

Country Acres Baptist Church

It is a joy to provide this orientation material for new and prospective members. You have received it because you have become a member or are interested in becoming a member at Country Acres Baptist Church (CABC). In the next three chapters, we will be taking a brief look at the history, vision, mission, ministry, and values of CABC. This overview will include information about our doctrine, our affiliations, our structures, and the requirements for membership.

Below is a summary of the topics addressed in this orientation:

Chapter One: The Vision and Values of Country Acres

- Our History
- Our Beliefs
- Our Vision and Values

Chapter Two: The Ministry of Country Acres

- Our Ministry Philosophy
- Our Ministry Opportunities
- Our Church Structures
- Our Denominational Affiliation

Chapter Three: Meaningful Membership at Country Acres

- The Requirements for Membership
- The Expectations for Members
- The "One Anothers"
- The Next Step

Chapter One

The Vision and Values of Country Acres

Our History

Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "A page of history is worth more than a volume of logic." History is important. It gives us an idea of our heritage. It can help to shape our future. So, let's begin with a brief history of CABC.

Humble Beginnings: 1958-1966

On October 15, 1958 Immanuel Baptist Church of Wichita voted to begin a new work in the Country Acres area of the city. For several months, the meetings were held at the Delano Township Hall at Central and Ridge. In November of 1958, Immanuel purchased property on 13th St. between



Morgantown and Brunswick for a future church site. On April 1, 1959, Immanuel Baptist purchased a house at 1361 Morgantown for a parsonage. The mission began holding services in this house. Immanuel sent several of their members out to the mission to worship and serve. All bills were paid by Immanuel. As you can see, Immanuel Baptist had a real commitment to start a new work.



On October 9, 1960, construction began on the first church facilities. This building was dedicated on May 28, 1961. During the first two years, 90 people joined the new mission which was called Northwest Baptist Chapel. However, during that time, Wichita experienced a population decrease and many people were transferred out. So, at the end of two years, membership was at 68 and average Sunday School attendance was at 55.

From Mission to Church: 1967-1972

Northwest Baptist Chapel became Country Acres Baptist Church on April 30, 1967. There were 36 charter members who gathered to form the new church that Sunday afternoon. At that point, a new financial arrangement began. Immanuel Baptist had been paying the bills for the mission. When the church was organized, it began assuming the financial burden at a rate of 20% per year over the next five years. So, what was a very dependent, fragile mission work was becoming a self-supporting church.

Ongoing Ministry: 1973-Present

Since those formative years in our history, CABC has continued to maintain a ministry presence in West Wichita and beyond. Of course, pastors and staff members have come and gone. Facilities have changed. In many ways, the congregation has changed through the comings and goings of people over the years. But our commitment to the gospel and the Word of God remains unchanged.

Here are some significant milestones in the history of CABC:

- 1958 Church planted in the Country Acres neighborhood
- 1967 Northwest Baptist Chapel becomes Country Acres Baptist Church
- 1980 Construction of a new sanctuary and offices at the W. 13th location
- 1996 Construction of multi-purpose addition at the W. 13th location
- 2003 Relocation to 10th and Tyler location
- 2009 Debt retired on 10th & Tyler facilities
- 2011 Construction begun on classroom addition

Meet Our Pastoral Staff

Dr. Kelly R. Randolph has been the Senior Pastor at CABC since June, 1994. He has been married to Jamie since 1983 and they have four children. Kelly is a graduate of Criswell College (BA, 1987), Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div., 1990) and Bethel Theological Seminary (D.Min., 1999). Kelly enjoys following sports, fishing, reading, and hanging out with his family. Kelly's passion is expository preaching which honors God and transforms lives.

Eric D. Stone has been the Pastor of Worship & Senior Adults at CABC since August, 1994. He and Verlinda were married in 2001. They have two children, Alec and Isabella. Eric is a graduate of Friends University (BA, 1990) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MA, 1994). Eric's desire is to see the church worship God in spirit and truth from lives which are focused on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Vince Harrison joined the CABC staff in October of 2008 as Pastor of Administration/Education. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Martin (B.S.), the University of Memphis School of Law (J.D.), and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.A. in Missiology). Vince and his wife Barbara have been married 40 years and they have three grown children: Rod, Jason and Heather; two daughter-in-laws: Catherine and Keli; and four grandchildren: Noel, Mason, Bryson and Sarah.

Michael Savadge has been the Pastor of Student Ministries since September of 2007. Michael is married to Krista and they have two girls, Madisyn and Callie. While playing baseball at Missouri Baptist University, God called him to the ministry. Michael is currently completing his B.A. degree with Liberty University. Michael has an intense passion for reaching and discipling students through gospel-centered relationships. He enjoys spending time with Krista, sports (especially baseball), reading, and traveling.

Meet Our Ministry Staff

Juliana Williams, joined the CABC staff in 2010 as Nursery/Preschool Coordinator. She is married to Brandon and they have one daughter. Juliana is a graduate of the Criswell College.

Paulette Middlekauff, has been Coordinator of Children's Ministries since the summer of 2007. She is married to Bill and they have two grown children and five grandchildren. In addition to her ministry with children, Paulette is also involved in our adult choir and Senior Adult ministry.

Meet Our Support Staff

Tami Spain has been the church secretary at CABC since 2000. Tami is married to Bert and they have three children, Curtis, Brenda, and Angela and three grandchildren, Vanessa, William and Jayden. They are members of Immanuel Baptist Church. Tami loves working with the congregation through the church office. When she has time, she likes to read and sew.

Linda Borofsky serves as the pastoral staff secretary. Linda joined the staff in February 2007. Linda is married to Mark. They have two grown sons, Joel and Jon, who is married to Kristen. Mark and Linda are members of CABC.

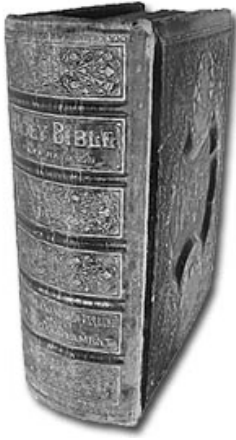
Diane McClary joined the CABC staff in April, 2009 as our Finance Secretary. She keeps our financial records, takes care of accounts receivable and payable, and helps our Finance Committee track our annual budget. Diane and her husband Mike are members at CABC.

Geno Sylvester has been Maintenance Coordinator since 2005. Geno directs all cleaning and maintenance issues for CABC. He is married to Melissa and they have three boys, Isaiah, Elijah and Gabriel. Geno and his family are members of CABC.

Isaiah Sylvester works part-time as a custodian. Isaiah is a student at WSU working on a degree in Psychology. He is married to Melinda.

Our Beliefs

True fellowship must include the sharing of core beliefs and values. These beliefs must come from the Bible which is our only infallible source of authority. At CABG, we are united in our affirmation of the following statement of faith.



The Scriptures

We believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, without error in the original manuscripts. It is the final authority in all matters about which it speaks, and is sufficient as our only infallible rule of faith and practice. The Scriptures teach, reprove, rebuke, and exhort God's people so that they are equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:20-21, John 10:30, Matt. 5:17-18)

God

We believe in one God, the Creator and Preserver of all things, who is infinite in being and absolute in perfection. He exists eternally in three persons -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit -- who are of one essence and equal in power and glory. (Deut. 6:4, John 6:27, Heb. 1:8, Acts 5:3-4, 2 Cor. 13:14, Matt. 28:18-20)

Jesus Christ

We believe that God the Son became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. He is fully God and fully man, the eternal and only begotten Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, sinless in His life, making atonement for the sins of the world by His death. He was bodily resurrected, ascended into heaven, and now serves as high priest, intercessor and advocate on behalf of all believers. (John 1:1-2, 14, John 8:56-59, John 10:30-33, Matt. 1:18-25, Heb. 4:15, 9:12, 1 John 2:1-2, Rom. 1:4, John 20:25-27, Heb. 7:25, Acts 1:9-11)

The Holy Spirit

We believe that God the Holy Spirit is a person. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and draws men to personal faith in Christ. At salvation, He imparts to the believer new life, baptizes him into the body of Christ, and comes to indwell him permanently. The Holy Spirit guides, teaches, and strengthens the believer and empowers him to manifest the character of Christ. He gives spiritual gifts to believers for mutual edification. The Spirit empowers the church to carry out Christ's commission on the earth. (1 Cor. 2:10-11, Ps. 139:7, John 16:8-11, 14:16, 3:5-7, Titus 3:5, 1 Cor. 12:13, Rom. 8:9, 1 Cor. 6:19, Eph. 1:13, John 14:36, 16:23, Acts 1:8, Eph. 5:18, Gal. 5:22-23, 1 Cor. 12:7-11)

Angels

We believe that angels are powerful spirit beings who are distinct from human beings and from God. Some angels carry out the purposes of God while others (who sinned and fell from heaven) serve Satan, who is himself an angel. We believe in the reality and personality of Satan and that, when given the opportunity, he attempts to defeat

Christians. However, Christians can overcome Satan's schemes by applying scriptural truth. (Heb. 1:14, 2 Pet. 2:11, 2 Cor. 11:14-15, Isa. 14:12-14, Luke 10:18, Matt. 25:41, Eph. 6:10-19, John 8:44, James 4:7, 1 Pet. 5:8-9)

Man

We believe that the first man and woman were created in the image of God, free as to choice and responsible to their Creator. But man, tempted by Satan, willfully sinned and consequently experienced separation from God. The consequences of this sin affect the entire human race. Since that time, all human beings have been born with a sinful nature, commit acts of sin, and are lost apart from the atoning work of Christ. In his natural (unsaved) state, man is dead in sin, spiritually blind, and helpless to save himself. (Gen. 1:26-27, 2:16-17, 3:1-24, Rom. 5:12-19, 1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:1-3, 4:14-17, Rom. 3:23)

Salvation

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Savior from sin. He died as a substitutionary sacrifice for sin to turn away the wrath of God from all who believe in Him. Those who trust in Christ are declared righteous on the basis of His shed blood and resurrection. (2 Cor. 5:15, Mark 10:45, Rom. 3:24-26, 1 Pet. 3:18, Rom. 4:8-9)

We believe that whoever trusts Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord becomes a child of God. This salvation is not achieved by any human effort or merit, but rather is received as a free gift from God by grace through faith. In becoming a Christian a person acknowledges his total inability to meet the righteous demands of a Holy God and places his complete trust for salvation in Jesus Christ who died in his place, paying the penalty for his sin. (John 1:12, 3:16, Eph. 2:8-9, Acts 16:31, Rom. 3:28)

We believe that all true believers are kept eternally secure by the power of God through the new birth, the indwelling and sealing of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Christ. (John 10:28-30, 14:16-17, 1 Pet. 1:23, Eph. 4:30, 1 John 2:1, Rom. 8:38-39)

The Christian Life of Discipleship

All believers are called by Christ to a lifestyle of discipleship. This involves our daily accountability to take up our cross and follow Christ by His grace. As we forsake sin and self and follow Christ, our lives are progressively transformed into the image of our Savior. Though all Christians still encounter personal sin (from within) and spiritual warfare (from without) in this life, from the moment of salvation God has made provision for believers to overcome these through understanding their new identity in Christ, knowing and applying the Word of God, fellowshiping with other Christians, and living by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. (Lk. 9:23; Gal. 5:17-21, Eph. 6:9-10, 2 Pet. 1:3-4, Rom. 6-8, Phil. 2:12-13, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Gal. 6:1-2, 5:16, 22-24)

The Church

We believe that all who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit belong to the one true church, the body of Christ. This church is seen in the world through local assemblies of

believers who are joined together for the purpose of glorifying God, edifying one another, and evangelizing the world. The head of the church is Jesus Christ. God calls pastors and elders to lead the church and equip His people for ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit. God also raises up deacons in the congregation to serve the needs of the body. The entire congregation must pursue the will of God together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The two church ordinances are believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. Believer's baptism symbolizes the identification of the believer with Christ in His death and resurrection. Baptism is the public confession of one's faith in Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper is a memorial symbolizing His body given for us and His blood shed for the remission of sins and His return to His Church. (Col.1:18, Eph. 4:14-16, 1 Cor. 12:12-13, Rom. 16:5, Eph. 1:3-14, Rom. 15:5-6, 1 Cor. 10:31, Col. 3:14-16, Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Isa. 45:22, 49:6, John 17:18-20, Phil. 1:11, 1 Tim. 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-10, Acts 2:38, Matt. 26:26-29, 1 Cor. 11:24-26)

Last Things

We believe in the personal, imminent return of Christ to earth in sovereign power and glory to establish His righteous rule, and according to His promise, we are looking for a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. We believe that those who have trusted in Christ for salvation will be resurrected to eternal life with God in heaven. Those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation will be resurrected for eternal condemnation and separation from God in hell (Matt.24, Luke 21, Acts 1:11, 1 Thess. 4:13-5:11, 2 Thess. 2:1-12, 1 Cor. 15:22-28, 2 Pet. 3:13, Rev. 20:1-6, 21-22).

What Level of Doctrinal Agreement is Expected at CABC?

The church father Augustine said, "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things love." This is the approach we take at CABC. All doctrines are important but not all doctrines are *equally important*. For instance, to be in error about the timing of the Lord's return is not on the same level of importance about being in error regarding the Trinity or the atonement. We recognize that there are essential doctrines that define the Christian faith. In addition, as Baptists, we believe that there are some doctrines regarding the church which define us and are essential for membership (such as believer's baptism).

We expect our members to be in agreement on essential Christian doctrines which define the faith (such as the Trinity, inspiration of Scripture, deity and humanity of Christ, etc). We also expect our members to be in agreement on essential Baptist doctrines which are conditions for membership in our church (believer's baptism). In other doctrines which are not essential, we desire to give one another space to disagree. In all doctrines, we desire to be students of the Scriptures who are diligent to rightly divide the Word of truth.

The Vision of Country Acres Baptist Church

As the Word of God shapes our lives, we long to be a church devoted to Christ's kingdom by knowing Christ, growing in His grace, and going in His love.



SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD...The Bible must shape our lives in all things.

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”
- Matthew 4:4 – “But he answered and said, ‘It is written, man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”

PASSION FOR CHRIST'S KINGDOM...The kingdom of Christ must be our top priority.

- Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”
- Matthew 6:10 – “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

KNOW CHRIST...Knowing Christ by faith in a vital relationship is the beginning of true life.

- Jeremiah 9:24 - “let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for I delight in these things, says the Lord.”
- John 17:3 - “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”
- Philippians 3:10 - “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings.”

GROW IN GRACE...We are not to be stagnant in the Christian life. We are commanded to grow in grace.

- Ephesians 4:15 - “but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ”
- 1 Peter 2:2 – “as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”
- 2 Peter 3:18 – “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

GO IN LOVE...Knowing Christ and growing in grace ought to inevitably lead to going in love to the world around us. We are to put our faith to work through ministry both locally and globally.

- Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you and lo, I am with you, even to the end of the age.”
- John 20:21 – “So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”
- Acts 1:8 – “and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the utmost parts of the earth.”
- Galatians 5:13-14 – “For you were called to freedom, brethren, only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Our Values

God-centered approach to church ministry growth

- Many of today’s ideas about church growth and ministry are man-centered and inordinately focused on numerical indicators of success.
- Local churches should be built upon faithfulness to God’s pattern for the church including worship, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and evangelism (Acts 2:42-47).
- True church growth consists in movement toward maturity and ministry which reflects the fullness of Christ, not simply numerical increase (Ephesians 4:11-16).



Christ-centered expositional preaching and teaching of God’s Word

- All of Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for equipping believers (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- Each verse of Scripture needs to be understood in its context.
- God’s people grow stronger and deeper when they are systematically fed from Scripture (1 Peter 2:2).
- Preaching and teaching should be Christ-centered and saturated with the gospel.

Meaningful church membership

- The Bible indicates that local churches had some sort of membership structure which identified individuals as belonging to that local assembly (1 Cor. 5; 2 Cor. 2; Heb. 10:25).

- Formal membership in the local church provides for mutual ministry and accountability for the spiritual well-being of the members (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1-3).
- Meaningful membership involves relationships of mutual love, concern, accountability, and ministry to one another (1 Cor. 12:7, 14-26; Rom. 12:10-16; Eph. 4:32; 1 Thess. 5:11-15). The church is the community of those who embrace the Lordship of Jesus.

Increasing participation in missions

- Christ's commission to the church is to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20).
- The church must seek to participate in this Great Commission both locally and globally (Acts 1:8).
- God blesses us so that we may bless others by declaring His saving work to all the nations (Psalm 67).

Elder-led congregational governance structure

- The New Testament pattern for church leadership is a plurality of elders/overseers/shepherds (Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5).
- During times of decision making, the congregation also had input in the process along with the recognized leadership of the church (Acts 6:1-7; 15:4, 22; Matt. 18:15-17).
- The officers of the church have differing functions. Elders serve through oversight and teaching. Deacons serve through caring for the physical needs of the congregation (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tim. 3).

Chapter Two

The Ministry of Country Acres

Biblical Directives

Our understanding of ministry is formed by several key passages in the New Testament. These passages lay the foundation for a biblical approach to ministry in the church. Of course, each local congregation will express these principles in different ways. However, the basics of ministry are clearly stated in the Scriptures.

Acts 2:42-47 This passage presents the New Testament model for a church. Note the word “devoted.” There are certain things which ought to be priorities in a local church. From the very beginning, there were certain things which characterized the church:

- **Doctrine.** The teaching of the apostles refers to a doctrinal core which defined them as followers of Jesus Christ.
- **Fellowship.** This word literally means to share things in common. It refers to the common life believers share in Jesus Christ. The church is a community of believers who are bound together in Christ.
- **Worship.** The breaking of bread probably refers to the Lord’s Supper. The church met together regularly for worship which also included baptism (v. 41), prayer (v. 42), praise (v. 47), awe (v. 43). Their meeting together was both formal (temple courts) and informal (house-to-house).
- **Ministry.** We note how these believers ministered to one another even parting with their possessions when necessary to help one another.
- **Evangelism.** The Lord was adding to their number those who were being saved. This implies that they continued to share the gospel and proclaim the truth about Jesus Christ. This certainly included both formal settings and relational evangelism.

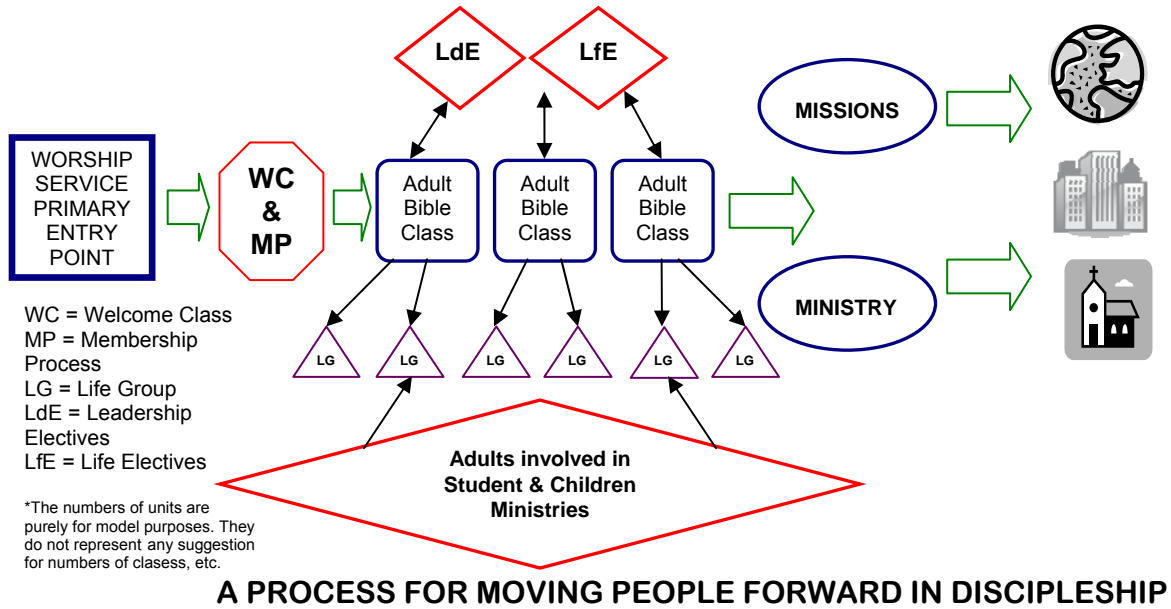
Ephesians 4:11-13 This passage is crucial to our ministry philosophy.

- God gives leaders to equip the church.
- Every believer is to be involved in ministry.
- As leaders equip and believers minister, the church grows to maturity.

1 Corinthians 12:7,12 All Christians are gifted for ministry for the good of the body.

- All believers are gifted by the Spirit for ministry.
- There is diversity of gifts but unity of purpose.
- There is interdependence among the members. Each is important to the body.

KNOW CHRIST.....GROW IN GRACE.....GO IN LOVE



Our Ministries

There are a variety of ministries at CABC designed to implement our vision and mission. New ministries are developing as needs arise and grow. The following list represents the various arms of ministry at CABC.

This list is not exhaustive. It is simply to give you an idea of the varied ministries involved in the life of the church. It is also intended to help you see that no matter what your gifts, abilities, skills, or talents might be, you can serve. Every believer ought to be a minister using his or her gifts for the benefit of the body.

Pastoral Staff

The pastoral staff is men called by God to CABC to lead the church in accomplishing its mission. Their primary responsibilities are teaching, leading, shepherding, and overseeing the church.

Senior Pastor
 Pastor of Student Ministries

Pastor of Worship/Senior Adults
 Pastor of Administration and Education

Nursery Director

We have a very active nursery ministry at CABC. To give direction and coordination to this ministry, we have a Nursery Coordinator.

Children's Ministry Director

We have a Children's Ministry Director to coordinate our various ministries to children such as Sunday School, AWANA, Vacation Bible School, and other elementary age ministries.

Support Staff

The support staff consists of secretarial and office workers who support the pastoral staff and the ministry of the church through clerical and office related skills.

Church Secretary (full time)
Financial Secretary (part time)
Custodian (part time)

Pastoral Staff Secretary (full time)
Maintenance Director (full time)

Elders

The elders are men called by God to oversee the work of the church. This group consists of both pastoral staff and other men who are called to a pastoral function in the church but are not paid staff. The elders give spiritual direction to the ministry.

Deacons

The deacons are men called by God to serve the church body. Each deacon is assigned a certain number of families to whom he ministers. This ministry consists of contacting their families and ministering to them during times of need and crisis. The deacon ministry helps to form a net of concern which undergirds our families.

Education Ministries

The purpose of these ministries is to teach the Bible and biblical principles so that the unsaved will come to know Christ and the saved will grow in their faith. Some of these ministries are ongoing and others are temporary. These ministries span all age groups in the church.

Sunday School (nursery through senior adult)

Discipleship Training

AWANA (children's discipleship)

Bible Studies

Worship Ministries

Worship ministries lead the church to learn about and practice Christ-centered worship. Under the direction of the Worship Pastor, these ministries are designed to help CABC worship God in a vital way that encourages a deeper understanding of God and a greater desire to love and serve Him. These ministries include support ministries that are needed during worship services.

Adult Choir
Ensembles
Ushers and Greeters

Accompanists
Children's Choirs
Worship Band for Venue

Orchestra
Sound Technicians

Men's Ministries

Men's Ministries seek to bring men to Christ and disciple them to be godly men. Through Bible study, recreation, prayer, service projects, and other events the men gather for mutual encouragement and spiritual growth.

Men's Ministry Committee
Recreation Ministries

Men's Retreat
Service Projects

Women's Ministries

Women's Ministries seek to bring women to Christ and disciple them to be godly women. This objective is pursued in a number of ways. There are Bible studies, outreach dinners, retreats, conferences, friendship ministries, and other events. The Women's Council plans and directs this ministry.

Women's Council

Bible Studies

Ladies Retreat

Missions Ministries

Missions ministries seek to educate our people about missions, promote missions, and involve people in reaching out to our city, our area, and our world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Global Missions Committee
Local Missions Committee

Mission Trips (Mexico, Peru, etc.)
Bus Ministry

Inreach Ministries

These ministries are designed to meet the "in-house" needs of CABC families. They include providing for physical needs during times of crisis. They also include encouraging fellowship and friendship among our people.

Meals Ministry
Benevolence Committee

Safety & Security Committee
Fellowship Committee

Children's Ministries

These ministries provide education and care for our smallest people, our children. They plan and implement strategies to reach and teach children for Jesus.

Nursery/Preschool Committee

Children's Church

Vacation Bible School

Administrative Ministries

These ministries deal with the administrative functions of church life.

Budget/Finance Committee

Property Committee

Assimilation Ministries

These ministries are designed to help new people become integrated into the congregation. They seek to help new people develop relationships, identify with the church's values, find a place of ministry, and develop spiritual growth.

Welcome Class

Life Groups

Senior Adult Ministries (Crusaders)

These ministries involve our Senior Adults (55 and over) in study, fellowship, and ministry.

Planning Council

Monthly Events

Special Events (concerts, trips, etc.)

E.D.G.E. Student Ministry

Every. Day. Giving. Everything. This is our heart...our act of worship. Our desire is to train up a generation of students who, because of God's great mercy, are living their lives as an offering to God (Romans 12:1).

To find out more about E.D.G.E. Student Ministry, check us out at www.edgestudentministries.com

Our Church Structures

By structures, we do not mean the buildings. The structures refer to the organizational systems of the church. Every church has some kind of structure, no matter how informal or formal it may seem. Structure gives a ministry support and strength much like a skeleton does for our bodies.

Governing Principles

The Headship of Jesus Christ (Eph. 4:15; Col. 1:18)

Jesus Christ is the head of the church. It is not the pastor, elders, council or any other person or group. Jesus alone is Lord of the church. All members of the church are directly accountable to Him. The church corporately is accountable to Him.

God-Called Leadership (1 Tim. 3; Heb. 13; Acts 6)

God calls men to places of leadership to equip believers and direct the work of the church. Some are called to be full-time staff leaders. Others are called as elders who are not full-time staff pastors. Others are called to lead in serving ministries such as

the deacons. Whatever the case, the church cannot flourish without God-called leaders.

Congregational Involvement (Acts 15; 1 Cor. 12)

Every member of the congregation should be involved in ministry. Each one is gifted by the Spirit to participate in the life of the body. Every member is responsible to be prayerfully informed and participate in the congregational process. Through regular congregational meetings, the members have an opportunity to share in the decision-making process.

Local Church Organization

The Congregation

Each member of the congregation has a part to play in the ministry of the church. At CABC, all major decisions are brought to the congregation for final approval. A 75% majority of those present in the meeting is required to approve any recommendation. Participating in the ministry of the church is both a privilege and a responsibility.

The Pastoral Staff and Elders

God has placed the staff pastors and elders at CABC to be a leadership team. Each man has distinct gifts and areas of primary responsibility. However, they all work together to equip, guide, plan, evaluate, and implement ministry at CABC. They seek to follow Christ and lead the church to accomplish God's will for our ministry.

The Church Council

The Church Council is a representative group of ministry leaders who meet on a regular basis to coordinate the ministries of the church. The Council hears reports from ministry groups and makes recommendations to the body. Recommendations in the Council must receive a 75% approval of those present to be taken to the body as a Council recommendation.

The Church Committees

There are a variety of committees functioning in the church. These committees are responsible for specific ministry functions. They are comprised of CABC members who have the desire and gifts to serve in a particular ministry. Key committees have standing representation on the Church Council. All committees are encouraged to bring reports and recommendations to the Council.

The Ministry Action Meeting

Once each quarter, the congregation meets in a business session. These meetings are devoted to reporting to the congregation regarding the ministries of the church. Recommendations are brought to the body for approval. These recommendations may come from the Council, a committee, or an individual. A 75% majority of those present is required to approve any recommendation.

Our Denominational Affiliation

Though our focus is not denominationalism per se, we are pleased to be a part of

the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). We are grateful for our denominational heritage and the resources which this relationship provides for the work of our local church. Below is a discussion of how this relationship works.

Local Church Autonomy

One of our primary principles as Southern Baptists is local church autonomy. This means that every SBC church is self-governing. There is no denominational hierarchy which dictates what CABC will do in faith or practice. We own our property, we call our staff, we govern ourselves under the headship of Christ.

Voluntary Cooperation

Our relationship to the denomination is one of voluntary cooperation. We participate by choice in whatever denominational programs or emphases we may desire to be involved in. We are not under any constraint or obligation. We join hands with other churches or denominational entities because we want to.

Levels of Cooperation

1. The Associational Level - CABC cooperates with our local Southern Baptist Association of churches called the Heart of Kansas Southern Baptist Association. This association is made up of SBC churches in Sedgwick county and a few churches in neighboring counties. The HOKSBA provides fellowship, shared resources, and cooperative mission efforts in our local area.

2. The State Level - CABC participates in the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists. The purposes of the KNCSB are similar to that of the association but are carried out on a state level.

3. The National Level - CABC cooperates with the Southern Baptist Convention. The SBC supports and operates a variety of ministries. These include the International Mission Board, the North American Mission Board, Lifeway Resources, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, Guidestone (financial resources), and six seminaries throughout the USA. With the tremendous power of shared resources, the SBC is making a world-wide impact for the kingdom of God.

The Cooperative Program

The Cooperative Program (CP) is a funding mechanism by which all SBC churches participate in the ministries of our convention. Each church contributes what they decide is proper. These funds are pooled together to support the manifold ministries of the SBC. It allows each church, regardless of size, to have a part in the world-wide impact of the convention.

2010-2011 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget \$199,822,090

This allocation budget represents anticipated gifts forwarded to the SBC.



**Cooperative Program—
The Heart of Southern Baptist Missions and Ministries**

The Cooperative Program (CP) was begun in 1925 as a funding mechanism for Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) ministries, primarily mission work.

- Each SBC church voluntarily cooperates together by determining how much of their undesignated

receipts they will give to the CP each year.

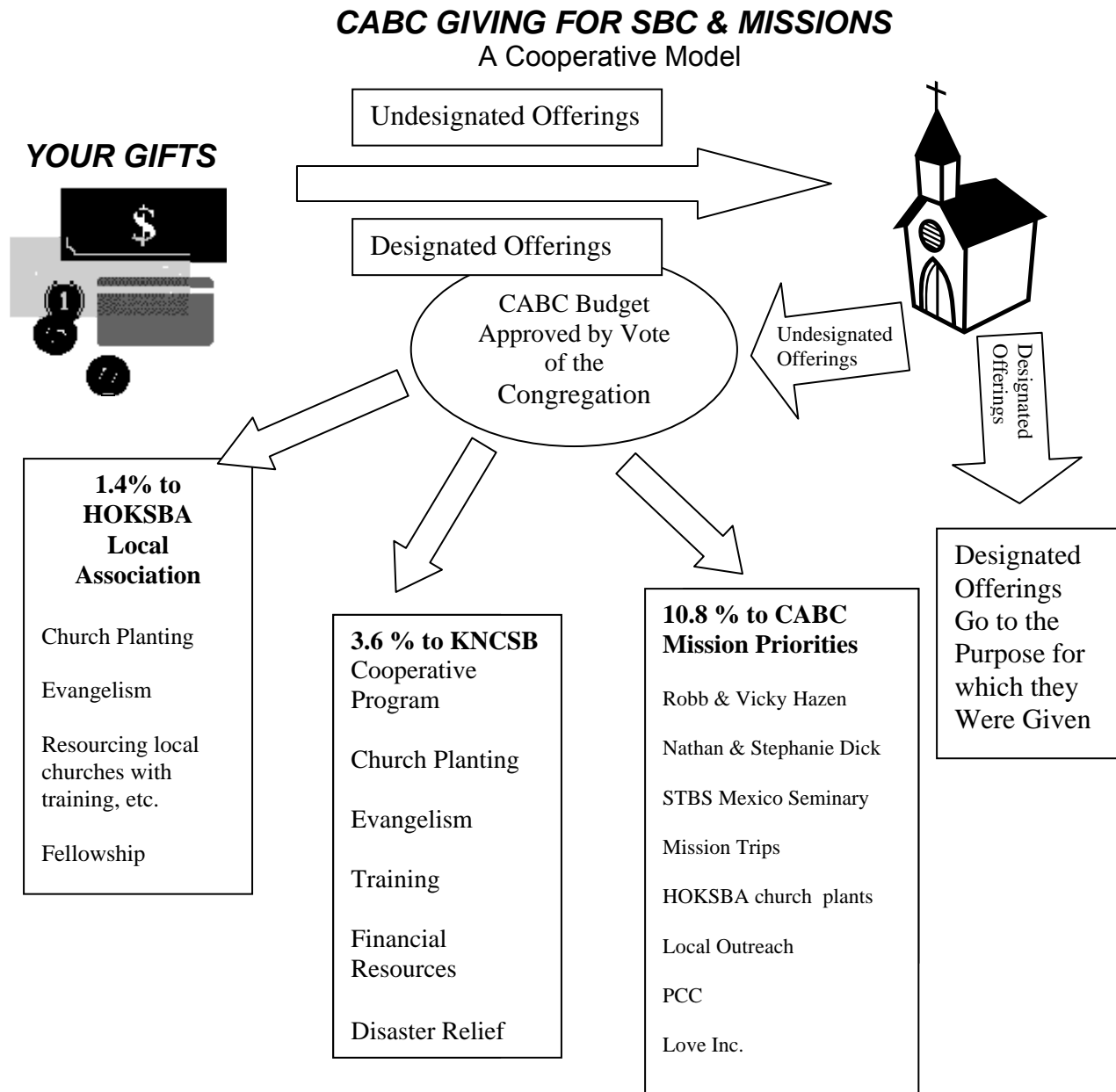
- Each year the Convention votes on the budget allocations at the annual meeting in June. Messengers from the churches gather to consider the business of the Convention and vote on the recommendations presented.
- In addition to the CP funding for missions, there are two annual offerings for missions in the SBC.
 - The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is for North American Missions. These funds are given directly to mission work through the North American Mission Board of the SBC.
 - The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is for international missions. These funds are given directly to mission work through the International Mission Board of the SBC.
- At CABC, we have a year-round mission offering called the Great Commission Offering which is used for the various mission efforts of the church. The Missions Committees make recommendations on how this offering will be disbursed.

Local Church Involvement

- Through the CP, each church supports the SBC financially.
- Each church may send elected messengers to the association, state convention, and national convention annual meetings to participate in the denominational process.
- Members of local churches are elected to serve on various committees and boards of denominational agencies.
- Each church receives the benefits of shared resources through denominational programs and institutions designed to benefit the local church.

Current CABC Mission Giving

- About 15.8% of our current annual budget is related to missions.
- About 3.6% of our annual budget goes to the Cooperative Program.
- About 1.4 % of our annual budget goes to the Heart of Kansas Association.
- CABC is the sole support for our missionaries to Mexico, Robb & Vicky Hazen.
- In addition, we spend about \$25,000 annually to send our people on mission trips.



Chapter Three

Meaningful Membership at Country Acres

The Nature of the Church

Before discussing the requirements for membership, we need to take a moment to look at what the New Testament says about the church. This will help us have a biblical framework in which to understand church membership.

Biblical Pictures of the Church

✠ *The Assembly of the Called* - the Greek term *ekklesia* is the word for church. This word is a compound word made up of the preposition *ek* which means “out of” and the word *kaleo* which means “to call.” It was used in Greek culture of political assemblies. In the New Testament, it was used to refer to the assembly of believers, the “called out ones.” This designation is used frequently (Act 11:22, 13:1; Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:2).

✠ *The Body of Christ* - the church is referred to as the body of Christ. Paul uses this analogy extensively to describe the church in 1 Cor. 12-14. Christ is the head of the church and believers are his body. Each member is important to the body. There is unity and diversity, individual gifts and interdependence.

✠ *The Temple of God* - the church is also called the temple of God. Paul says that believers are a temple in which God dwells both individually (1 Cor. 6:19) and corporately (1 Cor. 3:16-17). He also says that the church is “...a holy temple in the Lord...a dwelling place of God in the Spirit” (Eph. 2:21-22). Peter uses this symbol (1 Pet. 2:4-5) when he speaks of believers as stones being built into a spiritual house with Christ being the cornerstone.

✠ *The Family of God* - the church is also a family. Paul refers to the church as “God’s household” (1 Tim. 3:15). Believers are to treat one another as family (1 Tim. 5:1-2).

The Church Universal and Local

✠ The church is universal in the sense that it encompasses all genuine believers in all places at all times. Paul certainly uses the term “church” in this sense (Eph. 1:22-23, 5:23; 1 Cor. 10:32, 11:22, 12:28; Col. 1:18, 24).

✠ The church is local in the sense that it is manifested in local gatherings of believers who come together for worship, witness, missions, and discipleship. This use of the term “church” is very evident in Scripture (1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1; Gal. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1; Acts 5:11, 8:1, 11:22, 12:1, 13:1).

The Requirements for Membership

Personal salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. Without faith in Christ, we cannot be part of His church. Only those who have trusted in Him as Lord and Savior are part of the assembly of his people (Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14). Only those who have believed in Jesus are children of God (John 1:12).

- All people are sinners who have violated God's holy law (Romans 3:23). The result of our sin is spiritual death and separation from God (Romans 6:23). As sinners, we are helpless to save ourselves. We are alienated from God as enemies (Romans 5:6-11).
- God sent His only Son Jesus Christ into the world to die on the cross for sinners. Through His death, Jesus paid the debt of sin to reconcile sinners to God. After three days in the tomb, Jesus rose from the dead forever demonstrating His power over sin and death (Romans 4:25; 5:6-11; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
- Everyone who turns from sin and trusts in Jesus Christ by faith for salvation will receive the free gift of eternal life. Salvation is a gift of God's grace which comes to a person by faith alone. No one can be saved by his or her good deeds or by any other religious commitment (Romans 3:21-24; Ephesians 2:8-10).

Believer's baptism by immersion. Baptism is a believer's way of identifying with Jesus and His people, the church. The New Testament pattern is that those who come to Jesus by faith will be baptized as a public confession of their faith (Acts 2:41; 8:36).

- Baptism symbolizes our union with Christ in his death and resurrection. Baptism does not save. It is an external picture of an internal reality. Therefore, baptism is only appropriate as an outward symbol when the inward reality of faith in Christ is already present in the heart (Rom. 6:3-4; Acts 2:41; Acts 16:31).
- Immersion is the biblical pattern for capturing this symbolism. The term *baptizo* in the Greek New Testament means "to immerse or dip under." The New Testament is consistent with this meaning since baptism apparently required a large supply of water (John 3:23).
- If a person has been biblically baptized (as a believer by immersion) we do not require that they be baptized again. If they have not been biblically baptized but have trusted Christ as Lord and Savior, we require that they confess their faith through believer's baptism.

Attendance of Welcome Class. Those who desire to become members of CABC are required to attend this Welcome class. This information equips people to make an informed decision about membership and to be involved in the life of the church.

Received into membership by vote of the congregation. At the Ministry Action Meeting, the congregation votes to receive new members. A 75% majority of those present is

required.

Ways to Join the Church

- **By profession of faith and believer's baptism.** This means that the person who is joining the church is declaring their faith in Christ and identifying publicly with Christ and His church through believer's baptism. Sometimes a person has previously trusted Christ by faith but has never been Scripturally baptized. In such cases, a person may join the church by declaring their faith publicly through believer's baptism.
- **By statement of faith and previous baptism as a believer.** This means that a person has previously come to Christ by faith and biblically declared that faith through believer's baptism. However, they do not hold formal membership in a church from which their membership may be transferred.
- **By transfer of membership from a church of similar faith and practice.** This means that a person who is in good standing with another congregation of similar faith and practice may ask that their membership be transferred to CABC.

The Expectations of Membership

Regular attendance of the worship services of the church. The people of God met together regularly for worship, ministry, and fellowship (Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:25).

Participation in the life of the church through time, talent, and treasure.

Preserving the unity of the fellowship in faith and practice.

Enthusiastic support of the vision and mission of CABC.

Expressing love to one another through fellowship, support, and encouragement.

Represent Christ and CABC well by leading a godly life.

The *One Anothers* of the New Testament

- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love - Romans 12:10.
- Give preference to one another in honor - Romans 12:10.
- Be of the same mind toward one another - Romans 12:16.
- Let us not judge one another - Romans 14:13.
- Pursue...the building up of one another - Romans 14:19.
- Accept one another - Romans 15:7.
- Admonish one another - Romans 15:14.
- Care for one another - 1 Corinthians 12:25.
- Do not envy one another - Galatians 5:26.

- Be kind to one another - Ephesians 4:32.
- Forgive each other - Ephesians 4:32.
- Be subject to one another - Ephesians 5:21.
- Regard one another as more important than yourselves - Philippians 2:3.
- Do not lie to one another - Colossians 3:9.
- Bear with one another - Colossians 3:13.
- Teach and admonish one another - Colossians 3:16.
- Abound in love for one another - 1 Thessalonians 3:12.
- Comfort one another - 1 Thessalonians 4:18.
- Encourage one another and build one another up - 1 Thessalonians 5:11.
- Live in peace with one another - 1 Thessalonians 5:13.
- Seek after that which is good for one another - 1 Thessalonians 5:15.
- Stimulate one another to love and good deeds - Hebrews 10:24.
- Do not speak against one another - James 4:11.
- Be hospitable to one another - 1 Peter 4:9.
- Serve one another - 1 Peter 4:10.
- Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another - 1 Peter 5:5.
- Greet one another - 1 Peter 5:14.
- Love one another - 1 John 4:7.

A Word about Church Discipline

At CABC, we believe the Scriptures teach church discipline. The following passages deal with church discipline:

- Matthew 18:15-20
- 1 Corinthians 5:1-13
- Galatians 6:1-3

These passages teach us that there are times when the church must lovingly discipline errant members. The purpose of church discipline is to lovingly restore members who are living in unrepentant, sinful ways. The steps of church discipline are outlined by Jesus in Matthew 18 as follows:

- 1) Private confrontation
- 2) Small group confrontation
- 3) Congregational communication
- 4) Withdrawal of fellowship from the congregation

It is clear from the biblical examples that this process is not to be used as an authoritarian, over-bearing control mechanism over the lives of members. It is not a way to feed a pharisaical, self-righteous attitude. Rather, it is a way of maintaining doctrinal and moral purity in the congregation and preserving the witness of the church.

The Next Step

Some of you are members. Some may not be. You might be asking, "what is the

process for joining the church if God leads me to become a member?" The process is really quite simple.

Step One: A Visit with One of the Pastors

We don't want to complicate membership but we do take it seriously. That is why we like to meet with people and talk to them about their desire for membership. We ask them about their salvation experience, their church background, and how God led them to CABC. We ask them about their baptism. It is not interrogation. It is very relaxed. However, we want to make certain that people meet the biblical qualifications for church membership. These visits usually take place in the homes of potential members. We are flexible about meeting times and places and will do our best to accommodate people. If there is a need to arrange for believer's baptism, this will be discussed and scheduled.

Step Two: Stepping Forward During the Response Time

Once the person or persons have decided that God is definitely leading them to a membership commitment (and they have had their visit with the pastor), they need to come forward at the end of the Sunday morning worship service and express their desire to join the church. At that time, the pastor will pray with them and they will be given some information cards to complete. The pastor will introduce them to the congregation and share their desire to join. If baptism is required, it will be scheduled as soon as possible. This is the initial introduction to the congregation. Completion of the membership process requires the third step.

Step Three: Reception into Membership by Vote of the Congregation

At the next Ministry Action Meeting, the names of those desiring membership will be presented to the congregation for official approval. The congregation will vote to receive the membership candidates into official membership. This requires a 75% vote. Members have the privilege of voting in the Ministry Action Meeting, holding church offices, serving on key committees, teaching, and so on.

Step Four: Integration into the Life of the Church

After a person is officially welcomed into the family, our desire is that they will begin to be integrated into the normal flow of church life. This involves getting into a Sunday School class, meeting people, discovering ministry involvement, and continuing regular patterns of attendance. Admittedly, this is not always an easy thing. However, our goal is meaningful membership, not just nominal membership. We encourage people to ask questions and take initiative in getting involved.

Now What?

If you are ready to begin the process of becoming a member, contact one of the pastors and let us know you want to schedule the membership interview. This is the first step towards membership at CABC. You may contact us in any of the following ways:

Country Acres Baptist Church
Church office email
Pastor Kelly Randolph
Pastor Eric Stone
Pastor Michael Savadge
Pastor Vince Harrison

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