

# Newcomers Class



**Trinity Christian Chapel**  
- [www.tcchapel.com](http://www.tcchapel.com)

## **A. Our Association:**

We fall under the umbrella of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, whose mission is to exalt Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer and coming King. The C.M.A. began in 1882 under the Leadership of A.B. Simpson. His vision was to evangelize individuals here and throughout the world. To find out more about the C.M.A. you can log on to their web site at [www.cmalliance.org](http://www.cmalliance.org)

Although we are a part of a denomination, we do not consider ourselves superior to others who do not come from a denomination. We believe we are one in the body of Christ, as long as we embrace the essentials of the faith. We believe there is one church in New Jersey made up of multiple congregations. We embrace people on the basis of their relationship to Christ not denominational affiliation.

Because of our affiliation with the C.M.A., we support C.M.A. missionaries and projects through the Great Commission Fund, as well as other ministries that are non C.M.A. related.

## **B. Our History:**

Trinity Christian Chapel began back in 1967 as a home Bible study. The church eventually purchased the property we are now on and has had several pastors within its history. It is currently led by Mike Nimer, a native of South Florida. He graduated from Miami Christian College with a degree in Biblical studies and Columbia Biblical Seminary with a Masters of Divinity degree. He is married to Lara and has three daughters: Kaitlyn, Ashley and Amber.

## **C. Our Values (What we practice):**

Values are important because they determine what you do. Below are Trinity's values, those things we seek to practice!

Intentional outreach (Local and global)

Intentional Discipleship (Individually and collectively)

Empowering people for service,

Planting churches,

Corporate Prayer,

Networking with other churches,

Developing leaders, Team ministry, and Small groups

Biblically centered/culturally relevant,

Grace/truth orientation,

Expository preaching (book by book),

Children/youth education

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## **D. Our Mission (What we are called to do):**

To reach unbelievers and turn them into growing, serving, reproducing disciples of Christ (Matt. 28:19-20).

We use four words to simplify our mission: Reach, Grow, Serve and Reproduce

## **E. Our Vision (What we want to see happen):**

To be a Biblically centered, culturally relevant church that is consistently leading unbelievers to Christ in our city, nation and world through our Sunday morning services, small group ministry, outreach events, short term missions trips, career missionaries and through the equipping of every believer to share their faith.

To be a church that is actively involved in reaching the lost overseas by both giving generously to missionaries and mission specific projects.

To engage in short and long term missions.

To be a church that multiplies small groups throughout our region that will reach the lost, disciple believers and provide ongoing pastoral care.

To be a church that intentionally discipled new and existing believers through a specific discipleship process.

To be a church that challenges and equips all believers to discover their gifts and serve in a ministry both inside and outside the church.

To start new ministries and partner with already existing ones both inside and outside the church to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of believers and unbelievers in our church, community and city.

To be a church that plants reproducing churches that will reach, grow, serve and reproduce.

To participate in a city wide movement with other evangelical churches/pastors by praying together, engaging in joint worship services and ministry projects in order to demonstrate our unity in the body of Christ and make a collective impact on our community and city.

To develop and maintain a culturally relevant, Biblically centered children's and youth ministry in order to reach and disciple the next generation.

## **F. Our Belief Statement:**

### 1. Bible

We believe the Bible is God's Word to man and is without error in its original writing. God's Word is given to us from Genesis-Revelation, no more, no less. As a result, it is the standard for what we believe and practice (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20).

### 2. God

We believe in one God, who is a Spirit and is Eternal, Immortal, Invisible and the Creator and Sustainer of all things (I Timothy 1:17; Duet 6:4).

God is transcendent, above and beyond His creation, yet he is immanent, involved personally with his creation.

### 3. Jesus Christ

We believe Jesus Christ, second member of the Trinity, is sinless, virgin born and is fully God and fully man (John 1:1; I John 4:1-2).

We believe Christ is the only way to God (John 14:6).

### 4. Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is a person not a force, and is fully God (Acts 5:3-4).

His primary role is to bring glory to Christ through His ministry to the church and world (John 15:27; 16:14; I Cor. 12).

### 5. Trinity

We believe there is one God who exists in three distinct persons, yet each person is fully God (I Cor. 8:4; I Timothy 2:5; Matt. 28:19-20).

Each member of the trinity is one in essence, yet distinct in person.

### 6. Death of Christ

We believe that Christ died as a sacrifice for God and a substitute for man. His death on the cross is the only payment for man's sins and is sufficient and effective for all who believe (I Peter 3:18; II Cor. 5:21).

## **F. Our Belief Statement (continued):**

### 7. Resurrection of Christ

We believe that Christ arose from the dead both literally and physically. After His resurrection, He ascended back to the father to a position of authority (I Cor.15:12-32; Acts 2:33).

### 8. Second Coming

We believe that Christ is coming back again both literally and physically (I Thess. 5:1-10).

When He returns, He will reward the righteous, judge the wicked and set up His kingdom (Revelation 20:1-5).

### 9. Salvation

We believe that Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Good works are a result of salvation not a requirement for salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).

### 10. Humanity

We believe that every human being is born with a corrupted nature and bears the guilt of Adam's sin (Romans 5:12-14; Eph. 2:1-3).

As a result, each person is spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1-2), under God's wrath (John 3:36) and in need of a Savior (I John 2:2).

### 11. Satan

We believe that Satan is a personal spirit being who leads a host of demons to blind men to the truth of the gospel (II Cor 4:4) and take them captive to do his will (II Timothy 2:25-26).

Furthermore, he seeks to oppress Christians and render them ineffective in the commitment to and service to Christ (I Thessalonians 2:17-18) .

He, along with his minions, will ultimately be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:7-10).

### 12. Eternal Security

We believe that once a person is truly saved, they cannot lose their salvation. If a person professes to be saved but shows no fruit, they do not lose their salvation but never had it to begin with (John 10:28-30; Romans 8:30-39).

## **G. Our Salvation:**

How does a person get to heaven?

### 1. Admit you are sinner who deserves God's judgment

We believe everyone is born sinful and has violated God's laws (Rom. 3:23). As a result mankind is separated from God and under his wrath. We cannot save ourselves by good works (Romans 6:23).

### 2. Understand that Christ died for you and rose from the dead

Even though we are sinful and headed for hell, God sent his son Jesus, who was fully God and fully man, to die on a cross to take the penalty for our sin. Furthermore, He rose from the dead three days later to demonstrate that God accepted his payment for sin (I Peter 3:18; I Cor. 15:5).

### 3. Repent of your sin and believe that Christ died/rose from the dead for you

Understanding intellectually that Christ died and rose from the dead is not enough to save an individual. Even the demons believe intellectually that Jesus is the Son of God, but they are not going to heaven (James 2:14-25). To be saved, you must, by an act of your will, and with sincerity of heart, turn from your sin, repentance, (Acts 26:20) and believe that Christ died on the cross in your place and rose from the dead (Romans 10:9-10). When you do this, you are depending on Christ and not your good works to get you into heaven (Titus 3:4-5).

Have you made this important choice? If not, below is a sample prayer that we could pray now or you could pray yourself when you are ready.

### **Prayer to Receive Christ:**

Lord Jesus, I come to you with an open heart, acknowledging that I am a sinner and cannot save myself. I believe that your son Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins and arose from the dead in order to take away the penalty of my sin. I ask you right now, Lord Jesus, to come into my life and be my Savior and Lord. I ask you to forgive me of all the sins, and I surrender control of my life to you. Amen!

If you prayed that prayer in the sincerity of your heart here is what Jesus promises you in John 6:47, "Truly, truly I say to you; whoever believes in me has Eternal Life"! You now have Eternal life. When you die you will spend eternity with God.

Please let one of the pastors know of your decision to receive Christ so we can encourage you in your new relationship with Christ.

## **H. Our Governing (How we are lead):**

### 1. Leadership by the Elders

We are lead primarily by a group of Biblically qualified men known as Elders. The Bible also refers to them as overseers or pastors. All three of those words are used interchangeably and do not refer to three separate offices. The senior pastor is not above the Elders. He is one of the Elders. The Elders provide spiritual and directional oversight for the church and meet at least once a month to discuss business. Currently, there are 6 elders, who are listed in the bulletin.

Although we are not congregationally led, the church does have input of issues such as property or the changing of by laws.

### 2. Leadership by the Staff

The elders are also assisted by individual staff leaders who oversee specific ministries such as worship, children etc. The staff is accountable to the elder board through the senior pastor.

Staff positions are appointed by the Elder board through the pastor.

### 3. Leadership by the Deacons / Deaconess

We also have a group of servants known as Deacons and Deaconesses who come along side the Elders to serve. They do not have a ruling capacity like the Elders, but are used to serve in the practical aspects of ministry, like serving communion, helping the poor, etc.

Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses are elected each year, if their terms are up at our annual congregational meeting each March. You will be given notice of this meeting well in advance. Members are allowed to nominate individuals for these roles provided they meet the qualifications.

## **I. Our Ordinances:**

### 1. Water Baptism

Christ commands all of his children to be baptized. Therefore, it is not optional. (Matt. 28:19-20). At Trinity, we do not believe that baptism saves you or washes away your sin. Rather, it is a symbol or a picture of what happened to you at salvation (Romans 6:1-10). Therefore, we practice baptism by immersion because it best pictures what happens to us at salvation.

### 2. Communion or Lord's Supper

Christ commands all believers to partake of communion. Therefore, it is not optional. (Matt. 26:17-30). Communion does not save you, but serves as a symbol to remind us of the death of Christ. It is only to be taken by believers (I Cor. 11), and it will be observed the 1st Sunday of each month.

## **J. Our Membership Requirements:**

Although membership is not in vogue today, we do encourage you to commit to Trinity or some other local church. Formal membership enables you to nail down a commitment to a group of believers to whom you can fellowship, serve and be accountable too.

As with any membership there are certain requirements, as well as benefits. Several of the benefits of becoming a member of Trinity is you are allowed to have input on some decisions at our yearly business meeting and occupy leadership positions.

To become a member at Trinity you must do three things:

### 1. Review the membership requirements below

- a. You must be a Born again Christian who has trusted in Christ alone for your salvation (John 3:3).
- b. You must be water baptized or plan on being baptized following your Salvation (Matt. 28:19-20).
- c. You must be willing to embrace the overall direction and essential beliefs of Trinity (see previous sheet) and be willing to submit to the Elders, provided they are in keeping with Scripture (Philippians 1:27, 2:1-4; Hebrews 13:17).
- d. You must regularly attend our Sunday service (Hebrews 10:25-26)
- e. You must give regularly to Trinity Christian Chapel (II Cor. 8-9).
- f. You must seek to honor God by living a godly lifestyle as outlined by Scripture (I Peter 1:15-16; II Peter 3:18). Members and non members who profess to be believers can be subject to church discipline as outlined in Matt. 18:15-18 for major, unrepentant sins that hurt the body of Christ.
- g. You must promote unity in the church and not division through gossip, slander, back biting etc. If you have a grievance or concern, please approach one of the leaders and share it.
- h. You must, if you are not out of town, attend our one time annual meeting each year and any special meetings.

### 2. Meet briefly with several elders for a personal interview

The time and place can be arranged. Please call the church @ 589-1660 and talk to the secretary for an appointment.

### 3. Sign the membership agreement

To be given at the interview by the Elders. Formal membership is required to be a leader in the church. If you choose not to become a formal member by signing the membership agreement, and would like to teach, you must still fulfill the requirements of membership and meet with several elders for an interview.