



MEMBERS HANDBOOK

Cross Creek Community Church & Day School

424 Luna Bella Lane, Suite 120, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

(386) 427-8229 www.crosscreekcommunitychurch.org



Church membership is our opportunity to grasp hold of each other in responsibility and love. By identifying ourselves with a particular church, we let the Pastors and other members of that local church know that we intend to be committed in attendance, giving, prayer and service.

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Introduction to Membership

What is Membership?

Membership is a commitment to walk out your faith with this family of believers in support of the calling (mission, vision and values) to our community and the world. Joining a Church is an outward sign of an inward covenant between the believer and the beliefs of the Church.

Why Become a Member?

Membership is an affirmation of your faith, providing a sense of belonging and assurance in your Christian journey. By becoming a member of your local church, you are not just participating in a community; you are becoming part of a family that shares in the mission of Christ and supports each other in faith. The Church, in turn, is committed to being a refuge and a resource for its members, assuring that care and resources are prioritized according to the Member's needs.

How do I Know which Church to Join?

- If you know and agree with what the church believes.
- If you've prayed about where God has placed you in the body.
- If you're willing to contribute with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Why is Commitment Important?

Practical Christianity happens when believers meet together to reach their neighbors and coworkers with the gospel of Jesus Christ and help each other grow spiritually mature in Christ. It's important to know that you can count on the members of your church to support you and they can count on you to do the same.

Why is Unity Important?

Jesus says in the great commission, in Matthew 28, that we should go and make disciples of all nations. We are called to love and encourage people from many different churches, cultures and backgrounds, it's important to remain in unity with those in our church family and small group.

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on growth of our fellowship together."

Romans 14:19 Phillips

Becoming a Member

What is Asked of Me?

To affirm your agreement with the calling (mission, vision and values) of the Church.

To be a reflection of Christ in your dealings with others.

To seek connections with others by sharing the gospel and building loving relationships.

To pursue a deeper walk with the Lord through Bible Study, Prayer, Church attendance and Small Group ministry.

To contribute to the life of the church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

To come under the care of the Elders and Pastoral Staff in biblical accountability according to Matthew 18:15-17.

How can I become a Member?

- Be a baptized believer in Jesus Christ.
- Attend and complete the Membership Class by actual participation.
- Be in agreement with our Mission, Vision and Values.
- Be in agreement with the *Statement of Commitment*
- Be received into the Church at a public meeting.
- Be an active participant in the life of the church.

Statement of Commitment:

“I commit my prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness to the mission, vision and values of Cross Creek Community Church as a participating Member of this body.”

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

I Corinthians 12:27

Church History 2008-2024

2006-2008: Cluster group of Methodist churches in the area, led by Paul Pollock, Pastor of Covenant UMC, and Founding Pastor, Rebecca Hyvonen laid vision and prayer walked Venetian Bay

July 1, 2008: Permission granted by Jerry Johnson of Johnson's Group to establish a church in Venetian Bay which began by renting his Preview Center at the corner of Airport and Pioneer Trail.

July – November: Continued Prayer walks, got to know the area, and got permission from UMC leaders to plan for a New Church Start over 3-5 years with financial support from the Florida UMC Annual Conference. "Venetian Bay UMC" would be a daughter church of Covenant but would always operate with independence and control our own finances from the start.

2009 – We had outgrown the trailer and held our first outdoor holiday worship service and community egg hunt that Easter. God granted us favor to begin meeting in the Creekside Middle School cafetorium.

2010 – We launched our Day School with After School Care for grades K-5 based on the greatest needs of our area. Since then, we have added pre-school for ages 2-3, a VPK-4 program, wrap around care, as well as Summer and Holiday camps.

2016 – We requested and were released (with blessing) from the United Methodist Conference to become our own entity as an Independent Community Church.

2017 – Not wanting to be without oversight, accountability and shared resources we began looking at DOVE International Fellowship which our founding members, John and Marty Smith were affiliated with.

2019 – We "engaged" with DOVE for their standard 9-month preliminary period having established similar (if not identical) Values.

2020 – We became an official DOVE church in 2020. Dove International Fellowship is a network of church which began as 3 couples in a house church and has now expanded to 1100 church in 26 countries! Visit www.dcfi.org for more information.

2023 – Moved Church office and Worship Space under one roof into the Venetian Bay Town Center

July 1, 2024 – Founding Pastor, Rebecca Hyvonen "passed the baton" to Elder and Spiritual daughter, Amanda Stiles.

What We Believe

WE BELIEVE the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. The Holy Spirit moved upon the writers of the Old and New Testament and inspired them as they wrote the Words of God.

WE BELIEVE that there is One God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God the Father – Creator of all things. By His Word all things were created and through the power of His Word all things are held together. He sent His Son Jesus to redeem mankind unto Himself.

Jesus Christ – is the only begotten Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life and performed many miracles. He redeemed us by His atoning death through His shed blood, he ascended to the right hand of the Father, and He will personally return in power and glory. There is no other name given under heaven by which man must be saved.

Holy Spirit – inspired the writer of the Bible, convicts the world of sin, teaches us all things, and brings to our remembrance the Word of God.

WE BELIEVE in the total inability of man or woman to save him or herself and their need of a Savior. Mankind can only be saved through a complete commitment of him or herself to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord with that one then being regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

WE BELIEVE in the present infilling of the Holy Spirit to all believers who desire it. The Holy Spirit's ministry to the body of Jesus Christ is power to live and witness and to go forth to proclaim the gospel and to make disciples. Power for us to cultivate a Christ-like character through the fruit of the Spirit and to build up and to mature the church through the miraculous gifts and ministries in this present day.

WE BELIEVE in the church as a body of believers brought together by the Holy Spirit as a visible part of the body of Christ, who faithfully proclaim the whole Word of God, properly administer the sacraments, and humbly submit themselves to discipline, all for the glory of God.

WE BELIEVE that every man and woman shall be brought before the judgement seat of Christ to give an account of everything they've done in this life. Those found with their names in the Lamb's Book of Life will be with God in His glory; those without their names written will be eternally separated from God.

Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

Bringing our Community together in Christ through Prayer, Evangelism and Discipleship.

Vision

To be a Fountain of Living Water; Growing the Kingdom, Touching the World.

Values

1. Knowing God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ and living by His Word is the foundation of life.
2. It is essential for every believer to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and be completely dependent on Him.
3. The Great Commission will be completed through prayer, evangelism, discipleship, and church planting.
4. We deeply value the sacred covenant of marriage and the importance of training our children to know Christ.
5. We are committed to spiritual families, spiritual parenting and intergeneration connections.
6. Spiritual multiplication and reproduction must extend to every sphere of kingdom life and ministry.
7. Relationships are essential in building God's kingdom.
8. Every Christian is both a priest and a minister.
9. A servant's heart is necessary for every leader to empower others.
10. Biblical prosperity, generosity and integrity are essential to kingdom expansion.
11. The gospel compels us to send missionaries to the unreached and help those least able to meet their own needs.
12. We are called to build the kingdom together with the entire body of Christ.

"being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift... And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until 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."

Ephesians 4:3-13 (NAS)

Baptism

Baptism: *Baptizo* – to put under or cover; immerse

Into the Body of Christ

We are baptized into the Body of Christ when we accept Jesus as Lord. *“For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”* 1 Corinthians 12:13

In Water

We are baptized in water as an outward sign of our inward belief in the new creation we have become “in Christ.” This inward belief can only be declared after the person has reached an accountable age (not as an infant). In water baptism, we participate in the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!”* 2 Corinthians 5:17

If you have not been baptized in water, please see an Elder so that we can arrange for your Ocean Baptism. It's a wonderful experience and we welcome your family and friends as witnesses!

In the Holy Spirit

We are baptized in the Holy Spirit when we willingly receive the “promise of the Father” It is a baptism with power, Jesus is the Baptizer, and the phrase “baptism with the Holy Spirit,” means to be immersed in a relationship with the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity). “John answered them all, *‘I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.’*” Luke 3:16

Of Fire

We receive the baptism of fire when we go through trials. God turns all things for the good of those who love Him, and he uses the trials to purify our lives. The same way fire refines precious metal, it burns off the slag in our Spiritual lives. Baptism of fire will bring purity, power and passion for God and the lost. *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.”* Romans 12:1

Communion

We offer communion service each Sunday by intinction, taking the bread (Christ’s body) and dipping it in the juice (Jesus’ blood). This is where our covenant relationship with the Lord is renewed through remembering the death and suffering of our Savior. Before we partake in communion, we should examine ourselves and pray for wholeness of body, soul and spirit. (1 Corinthians 11: 27-30)

Evangelism

Gospel – the “Good News” about Jesus Christ

As His Church, we are the only ones...

- With the message that guarantees eternal life
- With unlimited access to God the Father
- With the power of the Holy Spirit
- With the authority to use Jesus’ name to negate the influence of demonic strategies
- Who are able to overcome the “gates of Hell”
- In our cities who can do His job
- Who are exclusively responsible because we are His body, His co-workers, His ambassadors, and His friends.

God has called every Christian to be a witness by the way we live, our attitudes toward others, the choices we make, and our commitment to live for Jesus no matter the cost.

We struggle with four major fears: being rejected, not knowing enough, offending a friend or relative, being ridiculed or persecuted.

Nothing is more important in developing a heart for witnessing than prayer. Witnessing does not require intense training. You need to remember how little you knew when you first believed. The heart of the witness has far more impact than any approach!

Share your story!

There are many methods you may learn about how to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, but the easiest way is just to share your own story and what the gospel means to you. Here is a simple outline of an easy to remember, 5-minute gospel presentation.

My life before I met Jesus	1 min
The experience of salvation	3 min
My life now	1 min

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 28:18-20

Spiritual Gifts

One of the most important things that getting to know your part in our local body of Christ is making sure that you are doing the things that bring you joy and serving in a way that best empowers you to use your spiritual gifts. *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”* 1 Peter 4:10

There are two types of Spiritual Gifts: the nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit from 1 Corinthians 12:7-10, and the seven Motivational (or Charisma) gifts from Romans 12:6

Gifts of the Spirit:

When we receive the Holy Spirit, we receive this gift with the understanding that nine spiritual gifts are contained within this one gift, and God will teach us how to use each of these individual gifts.

- Message of Wisdom
- Message of Knowledge
- Faith
- Gifts of Healing
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

Motivational Gifts:

“⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” Romans 12:6-8

- Prophecy
- Teaching
- Exhortation
- Leading/Admin
- Serving/Helps
- Giving
- Showing Mercy/Hospitality/Healing

In your invitation to this class, you received a link to take the DOVE International Spiritual Gift Survey. <https://dcfi.org/spiritual-gift-survey/> No gift is better than another one, we must learn to know our strengths and our weaknesses and eagerly desire ALL the gifts!

Small Group Ministry

The small group ministry represents the purest expression of relationships that God intended for His people to experience. Jesus taught to crowds occasionally, but his small group of disciples received the most frequent teachings in relationship with him and each other. The small group is where you enter the community of God's family.

THE PLACE WHERE MINISTRY HAPPENS. Besides the teaching ministries of the apostles and prophets, most ministry in the early church occurred in the homes of believers. There were, of course, public meetings in the temple, and open-air meetings in the marketplaces, but one-on-one, person-to-person ministry took place in these small groups which usually met in someone's house.

Paul told the Church at Rome, "*Greet also the church that meets at their house.*" And at Phrygia, "*Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and Nympha and the church in her house.*" The church that met in these homes was the basic unit of Christianity in the earliest years of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Philemon 1:2 and Colossians 4:15

Why join a Small Group?

- **Each person can participate**
 - People need to see that church is more than "the back of another person's head."
- **Each person can be discipled**
 - The word, "Teach" actually means *disciple*
- **Each person can be trained**
 - Another word that defines discipleship is "mentoring"
- **Every believer can be a minister**
 - The small group is the ultimate place for every member of the Body of Christ to learn ministry skills, discover spiritual gifts, and learn how to apply those gifts and skills in real-life ministry situations.
- **Every believer can be an example**
 - It is easy to be shaped by the environment around us. If we place ourselves in the right, positive, Christian environment, we will grow to be strong Christians.

In the Small Group setting, each person's needs are constantly being addressed, and in times of crisis, sickness or tragedy, the Small Group members are the "ministers on call."

Stewardship/Tithing

A steward is someone who is entrusted with the belongings of another person. They are responsible to follow the instructions of the owner regarding the use of those belongings. As stewards of God, we are responsible to follow HIS instructions in every area of life.

Everything we have belongs to God. Everything we are belongs to God. Every talent or ability we have is a gift from God.

“Get all you can, Save all you can, Give all you can!” -John Wesley

In giving our time, talents and resources, the Bible says we should give according to the following guidelines or attitudes: (Deuteronomy 15:10, 2 Corinthians 9:7-15, Colossians 3:17, Luke 6:38)

- **Give cheerfully**
- **Give freely and willingly**
- **Give in obedience, not grudgingly or of necessity, but according to God’s direction**
- **Acknowledge the grace of God in your life**
- **Give in faith – expecting a return!**
- **Give liberally, but responsibly**
- **Be content with what you have**

According to Scripture, we are to give according to God’s blessing and our ability. Only the best is to be offered to God. Giving of tithes is not forced, it is a matter of conscience before the Lord. Every time God blesses us financially, He is taking a risk and trusting us to follow His instructions regarding the use of that blessing. “Tithe” literally means 10%.

How to Give

Tithes and offerings are received each Sunday, usually following a prayer of blessing. They can be physically deposited into a basket at the altar or into the lockbox by the front door. Tithes and offerings are also gratefully received at any time electronically through our website or church center app. The web address for digital giving is <https://crosscreekflorida.churchcenter.com/giving> Here you can make a one-time donation for a specific ministry or set up recurring payments.

You can also mail your tithes and offerings to:

424 Luna Bella Lane, Suite 122, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

Church Center App

The Church center app can be found by searching google or apple store for “church center” and then searching for our church “Cross Creek Florida.” Or you can download the app directly through this web address: <https://crosscreekflorida.churchcenter.com/setup> Here you can set up your member account, make changes to your household, receive alerts, view events, communicate with your small group, set up and view your giving, view the church directory and so much more!

Missions

As we look back on the early church, it is clear that Christ had intended all along for His disciples to be the leaders of the first community of believers to be gathered in His name. And yet, His final commands and instructions did not deal with issues of church government, types of buildings to be erected, order of services, etc. Instead, Jesus talked to them about going and making disciples of all nations.

There are still over one billion human beings living in places where it is unlikely they will ever hear the good news about Jesus Christ, unless someone goes to tell them. As Christ was training His disciples, He was also broadening their perspective so that they would understand the purpose for which the church existed; that we might be God's agent for the ongoing fulfilment of His twofold purpose in the world:

- **To redeem mankind back to relationship with Him**
- **To reestablish His rule on this earth**

Missions at Cross Creek Community Church

- Approximately 6% of our operating budget is allocated to local and global outreach initiatives.
- Our church has a Missions Team whose sole purpose is to partner with and sponsor short- and long-term missions of the church.
- We are a partner church in a global church planting movement – DOVE International Fellowship
- Short-term missions involve ministry and service to the local community through established ecumenical programs.
- DOVE USA Missions is our primary sending organization for long-term missions.

Ministries and Missionaries supported by Cross Creek Community Church

Cross Creek Day School	www.crosscreekcommunitychurch.org/day-school
Community Hot Meals Program	www.firstmethodistnsb.org
Care Portal Response Team	www.careportal.org church# 102913
One Family	www.onefamily.com
Pray Volusia	www.prayvolusia.com
DOVE USA Missions	www.doveusa.org/missions
DOVE Lebanon Missions Africa	www.dcfi.org/missions
The Widows Farm, Kadawa, Kenya	www.widowsfarmenterprises.com

Not for Profit

Cross Creek Community Church is a Florida not for profit corporation. All monetary and in-kind donations are tax deductible.

Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior, having been baptized, and being in agreement with Cross Creek Community Church's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Cross Creek Community Church Family as an official Member in Covenant relationship.

In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

I will PROTECT the unity of my Church

- ... by acting in love toward other members (John 13:34)
- ... by refusing to gossip (Ephesians 4:29)
- ... by following the leaders (Hebrews 13:17)

I will SHARE the responsibility of my Church

- ... by praying for its growth (Acts 20:28)
- ... by inviting the un-churched to attend (Romans 10:14)
- ... by warmly welcoming our guests (Matthew 25:35)

I will SERVE the Ministry of my Church

- ... by being committed to a small group (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- ... by discovering my gifts and talents (1 Peter 4:10)
- ... by developing a servant's heart (Philippians 2:3, 4, 7)

I will SUPPORT the Testimony of my Church

- ... by attending faithfully (Hebrews 10:25)
- ... by living a Godly life (Romans 12:2)
- ... by giving regularly (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Statement of Commitment:

"I commit my prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness to the mission, vision and values of Cross Creek Community Church as a participating Member of this body."

Church Leadership

Elders:	Amanda & Philip Stiles	386-506-7761
	Bob & Shirley Dunlap	772-370-3919
	Mike & Heather Shannon	386-337-1062
	Jill & Brian Schnibben	386-295-9023
Staff:	Amanda Stiles, Lead Elder	pastoramanda@crosscreekcommunitychurch.org
	Sharon Moore, Church Administrator	sharon@crosscreekcommunitychurch.org
	Dan Wagner, Children & Youth Director	dan@crosscreekcommunitychurch.org
	Mary Ovitt, Day School Director	mary@crosscreekcommunitychurch.org
	Troy Smith, Worship Director	smizkid@gmail.com
	Aaron Shank, Media Director	mediateam@crosscreekcommunitychurch.org
Support:	FAMILY LIFE	Jill Schnibben
	FINANCE	Chuck Fast
	HOSPITALITY	Linda Morgenweck
	SMALL GROUPS	Bonnie Burt
	USHERS/SECURITY	Bob Dunlap
Ministries:	CARE PORTAL	Jenn Cappetta
	HOT MEALS	Linda Morgenweck
	INTERCESSION	Jill Schnibben
	MISSIONS	Sharon Moore
	PRE-MARITAL	Amanda Stiles
Contact Us:	Phone:	386-427-8229
	Email:	office@crosscreekcommunitychurch.org
	Website:	www.crosscreekcommunitychurch.org
	Church Office Hours:	10:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday – Thursday
	Address:	424 Luna Bella Ln. Ste. 122 New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

The oversight of the church is structured according to the pattern of the churches in the New Testament. The oversight is comprised of a team of Elders, led by the Lead Elder, more commonly known as the "Pastor" of the church. The Eldership team is supported by a group of leaders who head up various ministries in the church. These include worship, prayer, discipleship, outreach, youth and children, and administration. We do not vote. We work to come to consensus regarding leadership decisions. We do this through discussion and prayer as needed. Also, we ask for support of the group decision publicly even if still not in complete agreement privately. We strive for unity.

Eldership-based Church Government