



**W**e are thrilled you are interested in membership at Christian Heritage Church. It's an important commitment and we know you probably have some questions. Our hope is that this packet will answer those questions and start you on the journey of understanding fully what being part of the body of Christ at Christian Heritage is all about.

## **Here's a quick description of what you'll find in this packet.**

### **1 - Contents**

#### **2 – “Membership at CHC”**

*This is a brief description of what the Bible teaches us about membership. Here you'll find the “7 Expressions of Membership” that are a normal part of being in community at CHC.*

#### **3 – “5 Action Steps toward Membership”**

*This is a description of the steps we ask each person seeking membership to take toward being affirmed and celebrated as a member.*

#### **4 – Vision, Purpose, Values**

#### **5 – “Why Serve?”**

*Following Jesus is a movement and it gains momentum when people are actively united in purpose. Find out more details about serving at CHC on page 5.*

#### **6 – “Why Give?”**

*It's a touchy subject, but giving financially is a Biblical expression of worship. We don't withhold any form of worship from God at CHC. You can read our perspective on page 6.*

#### **7 – Four Important Questions (& Answers)**

#### **8 – Contact Information / Website Info**

#### **9 – “I Want to Be a Member” Form**

*This is a form we ask you to complete so we can help you find your place with us here at CHC.*



## Membership at CHC

The meaning of “membership” in America is different depending on who you talk to. It could mean something as simple as having your name included on a common list, access to swim or golf at a private club, being a monetary donor to an organization or owning a subscription. But for a Christian church, it’s something far more significant and is understood only by hearing what the New Testament has to tell us.

A member is a part of a whole; specifically a functional part like an eye or a kidney is to a physical body. That’s exactly what the Apostle Paul meant in Romans 12:4-5:

*“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.”*

Membership is about belonging to a community, or body, of **shared value and responsibility**. Simply put, Christians value Jesus, love him, and share the responsibility to bring glory and honor to him by fulfilling his desires, ultimately to fulfill his “great commission” to the Church in Matthew 28:19-20:

*“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.”*

Based on Scripture, a member of the Church expresses his or her membership in the 7 ways outlined below. We call these our...

### “7 Expressions of Membership”

- **Worshipping together regularly**  
(Hebrews 10:25, Acts 2:42, 46-47, Psalm 95:6)
- **Being unified through authentic relationships**  
(Colossians 3:12-15, Acts 2:44, 1 Thessalonians 5:13b, Romans 15:5)
- **Learning the Word of God**  
(Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 6:17, Acts 15:35)
- **Giving financially**  
(Acts 2:45, 2 Cor 9:6-7, Matthew 10:8b, 23:23)
- **Working to serve the mission**  
(Ephesians 4:16, Colossians 3:23-24, Romans 12:6-8)
- **Encouraging one another**  
(1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 3:13)
- **Honoring leadership**  
(1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, Hebrews 13:7, 17)

This is not a comprehensive list, but it’s a mutual starting point built on our core values (pg. 4). We’ve assembled this list as our membership criteria. We’re not asking you to do these things to earn membership from the church. Our goal is not to force anyone to uphold these commitments, though the Bible does encourage us to confront idle members (1 Thess. 5:14). We’re saying these are “7 Expressions” of what members do *in* their community of faith *because* of their commitment to Christ.



## **5 Action Steps toward Membership:**

If you are committed to the “7 Expressions” of membership listed above, then you are a member at Christian Heritage. Here are some action steps we ask everyone to take as we further welcome you into the community:

**1. Attend CHC services and gatherings for 3 months...**

...to decide if this is truly the community of faith to which you want to belong. Membership is a significant commitment and this will allow you the time to really assess your feelings, experience a broad range of community interaction and to ask important questions.

**2. Come to one of our “One Faith” luncheons...**

...for Q&A about CHC. Dates will be posted on the church calendar at [www.chcgreer.com](http://www.chcgreer.com) and are advertised regularly during weekly events.

2010 One Faith Luncheon Schedule:

February 21st, 2010

April 18th, 2010

June 20th, 2010

August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

October 17th, 2010

**3. Fill out an “I Want to Be a Member” form...**

...which will acquaint us with you and your family and help us help you find a place to serve. This form is on page 13 at the back of this packet.

**4. Begin giving a percentage of your income...**

...to God toward the efforts of his Church, with ten percent as your goal (1 Corinthians 16:2, Malachi 3:10, 2 Cor. 9:6-7). Ten percent is a generous mark we are all reaching for and beyond. For more on this, see page 6 entitled “Why Give?”

**5. Be celebrated and affirmed...**

...at a quarterly Sunday AM membership celebration. We are excited to let the whole church know you’re with us on the faith journey and united in the effort to fulfill the call of Jesus Christ on your life in partnership with this church.

Affirmation Schedule:

January 17th, 2010

April 11th, 2010

July 11th, 2010

October 10th, 2010



## **Our Vision**

*To be a vibrant and visible community of Christian faith, full of grace and truth.*

## **Our Purpose**

*To lead people to a life of faith and then on the journey to full devotion - one life at a time*

## **Our Values**

- **Prayer & Divine Direction**  
*(Philippians 4:6-7)*
- **Worship - the act & attitude**  
*(John 4:23-24)*
- **Biblical Integrity**  
*(2 Timothy 3:16-17)*
- **Lost People**  
*(Luke 15:7)*
- **Authentic Relationships**  
*(Ephesians 4:14-16)*
- **Spiritual Gifts & Empowerment**  
*(1 Corinthians 12:4-11)*
- **Compassion & Care-giving**  
*(Galatians 6:2)*
- **Giving**  
*(Malachi 3:8-10)*
- **Excellence**  
*(Colossians 3:23-24)*
- **Cultural Relevance**  
*(Neh. 8:8, Acts 17:22-34)*



## Why Serve?

Ephesians 4:16 tells us that "from him (Jesus) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, **as each part does its work.**" Anything worth having or accomplishing requires some hard work, wouldn't you agree? The tendency in our culture is to think of the church as simply a weekend event, sort of a religious "product" made available by a hired staff of pastoral professionals that provides inspiration and information for religious people. But that's just not it. Not even close.

**Expressing Love** - The Church of Jesus Christ is a truth movement courageously carried through the generations by people who have experienced a passionate relationship with the Truth himself. It's not a religion, with hoops to jump through and a system to adhere to so we can be accepted by God into heaven. It really is a relationship of love that makes life here *powerful* and the life after *glorious*. Like every relationship that involves humans, it has its ups and downs, but it ultimately works on the same principles as our friendships and marriages. In those relationships, we express our love and value and the relationship becomes healthier and deeper. So, like every great relationship, it's dynamic and growing, not static and stagnate. Serving God's people as God's church is part of how the relationship grows. Simply put, if you care, it shows.

**"But we're just too busy!"** We get it. We're all busy. Too busy. But we can't afford not to love Jesus in this way, who loved us first, doing so with our time, focus and our energy. He said in John 14:15, "If you love me, you *will* obey what I command." He's not saying to do things to prove you love him. He's saying loving him *results* in that proof. It expresses itself. We obey by loving people enough to join together in this effort to let them know that they too are loved and were made for eternal purpose. 1 Thessalonians 1:3 says, "We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

**So the Bible tells us that faith produces work, love prompts labor and hope inspires endurance. It's cause and effect!**

**Using Your Gifts** - Everything we do at Christian Heritage, whether it's handing out programs, sweeping floors, teaching or playing an instrument, is service to the commission Jesus gave us to invite people to follow him. Not to mention, God has given you gifts to do just that.

**And remember this...**

"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."

Hebrews 6:10



## Why Give?

We know. This is such a touchy subject. Let's be honest - money and the church have a strained history. From the "super-apostles" in 2 Corinthians who exploited early believers for money, to the sale of indulgences that ignited Martin Luther and the Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, to our modern day when TV evangelists find ways to turn everything into an appeal for money (and then spend it on their own luxuries), it's evident that we in the church haven't always gotten it right. But the Bible always has. And so it's to the Bible we appeal. Here are 6 Biblical reasons to give financially to the church:

1. **To avoid worshipping money** (Luke 16:13, Heb 13:5, Matt. 13:22)  
*The Bible says wealth is deceptive and money is the single greatest potential idol in our lives, whether you have lots of it or not. Because it is our basic human resource, it begs us to love and trust it. Jesus challenged the wealthy to balance their lives by being more generously sacrificial and less entitled to personal luxury.*
2. **To express thanks to God** (2 Corinthians 9:10-12)  
*Paul wrote that our generosity results in thanksgiving to God. If we as individuals or the church receive something, then we thank God for it! And the end result acknowledges and blesses God. Not only that, giving out of what you've been given is a direct expression of how you feel about the gift itself and the Giver.*
3. **To demonstrate our eternal values** (Luke 8:14)  
*In one story, Jesus described people who were so concerned about riches and pleasures as "seeds" that did not mature when they were planted. Giving realigns our focus and demonstrates that we are most driven by and toward eternal, spiritual blessings.*
4. **To demonstrate to God we are trustworthy** (Luke 16:9-12)  
*God really wants to bless us. We believe that at CHC. But how we use what we have, whether it's money, time or relationships, is a reflection of how much we can faithfully handle.*
5. **To obey God, who expects his people to give** (Mal 3:8-10)  
*There is really no better reason. If we believe in God, our goal is to be able to simply say, "God expects it. I want to do it." But along with the command in Malachi 3 comes a promise of great blessing.*
6. **To help the Church fulfill its call** (Mal 3:10, 1 Cor 16:2, Philippians 4:18-19)  
*The Church's only income stream flows from God's people investing in that which they value. The Church's focus must remain on its far-reaching mission while relying on a "storehouse" stocked with the necessary resources to fulfill that mission.*

## How much should I give?

Maybe the better question is, "How much should I keep?" It's interesting that we all tend to ask how much is "enough," with minimums in mind. Christian giving is based on pursuing an attitude like Jesus' - humility, utter generosity and sacrifice. Though giving a tenth of one's income, or tithe, is rooted in the Old Testament and has been adopted as a standard in many church traditions, the spirit of the New Testament teaching is not mathematical. We do believe that 10% is a great goal and we encourage it because it is sacrificial for most people. We also encourage graduated giving that asks folks with increased income who do give 10% to go further and express sacrificial generosity "in keeping with (their) income," a principle from 1 Corinthians 16:2. This makes Christ-like giving an experience that is shared, no matter how much you make. So how much should you give? 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 offers insight:

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."



## **4 Important Questions and Answers about Christian Heritage Church**

### **Who leads this church?**

CHC is a team effort and doesn't elevate any one personality. At CHC, a team of pastors who have individual gifts of leadership, teaching and pastoral care combine their efforts to "prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:12). Christian Heritage follows the Biblical model for church leadership set out in Ephesians 4 and 1 Corinthians 12, which establishes apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to ultimately lead the church. Though the titles are not important, these specific callings are. Bradley Cox is the Lead Pastor and along with Seth Cain, the Pastor of Development, these serve as the "sent ones" to this church ("sent ones" is the simple meaning of the word "apostles" in the New Testament). Leadership and ministry decisions are made in partnership along with Ernest Barr, our Pastor Emeritus, who has been at CHC for nearly 20 years and with the input of ministry leaders throughout the church. As Lead Pastor, Bradley Cox has the prayerful responsibility of final authority on all decisions.

### **Are the leaders accountable to anyone?**

Christian Heritage has a board of elders or trustees, individually appointed by the pastoral team in consensus with existing board members. They are specifically entrusted to guide the pastoral team's stewardship of the church's facilities and finances, the specific records of which are always available to the public. Their decision-making and guidance is done by consensus, not by vote. The pastoral team also consults with the trustees on various other issues or decisions relating to the church community.

### **Do members of the church vote?**

No, although input from members is always sought after and encouraged. Voting is divisive and has no Biblical precedent whatsoever. The Bible encourages the Ephesians 4 leadership mentioned above to humbly make decisions that will best build the community and fulfill Jesus' commission to lead people into an ever-growing relationship with Him (Matthew 28:19-20), not to serve the interests of themselves or any one particular group.

### **Is Christian Heritage a part of a denomination?**

For purposes of ordination, Christian Heritage Church is connected to the Upper South Carolina Conference of The International Pentecostal Holiness Church. For more information on our Pentecostal faith tradition, check out "*What Does It Mean That We Are Pentecostal?*" on our website.



## **Contact Information:**

Christian Heritage Church  
900 N. Main Street  
Greer, SC 29651

864.877.2288 (phone)  
815.717.7559 (fax)  
www.chcgreer.com

### **To email a particular pastor:**

Cox: [pastor.cox@chcgreer.com](mailto:pastor.cox@chcgreer.com)  
Cain: [pastor.cain@chcgreer.com](mailto:pastor.cain@chcgreer.com)  
Barr: [pastor.barr@chcgreer.com](mailto:pastor.barr@chcgreer.com)

## **www.chcgreer.com**

### **The Members Section of our Website**

A complete and updated church directory, along with other resources, is available online under the "Members" tab of our website. The username is: "member@chcgreer.com" and the password is "chc."

### **The Church Calendar**

A detailed interactive calendar of events is kept up to date on our website.

*"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."*

**Matthew 28:19-20**



## **I Want To Be a Member**

*You may use one form for your entire family. Please turn this form in to the Church Office or give it to one of the pastors at your earliest convenience. Thanks!*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names & Ages:

---

Please give us a brief description of your Christian experience:

How did you find Christian Heritage?

Describe why you desire to be a member at CHC?

Are you comfortable with the "7 Expressions" of membership listed on page 2 of this packet?

*Please Circle:* YES NO

If not, why?

Areas in which you would be interested in serving (*please circle*):

Children's    Nursery    Ushers/Greeters    Seniors    Teens    Media

Music    Hospitality/Helps    Men's    Women's    Married Life    Choir

Prayer Ministry

Other: \_\_\_\_\_