

2024: TO BEGIN, BEGIN.

"Don't you realize that everyone who runs in a race runs to win, but only one runner gets the prize? Run like them, so that you can win. 25 Everyone who enters an athletic contest goes into strict training. They do it to win a temporary crown, but we do it to win one that will be permanent. 26 So I run—but not without a clear goal ahead of me." 1 Corinthians 9:24–26 (GW)

Paul says in these verses that he runs with a clear goal ahead of him. It is helpful to live life with a clear goal ahead of you.

But what if the goal isn't clear? What if you find yourself moving but with no clear direction? I've felt like that at times. Where is my life heading? What is truly important to my family? Is New Covenant moving forward toward a clear goal? And does it align with the direction God has for my life?

Maybe you've asked similar questions about your own life,

family, job, etc. Is life happening to me or am I living this life on purpose? Or maybe you are saying to yourself, I want to be more involved with church, or serving, or giving, but you don't know where to begin. To quote William Wordsworth (yest that's his real name), "To begin, begin,."

The aim of this guide is to help you begin. To set a clear goal, a why, in front of each person here at NCCC. How can we know where to run, or how hard to run, if we have no idea where we are going or why we are running? As you read through this and attend services, pray and see where God wants you to begin. Does he want you to set some values, run toward a mile marker, take a basics or discipleship study, or is it time to begin serving or tithing? We pray that you will journey with us as we run in our lane with a clear purpose ahead of us. Are you ready? To begin, begin.

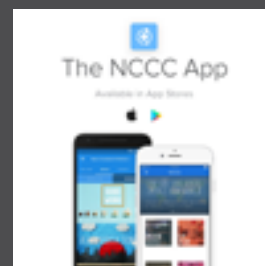
Pastor Josh Carmody

NCCCFD.ORG

Stay up to date on everything going on at NCCC by visiting our website.

NEW COVENANT APP

You can also download our app! This is the easiest way to stay in touch with NCCC on the go! You can also receive specific and general notifications sent right to your smart phone. This app is available in all major app stores. Search "New Covenant FD" in your app store today!



*"If people
can't see what
God is doing,
they stumble
all over
themselves;
But when
they attend
to what he
reveals, they
are most
blessed."
Proverbs 29:18*

WHAT GOD IS DOING:

CREATING A **DIVERSE COMMUNITY** OF
PEOPLE **TRANSFORMED** BY THE **LOVE OF**
JESUS.

1

DIVERSE

We are called to live our lives as followers of Christ in unity, not in uniformity. Jesus prayed for his disciples, and all that would come after them, that we would be people who are united in our love for one another (John 17:20-23)! We want to reflect God's Kingdom here on earth and that is a picture of diversity. Diverse thoughts, ages, socio-economic backgrounds, upbringing, ethnicity, and politics (to name a few) all united under the banner of Christ's love.

2

COMMUNITY

We are all called to live a life not in isolation but in community. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Sin demands to have a man by himself. It withdraws him from the community. The more isolated a person is, the more destructive will be the power of sin over him." You are not here by accident. You are here to be a part of a diverse (showing a great deal of variety) and unified community of believers.

3

TRANSFORMED

Romans 12:2 (NLT) Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

God wants to transform your life but you need to let Him work in you. As you spend time with God, and with others in community, you begin to change the way you think and your life transforms. We want you to know God's will for your life.

4

BY THE LOVE OF JESUS

Here it is again...Love. We can't get away from it and chances are you will hear us talk about it time and time again. The love of Jesus is what caused Him to selflessly die on the cross for our sins. We are capable of love and transformation because Jesus first loved us.



VALUES

Everyone lives by a code that explains why they make the decisions they make. A church is no different. Below is a work in progress but is generally the “why” behind our decisions. It is also the culture that we’re building at New Covenant.

AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

In order for the church to grow and thrive there needs to be open and honest communication. We want to be real, share our struggles, share our victories, encourage others, and have an attitude of accountability. You will feel like you are part of a family once you step into community.

We want to be a diverse community who prays for one other, serves with one another, eats together, grows together, and experiences life together. When we say diverse, we want to be diverse in age, socio-economic status, ethnicities, thoughts, etc. We also recognize the community of believers all around the world and are committed to support them through prayer and finances. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Acts 2:42-47, Hebrews 10:24-25, James 5:16.

BIBLE ENGAGEMENT

Bible engagement is the process that connects us with the Bible so that we have meaningful encounters with Jesus Christ in order for our lives to be transformed in Him. The Bible is good for forming our beliefs, showing us the way to go, helping

us get back on track, and changing our lives from the inside out. We also want to communicate the truths of the Bible in a culturally relevant way.

We live in the present and so we read out of Bibles that have been translated into our current language. The songs we sing are current and the instruments we use make a joyful noise to the Lord! We will reach people by bringing the church to them. We use current technology to reach people where they are. We embrace the message of the Bible and we seek to get that message out using current teaching, life-experiences, and joyful worship. Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119:11, Ecclesiastes 12:10, 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

FAITHFUL GENEROSITY

New Covenant Christian Church is a generous church! We place our faith in Jesus Christ and He is the firm foundation that makes life worth living. Jesus came to this earth to serve, to give away His life away for us, and He has asked us to be people who serve others! So we seek to be faithful to this calling by being generous with our time, talent, and treasure.

There are many opportunities to serve with others in the

church and outside of the church for the good of our community. As a church, we sow at least 17% of our offerings into world missions and we know that God has called all of us to give 10% of our increase to the local church. Proverbs 11:24-25, Malachi 3:10, Romans 15:13, Philippians 4:8, 14-17, 1 John 3:17.

TRANSFORMATIONAL GROWTH

We know that everyone is at a different place in their relationship with Jesus. The important thing is not that you have everything figured out but that you are growing. We believe that if something is healthy, it should grow! Our desire is that every person is in the process of transformational growth and produces Christ-like qualities in their lives.

Transformation can happen in an instant and it is also a process that lasts throughout our lifetime. As you grow and follow Christ, you naturally invite others to join with you in following Him. You know someone who needs to be transformed by the love of Jesus and they are counting on you to be an example of a transformed life. Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 3:14-19, 2 Peter 3:18.

MILE MARKERS

Hebrews 12:1-2 tells us that we are in a Spiritual race. This scripture also says that we should run with ENDURANCE! This race has been MARKED out for us! Just like a physical race has mile markers, waypoints, and destinations, so does our spiritual race!

1

CONSISTENTLY SHOW UP

Consistency Compounds. If you consistently attend a church service (live, online, or on-demand) will help you grow spiritually! Showing up helps you learn about God, grow in your faith, worship with others, and be a part of something bigger than yourself. God is consistent (Hebrews 13:8). His Plan for salvation is consistent (Galatians 3:8). God wants us to be consistent in our devotion to Him (Luke 16:13).

2

STEP INTO COMMUNITY

We have a common union with one another. We are a group of people with similar beliefs, ideals, and goals. This allows us to step into community. There can be barriers that keep us from stepping into community. You might say things like "There's not enough time" or "I am too busy." You might be shy or you don't see the importance of community. Accept others, regardless of faults, and step into community (Matthew 7:1-5).

3

GIVE TIME AND TREASURE

What are your two most precious commodities or assets? Time and Treasure (Money). Time is the great equalizer. We aren't guaranteed a certain number of days, but we all have the same time in a day. Money or treasure is an essential part of our life. When you work, you get paid for your time. There three things you can do with money. You can spend, invest, and give. Serve others by giving away your time and money.

4

INVITE RELATIONALLY

People are ready to hear about God and need someone to introduce them. The most effective way to invite someone into a relationship with Jesus, or to a church service, is to have a relationship with them. Where do I start? The good news is that we have the resources we need to tell our circle about Jesus. What do I say? We speak about what Jesus has done for us.

Go to ncccfid.org/mile for more information and to watch a message about each Mile marker.

WHAT ARE WE RUNNING TOWARD IN 2024?

WE ARE GOING INTO THE WORLD AND MAKING DISCIPLES BY EQUIPPING, COMMISSIONING, AND SUPPORTING ORDINARY PEOPLE TO DO THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK OF THE GOSPEL.

GOING INTO ALL THE WORLD: *Acts 1:8*

The Holy Spirit enables us to be witnesses of Christ to this world. We have been called to GO into the world. We tell others about the good news of Christ in our town, state, country, and the world.

As a church, we want to send you into this world on a mission so that you can make a difference right where you are.

If you do not feel equipped to do this, please prayerfully consider joining our Foundations or Discipleship Study. These will help you grow in your faith. There is more information about this in the back.

MAKING DISCIPLES: *Matthew 28:18–20*

As devoted followers of Christ, our mission is to help others become followers of Christ. We are disciples making disciples.

You probably saw that "START" is a three week video study. START will help you become a disciple of Christ. A disciple is one who follows and acts like Jesus. This video series will help you learn more about the church, yourself,

and your place serving with us. We encourage anyone to watch these videos.

We see in this scripture that we are to also baptize disciples in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! We will continue to offer opportunities for you to receive baptism during our services throughout the year.

EQUIPPING, COMMISSIONING, AND SUPPORTING ORDINARY PEOPLE: *Acts 6:1–7*

We see in this passage that there was a problem in the early church that needed to be dealt with, and the twelve apostles did not have time to do everything.

What was the disciples solution to this problem? They selected seven people who were well respected and full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom and gave them responsibility.

The result of this was that God's message continued to spread, and the number of disciples increased!

Maybe now you see why YOU are so valuable to this church. There is a lot to be done, and the church staff can't do it all. We need you!

2 Timothy 3:16–17

God uses the Bible to prepare us for every good work! We have made a weekly fill in note that goes along with the message from the past weekend. The Bible is vital, and we encourage

you to devour it. Download the youversion Bible app and start a reading plan today!

We also want to commission you to run your race. There is work to be done, and we all have a part to play! Whether you are a business owner, a stay at home parent, employed at a factory, or working 9-5 or 6-6, God wants to use you to tell others of all He's done in your life!

We want to support you in what you are doing right now.

TO DO THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK OF THE GOSPEL:

How do we do the extraordinary work of the Gospel? It starts with living our lives as examples for our family, friends, and neighbors to see. We are the light of the world, and light shines brightest in the darkness. Go into this world and be a messenger of the hope and love of Jesus Christ.

We financially and prayerfully support 24 mission organizations and missionaries on a monthly basis. We are helping people plant churches, minister to orphans, support the physically disabled, heal the wounded, reach remote jungle villages, dig wells, disciple teenagers and young adults, and many other amazing things.

What are you running toward in 2024? I would encourage all of us to run in our lane with a clear purpose. Let's be the disciples that Jesus wants us to be so we can fulfill the command to go and make disciples.

What does New Covenant believe?

We believe in you! No matter who you are, what you've done, or what you've been through, God loves you just as you are and so do we. For an in-depth look at our beliefs go to nccfd.org/beliefs.

Is New Covenant affiliated with a denomination?

We are a non-denominational church. This means that we are not affiliated with any particular denomination.

Are donations made to New Covenant tax deductible?

Yes. New Covenant operates as a non-profit in the State of Iowa and enjoys federal tax exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization. You will receive a giving summary in January for the previous year's giving.

Who's in charge?

New Covenant is led by the lead pastor, but is under the ultimate authority of our church by-laws and local governing board. Our board is composed of people who have belonged to the church for many years.

Q&A

STEP INTO COMMUNITY



START

Start is a three part video study (1 hour total) intended to introduce you to NCCC and help you fulfill God's purpose in your life. You will learn more about us, who you are, and who we are together! Go to nccfd.org/start or the NCCC App for more information!

Go to nccfd.org/study for more info on these studies:

FOUNDATIONS: This study is designed to assist you in understanding some of the foundational principles in your new life as a follower of Jesus.

DISCIPLESHIP: This is the process of spiritual growth and development where you learn to follow after the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. Great study no matter how long you've been saved!

YTH NIGHT

We know God has a good plan for 5th-12th graders and our desire is that they will learn to love Him, themselves, and others. We meet on Sundays at 6pm and would love to see your student at YTH NIGHT! Go to nccfd.org/ythnight for more info!



THE MOMCO
BY MOMS INTERNATIONAL

MomCo is for moms of preschoolers and school-aged children. The group features biblical teaching, connecting time with other moms, and on-site childcare. Go to nccfd.org/momco for more information!

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Celebrate Recovery provides a healing, safe environment for adults affected by hurts, hang-ups, and habits. At Celebrate Recovery, you will hear about the healing power of Jesus Christ through the eight recovery principles. Go to nccfd.org/cr for more info!

Go to nccfd.org/communitygroups for more information on these groups:

- Young Adult
- Men
- Women
- Card Playing



NCCCFD.ORG

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Sunday Service Times: 9:00am and 10:30am