in Conroe from 1992-1997 in the children, young adults, evangelism and adult ministries. During these years of service he was licensed and later ordained as a minister. He also had the opportunity to do missionary work in Sweden and Pakistan. During 1995-1997 he pioneered and led a college student organization at Lone Star College called the College Connection.

Lori Jo served at Eagles Nest Christian Fellowship (The Summit) in San Antonio from 1991-1995 in the nursery, children's, youth and dance ministries. She served Marriage Ministries International in Littleton, Colorado from the spring of 1996 thru the summer of 1997. She joined Texas Bible Institute staff in the fall of 1997 thru the spring of 2000. She served as Dean of Woman, Mission's Director, Recruiting Director, and Party Coordinator. Lori Jo had the opportunity to serve Outpouring Ministries in San Antonio, Texas during the summer of 2000.

Vision

Sean & Lori Jo have a passion to spread the fame of Jesus Christ in this community and throughout our nation. They sense a calling to intelligently communicate the Gospel of grace and the true freedom that is found in Christ alone.



Pastor Heath & Melissa Cook

Heath and Melissa are literally a match made in heaven. Prior to meeting, each made a commitment to not date anyone until God brought the “one” into his or her life. The one came. In 1997, Heath and Melissa were married, ending a two-year courtship and beginning a life of covenant. In October of 2001, they were blessed with their first child, Seth Eric Cook. Then in June of 2003 the second blessing came into this world named Bailee Catherine Cook. To complete their family the last addition came in November of 2006, Autumn Ashlyn Cook.

After completing bible school in 1995, Heath was licensed and later ordained for the work of ministry. Melissa, also a bible school graduate, served alongside her husband as Youth Pastors in a local church youth ministry. During this time they led city-wide youth rallies, world missions in Mexico, Ireland, and mentored numerous teenagers through their Leadership Training Course (LTC). The dynamics of their ministry imparted *seeds of greatness* in the hearts of young people.

Now, as a part of the leadership team at Covenant Church, Heath and Melissa bring experience as well as a passion to serve God in a fresh new way. Their motto is simply to “love God and love people”. Heath currently serves as both the executive pastor and worship pastor. Melissa serves alongside her husband as a worship leader. They also oversee our missions outreach to Guatemala and the Young Adults ministry.



Pastor Jerry & Mary Uriarte

Upon entering a Christian coffee house in 1972, Jerry caught sight of Mary and boldly proclaimed to his friend standing nearby, I'm going to marry that girl someday. And he did! Unbeknown to Jerry, Mary as a youngster emphatically told her mother, I'm going to marry a preacher and she did! Still happily married for over 40 years, they have three daughters and ten grandchildren.

Beginning in 1975, Jerry became involved in ministry and was ordained in 1989. Over the years he has served in the capacity as church administrator, youth pastor and associate pastor. Jerry and Mary motivate Gods people to develop an individual relationship with Him; and out of that relationship will come a desire to separate from worldly influences and to reach their fellowman.

Walking hand in hand through numerous years of marriage, Jerry and Mary clearly understand that it is a definite challenge to cultivate and build a healthy marriage in today's society. Couples are inevitably faced with marital compromise somewhere between I do and til' death do us part. This attack on the institution of marriage has prompted a desire in their hearts to see marital relationships healed, strengthened and reinforced through the principles of the Word of God.

Jerry & Mary have a strong desire to see the body of Christ established in all aspects of life through discipleship training. They oversee Marriage Ministries and Communion. Mary is currently the church secretary and administrative assistant to Pastor Sean Cook. You will be blessed by getting to know both Jerry & Mary Uriarte.



Pastor Gary Bryant

Gary Bryant joined the staff at Covenant Church in January of 2013. Being the father of 4 boys, he has had a lot of experience working with kids. His background in youth ministry and working extensively in theatre arts, Gary brings a unique expression in creative leadership serving as our Children's Pastor.

Using a plethora of ministry tools like laser lights, costumes, puppets, videos, age appropriate teaching and high energy...the kids always encounter Jesus in a fun and transformational way. Gary's passion for reaching kids with the Gospel and building a strong foundation for their future is truly contagious. We are blessed in having a man who loves Jesus and loves kids...to lead the way in our Children's Ministry.



Pastor Roy & Ethel Anderson

Roy has been happily married to his wife Ethel for more than forty years. They have three children and five grandchildren. He has been a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist since 1977 and ordained minister since 1980. Roy has served as a Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor and as a Professor at a Christian College. Currently, he is working with Pastors and local churches throughout the United States and around the world. For more information about his Marriage Ministry, you can go to his website at www.strongmarriages.org. Roy also serves as the *Apostolic Elder* on the Board of Elders for Covenant Church and is spiritual father to both Sean & Heath Cook.



Kenny Gottlieb

God placed the love of music and computers into Kenny at a very young age. He created his first website at the age of 11 and began learning music around the same time. He was programming on computers and playing in rock bands by his early teen years.

Kenny graduated Summa Cum Laude with a vocational degree in Software Engineering in the spring of 2002. He then continued his education with two more years of undergraduate studies.

During his twenties Kenny primarily worked as a video game developer and contracting software developer. He has developed video games, windows applications, web-based applications, mobile apps and even websites. He also worked at various local recording studios as a studio drummer, performing on albums for artists of all genres from Country to Hip Hop.

After leaving for almost ten years Kenny returned to Covenant Church in January of 2010. Immediately upon his return God showed Kenny a grand vision of incredible beauty and intelligence, then on April 30th 2011 Kenny married that vision, Lauren Gottlieb. Two years later God blessed the couple with a handsome son, Zane Gabriel Gottlieb.

Kenny serves as the Support Services Manager in Covenant Church. He believes that God has brought him here for two primary functions: First, to open the doors of Covenant Church to Willis, the surrounding communities and the world, so that people will see the amazing things that God is doing in His Church. Second, to equip the congregation and staff of Covenant Church with tools to help them grow in relationship with God, love each other, and love others outside of the Church.



Scott Mittelstedt

Scott Mittelstedt was born April 24th, 1992 and is from Willis, TX. He has been a part of Covenant Church since 2005. He is son to Jeff & Julie Branam who are active members of Covenant Church. Scott is currently serving in youth ministry, while working at Consolidated Communications and attending seminary at Grace School of Theology. Although at times he can have a humorous demeanor, he is quite serious about pursuing ministry and believes its Gods call on his life. Scott is currently single and hopes to marry one day. He has a heart for teenagers and is committed to seeing the next generation impacted with the Gospel.



Pastor Jason Smart

There are two dates that Jason Smart will always remember. June 28, 1992 the day he accepted Jesus as his Lord and savior and October 17, 2011 the day the Lord changed his life's path forever.

Jason is a man whose life was forever changed by the loving grace of Jesus. For 24 years he struggled with finding peace and forgiveness for past hurts and false beliefs of who he thought he was. And on October 17 the Lord showed him how much He loved and cared for him and set him on a path that was filled with forgiveness, grace, and of course love.

Jason believes that people need discipleship. He also believes that freedom/recovery will work for those who are willing to look deep within and concur there is pain that we all hide at times. After going through the 12 steps of Celebrate Recovery and the 8 Beatitudes of Crossties, Jason felt the Lord urging him into recovery ministry, helping those who seem helpless. Helping those who are lost within the pain of hurts, habits and hang-ups has become a passion of his. The Lord placed recovery ministry into Jason's heart after struggle for 24 years with his own hang-ups and false belief of himself. Now he has the joy of watching people find freedom as they experience the transformational power of Gospel.

Jason has accomplished two years of college and also earned a certificate in biblical studies. He has also had the joy being on the leadership team in several mission trips. Jason is an active blogger, is a licensed minister through Covenant Church, and leads the freedom/recovery ministry.