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WELCOME

Welcome to Cosmopolitan!

Welcome to the Cosmopolitan Baptist Church family where we're affectionately known as Cosmo! Your decision to commit to Christ and to make Cosmo your church home is the first step toward a brand new beginning, and we're excited for you!

The members of Cosmo exist to build you up. We commit to offering you the support, the encouragement, and the time you need to grow in the word of God and help socialize you to your new church family. Please feel free to reach out to any member of our leadership team with any questions or concerns you may have. You can find a directory of the leaders and ministries at the end of this booklet along with their contact information and a picture so that you can easily identify them.

Our new member's orientation will help you understand more about your relationship with Christ, who we are as a church family, and how we love God and serve people at Cosmo.

Since the orientation will be completed online, we ask that you carefully review the materials in this guidebook.

Upon completion of reading this guidebook, please log on to our website and complete the membership course assessment at www.cbcoakland.com/membership

This handbook is yours to keep. You may print it, write in it, and take notes as you please.

Congratulations on your decisions to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life and for uniting with the Cosmo family!

Raymond Williams
Senior Pastor



Who We Are

Our Vision

To know Jesus and make Him Known.

Our Mission

To passionately pursue Christ. Reaching the unsaved with the Gospel and the unchurched with His love.

Our Passion

"I resolved to know nothing... except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."
1 Corinthians 2:2 NIV.

We are one

We are family. We love God. We love people. And we express His love toward one another.

We are community driven

We are committed to reaching the lost, reconciling divisions, raising up leaders, redeeming our city, and renewing the church.

Who we want to be

We want to be help, hope, and a home for people who are at various stages in their journey with Jesus Christ.

Our Core Values

COMPASSION
Matthew 9:36

OUTREACH
Acts 1:8

SYNERGY
1 Corinthians 12:12–27

MAKE LEARNERS
Matthew 28:19

ONENESS OF MIND & PURPOSE
Acts 4:32

PURSUIT OF HOLINESS
Romans 12:1

OFFER HOPE
Psalm 130:7

LOVE GOD & LOVE PEOPLE
Mark 11:30–31

INTEGRITY
1 Peter 2:12

TEACHABILITY
Proverbs 13:18

ANOTHER CHANCE
Galatians 6:1

NON-CONFORMING
Romans 12:2

What We Believe

THE BIBLE & GOD

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men; divinely inspired; that it is truth without mixture of error; and that it is the standard by which all human conduct and creeds should be tried (2 Timothy 3:15-17). We believe that there is one, and only one true and living God; that in the unity of the God-head there are three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
(John 4:24; 10:30; 1 John 5:7)

THE FALL OF MAN & SALVATION

We believe that man was created in holiness, but by voluntary transgression, fell from that holy state, as a consequence all mankind are now sinners and are under condemnation of eternal ruin (Genesis 1:27; Romans 5:12). We believe that salvation comes by the grace of God through faith and not by our works. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner but his own depravity and rejection of the gospel.
(Isaiah 55:1; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9)

GRACE, REPENTANCE, & FAITH

Grace in regeneration
We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again through the work of the Holy Spirit. (John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Repentance & Faith
We believe that repentance and faith are inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God, and are essential steps in salvation. (Mark 1:15; Romans 10:9; Matthew 4:17; Luke 13:1-5)

JUSTIFICATION

We believe that through justification the perfect righteousness of God is imputed to the believers in Christ Jesus.
(Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1-2)

SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is a progressive process by which the believer is made partaker of God's holiness, and that this process begins in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. (Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23-24)

GOD'S PURPOSE & ELECTION

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is a glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility. All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the cause of Christ, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.
(John 10:27-29; Romans 8:28-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Ephesians 1:12-14)

A GOSPEL CHURCH

We believe that a New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a congregation of baptized believers bound together in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; and that Jesus committed the ministry of His gospel to His churches. This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equally responsible.
(Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 12)

BAPTISM

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is the act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior; the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.
(Matthew 28:19-20; 3:13-17; Acts 2:41-42; Acts 8:35-39)

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby Christians, through partaking of the bread (unleavened) and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. Self-examination should always precede partaking of the Lord's Supper.
(1 Cor. 11:23-29)

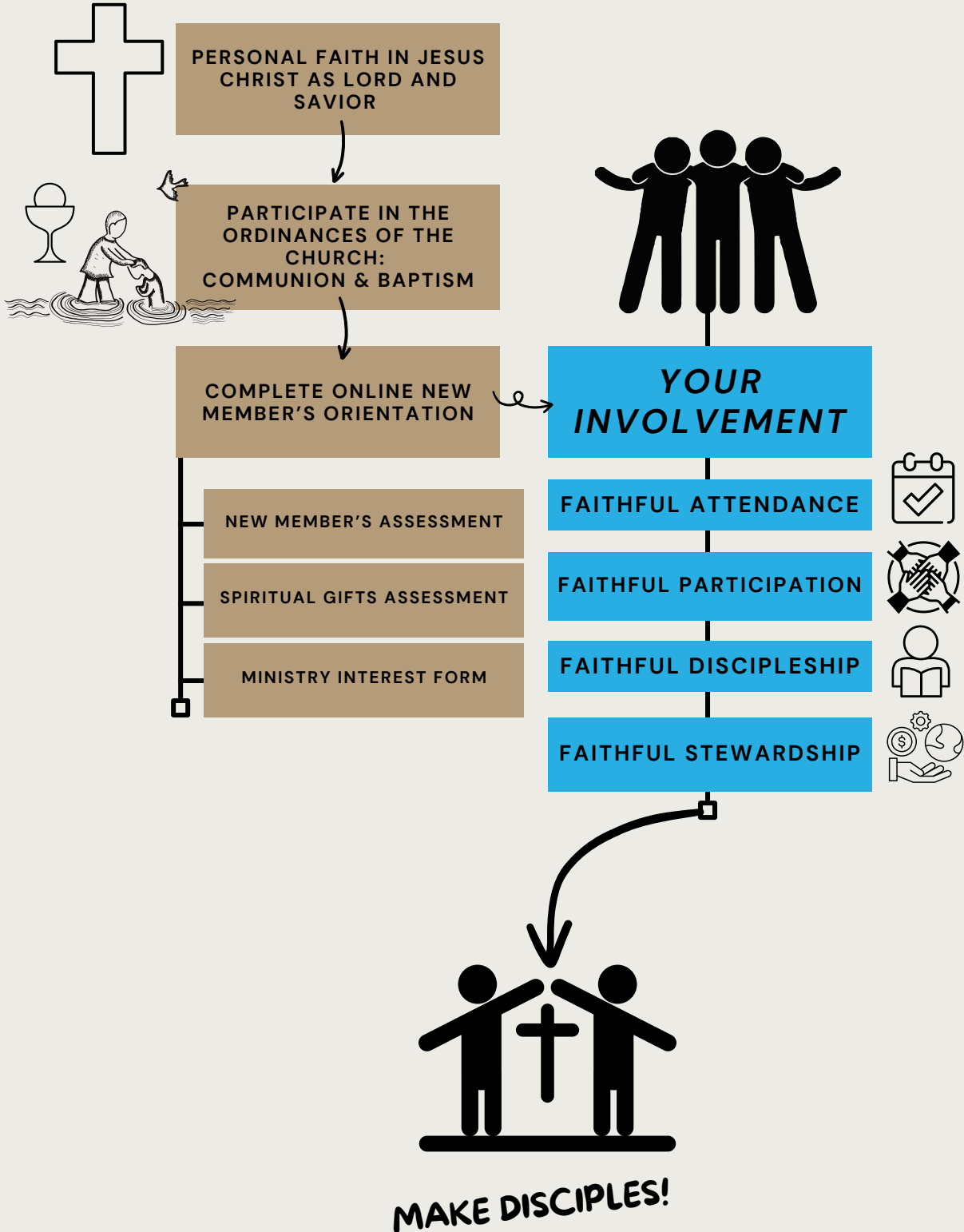
THE LORD'S DAY

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It commemorated the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion.
(Acts 20:7; Exodus 20:8-11)

THE WORLD TO COME

We believe at the last day Christ will descend from heaven; the dead will be raised; a solemn judgment and separation will then take place; and His judgment will fix forever the final state of men in Heaven or Hell.
(Acts 1:11; 24:15; Matthew 13:49; 25:31-46)

Membership Requirements



Your Involvement Explained

FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE

Success starts on Sunday morning! The gathering with other believers in Jesus Christ is where we all begin. We gather locally and virtually to worship together through prayer, the reading of the Scriptures, the sermon, music, and testimonies. This faithful gathering for worship is of great consequence because we exist to edify one another, as the Bible explains. All of this is to help us grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

The Christian faith involves members pooling our resources together – gifts, talents, skills, abilities, and finances to help sustain and support one another’s spiritual development. Each member is encouraged to share in the work of the ministry by being actively involved in some way as the Holy Spirit guides them. The Scriptures support the idea that all should do a little so that no one has to do a lot (2 Corinthians 8:13).

FAITHFUL WITNESS

Service in the name of Christ should also extend beyond the study classes, group activities, and worship services. Gatherings within the walls of the church should not be a means to an end. Rather, it should be a vital source of training and inspiration that will send us forth to witness about Jesus Christ and serve in every facet and relationship of life. As Christians, we are commanded to carry the gospel to those outside the fellowship of the church. Witnessing begins at home. Christians cannot be true to their Lord and remain silent about Him. We are dishonest with our family and friends if we withhold from them the best news in the world. Our Lord commanded every believer to make disciples. He said, “ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The greatest work with the greatest reward is to encourage others to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior.

FAITHFUL FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Faithful financial stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care. Everything we have belongs to God. Christians are entrusted with these things to advance God’s kingdom purposes on earth. Therefore, we do well to carefully manage what’s in our possession. If we are good stewards, we should not be ashamed to go on record with our gift-giving of time, talent, and treasure (Matthew 25:14-30).

E-Membership at Cosmo

FAQ'S

Q: What is E-Membership?

A: E-Membership is a virtual church experience designed for those who are unable to join the service in person. Our E-Membership is designed to give you an opportunity to connect with our church online through our media platforms. Our E-Membership is a means to keep you spiritually connected and spiritually covered. The purpose of E-Membership is not to replace the assembly of the saints (Hebrews 10:25), but it is an alternative until you can attend church in person.

Q: What are the benefits of becoming a Church E-Member?

A: As an E-Member, you will have a spiritual covering – a pastor to feed your faith (Romans 10:17) and a ministry to serve your needs. If you have a prayer request or a praise report, you can share it with your new E-Church! You can also expect to receive:

- A pastor to cover you and serve you.
- Worship with other Cosmopolitan Baptist Church E-Members in a corporate environment.
- Access to live and prerecorded messages and services from our church.
- Access to live Bible studies, conferences, and more...

Q: What are the church service times?

A: 10:15 AM PST. On occasion, our services will begin sooner for holiday services. Please check our church calendar on our website for the most current weekly service schedule and details.

Q: Can I be both a regular member and an E-Member?

A: Yes, you can be both a regular member and an E-Member.

Q: How is E-Membership different from regular membership?

A: There are some things that our staff can do for our regular membership that we cannot do for E-Members, simply because of distance. There may also be certain church business meetings you will not be included in. However, with E-Membership just as regular membership, the same spiritual coverings exist.

Q: How can I get in contact if I have additional questions?

A: If you have any other questions, please contact our church by calling us at 510.635.5275 or by emailing us at cosmobic@sbcglobal.net.

Q: How do I become an E-Member?

A: Complete the E-Membership form on our website under "Membership."

Q: How can I update my E-Membership profile?

A: You can update your contact information anytime by visiting our website <https://cosmochurch.sharefaithconnect.com/user/login> and selecting "Profile" to make changes. To login, you will need to provide the current phone number or email address associated with your profile. Only your email, phone, and address can be updated online at this time. Contact us if you need to make additional changes to your profile (like your name).

Salvation and Church Membership

Church membership is open to all who profess faith alone in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the free gift of eternal life based on His substitutionary death on the cross and resurrection from the dead.

Q. Based on your understanding of the following passages, list the spiritual state of mankind:

a) According to Romans 3:23, _____ are sinners.

b) According to Romans 6:23, the wages of sin is _____.

Q. Please describe the Bible's response to the ways that people think an individual can enter heaven.

a) Doing good deeds (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)

b) Joining a church and being religious (Romans 10:1-4)

c) Keeping the Law and Ten Commandments (Romans 3:30; James 2:10)

Q. Based on your understanding of the following passages, what is the solution to the sin problem?

a) According to Romans 5:8, God demonstrated His _____ for us that while we were still _____ Christ _____ for us.

b) According to Ephesians 2:8-9, it is by _____ you have been saved through _____, and that not of yourselves, it is the _____ of God, not of _____, that no one should boast.

c) According to 2 Corinthians 5:21, what was the spiritual transaction that took place on the cross?

Q. How does one come into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ according to John 3:16, 5:24, and Acts 16:31?

The Local Body and Church Membership

Church membership is the commitment of the believer to be identified and dynamically involved with a local body of Christians who have placed themselves under the authority of Jesus Christ.

Q. Based on your understanding of the following passages, what is the believer's relationship to the local church?

- a) According to Romans 12:4-5 and Colossians 1:18, the church is to function like a _____.
- b) According to 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, the church is made up of many _____, but is _____ body drinking from one _____.
- c) Why is it important to be a member of a local church according to Hebrews 10:22-25?

- d) According to Ephesians 3:21 the purpose of the church is to bring _____ to God.

The Bible and Church Membership

The Bible is the only absolute authority that governs the functioning of the church and its members, both corporately and individually. The Scriptures are to serve as the final court of appeal, in all matters of life.

Q. Based on your understanding of the following passages, how does the Word of God relate to church membership?

- a) According to 2 Timothy 3:16, how much of the Bible is God's Word? _____
- b) According to 1 Timothy 3:15, the church is the _____ and _____ of truth.
- c) According to James 1: 22-25, we must not just hear the Word of God, but also be _____.

Discipleship and Church Membership

The Goal of a Christian

It is God's expressed desire that each member of His Church becomes a disciple of Jesus Christ. Discipleship is the local church's developmental process of progressively moving Christians from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity so that they are able to repeat the process with someone else. It is learning to progressively live all of life under the lordship of Christ.

Q. Based on your understanding of the following passages, describe a disciple of Jesus Christ.

- a) According to Matthew 10:24-25, the goal of a disciple is to become like his _____ and for a servant to become like his _____.
- b) According to Matthew 16:24 and Luke 9:23, what are the three requirements of a disciple of Christ? A disciple must _____, _____ and _____.

Serving in Ministry at Cosmo

Since we are followers of Jesus, we should follow His example. He lived with one great purpose – to do His Father’s will. As Christians, this should be our goal and our purpose as well. Going, doing, giving, helping, witnessing, sharing, and serving are to be significant parts of our daily living.

In 1 Corinthians 12:12–31, the Apostle Paul uses the body as a metaphor for church membership and serving. He makes four key points:

- The body has many members but is still one body.
- The body is unified in its purpose, ministry, and activities.
- Each member has a function; everyone is necessary and is supposed to serve.
- If one member does not do its job well; the body does not function well

This reveals to us that service in God’s Kingdom, for Christians, is not optional. The concept of an inactive church member is a contradiction. Serving is our response to what God has done for us in Christ and for what He is doing through the Holy Spirit. We should see serving in the church as a privilege and a responsibility.

As members of the Body of Christ, we are to connect to where God is calling and empowering us to serve so the ministry of Jesus Christ can be effectively carried out in the local church (New Life) and in the world today.

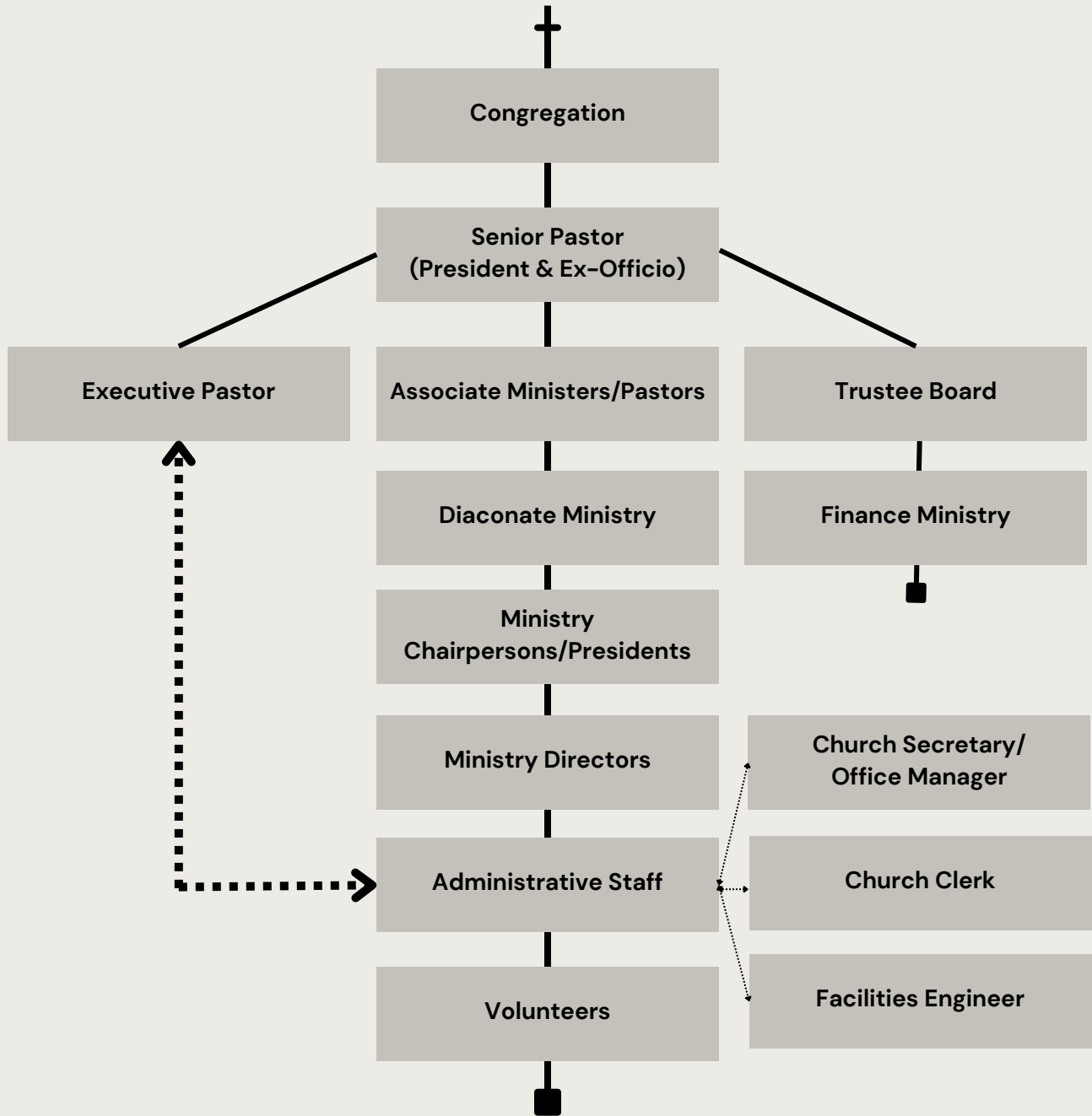
- Serving in ministry allows us to follow the example of Christ.
- Serving in ministry allows us to do the good works we were created to do.
- Serving in ministry offers us opportunities to exercise our gifts and talents
- Serving in ministry offers us an opportunity to bless others.
- Serving in ministry offers us the opportunity to convey the love of Christ to the community.

God has given each of us tools in which to serve in ministry. We can serve in the areas of our natural talents, learned abilities, and spiritual gifts.

- Natural talents are abilities that are part of who you are – that are innate. We are born with them (Psalm 139:13–16a; Jeremiah 1:4–5; Galatians 1:15).
- Learned abilities are the result of our informal and formal education. They are learned either by our observations of trial and error or by being taught by someone else. Sometimes they overlap with our natural talents (Exodus 35:30 – 36:2).
- Spiritual gifts are God-given abilities of a particular spiritual nature and/or a spiritual purpose. They may or may not overlap or coincide with natural talents or learned abilities. Spiritual gifts are the primary channel by which the Holy Spirit ministers through believers to build the church.

As you consider the ministries here at Cosmo, ask God through prayer to lead you to a place within His body where He wants you to serve. Each member has a specific role or duty to perform. All members are vital to the body and no one member is more important than the other. Through active participation in one or more ministries, you will find that God can do a mighty work in and through you. If you already know a ministry that you want to serve in, you may also complete the Ministry Interest form on the website and a ministry leader will contact you. If you are unsure of a ministry area at this time, we encourage you to complete the Spiritual Gift Analysis at the end of this handbook. The assessment will offer you some guidance into how God has gifted you and how you can use those gifts to serve the Body here at Cosmopolitan Baptist Church.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



How We Keep in Touch

Our members receive information in a variety of formats and media. Each has its preference as far as how they want to be informed and what information is of interest to them.

Cosmo uses a variety of media channels to communicate with our church family. For our membership, email and text messaging is the primary mode of communication. However, a good percentage of our members still prefer the telephone and mail as their means of communication.

We do not share information with any organizations that are not affiliated with Cosmopolitan Baptist Church. From time to time, you may be contacted about an event or program in which you can participate and/or serve as a volunteer. If you desire not to be contacted through a certain method, please get in touch with our church's main office.

Telephone and Email

Your membership handbook lists the church's main telephone numbers. Additionally, you can get a complete listing of staff and their telephone numbers and email addresses by visiting the church's website at www.cbcoakland.com to clicking "About Us" and proceeding to the staff directory.

Church Bulletins and Digital Signage

CBC does not use paper bulletins to inform its members and visitors. Information of interest to our members and visitors such as events, announcements, job postings, community resources, church contact information, etc., is posted on our website, and social media accounts (Instagram and Facebook) and displayed on the digital signage at our Welcome Kiosk.



How to Reach Us

Cosmopolitan Baptist Church
988 85th Avenue
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 635-5275

Executive Staff



REV. RAYMOND WILLIAMS
SENIOR PASTOR
(510) 955-7650
raymond.williams@cbcoakland.org



RAYMOND STOKES
CHAIRMAN, DEACONS
MINISTRY
(510) 798-6009
raystokes_55@yahoo.com



REV. KENNETH HARRISON, II
EXECUTIVE PASTOR
(510) 816-5989
kenneth.harrison@cbcoakland.org



BRENDA HARRISON
CHAIRWOMAN, DEACONESS
MINISTRY
(510) 300-5210
boomafay@hotmail.com



DR. ROY WILFORD, SR.
TRUSTEE MINISTRY,
CHAIRMAN
(510) 967-3501
roy.wilford@cbcoakland.org



DEBRA LENO
CHURCH SECRETARY/OFFICE
MANAGER
(510) 816-5976
debra.leno@cbcoakland.org



FLORANCE GREEN
FINANCE MINISTRY,
CHAIRWOMAN
(510) 406-1112
florance.green@cbcoakland.org



LAURIE WILLIAMS
CHURCH CLERK
(510) 816-5994
laurie.williams@cbcoakland.org

Executive Staff Functions Explained

Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor is the overseer of the church. He is responsible for offering spiritual support to the members of the congregation. He performs weddings, funerals, child dedications and visiting the sick and spiritual counseling. His primary responsibility is teaching and preaching on Sunday services and midweek Bible studies. From a business perspective, he is the president of the local church organization.

Executive Pastor

The Executive Pastor is the "right-hand" to the Senior Pastor. He assists with handling the operational and administrative aspects of our church. He is involved in strategic planning, human resources, finance, recruitment, and all major functional activities to ensure alignment with and accomplishment of the church's mission and vision. He is the second-in-command to the Senior Pastor.

Deacons Ministry, Chairman

The Deacons Chairman is a spiritual leader of the Church. He is responsible for assisting the Pastor by attending to the physical needs of the church by visiting the sick, helping those in need, and offering spiritual or general support to members of the congregation. The chairman oversees the Deacons Ministry.

Deaconess Ministry, Chairwoman

The Deaconess Chairwoman is a spiritual leader of the Church. She is responsible for assisting the Pastor by attending to the physical needs of the church related to visiting the sick, helping those in need, and offering spiritual or general support to members of the congregation. The chairwoman oversees the Deaconess Ministry.

Trustee Chairperson

The Trustee Chairperson manages the church's finances, including budgeting, financial reporting, and ensuring responsible fiscal practices. They may also monitor donations, tithes, and offerings, and ensure proper record-keeping.

Finance Chairperson

The Finance Chairperson is a member of the executive leadership of the church. works with the leadership team chair, the church staff, and other ministry leaders. The Finance Chair works with the trustees to handle monetary donations and financial requests.

Church Secretary/Office Manager

The Church Secretary oversees the operation of the church office and assists the pastors and staff with a variety of administrative duties including answering phone calls, managing schedules, filing, procurement and payroll.

Church Clerk

The church clerk records the activities of the church in official church meetings for the official record, telling who, what, when, where and, if possible, why. Maintaining an accurate church membership roll, scheduling ministry meetings for executive staff and updating the church calendar.

LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN

Embrace Your Journey

Dear Cosmopolitan Member,

Congratulations on embarking on your journey as a new member of Cosmopolitan! Your decision to embrace faith and join this ministry is truly remarkable and signifies the beginning of a beautiful and transformative journey. As you walk this path, remember that it's okay to have questions and uncertainties along the way. Seek guidance from the scriptures, prayer, and fellow believers to deepen your understanding and strengthen your relationship with God.

Embrace the teachings of Jesus Christ, who exemplifies love, compassion, and forgiveness. Let His words guide your actions and decisions, and strive to live a life that reflects His teachings. Remember that being a Christian isn't just about attending church services, but also about living out your faith in your everyday interactions with others.

Stay connected to a supportive Christian community where you can find encouragement, accountability, and fellowship. Surround yourself with fellow believers who can walk alongside you in your journey, offering support and guidance when needed. Above all, trust in God's plan for your life and lean on Him for strength and guidance. He will never leave you nor forsake you, and His love for you is unconditional. As you continue to grow in your faith, may you experience the joy and peace that comes from knowing and following Jesus Christ.

Blessings on your journey,

- PASTOR RAYMOND

