



2024

NEW MEMBER HANDBOOK

Welcome to

Central Rock

TABLE OF CONTENT



- Welcome
- Purpose of Handbook
- Brief History
- Meet Leadership
- Order of Service
- Values/Beliefs
- Membership
- Spiritual Assessments
- Departmental Structure

WELCOME MESSAGE

Christopher P. Fifer
Senior Minister

Welcome to Central Rock!

It is with great joy and gratitude that I extend warm greetings to each of you as we embark on this journey together in faith and fellowship. As Senior Minister of our beloved church community, it is my privilege to welcome you to the pages of our new Church Membership Handbook.

This handbook stands as a testament to the rich tapestry of our shared beliefs, values, and traditions that unite us as a congregation. Within these pages, you will find not only practical information about our church's structure and operations but also the guiding principles that underpin our spiritual journey.

In a world where change is constant, our faith provides us with an anchor, a source of strength, and a beacon of hope. As we navigate the challenges and celebrate the triumphs of life, may this handbook serve as a resource and a source of inspiration for each member of our community.

I encourage you to explore these pages with an open heart and a curious mind, embracing the opportunities for growth, connection, and service that our church offers. Together, let us continue to walk hand in hand, supporting one another in love and compassion, as we strive to live out the teachings of Christ in our daily lives.

Thank you for your dedication to our church family, and may God's blessings be upon us as we journey forward together.

With faith and fellowship,

Christopher P. Fifer, Senior Minister



WELCOME MESSAGE

Samuel Marlow
Executive Minister

Dear Beloved Members and Visitors,

On behalf of our entire church community, it is my privilege and honor to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each and every one of you. As the Executive Minister, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside such a vibrant and diverse congregation. Whether you are joining us for the first time or have been a part of our church family for many years, we are thrilled to have you with us.

At Central Rock, we believe that every individual is a beloved child of God, and our doors are open to all who seek fellowship, love, and spiritual nourishment. Whatever your background, beliefs, or life circumstances may be, you are valued and welcomed here.

As you step through our doors, may you feel embraced by the warmth of our community, inspired by the power of our worship, and uplifted by the message of hope and redemption found in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We invite you to join us in worship, fellowship, and service as we journey together in faith. May this be a place where you find acceptance, encouragement, and the transformative love of God.

Once again, welcome to Central Rock. We are thrilled to have you here, and we look forward to walking alongside you on your spiritual journey.

Blessings and peace,

Samuel Marlow, Executive Minister



WELCOME MESSAGE

Dr. Angela L. Bradford

Director of Operations/Assimilation

Welcome to Your New Spiritual Family!

We are delighted to have you join our church family and embark on this journey of faith together. This orientation introduces you to our church's rich history, beliefs, practices, and community life.

Throughout this orientation, you will have the opportunity to:

- Explore the Foundations of Our Faith: Delve into the core beliefs and teachings that shape our understanding of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible.
- Discover Our Church's History: Learn about the origins of our church, its historical significance, and the journey that has brought us to where we are today.
- Engage with Our Community: Connect with fellow members of our church family, build relationships, and discover opportunities for fellowship, service, and spiritual growth.
- Understand Our Practices and Traditions: Gain insight into the rituals, sacraments, and traditions that define our worship and shape our communal life.
- Embrace Your Role as a Member: Discover how you can actively participate in and contribute to the life of our church, using your unique gifts and talents to serve God and others.

As you embark on this orientation course, we encourage you to approach it with an open heart and a spirit of curiosity. May it be a time of discovery, growth, and deepening connection with God and one another.

Thank you for choosing to journey with us, and may this orientation be a meaningful step in your ongoing spiritual journey.

Cordially,

Dr. Angela L. Bradford, Director of Operations/Assimilation





ABOUT CENTRAL ROCK

1505 West 18th Street
North Little Rock, AR 72114

Sunday School: 8:45am
Worship Service: 10:00am

Powerful Prayer
Every Wednesday at 7:30pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 836 8200 9763

501.835.3313
<https://CentralRockChurch.org>
daviscrcoc@gmail.com



PayPal



givelify Cash App



zelle

PURPOSE OF HANDBOOK

The Church Membership Handbook serves as a comprehensive guide designed to inform, engage, and empower our church community. Its purpose is manifold:



- **Informational Resource:** The handbook provides essential information about the structure, mission, and values of our church. It serves as a reference for understanding the roles and responsibilities of members, leaders, and various ministries within the congregation.
- **Orientation Tool:** For new members, the handbook offers a structured introduction to our church community. It familiarizes them with our beliefs, practices, and traditions, helping them integrate more seamlessly into our church family.
- **Spiritual Formation:** Beyond practical information, the handbook is a tool for spiritual growth. It includes resources for personal reflection, study, and prayer, encouraging members to deepen their relationship with God and live out their faith in daily life.
- **Community Building:** By outlining expectations for membership and participation, the handbook promotes a sense of belonging and accountability within the church. It fosters connections among members and encourages collaborative engagement in ministry and service.
- **Continual Reference:** As members grow and mature in their faith journey, the handbook remains a valuable resource for ongoing learning and development. It provides a framework for lifelong discipleship and equips members to navigate the complexities of modern Christian living.

Ultimately, the Church Membership Handbook serves as a tangible expression of our commitment to nurturing a vibrant, informed, and connected church community. It is a tool for equipping and empowering members to actively participate in the life and mission of our church, as we seek to glorify God and advance His kingdom together.

BRIEF HISTORY

How it Started...

It all started as a vision between Ealgie Gilbert and Arther Fulson, being led to have a gospel meeting to be held in the Dixie Community. Though they did not have a building, they persevered forward and held a gospel meeting in August 1961 in a tent within the Dixie Community. That meeting led 18 people to Christ to be baptized and this was the beginning of a new ministry. Central Rock Church has previously been led by Thaddaus Propps, Thomas Hartaway, Willie Ray Hill, and our successor, Christopher Fifer.

Central Rock Church was renamed from the Airport Church of Christ AKA "The Purple Church" that previously resided in Sherwood, AR in 2016 until 2023 when our permanent home was acquired. Central Rock Church is moving to higher grounds as becoming a one-of-a-kind church, seeking to simply bring people to Jesus.



MEET YOUR LEADERSHIP

Christopher P. Fifer

Senior Minister

Minister Fifer, named after his grandfather, has always wanted to be a preacher since the age of five, confident that his destiny and desire to preach the gospel would reach thousands. Throughout the years, his desire to teach the gospel only manifested, and he became more involved in his walk with Christ. His grandfather was extremely instrumental in the molding of that destiny. He was always there teaching him, using the Bible as his guide, shaping him into the man and preacher he is today. Not only did his grandfather believe in his future, but he also encouraged it.

Minister Fifer has been preaching for the majority of his life, and with God giving him the gift of being a visionary, he is always focused on seeing the bigger picture. Minister Fifer has never been afraid of failing and has always been willing to try innovative ideas to bring glory and honor to God. He continues to encourage his flock that as long as we stay humble and focused on Christ, no box can contain what we can accomplish for the cause of Christ. Academically, Minister Fifer received Biblical training from the Memphis School of Preaching, All Saints Bible College, Faulkner University, and has obtained a Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies and Ministry from Harding University.

Samuel Marlow, Jr.

Executive Minister

He has been an active servant in the Church of Christ since his baptism in 2004 at McAlmont Church of Christ. He has worked in multiple areas within several churches, ranging from youth and young adults to adult ministry. Bro. Marlow has created, launched, and marketed new ministries that have helped propel congregations further in their mission work. He has worked with several congregational leaders as a business consultant in administration, congregation marketing, and ministry development for numerous years.

Bro. Marlow values his family; he is married to his wife Jordie and has two kids: His son, Darian Marlow(deceased), and his daughter, Whittneay Mullins.

For his career, he has been working in the pharmaceutical industry as an executive sales representative for the last 17 years. In addition, he is a business entrepreneur and started a business that provides a much-needed service in the health industry in the Little Rock Metropolitan Area. Bro. Marlow received his bachelor's in marketing (BS) from the University of Arkansas and further extended his education to obtain a Master's in Business Administration (MBA). To advance his servitude in the ministry, Bro. Marlow attended the School of Religious Studies (SRS) from 2004-2011. He continued his education at Harding School of Theology and obtained his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) in 2021.

Recently, Bro. Marlow has started a new work to affect the body of Christ in the Little Rock/North Little Rock area with the Unity Ministry that focuses on building continuity of collaboration, relationship building, and servitude toward community needs for all African American Church of Christ congregations in Arkansas. In addition, he is an active leader among the area Church of Christ leader and member group known as C.A.L.M where he works with other brothers on behalf of the local church in Little Rock Metroplex.

Advisory Board

Eddie Bradford
Garland Camper
Elisha Davis
Christopher Fifer
Samuel Marlow
Arrell McKinner

ORDER OF SERVICE

Preparation

We should begin before we enter the sanctuary. We should prayerfully ask God to prepare our hearts to enter His presence for worship (Psalm 100).

Hymn of Worship

Humbly bowing in the presence of a Holy God and Honoring God for who He is!

Call to Worship

This is an invitation for the congregation to turn their attention toward worship. We assemble to meet God and encounter others who have come to worship Him also.

Call to Worship -Read in Unison

We enter the Lord's House with reverence, humility, and awe for who God is. We enter with an attitude for worship. We should enter quietly, mindful that "worship" signifies attributing worth or respect to someone and that someone is God.

"Worship is the meeting between God and God's people. It is the meeting of the One who gives meaning and purpose to life." The heart of worship evolved from the power of the Holy Spirit, who enables us as a congregation to offer ourselves to God and ourselves through praise and thanksgiving for who God is. Worship requires a commitment to a life lived according to the content of the worship experience. We worship according to a particular service order and/or tradition. Our senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell are engaged in our actions. You can worship God alone or with others. The central focus of a believer's worship is the work of Jesus Christ. The event that informs and shapes the content and form of the believer's worship is the birth, death, resurrection, and consummation of Jesus Christ.

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Expresses gratitude to God for favors bestowed.

Offerings

The giving of our offerings is an expression of worship as we respond to God's claim on our lives, thus giving Him a portion of what He has, in fact, given us. Our offerings support our church and the work of God's kingdom here on earth. When we give, we demonstrate our desire to be good stewards of all God entrusted to us.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Doxology

This is an expression of praise to God, a short hymn sung as part of the worship service. Sing the doxology after receiving the offering.

The Reading of Scripture

We stand when the scripture is being read in reverence to God and His Word. Generally, a passage from the Bible is read based on and to support the sermon being preached for that day.

The Sermon

A message will be based on the word of God and, more importantly, contain the gospel message identifying with the cross of Christ, his death, burial, crucifixion, and resurrection. The sermon will always have some “good news and hope” for the lives of the worshippers.

Hymn of Invitation/The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

A clarion call (A STRONG REQUEST FOR ACTION) extended to anyone in the congregation who has never been baptized (new believers), and these are they who come forth making a public profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9). It is also for those who are coming already having a relationship with Christ requesting prayer. It also includes those who may have strayed from the church for a period and desire to reunite with the church. Whosoever will let them come.

The Altar Prayer

Congregants come to the altar for prayer. The minister or a designated brother communicates to God on behalf of those who have come to the altar or may be standing in the assembly.

Welcome Guests and New Members

The minister takes this time to express with great joy a “welcome” to all who have joined with Christ, either as new believers or by transfer of membership.

Recessional Song

Signifies “going out from.” (A final amens and alleluia to the Lord). Amen —meaning so be it; a concluding act or word; or approval of Alleluia—means praise ye the Lord.

Benediction

The benediction is a pronouncement of blessing. The blessing comes from God and is communicated through His servants.



OUR VALUES

Central Rock's Mission

To be a Christ-centered and a Spirit-filled Church engaged in engraving the essence of God in the hearts of men, women, and children that they may be restored, revitalized, and revolutionized by centering Christ in their hearts as their - CENTRAL ROCK!

2024 Mission

Inclusion is at the heart of our mission, where we believe in fostering a culture that embraces the uniqueness of everyone, recognizing the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives that makeup Central Rock.

2024 Vision

Empowering individuals with a spirit of excellence and empathy exemplifying faithful stewardship of God's blessings endeavoring to evangelize and uplift communities through sustainable economics.

OUR BELIEFS

The Church of Christ emphasizes a plan of salvation based on the teachings found in the New Testament. We believe in the plan of salvation:

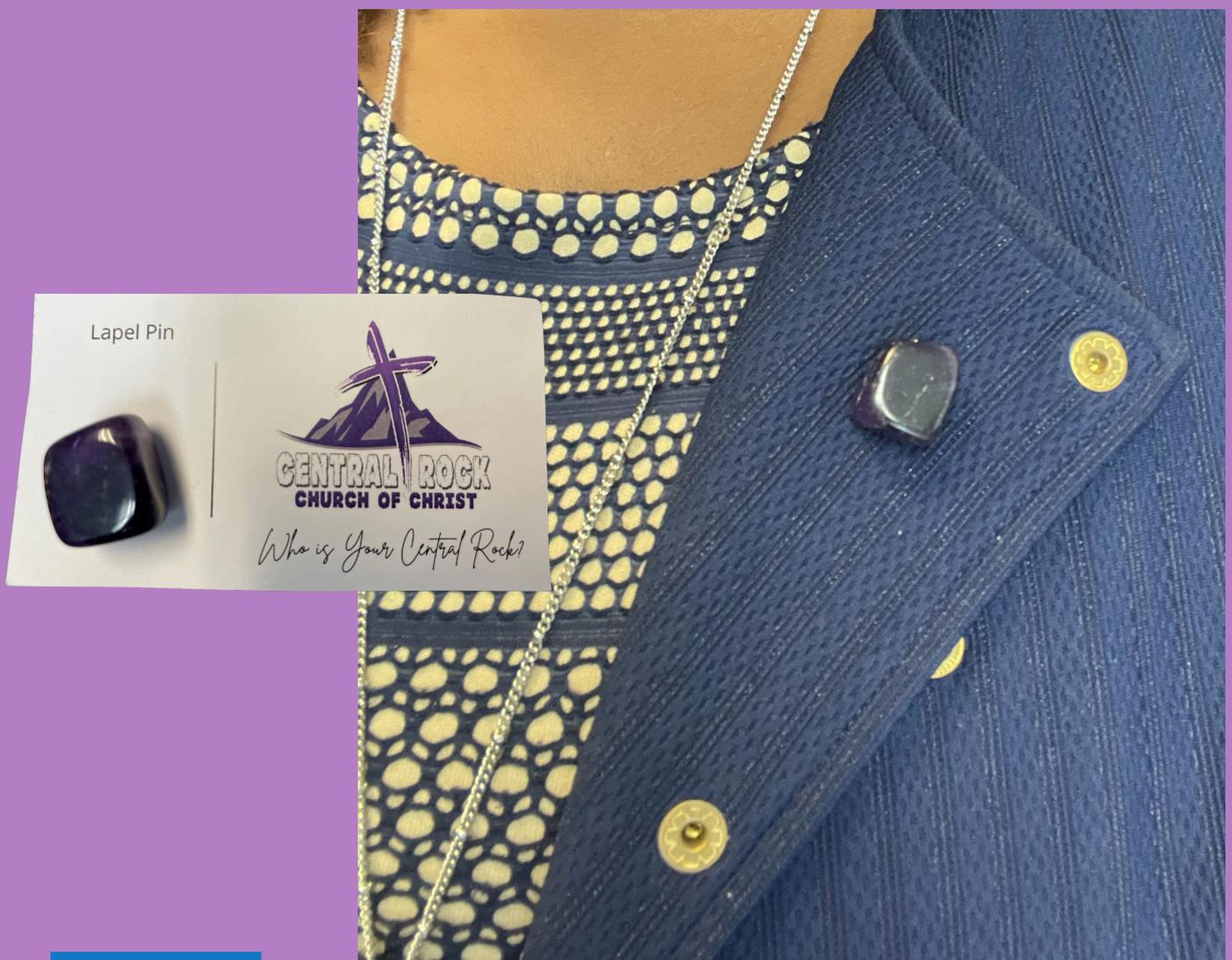
- **Hearing the Gospel:** The journey of salvation begins with hearing the Gospel message, which includes the teachings of Jesus Christ and the apostles as recorded in the New Testament. This may involve attending church services, Bible studies, or other forms of Christian education.
- **Faith/Belief:** Upon hearing the Gospel, individuals are called to respond with faith and belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of humanity. This faith involves trusting in Christ's atoning sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and committing to follow Him as Lord.
- **Repentance:** Repentance is a turning away from sin and a turning towards God. It involves acknowledging and confessing one's sins, expressing genuine sorrow for wrongdoing, and making a conscious decision to change one's ways and align one's life with the teachings of Christ.
- **Confession:** In accordance with biblical teachings, individuals are encouraged to publicly confess their faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Lord of their lives. This confession is often made before fellow believers as a public declaration of one's commitment to Christ.
- **Baptism:** Baptism is viewed as an essential step in the process of salvation within the Church of Christ. It is understood as a symbolic act of obedience to Christ's command and a means of receiving the forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and entry into the body of Christ (the church). Baptism is performed by immersion in water, following the example of Jesus' own baptism and the practice of the early church as described in the New Testament.
- **Living a Christian Life:** Salvation is not viewed as a one-time event but as an ongoing process of transformation and discipleship. Following baptism, believers are called to live lives that are characterized by love, obedience to God's Word, participation in the life of the church, and ongoing growth in faith and maturity.

It's important to note that while this outline reflects common beliefs within the Church of Christ tradition. Ultimately, the focus is on following the teachings of Jesus Christ as revealed in the New Testament and seeking to live out one's faith in daily life.

CENTRAL ROCK AMETHYST

“A rock is hard, and it’s difficult to penetrate.
Jesus wants us to be a rock for one another.”

-Sam Marlow



BAPTISM IS THE BEGINNING...

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship within the church refers to the process of following Jesus Christ, growing in faith, and becoming more like Him in every aspect of life. It involves both learning from Jesus through His teachings and example, as well as actively living out those teachings in daily life. Here are some key aspects of discipleship within the church:



Overall, discipleship within the church is about becoming more like Jesus Christ and participating in His mission to bring about God's kingdom on earth. It is a journey of faith, growth, and transformation that requires intentionality, commitment, and reliance on the grace of God.

- **Learning and Studying:** Discipleship begins with learning about Jesus Christ, His life, teachings, and the principles of the Christian faith. This often involves studying the Bible, attending church services, participating in small groups or Bible studies, and engaging with Christian literature and resources.
- **Relationship with God:** Central to discipleship is cultivating a personal relationship with God through prayer, worship, and spiritual practices. Disciples seek to deepen their intimacy with God, growing in trust, dependence, and love for Him.
- **Following Jesus' Example:** Discipleship involves following the example of Jesus Christ in how we live and interact with others. This includes practicing humility, compassion, forgiveness, service, and sacrificial love, as modeled by Jesus during His earthly ministry.
- **Obedying God's Word:** Disciples are called to obey God's Word and live according to His will. This requires aligning one's life with the teachings of Scripture, making ethical decisions, and striving for moral integrity in all areas of life.
- **Growth and Transformation:** Discipleship is a lifelong journey of growth and transformation. It involves continually renewing the mind, surrendering to the work of the Holy Spirit, and allowing God to shape us into the image of Christ. This process may include overcoming sin, developing spiritual disciplines, and maturing in faith.
- **Community and Accountability:** Discipleship is not pursued in isolation but within the context of the Christian community. Believers are called to support, encourage, and hold one another accountable in their faith journey. This often occurs through fellowship, mentoring, discipleship relationships, and mutual accountability within the church.
- **Making Disciples:** As followers of Jesus, disciples are also called to make disciples. This involves sharing the Gospel, investing in the lives of others, and helping them grow in their relationship with God. Discipleship includes both being disciplined and discipling others, as part of fulfilling the Great Commission given by Jesus to His followers.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

Church membership is important for several reasons, both practical and spiritual:

- **Spiritual Community:** Being part of a church allows individuals to belong to a community of believers who share a common faith in Jesus Christ. This community provides support, encouragement, and accountability in the Christian journey.
- **Spiritual Growth:** Church membership provides opportunities for spiritual growth through participation in worship services, Bible studies, small groups, and other activities. These avenues foster deeper understanding of Scripture, prayer, and spiritual disciplines.
- **Accountability:** Within the context of a church community, members are held accountable to one another in love. This accountability helps individuals grow in their relationship with God and strive for holiness in their lives.
- **Service and Ministry:** Church membership offers opportunities for members to serve others and use their spiritual gifts for the edification of the body of Christ. Serving in various ministries and outreach activities allows members to contribute to the mission of the church and make a positive impact in their community.
- **Stewardship:** Church membership involves stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the advancement of God's kingdom. Members are encouraged to give generously, both financially and through volunteering, to support the work of the church and meet the needs of others.
- **Unity and Fellowship:** Church membership fosters unity and fellowship among believers, transcending differences of background, ethnicity, and culture. It provides a place where individuals can find acceptance, belonging, and friendship with others who share their faith.
- **Witness and Evangelism:** As part of a church community, members have a platform for sharing the Gospel and inviting others to experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ. The collective witness of the church can have a powerful impact on the world around us.
- **Accountability and Discipline:** Church membership involves accountability to church leadership and submission to the authority of God's Word. In cases of sin or spiritual waywardness, church discipline may be applied lovingly and biblically for the purpose of restoration and reconciliation.

Overall, church membership is important because it provides a context for believers to grow in faith, community, and service as they seek to live out the teachings of Jesus Christ and fulfill the mission of the church in the world.

WHO IS CONSIDERED AN ACTIVE MEMBER?

The definition of an "active member" of a church can vary depending on the specific practices and policies of the church, as well as the expectations set forth by its leadership and congregation. However, here are some common criteria that may be used to define an active member:

- **Regular Attendance:** An active member is typically someone who attends worship services, Bible studies, and other church gatherings consistently. While specific frequency requirements may vary, regular participation in the life of the church is often seen as an indicator of active membership.
- **Involvement in Ministries:** Active members are often involved in one or more ministries or service opportunities within the church. This could include volunteering for various roles such as greeters, ushers, Sunday school teachers, or participating in outreach programs and community service initiatives.
- **Financial Support:** Active members are expected to contribute financially to the work and ministry of the church through regular giving and tithing. While the specific amount or percentage may vary, financial stewardship is considered an important aspect of active membership.
- **Commitment to Spiritual Growth:** Active members are committed to their own spiritual growth and development. This may involve personal devotional practices such as prayer and Bible study, as well as participation in discipleship programs, small groups, or other opportunities for spiritual formation offered by the church.
- **Participation in Church Events:** Active members participate in church events, activities, and special services beyond regular worship gatherings. This could include attending special events, retreats, conferences, or participating in seasonal celebrations and outreach efforts.
- **Support and Encouragement of Others:** Active members actively support and encourage fellow believers within the church community. This may involve offering prayer, providing practical assistance to those in need, and cultivating relationships of care and mutual support.
- **Adherence to Church Values and Beliefs:** Active members are in general agreement with the core beliefs, values, and mission of the church. While diversity of opinion is often welcomed, active members are expected to align themselves with the overarching vision and goals of the church community.

Ultimately, active membership is about being fully engaged and invested in the life and mission of the church community, contributing to its vitality and growth, and living out one's faith in practical ways.

EXPECTATIONS

FROM CENTRAL ROCK

As a new member of our church family, we want you to feel welcomed, supported, and empowered as you embark on this journey of faith with us. Here are some expectations of what you can expect as you become part of our community:

- **Loving Spiritual Family:** You can expect a warm and genuine welcome from our church family. We are excited to have you join us, and we want you to feel valued and accepted from the moment you walk through our doors.
- **Supportive Community:** Our church is a place where you can find support, encouragement, and friendship. Whether you're facing challenges, celebrating milestones, or simply seeking companionship, you can expect to find a caring community that is there for you.
- **Opportunities for Growth:** We believe in lifelong learning and spiritual growth. As a new member, you can expect to have opportunities to deepen your understanding of God's Word, grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ, and develop your gifts and talents for service.
- **Meaningful Worship:** Our church offers worship services that are meaningful, uplifting, and centered on God. You can expect to encounter God's presence, engage in heartfelt worship, and be inspired by relevant and biblically-based messages.
- **Involvement and Participation:** We encourage all members to actively participate in the life of the church. Whether through volunteering, joining a small group, participating in ministry opportunities, or serving others in the community, you can expect to find ways to get involved and make a difference.
- **Transparent Leadership:** We are committed to open and transparent communication with our members. You can expect to be informed about church activities, events, and decisions, and to have opportunities to provide feedback and input.
- **Prayer and Support:** Our church is a place where prayer is central to everything we do. You can expect to find a community that prays for one another, supports one another in times of need, and rejoices together in times of celebration.
- **Commitment to Love and Unity:** Above all, you can expect to find a church that is committed to love, unity, and the teachings of Jesus Christ. We may come from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, but we are united in our love for God and one another.

As a new member, we invite you to journey with us as we seek to love God, love others, and make a difference in the world. We are excited to have you as part of our church family, and we look forward to growing together in faith, hope, and love.



EXPECTATIONS FROM MEMBERS

As we journey together in faith and community, it's important to clarify the expectations we hold for one another as members of this body of believers. Here are the foundational expectations we uphold:

- **Commitment to Christ:** As members of this church, we are united by our commitment to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We expect each member to prioritize their relationship with Christ, seeking to grow in faith, obedience, and discipleship.
- **Active Participation:** We believe that every member has a valuable role to play in the life and ministry of the church. We expect each member to actively participate in the various opportunities for worship, service, fellowship, and outreach that our church offers.
- **Unity and Love:** Jesus taught us to love one another as He loved us, and we strive to embody this love in our relationships within the church. We expect each member to cultivate a spirit of unity, humility, and compassion, seeking to build up one another in love and mutual respect.
- **Faithful Attendance:** Regular attendance at worship services, Bible studies, small groups, and other church gatherings is vital for spiritual growth and community life. We expect each member to prioritize attendance and to contribute to the edification of the body through their presence and participation.
- **Stewardship and Generosity:** We are called to be good stewards of the resources that God has entrusted to us, including our time, talents, and finances. We expect each member to prayerfully consider how they can contribute to the mission and ministry of the church through their giving and service.
- **Lifestyle of Holiness:** As followers of Christ, we are called to live lives that are holy and pleasing to God. We expect each member to strive for personal holiness, avoiding behaviors and attitudes that are contrary to the teachings of Scripture and seeking to reflect the character of Christ in all areas of life.
- **Prayerful Support:** Prayer is a vital aspect of our life together as a church family. We expect each member to be committed to praying for one another, for the church leadership, and for the needs of our community and world.
- **Accountability and Restoration:** In times of difficulty or struggle, we are called to bear one another's burdens and to restore one another gently in a spirit of love and humility. We expect each member to be open to accountability, correction, and restoration when needed, and to extend grace and forgiveness to others in the same way they have received it from Christ.

As we uphold these expectations together, may we continue to grow in grace, love, and unity, and may our church be a beacon of light and hope in our community and beyond.



COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT...

MEMBERSHIP

- **Why should I become a member of a church?** Biblical Answer: Becoming a member of a church allows you to participate in a community of believers who can support, encourage, and challenge you in your faith journey (Hebrews 10:24-25). It provides accountability, opportunities for spiritual growth, and a place to serve and be served (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).
- **What are the qualifications for membership in the church?** Biblical Answer: The primary qualification for membership in the church is faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (Ephesians 2:8-9). Additionally, membership often involves repentance from sin (Acts 2:38), confession of faith (Romans 10:9), and baptism (Acts 2:41).
- **What are the responsibilities of church members?** Biblical Answer: Church members are called to love one another (John 13:34-35), serve one another (Galatians 5:13), encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11), pray for one another (James 5:16), and contribute to the needs of the church (Acts 2:44-45).
- **How can I grow spiritually as a church member?** Biblical Answer: Spiritual growth is facilitated through prayer (Philippians 4:6-7), studying God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17), fellowship with other believers (Acts 2:42), and active involvement in the life of the church (Ephesians 4:11-16).
- **What is the role of church leadership in the life of the church?** Biblical Answer: Church leaders are called to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, and to help believers grow to maturity in faith (Ephesians 4:11-13). They are to lead by example (1 Peter 5:3), shepherd the flock (1 Peter 5:2), and provide spiritual oversight (Hebrews 13:17).
- **How should conflicts be resolved within the church?** Biblical Answer: Conflicts should be addressed with humility, love, and a desire for reconciliation (Matthew 18:15-17). Believers are called to seek peace and pursue it (Romans 12:18), to forgive one another (Colossians 3:13), and to bear with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2-3).
- **What is the purpose of church discipline?** Biblical Answer: Church discipline is intended for the restoration of the individual who has fallen into sin (Galatians 6:1), the protection of the purity and witness of the church (1 Corinthians 5:6-7), and the glory of God (Matthew 18:15-17).
- **How should I use my spiritual gifts within the church?** Biblical Answer: Every believer has been given spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit for the edification of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7). We are called to use our gifts to serve one another (1 Peter 4:10), to build up the church (Ephesians 4:12), and to glorify God (1 Peter 4:11).

ASK YOURSELF

QUESTIONS

Before joining a church, new members should ask questions to ensure that the church aligns with their beliefs, values, and spiritual needs. Here are some important questions new members may consider asking:

- What is the church's statement of faith? Understanding the church's core beliefs and theological stance is essential for new members to determine if they align with their own convictions.
- What is the church's mission and vision? Learning about the church's mission and vision can help new members understand its purpose and goals, and whether they resonate with them.
- What are the church's values and priorities? Knowing the values and priorities of the church can provide insight into its culture, priorities in ministry, and areas of emphasis.
- What are the worship services like? Asking about the format, style, and content of worship services can help new members understand the church's approach to worship and whether it meets their preferences and spiritual needs.
- What opportunities are available for spiritual growth and discipleship? Inquiring about small groups, Bible studies, discipleship programs, and other opportunities for spiritual growth can help new members assess the church's commitment to nurturing spiritual maturity.
- What ministries and outreach programs does the church offer? Learning about the church's ministries and outreach programs can give new members a sense of its engagement with the community and opportunities for service.
- What is the leadership structure of the church? Understanding the leadership structure, including pastors, elders, deacons, and other leaders, can provide insight into the governance and decision-making processes of the church.
- What are the expectations for members? Clarifying expectations for members regarding attendance, participation in ministries, financial stewardship, and other commitments can help new members understand what is expected of them.
- How does the church handle disagreements or conflicts? Asking about the church's approach to resolving conflicts or addressing disagreements can provide insight into its culture of grace, reconciliation, and accountability.
- Can I meet with church leaders or members to learn more? Requesting opportunities to meet with church leaders, members, or pastors can provide new members with a chance to ask additional questions, share their own journey, and connect more deeply with the church community.

By asking these questions, new members can make an informed decision about whether a particular church is the right fit for them and whether they feel called to join its community of faith.

OUR HOPE FOR EVERY MEMBER



As you embark on this journey with us, we want to share our expectations and aspirations for your involvement in our church community. At Central Rock, we are passionate about fostering a culture where every member feels connected, committed, and commissioned to serve God and one another. Here's what that means:

- **Connected:** We envision a church where every member feels deeply connected – to God, to one another, and to the larger body of Christ. We expect you to actively engage in building relationships, participating in community events, and supporting one another in times of joy and challenge. Through fellowship, prayer, and shared experiences, we believe that our connections deepen our faith and enrich our lives.
- **Committed:** Commitment is at the heart of our shared journey as disciples of Christ. We expect you to prioritize your spiritual growth and involvement in the life of the church. This includes regular attendance at worship services, participation in small groups or Bible studies, and volunteering your time and talents to serve others. Your commitment not only strengthens the church community but also deepens your relationship with God and enables you to make a meaningful impact in the world.
- **Commissioned:** As followers of Jesus, we are all called to be His ambassadors in the world. We expect you to embrace your role as a commissioned disciple, actively sharing the love of Christ with others and participating in the mission of the church. Whether through acts of kindness, sharing your faith with others, or engaging in community outreach initiatives, we believe that each member has a unique contribution to make in advancing God's kingdom and bringing hope to a hurting world.

In summary, we expect you to be fully engaged and invested in the life of our church community – connected in fellowship, committed to growth and service, and commissioned to share the love of Christ with others. Together, let us journey faithfully, supporting and encouraging one another along the way.

WHAT'S YOUR PURPOSE?

SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENTS

Spiritual assessments can be valuable tools in helping individuals identify their spiritual gifts, passions, and areas of calling within the context of a church community. Here's how spiritual assessments can help you find your church purpose:

- **Identifying Spiritual Gifts:** Spiritual assessments often include surveys or questionnaires designed to help individuals identify their spiritual gifts – the unique abilities and talents that God has given them for serving others within the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). Understanding your spiritual gifts can help you discern where you are most effective and fulfilled in serving within the church.
- **Discovering Passions and Interests:** Spiritual assessments may also explore your passions, interests, and areas of expertise. By reflecting on what energizes and excites you, you can identify specific areas of ministry or service where you are most likely to thrive and make a meaningful impact.
- **Assessing Personality and Temperament:** Some spiritual assessments include assessments of personality traits, communication styles, and temperament. Understanding your personality and how you interact with others can help you find roles and ministries within the church that align with your strengths and preferences.
- **Clarifying Values and Beliefs:** Spiritual assessments may prompt you to reflect on your core values, beliefs, and convictions. By clarifying what matters most to you spiritually, you can align your church involvement with your deepest convictions and sense of purpose.
- **Exploring Past Experiences and Spiritual Journey:** Spiritual assessments may invite you to reflect on past experiences, significant life events, and key moments in your spiritual journey. By examining your past and discerning patterns or themes, you can gain insight into how God has been at work in your life and how He may be calling you to serve in the future.
- **Setting Goals and Action Plans:** Once you have completed a spiritual assessment and identified your spiritual gifts, passions, and areas of calling, you can use this information to set goals and create action plans for getting involved in specific ministries or areas of service within the church. This process can help you focus your energy and efforts on activities that align with your purpose and bring fulfillment and joy.
- **Seeking Feedback and Guidance:** Finally, spiritual assessments can be valuable tools for seeking feedback and guidance from trusted mentors, pastors, or spiritual leaders. By sharing the results of your assessment with others, you can receive affirmation, encouragement, and practical advice as you discern your church purpose and take steps to live it out in your daily life.

Overall, spiritual assessments can be powerful tools for self-discovery, discernment, and growth in your journey of faith. By using these assessments to explore your spiritual gifts, passions, and calling, you can find greater clarity and direction in how you contribute to the life and mission of your church community.

Central Rock Departments

Worship



Operations



Ministries



Services



Education



Missions



Organizational Structure

This structure is based on administrative and organizational responsibilities (only) and is not intended to display or promote leadership positions within the Body.



Director of Worship: Christopher Fifer

Director of Operations: Dr. Angela Bradford

Director of Ministries: Samuel Marlow

Director(s) of Services: Valerie Camper/Sharae Martin

Director of Education: Richie Allen

Director of Missions: Terry Brown



WHAT ARE YOUR **SPIRITUAL GOALS?**

Short-Term

Long-Term



Who is Your
Central Rock?

LET'S GROW
TOGETHER

501.835.3313

<https://CentralRockChurch.org>
1505 West 18th Street
North Little Rock, AR 72114