



New Member Class



*Pastor Stan Lubeck
4800 Sierra College Blvd
Rocklin, CA 95677
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916.652.7216 www.tlhc.org tlc@tlhc.org

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Welcome

Welcome! We're glad you came. We believe that by the end of the time we invest together you will be very glad you came too! This afternoon is designed to give you a close-up look at who and what we are at The LIFEhouse Church. We want you to learn all about us to see if you may wish to make this your "home" church.

The simple class guidelines:

- 1. We will ask for questions at the end of each section. So please jot down questions along the way so you do not forget to ask them. Do not hesitate to get your questions answered. You are often clarifying something for everyone. Feel free to change the subject if necessary to have your question answered.*
- 2. We usually take a break, but you can slip out anytime to get a drink or use the restrooms.*
- 3. You will need a pen or pencil to take notes along the way. If you are not a note taker, then just relax and listen.*
- 4. Be ready for a delicious meal which will be served at 6:00 p.m. as a time of fellowship and dining.*

Our Story
How We Praise God for His Past Blessings

Our Beginning (1977)

The Foundation:

The Dedication:

The Identity:

Our New Beginning (2006)

New Pastor: Pastor Stan Lubeck

Raised in Modesto, California

Five children: Nathan (1981), Kyle (1984), Joshua (1985), Heather (1988), Adam (1991)

New Location:

New Vision:

New Facilities:

New Organization:

New Name:

New Growth:

Our Substance

The Twelve Foundational Principles of The LIFEhouse Church

Scriptures quoted from the New International Version

Foundational Principle #1

-Centered Teaching

2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Foundational Principle #2

-Centered Worship

Psalms 149:1 - Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the saints.

Ephesians 5:18-20 - Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Foundational Principle #3

-Centered Outreach

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Mark 16:15 - He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Foundational Principle #4

-Centered Fellowship

Acts 2:42, 46 & 47 - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

1 John 1:6-7 - *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.*

Foundational Principle #5

-Centered Ministry

Ephesians 4:11-12 - It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

1 Peter 4:10 - Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Foundational Principle #6

-Centered Motivation

Romans 8:14 - Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Galatians 5:16 - So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Foundational Principle #7

-Centered Giving

Acts 20:35 - In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Foundational Principle #8

-Centered Restoration

2 Corinthians 2:6-8 - The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him. Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.

Galatians 6:1 - Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.

Foundational Principle #9

-Centered Living

Ecclesiastes 7:16-18 - Do not be over righteous, neither be over wise - why destroy yourself? Do not be over wicked, and do not be a fool - why die before your time?...The man of God will avoid all extremes.

Philippians 3:12-14 - Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Foundational Principle #10

-Centered Leadership

Acts 20:17 & 28 - From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church...Keep watch over yourselves and the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.

1 Peter 5:1-3 - To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's suffering and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers...being examples to the flock.

Foundational Principle #11

-Centered Power

James 5:16 - Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

1 John 5:14 - This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

Foundational Principle #12

-Centered Vision

Matthew 17:20-21 - "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Ephesians 3:20-21 - Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

Seven Primary Reasons Why "Unchurched Rocky and Lynn" Avoid Church:

They think church is...

1. B_____ - "The music is old fashioned and the sermon irrelevant to my life."

So we... provide worship services that are contemporary and preaching that is _____ without compromising content.

2. G_____ - "They are more interested in my money than me."

So we ... do not ask our guests to give money to _____ our ministry.

3. J_____ - "the sermon will only put me on a bad guilt trip."

So we... preach the good news of God's grace and _____ to transform lives

4. Unlike _____ - "I won't relate to anyone there."

So we... offer a wide variety of _____ for every age interest and background.

5. P_____ - "They will rush me into things before I feel ready."

So we... encourage people to ask questions and go at their own _____.

6. C_____ about kids - "They lack quality nursery and children's activities."

So we... make our Children's ministry a _____ priority.

7. Un_____ - "I won't know anyone there...it won't be easy to know people."

So we... are intentional about welcoming new people and showing good _____.

Our Salvation

Personal Questions Everyone Should Ask Themselves About Their Eternal Destiny:

1. The Personal Assurance Question:

"Have I come to the place in my spiritual life where I know for certain that I belong to God and if I would die today I would go to heaven?"

- Yes, I am certain
- No, I am not certain

2. The Personal Decision Question

"Can I remember the general time and place where I personally decided to become a Christian?"

- Yes, I remember
- No, I don't remember

3. The Personal Trust Question

"Suppose I were to die today and stand before God, and He were to ask me, 'Why should I let you into my Heaven?' - what would I say to God?"

God's Desired Purpose and Plan for Each Person

1. God made me to _____ me now and forever.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

2. God made me to give me a _____ life.

"I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10b

3. God made me in His _____.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Genesis 1:27-28

4. God made me to have a _____ relationship with Himself.

“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received a Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” Romans 8:15-16

5. God made me to have a _____ relationship with Himself.

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39

Why God’s Desired Purpose Is Not Realized

1. We all have _____.

“... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

2. Sin is _____ and _____ what I desire, rather than what God desires.

“We all, like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way...” Isaiah 53:6

3. Sin results in _____ me from a loving and holy God.

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you ...” Isaiah 59:2

“For the wages of sin is death (spiritual separation), but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

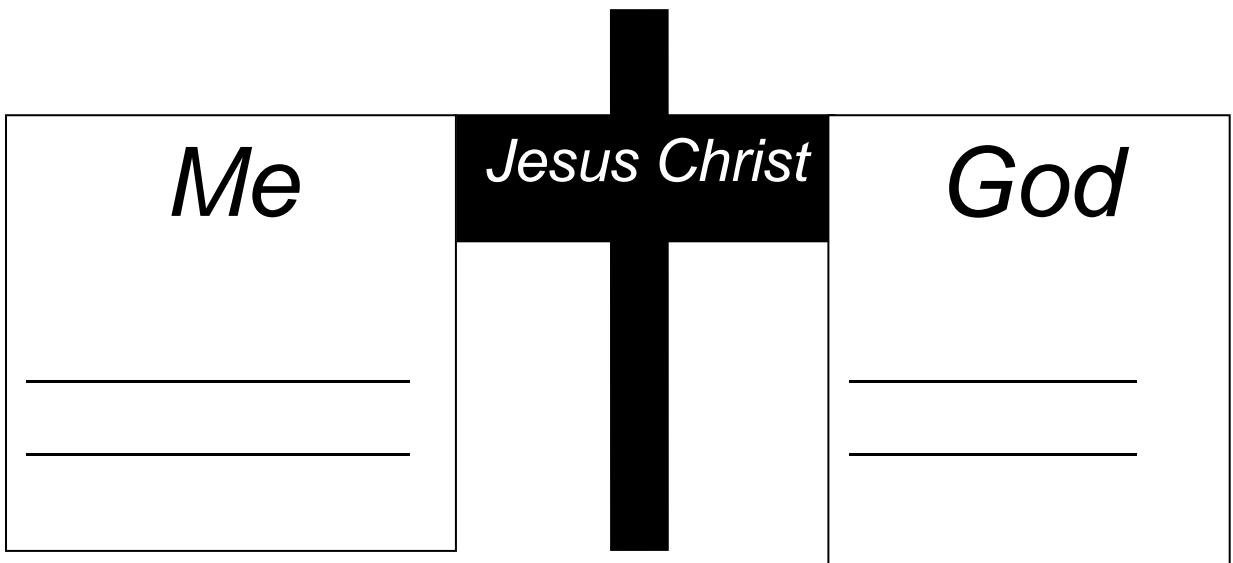
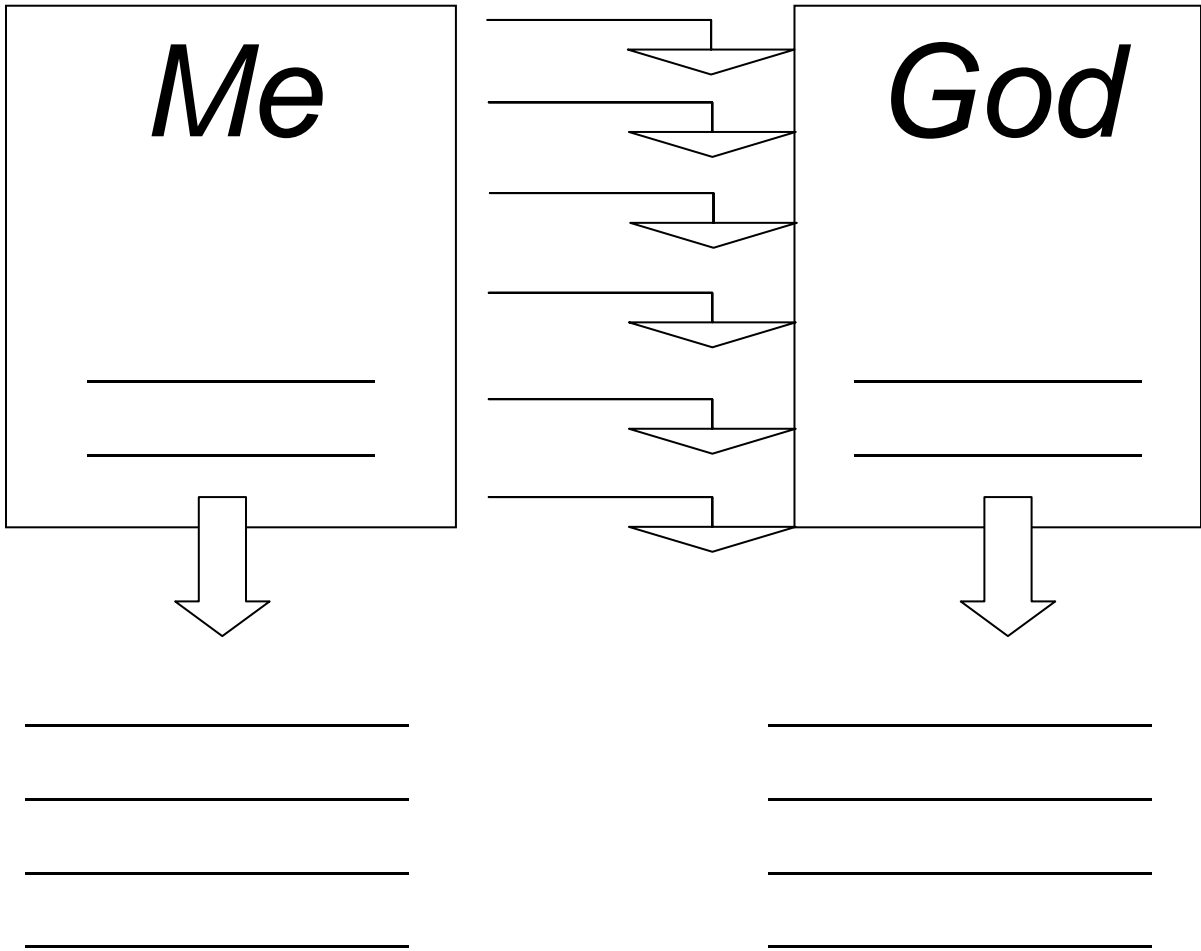
4. Our attempts to _____ the sin gap to God always fall short.

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death” Proverbs 16:25

“... all our righteous acts are like filthy rags...” Isaiah 64:6

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Matthew 5:48

Separation



God's Only Solution For Our Problem

1. *Jesus Christ made the _____ with God possible by dying in our place for our sins on the cross.*

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God..."
1 Peter 3:18a

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

2. *Jesus Christ could accomplish this because He was both _____ and _____.*

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:1,14

3. *Because only Jesus Christ could and did pay for our sins, He is the only _____.*

"Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

The Personal Response to God's Invitation

1. To **admit** I have _____ and to ask God to forgive my sins through Jesus.

"I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you." Luke 5:18

2. To **believe** that Jesus is alive today as the risen _____.

"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

3. To **accept** God's _____ gift of salvation, and not try to earn it.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

4. To **invite** Jesus into my life in order to become a part of God's _____.

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God --" John 1:12

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come and eat with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20

A Simple Prayer of Trust in Jesus

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for loving me and wanting a personal relationship with me forever. I admit I have sinned and cannot remove my sins myself. I need you to forgive me of my sins and to live in life. I believe you died on the cross for my sins and arose from the dead. I accept your gift of eternal life. I know I cannot earn it. I open the door to my life and invite you to make me a new person from the inside out. I receive you as the Savior from my sins and the Lord of my life. I want to follow you in your strength from now on. Thank you for the new personal relationship I now have with you which will last forever.

First Steps for a New Believer:

A _____ based on facts not feelings.

B _____ that is nutritious and delicious.

C _____ from loving "parents".

Baptism IS an Important "S.T.E.P."

S _____ of salvation
of trinity
of new life

T _____ of faith in Jesus
to the body of believers and
to any unbelievers who attend

E _____ of Jesus' Lordship
of genuine salvation
of obedience

P _____ from the joy of experiencing...
picturing my salvation
publicly declaring my faith
proving my obedience to Christ

Our Statements

Our Purpose

The LIFEhouse Church exists to make many **magnifying, maturing, ministering and multiplying** disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."
Matthew 22:37 - 39 (NIV)

1. We are to _____ the Lord.

Focus: God ("Love the Lord with all...")

Action: My _____ of the Lord in His glory - adoration.

2. We are to _____ in the Lord.

Focus: Myself ("Love [others] as yourself")

Action: My _____ with the Lord in His presence - growth.

3. We are to _____ for the Lord.

Focus: Believers ("Love your [Christian] neighbor")

Action: My _____ for the Lord in His church - service.

4. We are to _____ for the Lord.

Focus: Unbelievers ("Love your [non-Christian] neighbor")

Action: My _____ for the Lord in His world - outreach.

The Four Building-Blocks of Love

4th

*Graciously Loving pre-Christians
by Sharing the Good _____*

3rd

*Faithfully Loving Believers by Serving in
the _____*

2nd

*Selflessly Loving Myself by Growing in
the _____*

1st

*Wholeheartedly Loving God by
_____ Him*

Our Beliefs

The LIFEhouse Church's teaching and living is based upon the following foundational truths:

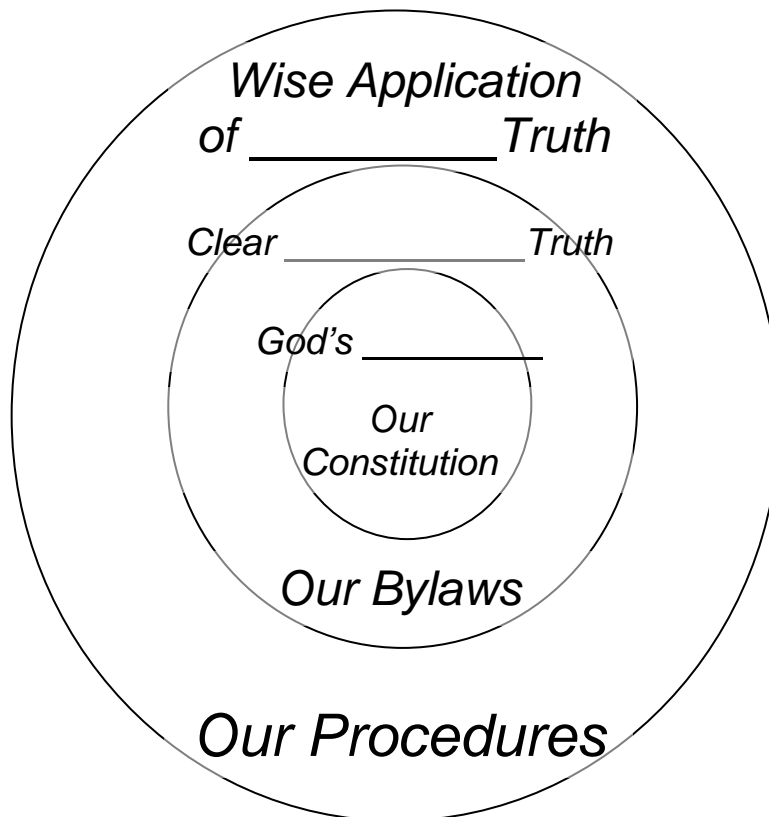
- 1. The Bible is the Word of God; it is God-breathed and without error, it is the final authority for our faith and living. (Psalm 19:7-8; Matthew 5:18, 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21)*
- 2. God exists eternally as three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 29:19; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 9:14)*
- 3. The heavenly Father, the first person of the triune Godhead, in His great love for the world, sent His beloved only begotten Son into the world as the Savior of mankind to provide everlasting life and Fatherhood for each believer. (John 3:16; Romans 8:14; 1 John 4:14)*
- 4. Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God; was manifested in the flesh by virgin birth; was crucified as the only acceptable sacrifice for our sins; arose bodily from the grave; is preparing a place for us; will return for us. (Luke 1:35; John 1:1, 14; John 14:1-6; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3-19; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18)*
- 5. The Holy Spirit persuades us to confess Jesus as our Savior from our sins and Lord of our lives; indwells us to explain the Bible and empowers us to live Holy lives. (John 16:7-14; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:17-21)*
- 6. Every person is a sinner and separated from God until repenting of his sins and receiving God's gift of eternal life by trusting in Jesus Christ alone as Savior and Lord. (Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:18-21)*
- 7. Believers are eternally safe and secure in Jesus and give evidence of genuine faith by a life of good works. (John 3:16; John 10:27-29; Romans 8:38-39; James 2:14-17)*
- 8. The church is the living body of Christ on earth comprised of all believers in Jesus Christ, but is manifested through assemblies which are devoted to worshipping God, maturing believers and reaching unbelievers with the Gospel. (Matthew 16:18; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:11-13; Hebrews 10:25)*
- 9. The future life of believers is a blessed eternity with God in heaven, but unbelievers face eternal suffering apart from God. (Matthew 25:46; John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18; Revelation 20:11-15)*

Our Structure

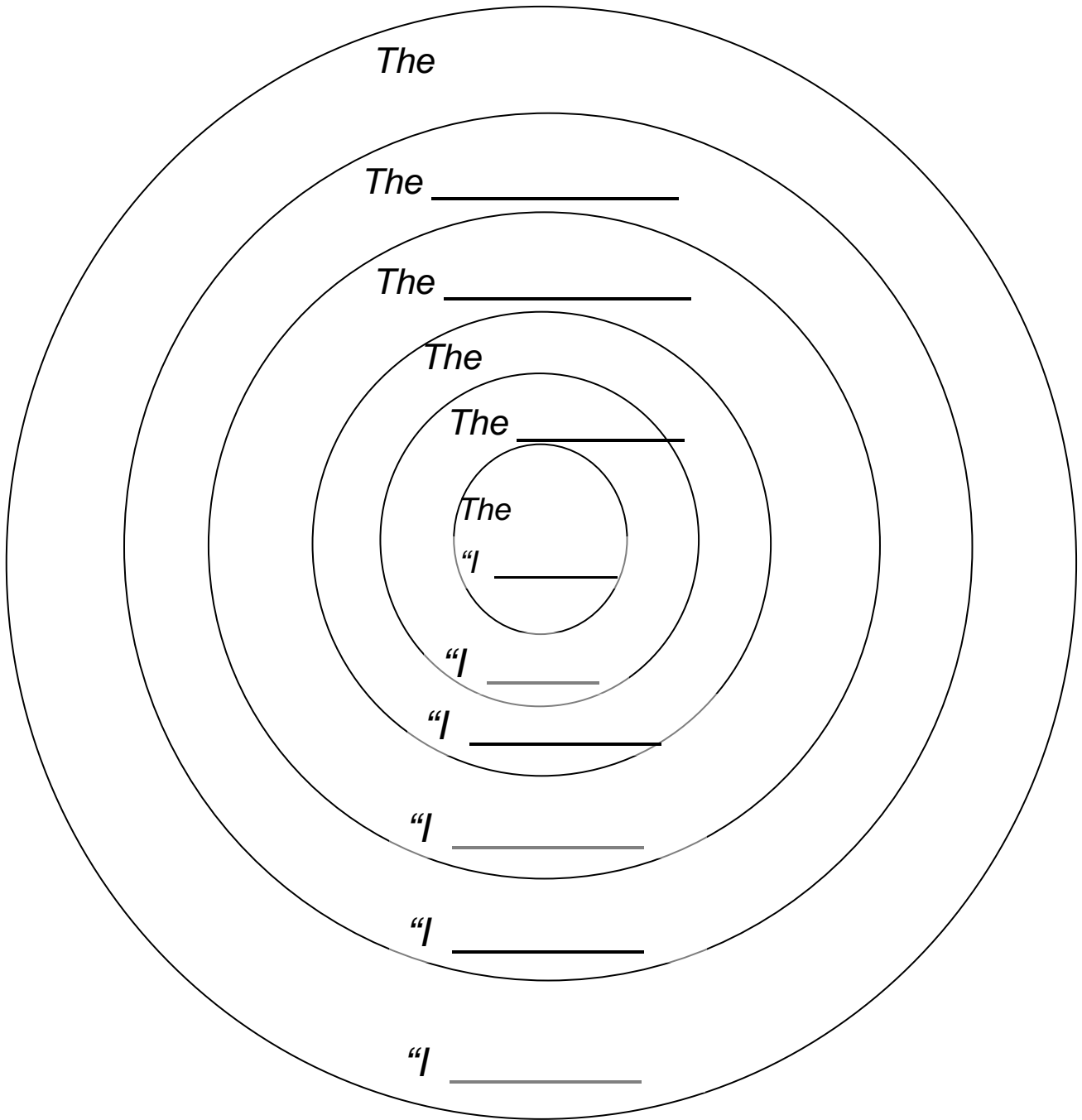
The Authority and Organization of The LIFEhouse Church

<i>Form of Government</i>	<i>Focus</i>	<i>Title</i>
	Jesus Christ Colossians 1:18	Head of the Church
	Word of God Acts 17:11	Authority of the Church
	Elders 1 Timothy 5:17	Overseers of the Church
	Deacons/Deaconesses	Ministry Leaders of the Church
	Members 1 Cor 12:4-6, 27	Ministers in the Church

Our Written Authority at The LIFEhouse



Progressing to the Center at The LIFEhouse



Why Our Church is Committed to Spiritual Maturity

(Scriptures are quoted from the New International Version)

1. Because it is _____ by God for all in the church.

Hebrews 6:1 "Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity; not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God..."

Colossians 4:12 "Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured."

2 Peter 3:18 "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to Him be glory both now and forever! Amen."

To _____ be maturing is to be _____ of God's will.

2. Because it provides spiritual _____ in the church.

1 Corinthians 2:6 "We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing..."

Philippians 3:15 "All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you."

Hebrews 5:14 "But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

Spiritual immaturity breeds doctrinal _____!

3. Because it prevents _____ in the church.

Luke 8:14 "The seed that fell among the thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature."

1 Corinthians 3:1 "Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly - mere infants in Christ."

A lack of spiritual maturity opens the church up to _____ behavior!

4. Because it provides _____ for the weak and fallen in the church.

Romans 15:1 "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves."

Galatians 6:1 "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."

Without spiritual maturity the weak and fallen believers will be _____!

5. Because it produces Christ-like _____ in the church.

Ephesians 4:13 "...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

A spiritually immature church is a _____ church!

6. Because it promotes ministry _____ outside the church.

2 Corinthians 10:15 "Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand..."

A spiritually immature church is _____-centered!

ENJOY GIVING THE RIGHT WAY!

1. The Right _____:

God owns **everything** I have.

1 Chronicles 29:11-12

Psalms 24:1

Haggai 2:8

God wants me to give _____ first.

Romans 12:1

2 Corinthians 8:5

God expects every **believer** to give.

1 Corinthians 16:2 "each one"

2 Corinthians 9:7 "each man [literally, 'person']"

2. The Right _____

God desires us to give **joyfully**

Acts 20:35b

2 Corinthians 9:7

God desires us to give _____

John 3:16

2 Corinthians 8:8-9

God desires us to give **expectantly**

Luke 3:15

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

3. The Right _____

To be fair, God desires giving to be **proportionate**

Matthew 23:23

2 Corinthians 8:11-12

A "tithe" is _____ of my income

An "offering" is _____ the tithe

God measures our giving by **sacrifice** not amount

Luke 21:1-4

2 Corinthians 8:2-3

4. **The Right** _____

As a part of my weekend **worship** of God

1 Corinthians 16:2

To the trusted _____ of the church for distribution

Acts 4:35 & 5:2

To the New Testament counterpart to the Old Testament **storehouse.**

Malachi 3:10

1 Corinthians 16:2

5. **The Right** _____

God is to be my first financial **priority**

Proverbs 3:9-10

Giving is to be a part of a well- _____ budget

Proverbs 27:23-27

2 Corinthians 9:7

BAPTISM

Understanding Baptism

Scripture quotations taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version.
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BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN WATER BAPTISM

1. Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior should be baptized.

Acts 2:41 "Those who accepted his (Peter's) message were baptized."

Acts 8:12 "But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news..., they were baptized, both men and women."

Acts 18:8 "Many of the Corinthians who heard him (Paul) believed and were baptized."

The one requirement for baptism is belief in Jesus Christ. For this reason, we do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe.

2. Why Be Baptized?

Christ commands believers to be baptized.

Jesus said...

Matthew 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..."

Baptism is a step of obedience to Christ and His word.

Obedience to Christ is evidence of personally knowing and loving him.

1 John 2:3 "We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey his commands."

John 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

3. What is the Meaning of Baptism?

Baptism is not a saving ritual.

Ephesians 2:8 & 9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith ... it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast."

Titus 3:5 "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy."

Baptism is a symbol of the work of the three persons in the Godhead in providing us eternal life.

Matthew 28:19 "Make disciples ... baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Baptism is a symbol of our union by faith in Christ's burial and resurrection for a new life as a Christian.

Colossians 2:12 "...having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead."

Romans 6:4 "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...we too may live a new life."

Baptism is a symbol of the washing and renewal of belief in Christ.

Titus 3:5 "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

4. How Are We to Be Baptized?

Baptism in the New Testament was immersion in water.

Matthew 3:16 "As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water."

Acts 8:37-39 "The eunuch said, 'Look, here is water...', then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ...they came up out of the water..."

The word "baptism" means "to dip, to immerse"

The following are the most reputable Greek dictionaries (or lexicons) and their definition of the Greek word "bapto" from which we get the word "baptism".

Kittle's Theological Dictionary of New Testament Words: "to dip in or under"

Thayer's, Greek-English Lexicon: "to dip, dip in, immerse"

Bauer, Amdt and Grigrich's, A Greek-English Lexicon: "dip, dip in"

Liddel and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon: "dip"

The founders of three major denominations agree that New Testament baptism was by immersion.

Martin Luther: "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

John Calvin: "The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

John Wesley: "Buried with Him, alluding to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

(Our church practices only baptism by immersion, but we do accept into membership those baptized after salvation by other than immersion in order not to discredit their original baptismal blessing and testimony.)

5. Who May Do the Baptizing?

Believers who wish to “disciple” (help a Christian follow Christ’s teaching) a believer may participate in baptizing that believer.

Matthew 28:19 The Great Commission commands all believers to “make disciples,” and does not prohibit them from baptizing the new believers they lead to Christ.

Acts 8:38 Phillip, commonly called a deacon (Acts 6:5), baptized the new Ethiopian convert.

Acts 9:18 Ananias, simply called “a disciple” (Acts 9:10), baptized the new convert Saul, later called Paul.

1 Corinthians 1:17 Paul said, “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the Gospel.” Even as a church-planting missionary, Paul was not one to monopolize the joy of baptizing others.

6. When Should We Be Baptized?

As soon as a person declares belief in Christ, he/she may be baptized. Throughout the book of Acts, Christians were baptized soon after their belief.

Acts 2:41 “Those who accepted his message were baptized...that day.”

Acts 8:12 “When they believed...they were baptized.”

Acts 9:15 & 18 “The Lord said, ‘This man (Paul) is my chosen instrument.’” “He (Paul) got up and was baptized.”

Acts 16:32 & 34 “They spoke the word of the Lord to him and all the others in his house...then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

FINANCIAL POLICY

The LIFEhouse Church

1. We will **WORSHIP GOD** as the **OWNER** of all we have.

- ❖ **1 Chronicles 29:11-12** Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. NIV
- ❖ **Job 41:11** Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me. NIV
- ❖ **Psalms 24:1** Of David. A psalm. The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; NIV
- ❖ **Haggai 2:8** 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty. NIV

2. We will **TRUST GOD** to **PROVIDE** all we need.

- ❖ **Matthew 6:33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. NIV
- ❖ **2 Corinthians 9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. NIV
- ❖ **Philippians 4:19** And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. NIV

3. We will **SERVE GOD** with **CONTENTMENT** of heart.

- ❖ **Philippians 4:11-15** I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; NIV
- ❖ **1 Timothy 6:6-10** But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. NIV
- ❖ **Hebrews 13:5** Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." NIV

4. We will **HONOR GOD** in the **MANAGEMENT** of finances.

- ❖ **Matthew 25:14** "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. NIV

- ❖ **Luke 16:10** “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. NIV
 - ❖ **2 Corinthians 4:2** Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. NIV
- a. *We will be honest in our financial dealings.*
- ❖ **Leviticus 19:36** Use honest scales and honest weights, an honest ephah and an honest hin. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt. NIV
 - ❖ **Proverbs 16:11** Honest scales and balances are from the Lord; all the weights in the bag are of his making. NIV
- b. *We will keep accurate financial records and submit to an outside audit of our finances to assure our practices are above reproach.*
- ❖ **Luke 2:52** And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. NIV
 - ❖ **2 Corinthians 8:20-21** We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men. NIV
- c. *We will set aside funds in the abundant times so we will have enough in the lean times.*
- ❖ **Genesis 41:34** Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. NIV
 - ❖ **Proverbs 30:24-25** “Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer; NIV

Additional Savings Restrictions:

- (1) *We will not pay for general fund operations with endowment funds, but depend on worship giving to support it.*
- (2) *We will not allow the contingency savings fund for lean times to exceed more than 15% of the total budget, and keep an average annual balance of not less than 5%.*
- (3) *We will follow the tithe principle and give at least 10% to approved ministries outside of ourselves.*
 - ❖ **Numbers 18:26** “Speak to the Levites and say to them: ‘When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, you must present a tenth of that tithe as the Lord’s offering. NIV
 - ❖ **Philippians 4:15** Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; NIV

(4) We will not borrow money except where the means to repay is certain from collateral agreed upon as sufficient by the lender; and we will pay our debts off without delinquency.

- ❖ **Psalm 37:21** *The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously;*
- ❖ **Psalm 112:5** *Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice. NIV*

Additional Restrictions on Indebtedness:

(1) We will not borrow to pay for church operational expenses (i.e. salaries, missions and utilities) - this also excludes borrowing from restricted funds from within the church.

(2) We will not borrow to pay for interest on existing debt.

(3) We will not incur debt costs that exceed 30% of the previous year's general fund income.

(4) We will not be afraid of "reasonable" (see above) debt for the expansion of the property and facilities.

(5) We will plan for our future by estimating budget goals without being presumptuous of the future.

- ❖ **Luke 14:28** *"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? NIV*
- ❖ **James 4:13-14** *Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. NIV*

(6) We will hire pastoral staff to equip members to do the ministry and pay all church employees fair wages.

- ❖ **Ephesians 4:11-12** *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up NIV*
- ❖ **1 Timothy 5:18** *For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." NIV*

(7) We will instruct our members in the biblical concept of cheerful giving of at least a tithe to the church ministries and missions as a part of worship.

- ❖ **Genesis 14:20** *And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. NIV*
- ❖ **Malachi 3:10** *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. NIV*
- ❖ **Luke 11:42** *“Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone. NIV*
- ❖ **2 Corinthians 9:7** *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. NIV*

(8) We will collect, count and disperse the church funds with careful procedures to assure no theft.

- ❖ **1 Corinthians 16:3** *Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. NIV*
- ❖ **2 Corinthians 8:17-18** *For Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative. And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel. NIV*
- ❖ **2 Corinthians 8:22-23** *In addition, we are sending with them our brother who has often proved to us in many ways that he is zealous, and now even more so because of his great confidence in you. As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ. NIV*

(9) We will obtain membership approval of elder recommended church budget goals and indebtedness.

- ❖ **1 Corinthians 16:1** *Now about the collection for God’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. NIV*
- ❖ **2 Corinthians 9:5** *So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given. NIV*
- ❖ **1 Peter 5:2-3** *Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. NIV*

Ministries at The LIFEhouse Church

If you'd like any information on any particular ministry listed below, please pick up a brochure on the table in the Lobby. You may also call the church office during the week at (916) 652-7216.

Treehouse Children's Ministry

<i>Kuddle Kingdom</i>	<i>Birth to age 2</i>
<i>Treasure Cove</i>	<i>2 and 3 year olds</i>
<i>Playhouse</i>	<i>age 4 & 5</i>
<i>Clubhouse Red</i>	<i>1st-2nd grades</i>
<i>Clubhouse Blue</i>	<i>3rd-4th grades</i>
<i>The Dig</i>	<i>5th-6th grades</i>

Student (Youth) Ministry

<i>Junior High</i>	<i>7th-8th grades</i>
<i>High School</i>	<i>9th-12th grades</i>

Adult Classes

New Member's Class (this class)
LIFEoutfitters – LIFEgroup Leader Teams

LIFEgroups:

- ❖ Sermon based Bible study groups*
- ❖ Book of the Bible study groups*
- ❖ Precept study groups*
- ❖ Women's Tuesday morning study groups*
- ❖ Men's Discipleship groups*
- ❖ College / Young Singles study group*
- ❖ Adult study groups*

Men's Ministry

Men's breakfasts, retreat and outreach events.

Women's Ministry

Special events, outreaches, retreat and service projects.

Missions *(foreign and local, international students, short term & full time, etc)*

Ministries

- Prayer Chain*
- Service Project*

Our Staff

Senior Pastor

Stan Lubeck (2006)

Executive Pastor

Rich Donnell (2002)

Worship Arts Pastor

Jathan Good (2007)

Student Ministries Pastor

Brian Neuenschwander (2008)

Office Administrator

Kristy Hall

Pastoral Assistant

Becky Saylor

Children's Ministry – Treehouse and Kuddle Kingdom Nursery

Amelia Hall

Bookkeeper/Finance

Sherie Anderson

Interns

Ben Wulbern

Darren Harriman

Questions I Hope To Have Answered

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