



CROSSROADS

COMMUNITY CHURCH

GROW 101

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Church Structure

First of all, Crossroads is considered...

A. An evangelical, non-denominational church.

By this we mean that we accept the Bible as God's Word and it becomes the final authority in our lives.

B. We function autonomously.

By this we mean that we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control. In other words, we are not tied to another organization and no denomination can instruct us what to do. We make our own decisions with regards to land, buildings, etc. Being autonomous does not mean we do what we want. Jesus Christ is the head of this church. We are His body, work together to fulfill His purpose, and He is the source of our life. As a body, we depend on each other, belong to each other, and cooperate with each other to accomplish this.

Every church has a structure. Some good, some bad, some that prevents growth, some that stimulate growth. God is not a God of disorder, but of peace. (1 Cor 14:33). The structure of the church should be determined by its nature, not by our culture, business practice, or tradition.

Many churches have organized in such a way that actually promotes our differences. For example, voting. We do not vote here at Crossroads because voting tends to create conflicts. (1 Cor 11:17-18) Many churches vote on all kinds of things. Did you know that there is not one example of voting in the NT? Neither do you see an example of majority rule. In fact, the majority of Israelites in the OT wanted to go back to Egypt, but Moses insisted on continuing to the Promised land. Bottom line, a church is not a democracy, but a theocracy where God is in charge. It's our job as a fellowship to determine what He wants us to do, and then do it. Crossroads is not structured around voting members.

Meanings of “Church”

Universal church – Once you become a believer, you are part of the universal church despite your denomination or whether or not you’re in a church building. The other way the word church is used is in reference to a local body of believers - an assembly of believers (called out ones); like the Corinthian church, or the church at Ephesus, or Crossroads Community. Only 4 times is the word for universal church used, the rest of the time it’s referring to a specific group or local body of believers.

You automatically become a part of the universal church the moment you give your life to Christ, but you must make the choice to become a member of a local church. Did you know that there are over 30 commands in the Bible that you cannot obey or follow unless you are a member of a local church family? The difference between being a Christian and being a member of a church family is one thing, “commitment”. You become a Christian by committing your life to Christ; you become a member of the local family by committing yourself to other Christians.

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us.” Rom 12:4-6

When you become a member to this church, you belong to everyone else; it’s a commitment to other people. Whatever you’re good at, that’s what you ought to be doing in the body of Christ. As we go through these classes, Class 201 will encourage spiritual growth & Class 301 helps focus on discovering your SHAPE & ministry.

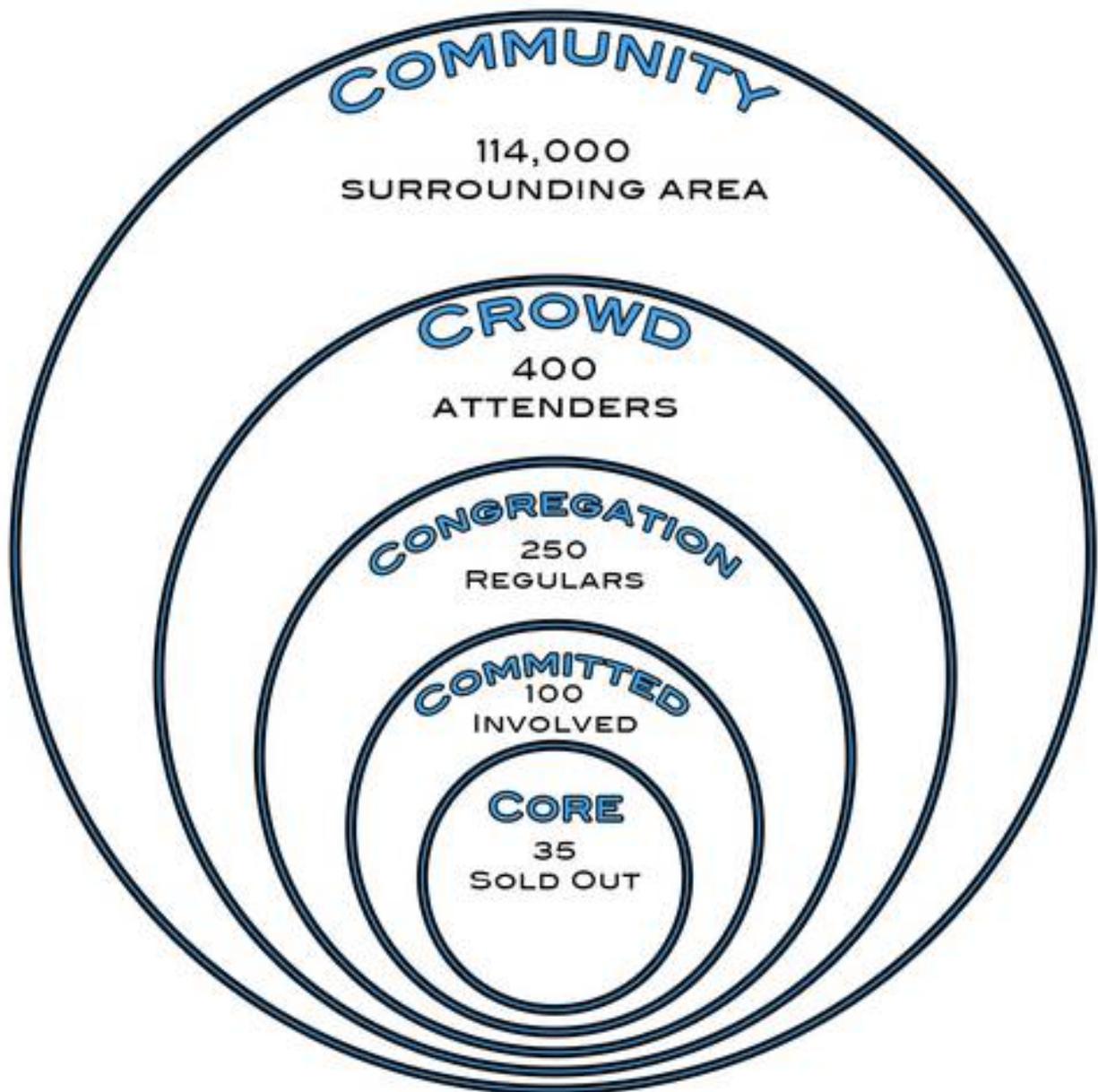
“God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of the ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” Eph 4:11-12

As you look at this verse, you will notice that it’s the pastors/teachers who prepare and equip God’s people, but it’s the people who are to do the work of the ministry so that the body will be built up. In other words, every Christian (member) is a minister, every Christian is responsible to use whatever gifts, talents, resources, ability, and interest God has given you according to His grace to serve the body.

Ministries at Crossroads are not going to be established by the elders based on what leadership thinks we need as a church. We may recognize where an individual is gifted, determine where it fits according to our purpose, or suggest a place of service, but an individual who has passion for an area of service and the ability to carry it out is what should drive the establishment of a ministry. Bottom line: The pastors are responsible to keep the church committed to the biblical vision, what the church should be doing, the five purposes, our vision, and value, but the people are responsible for the ministry.

Purpose of Crossroads Community Church

5 Circles of Commitment



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Crossroads History

How Crossroads was started.

Vision Statement: It is our intention, as a local body of believers empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8), to be witnesses for Jesus Christ, to understand and embrace our responsibilities and duties in carrying out The Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20), fulfilling The Great Commandment (Matt 22:36-40), and to use individual God-given gifts and abilities to serve together in unity for the purpose of accomplishing the following:

A. Loving God

1. To 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart...' (Matt 22:37-40)

- Worship – To provide opportunities where the believer can praise God through corporate and individual worship. I.e.: singing, giving, praying, baptism, Lord's supper, meditating on the Word. Worship in spirit & in truth.

2. To 'Love your neighbor as yourself...' (Matt 22: 37-40)

- Ministry – To equip and train people to engage in acts of service.
-One of our purposes is to love our neighbor by serving them.

B. Loving others (Matt 22:37-40)

1. To 'go and make disciples...' (Matt 28:19)

Evangelism - Share the good news of Salvation with others. To reach people in our surrounding community and around the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. To 'teach them all things...' (Matt 28:20)

Discipleship – To spiritually grow and mature the believer in a manner simply consistent with the Holy Scriptures. The methods may vary, but at its base, discipleship is connecting people with God and letting God work in their lives. Discipleship needs to focus on what God wants in their lives. (John 21:15-19)

3. To 'baptize them in the name of Father, Son...' (Matt 28:19)

Fellowship – To establish a place where people can experience authentic, caring relationships.

- Purpose Statement: – We will, by faith, demonstrate the life of Christ, serve and teach as one body, while rooted and grounded in love.

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Statement of Faith/ What we believe

As a church, we appreciate diversity. We understand and accept diversity in religious backgrounds, in our levels of spiritual maturity, in lifestyle convictions, and in peripheral doctrinal issues (i.e.: pre vs. post trib.), BUT.... we are also a church that values biblical community and stresses the importance of unity. Although we have liberty in regards to personal convictions & preferences (Rom 14:1, 4,12,22), we must have harmony and unity when it comes to our core beliefs, what we consider to be the essentials, (Eph 4:4-6) and show love under all circumstances (1 Cor 13:2).

A. Bible – The inspired Word of God written by men under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is inerrant, that is without error, and the final authority for Christian beliefs and living. (Ps 12:6, 19:7, 119:160; 2 Tim 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

B. God

1. Trinity – One God who eternally exists in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). The three are co-equal in being, nature, in power and glory. (Gen 1:1, 26-27; 3:22; Deut 6:4; Matt 28:19; 2 Cor 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2; John 14:10)
2. God the Father -
3. God the Son – We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who is co-equal with the Father and Holy Spirit; who lived a sinless human life and through His death on the cross accomplished our redemption. He arose from the dead on the third day demonstrating His power over sin. He ascended into heaven and now sits at the right hand of God where He serves as our intercessor and advocate. (Isa 7:14, 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-18; Acts 1:9-11; Rom 3:24-25, 8:34; 1 Cor 15:3-8; 2 Cor 5:19-21; Gal 4:4-5; Eph 1:7; Phil 2:5-8; Heb 7:25; 9:24; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 John 2:1-2)
4. God the Holy Spirit – We believe that the Holy Spirit, who is equal with the Father and the Son of God, convicts the world of sin making them aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He lives within every believer from the moment of salvation and is responsible for and a source of spiritual gifts, power for living, guidance in our daily lives, helping us understand spiritual truth. (John 14:16-17, 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor 2:12, 3:16, 12:4-11; Eph 1:13-14, 4:7-12, 5:18; Gal 5:25; Rom 8:9, 12:3-8)

C. Humanity – We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but through Adam inherited a sinful nature. This sin is what separates man from God and deprives him of the ability to save himself. (Gen 1:26-27; Is 59:1-2; Rom 3:10-23, 5:12, 6:23; Eph 2:1-3, 4:17-19)

D. Salvation – Salvation is the gift from God brought to man by grace alone, not by works, and received by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (See salvation)

E. Eternal Security – We believe that all believers, once saved, are eternally secure in that salvation which is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the effort of me. (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom 8:1, 38-39; Heb 7:25, 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:4-5)

F. The Church – We believe the church represents the body and bride of Christ and is solely made up of born again believers. The establishment and continuance of the church is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament scriptures. (1 Cor 12:12-14, 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 1:22-23, 5:25-27)

- Ordinances of the Church – We recognize water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as the ordinances given by Jesus Christ to all believers. Participants of both will be of those who have professed Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
(See Baptism & the Lord's Supper)

G. Satan – We believe that Satan is the author of sin and helped cause the fall of man; he is the declared enemy of God and man and that he shall spend eternity in hell. (Job 1:6-7; Is 14:12-17; Matt 4:2-11; 25:14; Rev 20:10)

H. Giving – We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of what God has trusted to him (time, talent, and resources) is encouraged to support his local church. (Gen 14:20; Prov 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 9:6-7; Gal 6:6; Eph 4:28; 1 Tim 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

Salvation

What does it mean to be a Christian?

A. What is the Problem?

1. We have all sinned (Isa 53:6; Rom 3:23; 1 John 1:8)
2. Sin separates us from God (Isa 59:2; Rom 6:23)
3. We cannot fix this problem ourselves (Prov 16:25)

B. What is the Solution?

1. Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Rom 6:23)
2. God loves us and desires us to know Him (John 3:16; Rom 5:8; 1 Tim 2:5-6).

C. What Does God want me to do?

1. Admit that God has not been Lord of your life and ask him to forgive your sins.
(1 John 1:9)
2. Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose again and is alive today. We celebrate this as Easter. (Rom 10:9; Acts 4:12)
3. Accept God's free gift of Salvation, don't try to earn it. (Eph 2:8-9)
4. Invite Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the Lord (Director) of your life.
(John 1:12-13; Rev 3:30; Rom 10:13)

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Baptism

(Matt 28:19-20; Acts 2:41)

A. Why?

1. To follow the example set by Jesus. (Mark.1:9)
2. Because Jesus commands it. (Matt 28:19,20)
3. It demonstrates that you are a believer. (Acts 18:8) An outward profession on an inward decision.

B. What is its meaning?

1. It illustrates Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. (Col 2:12)
2. It illustrates our new life in Christ. (Rom 6:4)

C. How? Immersion

1. Because Jesus was baptized that way. (Matt 3:16)
2. The definition of baptism means – Immerse, dip under, overwhelm, surround.
3. Every Baptism in the Bible was by immersion. (i.e.: Acts 8:38-39)

D. Who should be baptized?

- Every person who has Believed in Christ. (Acts 2:41;8:12)
- Child dedication. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This is different from baptism which was only for those old enough to believe and for the purpose of publicly confessing your personal commitment to Christ.

E. Who should perform the baptism?

- Since the authority to administer the two ordinances of the church is granted or given to the church, and not any one particular individual, we feel that it's appropriate for fathers to baptize their children/wife, or single mothers to baptize their children.

F. When should I be baptized?

- As soon as you have believed.
Those who believed...were baptized...that day. (Acts 2:41)

The Lord's Supper

GROW 101

Offered to any believer in good standing with the church and others
(Acts 2:42; 1 Cor 11:23-26)

- Jesus never asked his disciples to remember his birth, but He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. Of the two ordinances, baptism and The Lord's Supper. The Lord's supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

A. What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper? (1 Cor 11:23-36)

1. It is a simply act. v.23
2. It is a reminder. v.24
3. It is a symbol. v.25
4. It is a statement of faith. v.26

B. Who should take The Lord's Supper?

- Only those who have believed. Mark 14:22-26

"Therefore, whoever eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord, eats and drinks judgment upon himself."
(1 Cor 11:27-29)

BY: Self-examination (1 Cor.11:27) Confessing my sin (I John 1:9) Recommitment (Rom 12:1)
Restoring relationships (Matt 5:23-24)

C. When & how often should I observe The Lord's Supper?

- Jesus never said when or how often to observe The Lord's Supper. Since it is supper, it may seem more appropriate to observe it at an evening service. We alternate between a morning and evening service. It's also appropriate to observe in a small group setting. But as often as you do, do it in remembrance of Christ.

Church Structure/Leadership

Christ (Eph 5:23) – Head of the Church and is the final authority.

Elders/Pastors – Multiple people, not just one man (1 Tim 3: 1-7 and Titus 1: 6-11, 1 Peter 5: 1-4); They are to function as spiritual mentors, equip and train leaders for ministry, provide accountability for each other, and deal with spiritual matters of the church.

Deacons (Acts 6, 1 Tim 3: 8-13) – Nominated by the congregation and approved by the Elders; they are to care for the physical needs of the church. The word is diakonos = servant.

Members (1 Cor 12: 12-26 & 1 Peter 5: 5-9) – See membership guidelines. We believe that God has uniquely gifted ever believer to be a minister. (1 Peter 2:9)

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What does it mean to be a Member of Crossroads Community Church?

3 Step Membership Process –

A. Who can become a member?

Someone who:

1. Has professed acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior
2. Has been baptized by immersion as a testimony of their faith.
3. Abides by the Statement of Faith and Mission of the Crossroads Community.
4. Has successfully completed Crossroads Community Class 101 and signs the membership covenant.

B. What is a member agreeing to do?

1. Protect unity and integrity of the Church (Eph 4: 1-16)
 - By walking together in Christian love (1 John 3:11-20)
 - By refusing to gossip (Prov 16:28; Eph 4:29)
 - By submitting to leadership (Heb 13:17)
 - By praying for and protecting one another (Rom 15:19)
2. Share in the responsibility of the Church
 - By praying for its growth in knowledge, holiness and comfort (1 Thess 1:2)
 - By agreeing to use your gifts and talents as the Holy Spirit gives them. (1Cor. 12)
 - To carry out and sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine.
 - By inviting the unchurched to attend (Luke 14:23)
 - By warmly welcoming those who visit (Rom 15:7)
3. Serve the ministry of the Church
 - By discovering my spiritual gifts and abilities (1 Peter 4:10)
 - By developing a servants heart (Phil 2:3-4, 7)
 - By being equipped to serve alongside my Pastors/Elders (Eph 4:11-12)
4. Support the testimony of the Church
 - By attending faithfully (Heb 10:25)
 - By living a godly life (Phil 1:27)
 - By contributing cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the spread of the Gospel (1 Cor 16:2, Lev 27:30)