



Tulip Street Christian Church

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Welcome to Tulip Street Christian Church! The following pages are designed to give you an overview of who we are, what we believe, where we came from, and where we are headed. Ultimately, we are a church focused on following Christ and helping others connect with Christ and with each other. We feel that we can best accomplish these goals and be the church that God wants us to be by helping one another to:

Know God

More than practicing religion, God wants a real relationship with us. Whether you're new to faith, have questions, or have been a Christian for a long time, our weekend services are a welcoming place to learn more about what it means to know God and grow closer to Him. (Ephesians 1:17-18; Matthew 7:21-23)

Find Freedom

God wants us to be freed from our past and live our lives to the fullest. Life change happens in a relationship with Jesus and in community with others. At Tulip Street, we intentionally pursue relationships through Groups. There are multiple opportunities to join a group throughout the year. (Ephesians 1:17-18; James 5:16)

Discover Purpose

We're all an important part of God's plan, and our lives make the most sense when we discover His purpose for us. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Eph 2:10 (see also: Ephesians 1:17-18; Romans 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:27)

Make a Difference

God's ultimate plan for us is to make a difference in the lives of others. The Bible tells us that when we do, we'll experience true joy. Through the Tulip Street teams of volunteers, we hope to connect every person to an opportunity to grow in their purpose. (Ephesians 1:17-18; John 15:8,11; 1 Peter 4:10)

We attempt to keep these guiding principles in view as we plan what we do and how we do it as a church.

This membership booklet isn't designed to give you all the answers, but is a guide to help you make an informed decision about becoming a member of Tulip Street Christian Church. Like any family relationship, we will learn more about each other through experience rather than information. We would like nothing more than to help you find your place with us. This booklet contains our membership covenant, and hopefully the information you need to see if TSCC is the church for you!

Be sure to visit our website www.tulipstreet.com for additional information and notice of current activities.

How did TSCC get here?

Tulip Street Christian Church was organized as a group of believers in 1953 and was a single-staff member church for many years. However, in the early 1990's, TSCC became more of a regional church as more and more families began coming in from the surrounding communities. As the church worked to help strengthen those families and to grow disciples, staff and additional square footage of our building was added over time to minister and equip folks from Mitchell and the surrounding areas.

TSCC is known as a "Restoration Movement" church. The Restoration Movement began in the early 1800's in an effort to restore the church to a truly biblical model, mostly by eliminating creeds and denominations. The main goal was to be true to the bible and be identified only as Christians. You can read more on the Restoration Movement at http://thecra.org/about_us/restoration_movement

While "Community Church" isn't in our name. TSCC could be described as a non-denominational Community Church as we have no denomination, council, or conference to govern us. As such, we are able to support missionaries, benevolence agencies, and other groups of our choice.

Our Mission

As stated previously, our goal is to be a church Christ-followers, Disciples, who...

KNOW GOD FIND FREEDOM DISCOVER PURPOSE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

...and who collectively be the Church that God intends for us to be in Mitchell, impacting our neighborhood, community and world with the Good News of Jesus Christ through our words and actions.

Church Leadership

God ordains a leadership structure in His Word that simultaneously provides oversight and protection for the members, creative freedom for new ministries, and equipping for maturity for whatever is next in ministry. We are an independent Christian church. What that means is that we don't have a separate, higher-up structure beyond our elders. That's how we read the structure of the New Testament church (Titus 1; 1 Timothy 3; Acts 20; 1 Peter 5; etc). The only authority we need to operate is the Bible. So, we ordain elders from among our men, and we have deacons (Acts 6; 1 Timothy 3) and ministry leaders, and we submit to one another in love. We choose our own paid staff, both pastoral and support, to complement the elders in pursuing our vision in our community.

Our elders:

Darrin Chastain, Joe Martin, Roger Swayer, and Barry Terry

Our deacons:

Frank Hodges, buildings & grounds

Jon Swayer, safety & security

Our ministry staff:

Daniel Lee, Pastor

Josh Elliott, Youth Pastor

Tyson Knight, Worship Minister

Shannon Salmon, Worship Assistant

Our support staff:

Shannon Lagle & Jaime Grissom – Office Administration

Misty Butcher, Custodian

Some foundational beliefs:

We Believe...

1. God is Creator and rules the universe. (Genesis 1:1; Genesis 2:7; and Genesis 1:26, 27)
2. God made people in His own Image. (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7, 21-25)
3. The Bible is absolute truth for everyone. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; and Isaiah 40:8)
4. Mankind is sinful. (Romans 3:10, 23; Romans 7:18; Isaiah 53:6; Isaiah 59:2)
5. Our sinfulness deserves eternal death. (Romans 6:23)
6. Jesus is God, come to earth as a man. (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 7:30-35; John 14:9, 10)
7. Jesus, as the Christ, died to pay for our sins. (1 Corinthians 15:3; Romans 5:8; Romans 6:23; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 9:14, 15)
8. Jesus died, came back to life, and went to Heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Luke 24:39; Matthew 28:5-7; John 20:10-18; Acts 1:11)
9. There are two eternal destinations – Heaven or Hell. (Matthew 25:34, 41; Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21:6-8; Romans 6:23; John 5:28-29)
10. The Holy Spirit is God, given to us to be our helper. (John 14:16-17; Acts 2:38; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 5:18)
11. Jesus expects our obedience as we are daily drawn into deeper relationship with Him. (John 14, 15)
12. Jesus will one day return, and there will be a final judgment and adjournment of all. (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Some important principles regarding these foundational beliefs:

In these foundational beliefs, **we have unity**.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
Ephesians 4:4-6

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.
1 Corinthians 1:10

In things that are matters of opinion, **we have freedom**.

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand... So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep them between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he believes.
Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

In all of what we believe, **we will show love**.

...if I have faith than can move mountains, but have not love. I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2

Jesus said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"
John 13:35

Some key practices at TSCC:

1. We take Communion, aka, The Lord's Supper, weekly. We simply remind you what it is we are remembering, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, and that He said to take the bread and cup as memorials to remember what He did for us. We do it weekly, because that is the pattern of the early church. The earliest followers found it important to remember, often, as a group so we do too. (1 Corinthians 11:23-34; Acts 2:41-47; Acts 20:7; Matthew 28:1)
2. We baptize by immersion, for the forgiveness of sins. We don't believe that the water does the saving. We do, however, believe water baptism by immersion accompanied every conversion mentioned in the New Testament and should accompany each of our conversions, too. And, Jesus said to be baptized, so we do. (Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:25-39)
3. We take up an offering each Sunday (online giving is also an option) to fund the ministries of the church. Our budget is open for review by our members, and we are wholly supported, as stated earlier, by the people who are TSCC. We have no national organization to draw from or to contribute to. We support ministries beyond our walls and we have a mission's team that oversees that support.
4. While we do have church staff with the title of Pastor or Minister, we don't make a strong distinction between "laity" and "clergy" as in many churches. We like what the Jewish leaders in Acts 4 said about Peter and John, two of the Apostles and leaders of the early church. They listened to them and marveled that Peter and John were common men. The difference was that these common men had been with Jesus. We are a group of people who together use our God-given gifts, talents, and resources to do the ministry of TSCC (For background, read Acts 4, as well as the gospel accounts of Jesus choosing His disciples).

At TSCC, a member...

- ...is a Christian—a Christ-follower.
- ...has put their faith in Jesus Christ and have expressed this faith through their belief and trust in Him as Lord and Savior.
- ...has confessed that they are sinful and in need of Jesus' forgiveness.
- ...has repented of their sin and now seek to live their life in obedience to Christ and honoring to God.
- ...has been baptized/immersed into Jesus in obedience to his command and to symbolize their death to self and sin and to be united with Christ.
- ...agrees to the best of their ability, to follow and live out the commitments set forth in the TSCC Membership Covenant.

Places to plug in at TSCC:

- Children's Ministry
- Youth/Teen Ministry
- Women's Ministry
- Men's Ministry
- Building & Grounds Maintenance
- Missions Team
- Local Ministry Opportunities
- Teaching (various ages)
- Ministry to the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
- Worship Ministry
- Small Groups
- Greeting/Guest Services

A final word about Church Membership:

While a clear understanding of what a Disciple of Jesus and a member of His Church looks like comes from considering the entirety of Scripture, the Apostle Paul's prayer for and words to the Church in Ephesus give a clear look of what Church Membership looks like: (from Ephesians 3:14-20 to 4:1-6 The Message paraphrase)

My response is to get down on my knees before the Father... I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

In light of all this, here's what I want you to do... I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.

You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.

We hope that the information provided in these pages answers some questions about who we are and what we believe at TSCC. We want you to prayerfully consider your next steps as you think about growing in faith and obedience to God.

We are glad you took this step in learning more about membership at TSCC. If TSCC looks like where you fit, then let's take a minute together to look at the membership covenant that is attached to this booklet. If after going through this brief introduction, and looking over the covenant, you are ready to take this step, you can sign the covenant and we can present you as a new member on the next Sunday.

So - we hope TSCC is your kind of place. But if it isn't, please don't stop your search on this faith journey. Find a body of believers you can worship with, serve with, and grow with. The church is God's plan "A" for the world, redeemed by His Son for His glory and our salvation. He outlines no other plan. The Church is His Holy Bride, and He constantly works to present her pure to Himself. The Church is a body, moving and exercising its various parts for the common good of the whole. Jump in somewhere, and be a part of that!

TSCC MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having put my trust in Christ as my Lord and Savior and been united with him in baptism, and being in agreement with the beliefs, strategy, and structure of Tulip Street Christian Church, I now desire to unite with the Tulip Street family. In doing so, I now make a promise to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the UNITY of my church

- ...by acting in love toward other members (Romans 14:19; 1 Peter 1:22)
- ...by refusing to gossip (Ephesians 4:29)
- ...by respecting and following the leaders (Hebrews 13:17)

2. I will share the RESPONSIBILITY of my church

- ...by praying for its growth (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)
- ...by reaching out to non-believers (Matthew 28:18-20)
- ...by inviting the unchurched to attend (Luke 14:23)
- ...by warmly welcoming those who visit (Romans 15:7)

3. I will serve the MINISTRY of my church

- ...by developing a servant's heart (Philippians 2:3-4, 7)
- ...by discovering my gifts and talents (1 Peter 4:10)
- ...by utilizing my gifts for the Kingdom (Ephesians 4:11-12)

4. I will support the MISSION of my church

- ...by attending faithfully (Hebrews 10:25)
- ...by living a godly life (1 Peter 2:12)
- ...by giving regularly (1 Corinthians 16:2)

In accordance with the above faith promise, the Tulip Street Church family promises to:

Nurture you to Christ-likeness, train you to serve in the Kingdom of God, and equip you to demonstrate Christ's love in your home and community, by helping you to...

KNOW GOD FIND PEACE DISCOVER PURPOSE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

I do hereby sign and agree to the commitments of this covenant agreement:

Signed _____
(Your signature here)

_____ (Signature of church leader)

Date _____