

New Members Class Neighborhood Alliance Church



A place to connect
to Jesus
and each other

Neighborhood Alliance Church

Class Outline

- Session 1** **Salvation;** the vital church membership criterion
- Session 2** **Why the Church,** a biblical overview of the foundation and purpose of the church
- Session 3** **What we believe;** an overview of our belief statement
- Session 4** **Who we are;** an overview of our church bylaws and our Mission, Vision and Values.
- Session 5** **Membership Covenant;** an overview of expectations



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Salvation

The vital church membership criterion

Membership in the eternal Body of Christ, the Church Invisible, is a necessary requirement for membership at Neighborhood Alliance Church. In light of this, please review the follow scriptures, commonly known as the Romans' Road to Salvation, as you will be asked where you stand regarding your position as a child of God.

Colossians 1:13-14

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 3:24

being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

Romans 10:8-11

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"— that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 8:15-17

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Why the Church

a biblical overview of the foundation and purpose of the church

Its foundation

Matthew 16:13-19

13. Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He began asking His disciples, saying, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"
14. And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."
15. He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
16. And Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."
17. And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.
18. "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.
19. "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

From this passage we learn the Church is;

1. Jesus' idea
2. is built upon the rock of Christ's messiahship
3. being built by Jesus
4. eternal in nature

The Church is not a building. The Church is not limited to a group of people who meet in a particular place. The Church is the eternal, invisible body of believers, who for centuries past have, who today do, and who in the future will trust Christ as their personal savior.

The Church Eternal, an Invisible Organism

Ephesians 1:22-23

And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Colossians 1:18

18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

The Church Temporal, a Visible Organization

1 Corinthians 1:2

To the church of God which is at Corinth,

Galatians 1:2

To the churches of Galatia:

Therefore, while members of the invisible church do participate in the visible church, everyone who is a member of the visible church is not necessarily a member of the invisible church. Therefore we must clearly understand that it is membership in the Church eternal that assures us of eternal life.

That all who are part of the visible church are not necessarily a part of the invisible church is seen in the fact that Jesus taught that in the visible church there would be weeds and wolves as well as wheat and sheep (Matt. 13:24ff), (Matt. 7:15). Even Jesus himself had a non-Christian wolf among his little flock of 12, Judas Iscariot.

In light of this we use the term, "invisible church" to refer to every person of any age, race, and culture whose sins are forgiven through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The differences between the Eternal and Temporal Church can be seen in the following chart;

VISIBLE	INVISIBLE
Membership: saved and lost	Membership: saved only
Only currently living people	Both dead and living in Christ
Many local churches	Only one universal church
Differing denominations	No single denomination
Part of the body of Christ	The entire body of Christ
Differing types of government	Christ is the only head
Ministering of ordinances (or sacraments)	Ordinances fulfilled

Four Things the Church Is Not

1. The church is not a building.

The first definition in most all dictionaries for the word church is; "A building for public, especially Christian, worship." Some churches meet in a building and many times that is a home or a multipurpose building. Some churches around the world also gather under a tree or in a field. A building is the place where the church meets, but is not the church.

2. The church is not any one denomination.

The universal church consists of all people who are connected to the living Lord Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit and have been justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. There are true Christians in the Orthodox Church, the Catholic Church, and in Anglican, Baptist, Pentecostal, Reformed, and Lutheran churches, to mention only a few. The church is a collection of people from literally hundreds of

denominations, networks, and independent churches. There are even occasionally true Christians in heretical groups that falsely claim the name Christian. Conversely, there are people who belong to biblical churches who do not have a relationship with Jesus. Only Jesus knows exactly which people are truly his.

3. The church is not a eucharistic society.

The church is not a place where God's grace is dispensed through the practice of holy functions (sacraments) such as the eucharist (communion) or baptism. The church only celebrates the communion and baptism in response to what God has done in the lives of individual believers.

4. The church is not a business.

While the church must do business, be organized, and handle money, its mission is quite different from a business. A business exists to deliver goods and services in order to turn a profit. It is driven by the bottom line. In many instances the church is a legal entity recognized by the government but not always, as in the case of the underground church in China and others like it. The church must account for its resources by stewarding them even better than a business does. Laziness in finance or organization is a sin. The church does not exist for profit but for God's glory, which includes good stewardship of its resources.

The function of the Church

The function of the church can be seen in the varied ways the bible describes the church. The most descriptive passage of the functions of the Church is found in Acts 2:42-47.

A Pillar, Devoted to the Word

1 Timothy 3:14-15

¹⁴I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; ¹⁵but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, *the pillar and support of the truth.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Acts 17:11

¹¹Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

A Family, Devoted to Fellowship

Ephesians 2:19-23

¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Matthew 12:46-50

⁴⁶While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. ⁴⁷Someone said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You." ⁴⁸But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" ⁴⁹And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers! ⁵⁰"For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

A Body, Devoted to Service

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Romans 12:3-8

³For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. ⁴For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

See also 1 Corinthians 12

A Spiritual House, Devoted to Worship

1 Peter 2:4-5

⁴And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

John 4:21-24

²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²"You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Salt and Light, Devoted to Sharing God's Love

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men."¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Romans 10:14-15

¹⁴ "How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!"

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. ¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

What We Believe

**The DNA of the CMA
It's All About Jesus**

 **Our S** _____

 **Our S** _____

 **Our H** _____

 **Our C** _____ **K**[®] _____

savior, sanctifier, healer, and coming king

Our Statement of Faith

1. There is one God,(1) who is infinitely perfect,(2) existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.(3)
2. Jesus Christ is the true God and the true man.(4) He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.(5) He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust,(6) as a substitutionary sacrifice,(7) and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.(8) He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures.(9) He is now at the right hand of Majesty on high as our great High Priest.(10) He will come again to establish His kingdom, righteousness and peace.(11)
3. The Holy Spirit is a divine person,(12) sent to indwell, guide, teach, empower the believer,(13) and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.(14)
4. The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.(15)
5. Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God:(16) he fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature,(17) are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.(18) The portion of the unrepentant and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment;(19) and that of the believer, in everlasting joy and bliss.(20)
6. Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men; and those who repent and believe in Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, and become the children of God.(21)
7. It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly,(22) being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service.(23) This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion.(24)

8. Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body.(25) Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age.(26)
9. The Church consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church, (27) which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations.(28) The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.(29)
10. There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life;(30) for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment.(31)
11. The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent(32) and will be personal, visible, and premillennial.(33) This is the believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service.(34)

[1] Deuteronomy 6:4, [2] Matthew 5:48, [3] Matthew 28:19, [4] Philippians 2:6–11, [5] Luke 1:34–38, [6] 1 Peter 3:18, [7] Hebrews 2:9, [8] Romans 5:9, [9] Acts 2:23–24, [10] Hebrews 8:1, [11] Matthew 26:64, [12] John 14:15–18, [13] John 16:13; Acts 1:8, [14] John 16:7–11, [15] 2 Peter 1:20–21; 2 Timothy 3:15–16, [16] Genesis 1:27, [17] Romans 3:23, [18] 1 Corinthians 15:20–23, [19] Revelation 21:8, [20] Revelation 21:1–4, [21] Titus 3:4–7, [22] 1 Thessalonians 5:23, [23] Acts 1:8, [24] Romans 6:1–14, [25] Matthew 8:16–17, [26] James 5:13–16, [27] Ephesians 1:22–23, [28] Matthew 28:19–20, [29] Acts 2:41–47, [30] 1 Corinthians 15:20–23, [31] John 5:28–29, [32] Hebrews 10:37, [33] Luke 21:27, [34] Titus 2:11–14

Who We Are

A local church governed by a specific constitution and bylaws

(please turn to our official bylaws, appendix 1 at end of this document)

A local church guided by our Mission, Vision and Values

Our Mission

To glorify God in attitude and action through an outward focus. We encourage discipleship and building relationships with each other and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by fostering family oriented fellowship.

Our Vision

Our vision is to become a Biblically rooted and culturally sensitive church moved by a Great Commission Vision which equips and enables men and women to communicate Christ through significant relationships with God, with one another as believers and with non-believers.

Our vision is to see God mature us into a local community of believers committed to serving those within the community of believers and seeking those outside the community of believers, both locally and globally, with character, compassion, courage and creativity.

Our vision is to be a healthy church that provides friendly atmosphere that is a safe place to enjoy diversified fellowship so that we can embrace the opportunity of outreach by meeting the needs of those who are seeking and building relationships with those that are in need.

Our Values

Connecting People to Jesus and Each Other

Our Membership Covenant

What It Means to Be a Member of Neighborhood Alliance Church

(See Membership Covenant form, appendix 2)