



# TBCO 101

## Membership in Trinity Bible Church of Ottawa

Version 1.2

### **TRINITY BIBLE CHURCH**

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## **Introduction to Trinity Bible Church**

Welcome to Trinity Bible Church. We are glad you've chosen to find out more about this church.

This class is the basic introduction to Trinity Bible Church's family. Since we have people from many different backgrounds who attend our church, this class was designed to help you understand what our church is all about. It is also designed to help you discover how you can become a part of Trinity Bible Church if God so leads.

At Trinity Bible Church, or TBC, we desire that each person who comes through our doors comes to know Jesus Christ. We also desire that each person with whom we have contact comes to know Jesus. We desire to be part of God's kingdom and are focused not just on our local ministry but on what we can do to advance God's kingdom. The basis for this class is that:

- It's God's desire that you become a Christian - I Tim. 2:4
- It's God's will that all Christians become committed and active in a local church - Acts 2:41-42, Heb. 10:24-25, Eph. 4:16

It is our goal that as part of taking this class you realize the need to become a Christian and that as a Christian you will become involved in TBC or another local church.

Membership in TBC is a relatively simple affair:

- You need to find us and come one Sunday
- Take TBC 101 and demonstrate interest in becoming a member
- Have a visit with two of our elders
- Have your name announced to the congregation for two weeks
- Sign the membership covenant

This booklet and presentation is divided into five sections. The length of time in each section will be dependent on those taking the seminar. Factors such as church background, a person's faith journey and spiritual maturity along with previous association with either Trinity or the Associated Gospel Churches will determine how much time is spent in each section. Section Two, on salvation will be explored in detail with each potential member when that person(s) meets with the elders as part of the membership process.

## **Outline**

### **Section One: Trinity Bible Church's History**

- A short video, produced for the celebration of our 25th anniversary, that shows the history of TBC

### **Section Two: Salvation**

- What it means to be a Christian
- The symbols of salvation

### **Section Three: What Trinity Bible Church is all about?**

- Our, mission, vision, values, philosophy and culture

### **Section Four: What Trinity Bible Church Believes?**

- What we believe
- Who we stand with

### **Section Five: How Trinity Bible Church operates**

- How Trinity Bible Church is governed
- How we make decisions
- How we do ministry
- What we ask of those who join TBC
- Conflict resolution

## **Section One: Trinity Bible Church's History**

Our Journey - so far ....

In early 1981, a group of Christians gathered for Bible studies in various homes in the Osgoode and Rideau Township area. By September 1982, six of these families began to meet regularly for Sunday School, worship and Bible study. Since a few of these families were sending their children to the Community Christian School, the school building at Herbert's Corners south of Greely became the meeting place. On Thanksgiving weekend, 1982 Trinity Bible Church was established in affiliation with the Associated Gospel Churches. In the spring of 1983, Reverend Jim Fast became the pastor.

The old Osgoode West SS #6 on Blanchfield Road east of Osgoode that had been vacant for many years, was leased, renovated and opened on Thanksgiving 1983. The church grew numerically and spiritually under Pastor Jim and Beth Fast. In the fall of 1986, Pastor Fast left and Pastor Archie Robertson began his ministry in the summer of 1987.

With much prayer and planning we made a move from the old school house to the Osgoode Public School. The first service, with 202 people present, was held there on Easter Sunday in 1988. Evening services continued at the building on Blanchfield. On December 19, 1990 the church moved to new facilities at the Market Square Mall in Osgoode.

In 1992 a sister church was planted in Stittsville, as well as in Orleans. In 1994 about 50 Trinity folk left to plant a daughter church in Winchester. From June 1994 to April 1996, Mr. Joey Malloy served as the youth pastor at Trinity. In January 1996, the church moved its Sunday morning meeting time to the facilities of Castor Valley Elementary School.

In May of 1998 services began in the present building on 107 acres of land on Stagecoach road. The official opening was held on September 20, 1998. In the spring of 2001, Pastor Archie Robertson left the ministry at Trinity. In April of 2003, Pastor Greg Loren and his wife Teresa and their family were welcomed to Trinity and began their ministry with us. In 2007 Greg left, to begin ministering in Langley, BC.

2007 saw Trinity celebrate 25 years of serving God in the South Ottawa area. The celebration was a time of rejoicing as current and former members joined together to reminisce and reflect on God's goodness.

At the start of 2008 we are excited with the arrival of Shawn Ketcheson, who along with Sue and his family, will minister from Trinity as Pastor.

## Section Two: Salvation

*"You have made us for Yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in you."*  
Augustine

*"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man that only God Himself can fill."*  
Pascal

### What It Means To Be A Christian

Some think they are Christians because members of their families are Christians. Others think they are Christians because they belong to a church, have been confirmed or baptized. Some think they are Christians because they accept certain facts as true, or because they try to live right. Here's what the Bible says about:

#### Why Am I Here?

Real happiness comes from understanding my purpose in life, which is:

God \_\_\_\_\_ me.

*"Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us and we are His."* Psalm 100:3

God \_\_\_\_\_ me.

*"For God so loved \_\_\_\_\_ that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* John 3:16

Because God created me out of love, He has a good purpose for my life.

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"* Jeremiah 29:11

God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart."* Matthew 22:37

God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_ Him in a personal way.

*"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."* John 17:3

God's purpose for our lives is that we come to have a loving personal relationship with Him that lasts forever.

So why do most people feel empty and unsure? What will happen to them when they die?

## What Is My Problem?

Sin causes me to be separated from God.

Many people seek to fill that God shaped vacuum with everything but God.... pleasure, prosperity, power, possessions... and yet the emptiness remains. Why?

Because finite things can never fill an infinite vacuum.

The search for fulfillment in life must begin with God

What is sin?

Sin is breaking God's law.

*"Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact sin is lawlessness".* I John 3:4

Sin is doing wrong.

*"All wrongdoing is sin."* I John 5:17

Sin is being self centered and self willed.

*"Each of us has turned to his own way."* Isaiah 53:6

Who sins?

\_\_\_\_\_ sin.

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* Roman 3:23

What does sin do to me?

Sin brings \_\_\_\_\_ into my life.

*"For the wages of sin is death."* Roman 3:23.

Death equals \_\_\_\_\_.

*"But your iniquities ( sins) have separated you from your God."* Isaiah 59:2

Sin brings:

Spiritual Death *"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins."* Ephesians 2:1

Physical Death *"Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."* Hebrews 9:27

Eternal Death (Hell) *"They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power."* 2 Thessalonians 1:9

## What Is The Answer?

It's not what you do.

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*  
Roman 6:23

It is a gift for 2 reasons:

- We cannot pay for it
- Someone else paid for it.

*"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."* 1 Peter 1:18-19

It's what God in Christ has done.

Who is Jesus Christ?

He is \_\_\_\_\_.

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."*  
John 1:1

He is \_\_\_\_\_.

*"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us."* John 1:14

Jesus is God who became a man. He comes to us where we are.  
He is fully God and fully man.

What did Jesus do?

He \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross for our sins.

*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."* I Peter 3:18

He was \_\_\_\_\_ on the third day. I Cor. 15:4

Jesus is the bridge between you and God.

*"Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* John 14:6

God has already done everything that needs to be done so that we can be forgiven and have a relationship with Him. He is waiting for our response.

We need to understand that there is a God who searches for us.

This God is a God of:

- Love- God made us so He could love us and have fellowship with us. John 3:16
- Holiness - God's absolute moral perfection is the standard upon which our relationship with God is based. Matthew 5:48

### What Should My Response Be?

We must come to \_\_\_\_\_ two things.

We must recognize we are sinners in need

We must recognize and genuinely believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay for our sins and that He was raised from the dead.

*“if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved.” Romans 10:9*

We must \_\_\_\_\_ and,

Repent means to turn around, to change directions, to change one's mind.

*“Unless you repent, you too will all perish.” Luke 13:5*

by faith, \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

*“Yet to all who receive Him, to those who believe in His name. He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12*

Salvation is a single event, not based on any action we take.

At the moment you accept Jesus' death on the cross as payment for your sin, you become a child of God. It is natural for a child to talk to their father. Likewise, it is a natural reaction in beginning this relationship with God to talk to your Heavenly Father.

Praying has never saved anyone. Prayer is simply the means by which we tell God that we are trusting Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

An example of something you could say to God might go something like this:

*Dear God:*

*I admit that I am a sinner and I understand that my sin separates me from you.*

*I believe that Jesus, being God, paid the penalty for all my sins when He died on the cross.*

*I now receive Him as my Saviour.*

*Thank you for loving and forgiving me and for giving me the gift of eternal life.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

If you have transferred your trust to Christ, then take a few minutes to read the following verses. These verses assure you that, having trusted Christ, eternal life is yours - and so much more!

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my voice, and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”* John 5:24

*“These things have I written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.”* 1 John 5:13

If you have trusted Christ as your Saviour, you are forever changed.

Often times we make a decision to follow Christ, but do not realize the ramifications and the dramatic changes that have occurred in our lives. As a result we have a false perception of ourselves and do not see ourselves as God sees us.

We have failed to grasp our true identity in Christ.

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.”* 1 Corinthians 5:17

\_\_\_\_\_ begins with salvation

We were not born in Christ, but rather in sin.

God’s method of transformation was revealed in a conversation that Christ had with Nicodemus in John 3:3 when Jesus says “ you must be born again.”

Physical birth gains us physical life. Spiritual life (the eternal life Christ promises to those who come to Him), is only gained through spiritual birth. - John 3:36

When we accept Christ we are made spiritually alive in Christ. It is this life that gives us our essential identity.

New Life brings a \_\_\_\_\_.

Becoming a Christian is more than getting eternal life and the forgiveness of sin, it is a matter of becoming someone new. Our new identity includes being:

- A saint
- A spiritually born child of God
- A divine masterpiece
- A child of light
- A citizen of heaven

It is not what you do as a Christian that determines your new identity, it's what you are that determines what you do. No person can consistently behave in a way that's inconsistent with the way he perceives himself.

For example, if you see yourself as a failure, you will probably live like a failure. If you see yourself as a child of God who is spiritually alive in Christ, you will begin to live your life in victory and freedom. - Colossians 3:10

One of the most common terms in Scripture to describe a Christian is 'saint'. The Greek word translated saint is also the Greek word that is translated holy.

The apostle Paul uses the term to describe the everyday common Christian in 1 Corinthians 1:2

*"To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours."*

Paul says we are saints by calling because God called you to be a saint. Do you see yourself as a sinner, saved by God's grace? God's doesn't call you a sinner; He calls you a saint - a holy one. If you see yourself as a sinner, you will live like a sinner and you will sin. Rather, God wants to see you as a saint who occasionally sins.

## The Symbols Of Salvation: Baptism and The Lord's Supper

### Baptism

Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* Matthew 28:19

You don't have to be baptized in order to be saved but you have to be saved before you can be baptized. - Acts 2:41

At Trinity we believe the Bible teaches that baptism is reserved for those who first trust Christ as Lord and Saviour. We do not baptize anyone until they have made a faith commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ.

For this reason we do not baptize babies. They are not able to make a personal commitment to Christ. We wait until children are old enough to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

What Is The Purpose Of Baptism?

Baptism is \_\_\_\_\_ in nature.

It does not give you salvation; only Jesus can do that. Luke 23:43; Acts 16:30-31; Eph 2:8-9.

It pictures Christ's \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and rose again."* - I Corinthians 15:3-4

*"We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life."* Romans. 6:4

It pictures my \_\_\_\_\_ as a Christian.

*"Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone the new has come!"* 2 Corinthians 5:17

It is a way to publicly show that you are a Christian and to openly identify with Christ and His church.

Baptism does not make you a believer. It is a way to show that you are already a believer.

It is an act of obedience. Baptism is like a wedding ring. It is an outward symbol of an inward commitment.

If you are a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ but not baptized; I urge you to be.

## As A Believer Why Should I Be Baptized?

Because the Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ it.

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* Matthew 28:19-20

Because the example of New Testament believers is clear. They were always baptized Acts 2:38,41; 8:12; 16:13-15; 18:8

Because it is a way that I can openly confess Christ and demonstrate publicly that I am a believer.

To follow the \_\_\_\_\_ set by Jesus.

*“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.”* Mark 1:9

## Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

Because \_\_\_\_\_ was baptized that way .

*“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.”* Matthew 3:16

Because every baptism in the \_\_\_\_\_ was by immersion.

*“Then both Philip and the Eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...”* Acts 8:38-39

The word baptism means \_\_\_\_\_.

Immersion is the only method that pictures what baptism is suppose to picture; the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Romans 6:3-4

Even though some denominations do not practice immersion their founders or main spokesmen agree that the New Testament teaches immersion:

- Martin Luther [Lutheran] - I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.
- John Calvin [Presbyterian] - The word baptize signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.
- John Wesley [Methodist] - “Buried with Him” alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.
- Roman Catholics - A Catholic Cathedral in Florence, Italy built during the 11th century has a baptistery.

## The Lord's Supper

Why does the church observe the Lord's Supper?

Christ \_\_\_\_\_ it.

*"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take eat; this is my body.' Then he took the cup, and gave thanks and gave it to them saying, 'drink from it all of you'"* Matthew. 26:17-19

Christ \_\_\_\_\_ that it be continued.

*"Do this in remembrance of me."* Luke 22:19

What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper?

There are two basic views

The sacramental point of view. Sacramentalism = the idea that the sacraments in and of themselves convey grace to an individual and can even bring about their salvation.

- Catholic view. Transubstantiation - The idea that the bread and wine actually become the physical body and blood of Christ.
- Lutheran view. Consubstantiation - The idea that the literal physical body of Christ is present in, with, and under the bread and wine.
- Reformed view. The idea that the bread and wine contain the presence of Christ not in a physical sense but in a spiritual sense.

The sacramental view says the purpose of the Lord's Supper is to bring God's grace to you in some form or another and in one measure or another.

The symbolic point of view (Trinity Bible Church holds this view). The bread and wine in a symbolic fashion represent and remind us of the body and blood of Christ.

The True Purpose of the Lord's Supper is Threefold

- It reminds us of the death of Christ for us. It is an act of worship and gratitude.  
*"Do this in remembrance of me"* I Corinthians 11:24
- It proclaims the Gospel  
*"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes"* I Corinthians 11:26
- It points to the future.  
*"... you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes"* I Corinthians 11:26

## Who Should Take The Lord's Supper?

Only those who have \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Who did the Lord Jesus share it with - the crowd or the committed? - Matt. 26:17- 29

He said we are to do it in "Remembrance of Him." - Luke 22:19

If you have never met someone how can you remember them?

If you take the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner you will be judged.

"For if you eat the bread or drink the cup unworthily, not honouring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself." - I Cor.11:29 (NLT)

The Lord's Supper is open to all who meet the prerequisites outlined in Scripture, which are:

- You have personally trusted Christ as your Saviour.
- You have a cleansed life - 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

## More Questions About The Lord's Supper

When & how often should it be observed?

There is no command in scripture about this.

The only reference to frequency is the phrase in I Cor. 11:26 "as often as you eat it", intimating regular observance, so anytime the church comes together is okay.

At TBC we normally observe it the first Sunday of each month. We also encourage our Community Groups to celebrate Communion together.

Where should it be observed?

Anywhere believers come together.

The early church met in homes - Acts 2:46

Who should lead the service?

There is no biblical model or prohibition so any believer could.

## How Should I Prepare Myself For The Lord's Supper?

*"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body & blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." I Corinthians 11:27-28*

We prepare ourselves by:

- Self-examination. - I Cor. 11:28
- By turning from & confessing our sins. - I John 1:9
- By restoring broken relationships. - Matt. 5:23-24; I Cor. 10:17
- By carefully considering what it all means. - I Cor. 11:29

## Section Three – What Trinity Bible Church Is All About

*“Let there be real harmony among you so there won’t be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.” 1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)*

### Our Culture

Culture can be defined as:

A pattern of shared basic assumptions that the group learned as it solved its problems of external adaptation and internal integration, that has worked well enough to be considered valid and, therefore, to be taught to new members as the correct way to perceive, think and feel in relation to those problems Edgar Schein

An organization’s culture can, and should, change over time. Although it is difficult for a church’s culture to change, and change often happens slowly, the culture will change to reflect amongst other things:

- New or different demographics
- The changes in the surrounding culture
- New leadership or leadership styles
- Technological changes in society

This section will only give questions to ask that will help determine the culture of the church at any given moment in time.

According to Andrew Seidel there are three levels of culture:

- Visible Things. Though visible, these are not always easy to interpret. Some questions to ask to help work through the visible aspect of culture are:
  - What do the buildings and grounds communicate?
  - How do people dress when they come to services?
  - |What is the atmosphere of the Sunday services?
  - What do the written documents communicate?
  - How clear is the vision?

- How do people in the congregational talk to each other? What language do they use?
  - How do people associated with the church behave in church services? During the week? How do they behave toward each other? toward outsiders?
- Values. Proclaimed and practiced values and assumptions which guide actions. These are explained below.

- View of Reality. Basic underlying assumptions about the way things work. These have come to be taken for granted and are so much a part of the organization that they are not always observed. The view of reality is constructed to manage two problems:
  - External Problem - What must we do to grow and conduct effective ministry in our current environment?
    - How strong is the agreement on the vision in the congregation?
    - Are there subgroups in the congregation who disagree with the vision?
    - What means will be used to accomplish the goals of the church?
    - What are the priorities?
    - What do you think is the measure of success used at your church?
    - By what criteria do you evaluate your pastor or church staff?
  - Internal Problem centers on power, acceptance and relational problems.
    - What language do we speak?
    - What are the criteria for official membership in the church?
    - What are the criteria of unofficial membership?
    - How is power gained? Who has power?
    - Rate pastoral staff, elders, other leaders, congregation
    - What behaviour is publicly praised?
    - How do we handle conflict? Is it healthy?
    - What are our inside stories?

## **Our Mission**

Trinity Bible Church exists to introduce people to Jesus Christ, develop them to mature in Him and equip them to serve Him, in order that they will enhance God's reputation in the world.

## **Our Vision**

Trinity Bible Church will love the people of Osgoode, the surrounding communities and the rest of the world just like Jesus does.

## **Our Values**

<b>Value</b>	<b>Amplification</b>
Unity	
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Mutual Care and Accountability</li><li>➤ Fellowship</li><li>➤ Solid personal Relationships</li><li>➤ Honest Communication</li><li>➤ Humour ☺</li></ul>
Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Every member serving others</li><li>➤ Teamwork</li></ul>
Discipleship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Spiritual growth to maturity</li></ul>
Excellence	
Leadership	
Prayer	
God's Word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Life-applicable Bible teaching</li><li>➤ Biblical authority as opposed to church traditions</li><li>➤ Connecting Christ with contemporary culture</li></ul>
Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Creativity</li><li>➤ Music</li></ul>
Community (Internal focus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Commitment to unity, love, and forgiveness</li><li>➤ Small group ministry</li></ul>
Outreach (External focus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Acceptance</li><li>➤ The lost</li><li>➤ Community involvement</li></ul>

## **Our Values Expanded**

This section expands out what we mean for the values listed above. It remains a work in progress as TBC continues to define the values that it seeks to live out. As a result not all values are listed in this section.

## Service

To encourage and enable believers to use and to get excited about the gifts God has given them as part of His body.

Demonstrate God's Love:

- by caring for one another and using our gifts and resources to meet the needs of others
- by encouraging and promoting any new ministries which will help the church to grow according to biblical principles
- by assisting every person at TBC to develop and utilize their spiritual gifts for the purpose of ministry

What is service?

2 Corinthians 9:12-13 - This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

Service is simply giving back to God by serving others in a selfless manner. It is anything we do in love to meet someone's need in Jesus name.

Who should serve?

God expects every believer to have a ministry and a place to serve.

- Every believer is a minister. - Ephesians 4:12
- Every ministry is important. - I Corinthians 12:15-18
- TBC believes in and supports every member ministry.

Because believers are given spiritual gifts empowered by God, God expects us to use them to serve others, in the church and outside of the church. We believe that the call of all of those who trust Christ is a life of holiness lived out in radical obedience to God's Word without apology and without exception.

Why should we serve?

Matthew 26:36-40 - Service is important because people matter. My service reflects & honours Christ.

Romans 15:17 - Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God

In Matthew 20:28 Jesus said, ``*The Son of man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many*”`

How should we serve?

Service, while it is personally fulfilling, also involves self-sacrifice. We serve not only for personal satisfaction but, above that because it furthers the Kingdom and the work of God in this world. We are not just about serving ourselves. Service that exists only to the church misses the point of service.

Service is about God.

### Discipleship

The curriculum we use is the Bible. Acts 2:42, I Peter 2:2, I Timothy 3:16

The goal we aim for is Christ like maturity Ephesians 4:13-15

A mature Christian is one who:

Walks with God - He has a growing relationship with the Lord.

He maintains a Spirit- controlled walk of obedience.

Lives the Word - He studies and applies the Bible to all areas of his life.

Contributes to the work - He uses his time, talents, gifts and material resources to help the growth and ministry of the church and God's kingdom.

Impacts the world - He is one who is prepared for and practices personal evangelism, discipleship and ministry.

He reproduces himself. (Bill Hybels)

Who we are and what we do has its basis, its foundation, in the Bible.

Our doctrinal statement, our theology, our belief system, our worldview, all have their basis in Scripture.

We all come from a fairly wide background, with different viewpoints on various issues.

However, what we believe as a church is important, not as a means to divide but as a means to unite.

If you stand for nothing you fall for anything, as the saying goes.

We stand for something.

We do hold fast to our theology and are not willing to cast it aside as though it doesn't matter because it does matter because it has its foundation in the very infallible words of God as

recorded in the Bible. Therefore what we teach in every area of this church is based on the Bible..

Spiritual Maturity happens by:

- educating (discipling) God's people through training in order to equip and motivate them to effectively share the gospel with those around them
- calling new believers to follow Christ through Baptism
- Involving believers in the regular study and application of Scripture for maturity in personal, professional, and family life through the exercise of Spiritual gifts.

Success is not measured by how many church seats have been filled, how much money we take in, how many ministries are happening, or how many people are involved in those ministries.

While each of those has its place, we can do all of those yet miss God's true intent; to see people grow in their relationship with God.

The measurements for spiritual maturity are things like:

- Are more people spending time consistently in the Word?
- Do husband love their wives?
- Are people using their gifts to serve God and others for the right reason?
- Are people being honest and authentic in whom they are?
- Do we love each other more?
- Do we understand God better?
- Do we life in line with our beliefs more consistently?

The real question is "Do people see Jesus in us a little more than they did last year?"

### God's Word

Bible-based teaching is to promote and maintain biblical doctrine as expressed in our doctrinal statement and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in all its power and fullness and to teach the Word of God effectively to all of our church family. We do this by:

- providing regular opportunities for the teaching and preaching of God's Word
- encouraging and allowing those, who are so gifted, to teach and preach and use their gifts

- sharing Him through our lifestyle and by our witness

### Worship

There is no biblically correct style of worship  
 Jesus gave only two requirements for worship to be legitimate.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ - John 4:24

Paul also gave two requirements.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ - I Corinthians 14:40

There are some Biblical elements of worship

Prayer	dance	reading & studying
praise	artistry	scripture
singing	Lord's Supper & Baptism	giving

People have different tastes in worship and that's all right.  
 They range in style from quiet to an extremely emotional style.

The key question is, "Is it Biblical?"

TBC worship reflects a balance of both quiet & exuberant styles.

The worship time is characterized by:

Celebration - Psalm 122:1, I Chron. 15:28-29, Psalm 100:2

Adoration - Psalm 92:1-2, Psalm 147:1

Confession - 1 John 1:9

Thanksgiving - Ephesians 5:20

Contemporary style based on John 4:23-24 & Ephesian 5:19-20

As long as it is within Biblical parameters, it is really an issue of preference.

### Community (Internal Focus)

Fellowship: To nurture, guard and enrich the true biblical fellowship of believers based on the unity of the Spirit, the bond of love, and the foundation of the Word of God. The convert is not only to believe in Jesus, but also to belong to His church

This means associating with God's people

- by creating opportunities to share life with other believers and develop meaningful relationships.
- by developing a community of believers who love one another unconditionally
- by encouraging every person at TBC to participate in at least one community group within our church, thus incorporating the family into the body of Christ.

A believer is to identify with Christ and His church through baptism. - Acts 2:41

A believer is to continually associate with the church through committed and consistent fellowship in a local body. - Acts 2:42, Heb. 10:24-25

Trinity Bible Church believes in church membership.

We believe every saved person should be a part of a local church that honours Christ.

### Outreach (External Focus)

To reach out to our community, our country and the world with a clear and relevant presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in order to give people an opportunity to be saved and become a part of God's people, the Church.

Practice Missions and Outreach:

- by supporting and being involved in mission causes both locally and around the world
- by communicating Christ in a way that is culturally understandable, ministering to people where they are, connecting to the lost and unchurched

Passages that talk about evangelism:

- Matthew. 28:19-20
- Mark 16:15,
- Luke 24:47-49
- John 20:21
- Acts 1:8

That means TBC is never going to stop trying to grow because

- God wants the lost to be saved. Luke 15
- God wants the church to grow
  - spiritually - Ephesians 4:13-15
  - numerically - Acts 2:47, Luke 14:23

## Section Four: What Trinity Bible Church Believes

### What We Believe As A Church

A principle that guides us.

#### **In essential beliefs we must have unity**

*“There is one body and one spirit... one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; one God and Father of all”* Ephesians. 4:4-5 (NIV)

*“For if you wander beyond the teaching of Christ, you will not have fellowship with God. But if you continue in the teaching of Christ, you will have fellowship with both the Father and son.”*  
2 John 9 (NLT)

#### **In non-essential beliefs - we allow liberty**

*1) “Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. 4) Who are you to judge someone else's servant? 5) To his own master he stands or falls. 12) So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. .19) Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. .22) So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.”* Romans 14:1,4,5,12,19,22

#### **In all our beliefs - we show charity (love)**

*“You think that everyone should agree with your perfect knowledge. While knowledge may make us feel important, it is love that really builds up the church.”* I Corinthians 8:1 (NLT)

*“If I had the gift of prophecy and if I knew all the mysteries of the future and knew everything about everything but didn't love others, what good would I be?”* I Corinthians 13:2

We believe in majoring on the majors and minoring on the minors.

Scripture is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. This church recognizes that it cannot bind the conscience of individual members in areas where Scripture is silent. Rather, each believer is to be led in this area by the Lord, to whom he or she is ultimately responsible.

We believe the Statement of Faith to be an accurate summary of what Scripture teaches. All members shall refrain from advocating doctrines that are not included in this Faith Statement in such a way as to cause dissension

## **Our Position - Where We Stand**

### **The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture**

We believe the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, as originally given by God are divinely inspired, without error, entirely trustworthy, and constitute the only supreme authority in all matters of faith, teaching and behaviour.

Mark 12: 26-36; Acts 1:16; 2 Timothy 3: 16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; Hebrew 4:12

### **The Trinity of the Godhead**

We believe that the Godhead eternally exist in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfection's, and are worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience.

Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:6-8; Isaiah 63:8-10; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-4; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4-6

### **The Deity and Virgin Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ**

We believe in the essential deity and the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and His total humanity through the virgin birth, and that all the Scriptures from first to last center about Him, His person and work, His sacrificial death upon the cross and His coming again.

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:35; John 5:39; Acts 1:11; 17:2-3; 18: 28: 26:22-23; 28;23;

### **The Personality, Deity and Present Mission of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine personality- the eternal third person of the Trinity- who is now, throughout the Age of Grace, here present in the true church having been sent for the express purpose of revealing Christ Jesus to the members of the church, that they may be conformed, instructed, and built up in their most holy faith, and to the world that sinners may be convicted of sin, righteousness and judgment.

John 7:38-39; 14: 16-17; 15:26; 16:13-15; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4.

### **The Fall of Humanity**

We believe that human beings, originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, fell from their high and holy estate through disobedience, by eating the forbidden fruit, and in consequence, the threatened penalty of death was then and there inflicted, so that he totally lost all spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and subject to the power of the devil.

Genesis 1:26; 2:17; Isaiah 64:6; John 5:40; 6 :53; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 Timothy 5:6; 1 John 3:8.

### The Total Depravity of Humans

We believe that this spiritual death, or total corruption of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire race of man, the man Christ Jesus alone excepted; and hence that every child of Adam is born into the world with a sinful nature.

Genesis 6:5; Psalms 14:1-3; 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:6; Romans 5:12-19.

### Salvation by Grace Through Faith

We believe that sinners are saved by grace through faith alone and that not of themselves, it is the gift of God, not of works. We further believe that every saved person is justified from all things from which he could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Acts 13:39; Romans 4:1-4; 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 2:11-14.

### The Atonement of the Blood of Christ

We believe that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin, and made a curse for us, dying in our place, a Sacrifice acceptable to God and effectual for every sinner who receives Him.

Leviticus 17:11; Matthew 26:28; John 1:12; Romans 5:6-9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 2:24.

### Regeneration by the Holy Spirit

We believe that owing to the universal depravity and death in sin, no one can see or enter the kingdom of God unless born of the Spirit whereby he becomes a new creation, sealed unto the day of Redemption.

John 3:5-8; Galatians 6:15; Ephesians 1:13; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 5:1.

### The Believer's Eternal Salvation

We believe in the eternal salvation of all who are actually born again by the Spirit of God through faith in Christ as revealed in the Scriptures and that it is the privilege of all such to be assured of their present salvation and eternal safety.

John 5:24; 10: 28-29; Romans 8:33-39; Philippians 1:6; 2 Timothy 1:12.

## Sanctification

We believe that the members of the body of Christ are “sanctified ones” (saints), perfected as to their standing forever by the one offering of the blood of Christ, and are one with Christ in sanctification. As to their state, they may be sanctified by the Word, by the blood of Christ, and by the in working presence and power of the Holy Spirit which should issue in behaviour indicating the Fruit of the Spirit.

John 17:17-19; Romans 15:16; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; 5:25-27; Hebrews 2:11; 10:10; 13:12; 1 John 1:7-9; Jude 1.

## The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

We believe that when the Holy Spirit came upon the whole company of believers on the Day of Pentecost as promised by Christ, they were collectively baptized into one body, which was the birth of the church, the Body of Christ. Since that time this baptism occurs individually at the moment of salvation, at which time the believer is also indwelt by the Spirit.

We believe that the New Testament distinguishes between being indwelt by the Spirit, which is true of all believers, and being filled with the Spirit, which is the believer's privilege and duty, producing power in Christian witness. There is one baptism with the Spirit, and it is into the Body of Christ, but there are many fillings.

Matthew 3:11; John 14: 15-18; Acts 2:4; 4: 8-31; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:13; Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18.

## The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church to glorify Christ in the building of His body.

We believe that God, the Holy Spirit, is sovereign in the bestowing of His gifts for the perfecting of the saints for the work of their ministry, and that it is not God's will that any one gift should be given to all believers, although all believers have at least one gift. We believe that whenever spiritual gifts are exercised, they will always be within the limits expressly given in the scriptures ( e.g.. 1 Corinthians 14:23-40).

We believe that in the early church speaking in tongues (a human language unknown to the speaker), and the working of miracles were sign gifts demonstrated primarily to authenticate God's revelation through the apostles and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We believe that today such signs are not necessary to give evidence of the baptism or of the filling of the Spirit, nor are they a mark of spiritual maturity.

We believe that special divine revelation for authoritative Scripture ceased with the Apostolic Age.

John 14:26; Acts 2:11; 10:44-48; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11,13, 18-21, 29-30;

1 Corinthians 14: 6-15, 22; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 12:12; Galatians 1:8-9; Ephesians 2:20; Hebrews 2:3-4 ; Revelation 22:18-29

#### The Unity of the True Church in the Mystical Body of Christ

We believe that the church is composed of all who are united by the Holy Spirit to the risen and ascended Son of God, and that by the same Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, thus being members one of another and knit together in love.

Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27; Ephesians 4:3-10; Colossians 2:19.

#### The Pre-Millennial Coming of our Lord

We believe that this present age will end with the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, first to receive His church unto Himself, and then to establish the throne of David upon the earth and to reign in righteousness over it for a thousand years.

2 Samuel 7:16; Psalms 72:7-8; Isaiah 9: 6-7; Micah 5:2; Luke 1:32-33; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:28.

#### The Resurrection of the Body

We believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead , according to the Scriptures, in bodily form, and thus became the Firstfruits of them that sleep; that upon His return He will raise out from among the dead those that have died in Christ, this being the first resurrection; and that, after the thousand years, He will raise them that have died in unbelief from their graves to receive their sentence.

Psalms 90:3-4; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Romans 1:4; 8:23; 1 Cor. 15; Revelation 20:5-6.

#### The Eternal Blessedness of the Saved and the Eternal Punishment of the Lost

We believe that the attitude either of reconciliation or enmity toward God is fixed eternally at death, and that the saints of all the ages will be forever with the Lord and will become joint heirs with Him as their Redeemer in His inheritance. We further believe that there is an appointed day for the judgment of the wicked when they will be cast into the Lake of Fire, there to remain forever and ever, in varying degrees of torment according to their works.

Daniel 12:3; 7:22-27 ; Romans 8:17; 1 Thess. 4:17; 2 Peter 2:9; Rev. 20:11-15; 21:8; 22:11.

### The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the father of lies, a murderer from the beginning and the great deceiver of all nations; that he will be overcome by the Lord Jesus Christ, as the seed of the woman, and cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years, and finally committed to the Lake of Fire with all his angels to be tormented forever and ever.

Genesis 3:15; Job 1:6-12; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Ephesians 6:12-16; Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10.

### Divine Healing of the Body

We believe that divine healing of the body is not in the Atonement in the sense that salvation and the forgiveness of sins are in the Atonement. The suffering and death of Christ according to the New Testament was substitutionary, penal and vicarious. It is nowhere taught in Scripture that Christ died for the effects of sin but for sin, and sickness is directly or indirectly the effect of sin.

Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18.

### Baptism

We believe that the New Testament clearly prescribes baptism for believing disciples as a symbol and proclamation of the sinner's death to sin and resurrection in newness of life. Further we believe and practise immersion as the mode of baptism prescribed by the New Testament in accordance with its word meanings, examples and symbolism.

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38; 8:12; Romans 6:3

### The Lord's Supper

We believe that our Lord and Saviour clearly prescribed for His believing disciples the solemn rite of the Lord's Supper as a memorial of the Lord's death to be kept by His disciples until He comes again, according to His promise and the Father's revealed plan.

Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-27.

The Article of Faith and Doctrine can be found at the Associated Gospel Churches website at URL [http://www.agcofcanada.com/About/Articles/articles\\_of\\_faith\\_and\\_doctrine\\_04.pdf](http://www.agcofcanada.com/About/Articles/articles_of_faith_and_doctrine_04.pdf)

## **Our Affiliation – Who We Stand With**

We stand with all born again believers but we will not compromise on the essentials of God's Word as expressed in "Our Position".

We are specifically affiliated with the Associated Gospel Churches, which means we share the following in common:

The Bible is our soul authority. - 2 Timothy 3:15

Since the Bible is God's word, it is what guides all we do. Our first question when trying to answer any question or make any decision is "What does the Bible say?"  
Every member is a minister. 1 Peter 2:9

That means every believer himself has direct access to God through Jesus Christ. He does not need a priest or a preacher to help him get to God. He can pray and read the Bible for himself. It also means every believer is responsible before God to be involved in Christian service.

Tithing is the way we support the work of the church. 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; 9:6-15

At TBC we believe the church is to get its financial resources from God through the giving of His people.

The salvation of the believer is secure.  
Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 11:29; John 6:37-40; 10:27-29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Jude 24-25

Because salvation is a free gift that God gives us through Jesus Christ, the believer in Jesus Christ is secure in that salvation for eternity. Our salvation is not only given by God, it is maintained by the grace and power of God. Believers, even though they may sin and grieve the Holy Spirit and even suffer the chastisement and discipline of God, will still be kept by the power of God through faith into a completed salvation.

We are to tell others about Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 3:15

We believe it is the privilege and responsibility of every believer to be a messenger for the Lord Jesus Christ. Every Christian should be a witness.

## Section Five: How Trinity Bible Church Operates

### How Trinity Bible Church is Governed

Trinity Bible Church is governed by a board of elders, guided by the Scriptures. As such it is an elder led, congregation input church. The board of elders operate on the basis of collegiality and unity. No one board member is over the others. This includes the pastor who is an elder.

There are two types of elders in Trinity:

- **Governing.** This group is also known as “the Board” or “the Board of Directors” and is responsible for decision making, spiritual leadership of the church and managing the affairs of the church. This Board consists of at least three elders and it may consist of both the Governing and Shepherding elders. The Pastor may sit with the Governing elders, but he shall not hold any office on the Board and he shall refrain from any vote on financial considerations. The three offices are:
  - Chair of the Elders Board
  - Vice Chair of the Elders Board
  - Secretary of the Elders Board
- **Shepherding.** Shepherding Elders are primarily concerned with the pastoral needs of the congregation. The Shepherding Elders shall be responsible for spiritual leadership in worship, prayer, ministry of the word, counselling, discipleship and discipline. The Pastor shall be designated as a Shepherding Elder.

TBC is a federally incorporated organization. Under the constitution, the three officers of the corporation are the three offices of the governing elders.

The elders follow these principles in leading TBC:

The church is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*“And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body.”* Ephesians 1:22-23

A body must have a \_\_\_\_\_ and only one \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus Christ is the undisputed head of this church.

A body has many different \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.”* I Corinthians 12:14

Individual believers are the body parts. That means every believer has a function - a job in the body. Your spiritual gift determines your job in the body. I Corinthians 12

That also means as believers we are equal before the Lord.

Trinity Bible Church does not hold to the concept that there is a clergy and a laity. In other words we do not believe that there is a group of superior Christians that do all the ministry while other Christians watch.

If you become a member [or adherent] of this church you will be expected to do the work of the ministry. Ephesians 4:11-12

A body has \_\_\_\_\_.

*“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body.”* I Corinthians 12:12

As believers we are all part of one and the same body. Thus every believer is interconnected with and dependent on every other believer.

The church is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care.”* I Peter 5:2

A flock does not lead itself. A flock needs a shepherd. The Lord Jesus is the Great Shepherd, but in every church he appoints under-shepherds - the pastor and other leaders.

I Peter 5:1-4

*To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow-elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

Titus 1:5-9

*The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless--not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.*

## **Leadership Positions In The Body**

### **Elder**

In the New Testament there are 3 different Greek words are used to refer to the office of pastor / elder.

- Poimen - shepherd or pastor
- Presbuteros – elder
- Episcopos - bishop or overseer

All three of these words are used interchangeably in the New Testament and all refer to the same position; the position we commonly call \_\_\_\_\_.  
Acts 20:17 & 28; Titus 1:5 & 7; I Peter 2:25; I Peter 5:1-2

The three words refer to different aspects of a pastor/ elder's job.

- pastor / shepherd - refers to the caring, feeding, and protecting.
- elder - refers to the need for spiritual maturity in the position.
- overseer / bishop - refers to the leadership, superintendent part of the job.

Qualifications for a pastor / elder I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9.

Elders are men who have been charged with the responsibility of church leadership.

The primary functions of the Elders are ministering the Word, prayer, discipleship and church governance.

### **Deacon** - (the word means a servant)

This points out the fact that all leadership in the church must be servant leadership.

Qualifications. I Timothy. 3:8-3

Job description. Acts 6:1-7

Deacons are people called of God and the church to serve. They do so in order to relieve Elders from being distracted from effectively ministering the Word, prayer and discipleship.

Deacons shall be assigned specific responsibilities by the Board for the orderly management and operation of the church. At TBC deacons do not comprise a board but each has a specific portfolio.

## **How We Make Decisions**

Under the direction of the Lord the elders provide the leadership.

Trinity Bible Church meets in business meetings twice a year. In this meeting the congregation gives input on the direction of the body.

A good structure promotes unity and downplays differences. Voting tends to divide people because somebody must lose. At Trinity Bible Church we only vote on such things as:

- the yearly budget
- purchasing property
- building buildings
- hiring pastoral staff. Under the By-Law, this is an expression of support by the members for calling a pastor to TBC. This is not a binding vote, nor is there a percent or number below which the pastor cannot be called
- constitutional changes
- borrowing money

## **How We Do Ministry**

We desire to have \_\_\_\_\_ involved in our ministry.

*“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up... 15 ...we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ. 16 From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work”.*

- Ephesians 4:11-16

We want everyone to have a ministry.

We want to train and equip our people to do ministry.

People are more important than programs.

God does His work through people.

We want to be \_\_\_\_\_ in our ministry.

We \_\_\_\_\_ people with a purpose.

Our desire at TBC is not just to increase the number of church members but to increase the number of committed disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ who are walking, maturing and serving.

Why are you considering joining Trinity Bible Church;

In order to \_\_\_\_\_ or to \_\_\_\_\_?

Don't give us status; give us a place to serve.  
Don't give us things for our use; use us.  
Don't give us pleasure; give us perspective.  
Don't give us satisfaction; teach us sacrifice.  
Don't give us entertainment; enable us.  
Don't give us a mansion to live in;  
give us a spring board to take Christ's love to the whole world.  
Our great joy is in pleasing our Lord;  
no other joy in life is comparable.  
Gordon Aeschliman

We \_\_\_\_\_ people with a purpose.

Remember our goal is to make disciples.

In order to disciple and train you, it may be up to a year, at the discretion of the Elders, before you are asked to serve in some areas of ministry and leadership.

### **What We Ask of Those Who Join Trinity Bible Church**

We ask that you have trusted Christ for salvation

We ask that you be a committed disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You will evidence this commitment by participation in ministry, joining in a community group and actively seeking teaching as it is offered.

Each member and adherent is expected\* to regularly be involved in large group worship time

- community group
- ministry of the church
- and personal evangelism in the community

We ask that you make a whole hearted commitment to this church and evidence it by signing a membership commitment.

At Trinity Bible Church we never ask our people to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our people to do what the Bible says every Christian is to do.

These responsibilities are spelled out in our membership covenant.

## **Membership**

Everyone who has been born again into the kingdom of God is a member of Christ's body of believers. Specific membership in Trinity Bible Church is for the purpose of demonstrating a commitment to this local part of the body, for using one's gifts in service to God with and through this body.

### **Trinity Bible Church Membership Covenant (revised 2007)**

As a member of Trinity Bible Church I agree with the following:

1. I have received Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and Lord.
2. I will support and uphold the mission, vision, values, purpose and philosophy of ministry and doctrinal statement of Trinity Bible Church.
3. I commit to working in and through Trinity Bible Church to serve God with my gifts for the purposes of: worship, personal growth, and to help others within the congregation; for the furtherance of God's kingdom on earth.
4. With God's help I will be faithful in church attendance and in prayer for others.
5. I recognize and submit to the authority of the Elders of this church as God's appointed leaders.
6. I recognize and understand that Jesus Christ gave the church two rites – Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
7. Baptism is a one-time event that is an outward sign of the inward transformation that has taken place in an individual Christian.
8. While baptism is not a condition of membership I recognize and understand that the New Testament does not envisage unbaptized believers.
9. The Lord's Supper is a recurring event that celebrates the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
10. I desire to participate regularly in the Lord's Supper with the body of believers, in an attitude of humility.
11. With God's help I will pursue brotherly love with other believers in this church according to 1 Corinthians 13, and encourage and help others as may be necessary.
12. With God's help I willingly support this church financially through regular giving.
13. I recognize that as a member of this church who demonstrates Christian maturity to a degree acceptable to the Board of Elders, I may be eligible to hold office within the church.
14. I will not bring to the church a complaint against any member for personal trespass or offense until the first and second steps of Matthew 18:15-17 have been taken, thus endeavoring to settle any private offenses without publicity.
15. I acknowledge that church Membership constitutes a waiver against any legal action against any other member or adherent of this church for actions or events that occur within the sphere of influence of the church.

## Conflict Resolution

I want to notice and treasure my wife and children. I want to grow some deep friendships. I'd like to be a good neighbour. I want to savor the people I work with. I'd like some folks to miss me when I'm gone. I don't want them to remember a brief case and a closed door and a list of things to do.

John Ortberg, *When The Game Is Over It All Goes Back In The Box*

*He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.* Micah 6:8

*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law; justice and mercy and faithfulness, but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.* Matthew 23:23

Two major sources of conflict

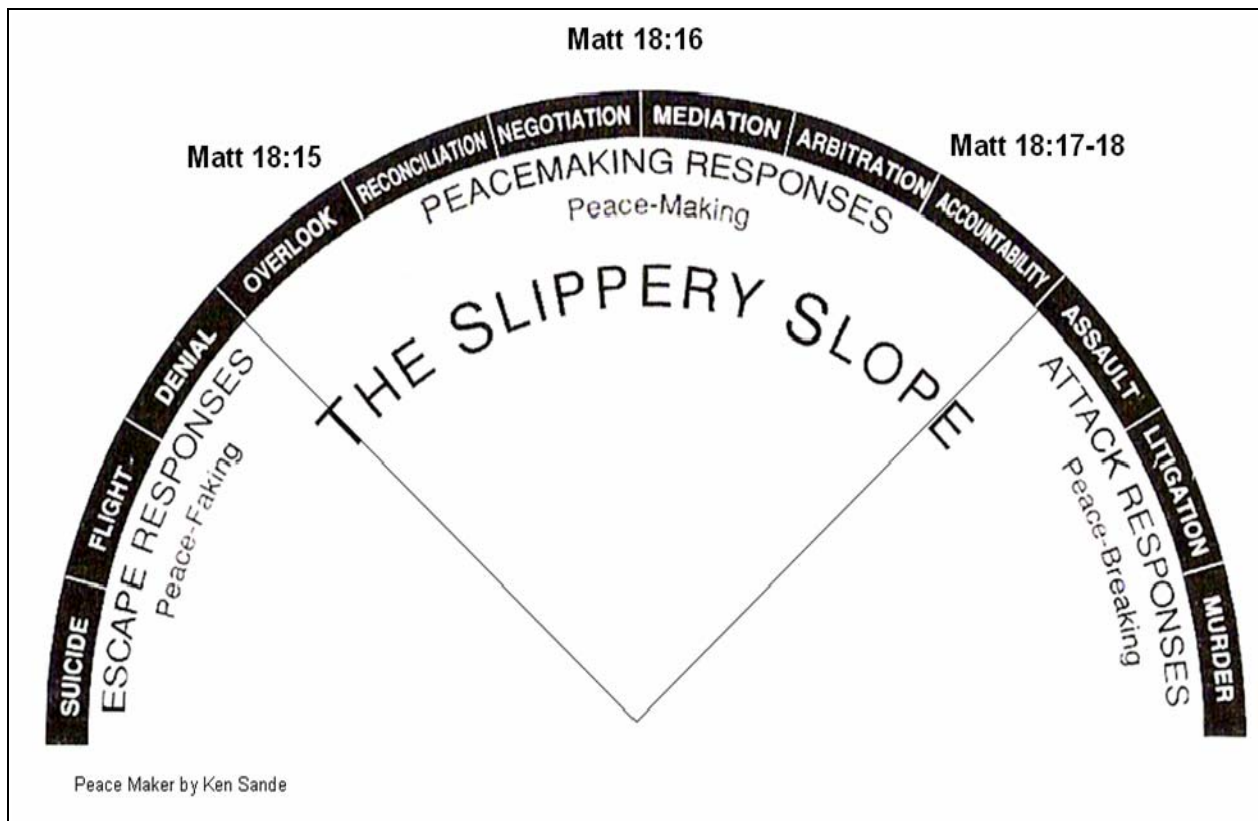
- Church ministry involves change – change produces conflict
- None of us is glorified yet

Conflict is a difference in opinion or purpose that frustrates someone's goals or desires.  
Ken Sande in *The Peacemaker*

Reasons conflict develops in the church (Andrew Seidel, *Charting a Bold Course*):

- Personality differences
- Differences in approach to ministry
  - Counter culture develops
- Power struggles
- Loss of focus on the purpose or vision
- Differences in values
  - Can be acknowledged, but rarely solved
- Theological disagreements
- Certain people are prone to conflicts

## The Slippery Slope of Conflict



At TBC our goal is to resolve conflict using peacemaking responses which are contained within the parameters of the arc in the diagram above. Where possible conflict is to be solved by overlooking or reconciliation. As conflict is resolved using techniques on the right side of the peacemaking responses arc, the conflict involves more people and solutions become imposed instead of optional.

In working within the peacemaking process, TBC will take the following steps to resolve conflict based on Matthew 12:7, Matthew 18:15-19 and Galatians 6:1-5:

- Step #1 A private contact will be made with the member. At this time the issue will be discussed and they will be allowed to clarify things. They will be encouraged to correct the problem and any needed help will be given.

If there is a change of heart at this point and the matter is corrected then the issue will be dropped.

- Step #2 A more public contact will be made with the member where at least two other witnesses are present. Again they will be lovingly encouraged to correct the problem and help will be offered.

If there is a change of heart reflected by a correcting of the problem then the matter will be dropped.

- Step #3 The matter will be brought before the church body as a whole and the member will be exhorted to seek to correct the problem.

If there is a change of heart reflected by a correcting of the problem then the matter will be dropped.

- Step #4 At this point if there has been no response then the member will be brought under church discipline which could include removal from the church body.

At any point in the process the member may be restored by expressing a repentant heart. They can even be restored after church discipline has been exercised.

TBC will use the following principles of conflict resolution:

- Start with the right perspective on conflict
- Make prayer an integral part of the process
- Deal at the lowest possible level of intensity
- Use valid and useful information
- Stay focused on the conflict issue
- Find options to get out of the conflict
- Admit a mistake
- Use trust wisely
- Realize that not all conflict will be immediately resolved

### Church Discipline

As a church we engage in Christian fellowship and love. We also agree to church discipline as required to uphold the standard of our calling in Christ.

The principle of one believer being accountable to another and the responsibility of the church to lovingly deal with its erring members is clearly taught in the Bible.

Romans 12:5, Galatians 6:1-2, Matthew 18:15-19, I Corinthians 5:1-13, Titus 3:10-11

Types of situations that could lead to church discipline:

A person who continually causes division and strife within the church family.

Titus 3:10-11, Proverbs 22:10

A person who begins to believe, practice, or proclaim serious false teaching that clearly contradicts major teachings of the Bible.

2 John vs 9-10, Jude vs 3-4

A person who begins to practice or live in intentional, open, flagrant sin.

I Corinthians 5:1-6, I Corinthians 6:9-11

Church discipline will only come into play when there are big glaring issues in people's lives. It will not deal with gray areas (Romans 14:1) and it will not enter into nit-picking.

Church discipline has as its primary goal the restoration of broken and out of place lives within the body of Christ.

## **What Now?**

If you are ready to join Trinity Bible Church, do one of these five things depending on your situation.

If you are saved and in agreement with the direction and doctrine of the church

- Demonstrate interest in becoming a member
- Have a visit with two of our elders
- Have your name announced to the congregation for two weeks
- Sign the membership covenant

If you are unsure of your salvation, speak to an elder or the pastor.

While we do value membership, we realize there may be some who may not, in good conscience, be able to sign the doctrinal statement, but desire to attach themselves to and be involved in TBC. Because of this, we have made allowances for adherents.

An adherent is a person, who regularly attends public worship services of the church, professes faith in Jesus Christ as his or her Saviour and Lord, respects the church constitution and submits to the authority and discipline therein, and may be involved in approved church ministry, but who has not made formal application for Membership in the church. An adherent shall not be permitted to vote at any meeting of members and shall not hold the office of Elder or Deacon.

If you have more questions and want to meet with the pastor or an elder please ask and we will be happy to meet with you.

If you are not ready at this time to make any decision that's fine.

Feel free to contact us at anytime with any further questions.  
The church phone number is (613) 826-2444.