

Discover OCBF

Membership Handbook



“Discipling the Church to Impact the World”



“One of the most important decisions in life, for any Christian, is the selection of their church home.”

Welcome to Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship!

We are deeply honored that you want to become a part of the Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship (OCBF) family. One of the most important decisions in a believer's life is the selection of a church home. Your decision means you have entrusted our church with the awesome responsibility of your spiritual wellbeing.

The magnitude of such a choice calls for careful consideration and wisdom on your part. OCBF's membership class gives you the opportunity to learn more about our church so that you can prayerfully consider if OCBF is the church home for you. It is our firm belief that you should know what you are joining before you join it.

OCBF membership is open to all who profess faith alone in Jesus Christ; therefore, part of the membership process is to ensure your eternal security. But, it doesn't stop there. Our goal for every member is to reach spiritual maturity and duplicate that in others. Additionally, the membership class will acquaint you with our ministry philosophy, programs, and organizational structure.

It is our sincere hope that your time with us will help you make an informed decision in uniting with the OCBF family. My desire is for you to become an active part in the life and growth of our church.

May God's magnificent grace guide and affirm you through the membership class. I look forward to serving you and seeing God's perfect plan unfold in your life.

For His Kingdom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Evans".

Senior Pastor

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Historical Milestones

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step ... and then another, and another. Which is exactly what one man did over three decades ago up and down both sides of Camp Wisdom Road in a yet undeveloped area of Dallas.

That man was Dr. Tony Evans who stepped out in faith based on the Word of God which says, “I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.” (Joshua 1:3)

As Dr. Evans walked the entire distance of the block, he prayed for the impossible. He asked God to give him, and the church under his care, all of the land that he walked on for the furthering of the Gospel and the demonstration of the manifest presence of God in this area and abroad.

Only a few years earlier, a young and enthusiastic Tony Evans was preparing himself as a seminary student to take the truth of God’s Word to people all around the globe as an evangelist. However, in early 1976, God localized his immediate steps to a place called Oak Cliff.

God did this through a man named Dr. Ruben Connor of Black Evangelist Enterprise (a ministry dedicated to planting Bible churches) as well as Dr. Gene Getz of Fellowship Bible Church North. Both men were concerned about the need for another strong Bible church in the Oak Cliff area of Dallas. They believed such a church could impact the community with sound biblical teaching. Seeking a leader with skill of hand and integrity of heart, they presented this challenge to Tony Evans. Because of his desire to serve God as an evangelist, he wrestled over this decision in prayer for some time while waiting to hear from God. After becoming fully convinced that this was God’s plan, he contacted his friend, Rev. Crawford Loritts, and asked him to join him in starting this church.

Under God’s guidance, they chartered the church as Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship on June 6, 1976 with ten members, holding worship services in the home of Pastor and Mrs. Lois Evans. The congregation experienced authentic Christian fellowship as they grew to love each other and minister to one another.

Through the grace of God, the church grew. As it did, the leaders found it necessary to locate a larger facility that would accommodate the increase in numbers. Several months after its inception, the church moved to the Advent Lutheran Church on South Hampton Road.



Shortly after this move, the church started developing programs to meet the needs of the various members of the church family. Over the next several years, God blessed and expanded the reach of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship to include a congregation upwards of 8,500 members, over 130 different ministries reaching both locally and abroad, a dynamic model of faith-based outreach ministries into the public schools and community, as well as over 145 acres of the very land Dr. Tony Evans walked on in faith three decades ago.

Space does not allow us to mention all of the opportunities and accomplishments that have occurred over the years, but significant steps along the way include:

1976 -1981

- From 1976 -1981, the rapidly growing OCBF opened a Learning Center providing biblical teaching to children, started its first Vacation Bible School and adult choir, instituted the Elder/Deacon form of church leadership, and established the Care Group and Ladies Fellowship Ministries.
- After several small moves, a loan of \$200,000 was used to purchase its new church home on 1808 W. Camp Wisdom Road.
- The Child Development Center was established, and the Singles Ministry and the Center for Christian Growth were launched.
- Dr Tony and Lois Evans created The Urban Alternative expanding the impact of the ministry across the United States.

1982 -1987

- From 1982-1987, the membership continued to grow from 250 families to 600 families. Because of the growth, plans for a new worship center were initiated and construction began.
- During this time, Alternative Community Development Services, Inc. was organized as a social outreach of OCBF. OCBF also began supporting missionaries.
- The ministries were organized under the four Biblical experiences: Worship, Fellowship, Christian Education and Outreach. Fellowship Christian Academy was established beginning with Kindergarten with plans to add one grade per year.
- Because of the continued growth and additional services to accommodate the now 1,200 families, the construction of the new sanctuary was halted. Church leaders made the decision to build a Family Life Center before constructing a worship sanctuary.

1988 -1993

- From 1988-1993, the new Family Life Center was completed accommodating approximately 1,500 people during one service. The Resource Center, Bookstore, Medical ministry, and Reach and Rescue program were established.
- The original church building was renamed the Youth Chapel accommodating the youth, day care center, preschool and learning center.
- The church restructured its four primary ministries into six ministry areas: Fellowship, Education, Worship, Outreach, Discipleship and Administration.

1994-1999

- From 1994-1999, the construction of the 99,000 square foot Worship Center began.
- Fellowship Christian Academy expanded to the sixth grade, Project Turn•Around, a social community-based outreach program was organized, and Men's, Ladies, Singles, Youth and Children's ministries thrived.
- On Sunday, October 1, 1995, the OCBF congregation ceremoniously marched into the sanctuary of the new Worship Center.
- Dr. Evans led OCBF in its first Solemn Assembly, a week of fasting, prayer and anticipation of life-changing breakthroughs in the congregation.
- The Children's Worship Station, the Next Level Youth Ministry, and the Youth Drama Ministry were introduced.
- Growth in the membership and attendance again moved the church into holding two Sunday morning services.

2000-2005

- From 2000-2005, the membership expanded to over 3,900 families. The Arts Institute was established, the church website was created, and the OCBF Christian Education Center, a 172,000 square foot facility was completed. Fellowship Christian Academy moved into the newly built Christian Education Center with the addition of grades 7 and 8.
- The church purchased the shopping center at the corner of Polk and Camp Wisdom.
- Under Project Turn•Around, the Technology Institute expanded and the Family Care Pregnancy Center opened.
- The Women's Fellowship presented the first annual Desperate for Jesus Conference.
- In 2006, the new logos for Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship and Fellowship Christian Academy and a new comprehensive website were launched.
- The Copy Center became fully operational.
- The Men's Fellowship presented the first annual No More Excuses Men's Conference and The Women's Fellowship implemented the Life on Life Women's Bible Study.
- Senior Pastor and Wife Appreciation Month was implemented in October.

2006 - Present

- Dr. Evans introduced the "Spirit of the Ministry" to leaders and staff comprising the seven core values of unity, integrity, excellence, servanthood, communication, accountability and joy.
- A second shopping center, on the corner of Polk and Camp Wisdom, was purchased.



- A church-wide weekly devotional based on Dr. Tony Evans' Sunday morning sermons became available on the OCBF website.
- Project Turn•Around launched a comprehensive school-based mentoring program and abstinence-only education in five high school clusters, providing services to over 65 public schools in Dallas County.
- The Arena Church Management System was launched on January 12, 2009.
- Oak Cliff Christian Federal Credit Union was chartered on September 22, 2008 and officially opened for business on February 27, 2009.
- The new state-of-the-art youth center was completed in June
- Fellowship Christian Academy launched its college preparatory curriculum in August, 2009.
- The dissolution of Alternative Community Development Services, d.b.a. Project Turn•Around, was effective
- October, 2009 which placed Project Turn•Around under the legal designation of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship.
- The rebranding of Project Turn•Around resulted in a new name, The Turn•Around Agenda, the social outreach arm of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in 2010.
- On May 20, 2010 Dallas Life honored Drs. Tony and Lois Evans with the Dallas Legends of Service Award.



Meaning of the Stained Glass

The light coming down from heaven

- Signifies the powerful, life-giving presence of God, penetrating the darkness and reconciling the world to Himself.

The crown

- Refers to the lordship of Jesus Christ as head over the earth, typified by the circle protruding from the crown.

The red cross

- Typifies Christ's work of redemption which is the foundation upon which the church is built. We learn of Christ, His work, and His call to submit to His lordship.

The wings

- Signify the presence of the Holy Spirit and the angelic host providing divine guidance and protection for God's people as we communicate and model His truth to people in need, typified by the presence of the city in the background.

The city

- Is the emergence and development of new spiritual life, represented by the expanding green color. The city is designed to highlight the scope of impact as we fulfill our divine mission of "Discipling the Church to Impact the World".

The bible

- Represents the proclamation of God's Word which is the final authority that governs the function of the church.



"The OCBF stained glass was added to the main worship center as a symbol of God's light reflected in Christ through the church."

Membership Process

Overview

Discover OCBF is the first step in preparing you to become a vital part of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship. During our time together, you will learn about our ministry's mission, philosophy, and programs. You are joining a family; therefore, we will talk about our expectations of you and benefits to you as well as give you an opportunity to ask questions of us. Our purpose is to give you a comprehensive look at OCBF so that you are sure about your decision to make us your church home.

Now, completing Discover OCBF is only the beginning of your journey at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship. We offer classes through our Spiritual Growth Course and the Kingdom Agenda Bible Institute to further develop your knowledge and understanding of God's Word.

Likewise, we encourage every member not to be merely "hearers of the Word", but also "doers of God's Word". As such, OCBF offers over 130 ministry opportunities that will allow you to serve the body of Christ, which is a significant part of your spiritual and social development as a disciple.

"Completing Discover OCBF is only the beginning of your journey to becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship."



Class Attendance

Discover OCBF Membership Class is held monthly on the first Sunday of each month with a few exceptions. You must attend the class for the entire allotted time, which is a requirement for membership.

Class Time

Class begins promptly at 1:00 pm and ends at 4:30 pm. Please be on time and prepared to participate. If you are unable to attend the next scheduled class, please contact membership at 214.672.9100 x.9185 or membership@ocbfchurch.org.

Lesson Requirements

The lesson assignment must be completed prior to class. You should come with a Bible and a pencil or pen. A portion of the class includes group discussion, so please be prepared to interact with the facilitator and other participants.

Home Visit

Each prospective member receives a home visit by an OCBF leader. This gives us an opportunity to get to know you better in a more informal setting. A home visit allows us to:

- demonstrate our Christian love for you as a prospective member,
- gain greater insight into your understanding of salvation, discipleship, and commitment to our church, and
- offer an opportunity to answer your questions.

There are situations that preclude visitations in the home. When such a situation exists, visitations may take place onsite at the church.

Requirements for Baptism & Presentation

The only prerequisite to pursuing membership at OCBF is having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Having put your faith in Christ alone is critical to a proper understanding of and incorporation into a local church. Prospective members are eligible for baptism and/or presentation to the church congregation upon the completion of:

- The Discover OCBF Membership Class
- A Successful Home Visit

If for some reason you are not presented on the Sunday for which you are scheduled, it is your responsibility to contact the Membership ministry to be placed on the list for the next scheduled presentation.



Expressions of Faith

The word ordinance refers to those rites that Jesus commanded the church to observe to remind us of our relationship with Him, as well as the benefits that accrue to us because of this relationship. The Bible recognizes two ordinances to be observed by the church: baptism and communion, or the Lord's Supper.

These ordinances are not merely a picture of the central truths of the Gospel or just a reflection of a historical event. But they serve as a vehicle through which the Holy Spirit confers the benefits of the new covenant to the body of Christ.

The Ordinance of Baptism

Jesus instructs us as believers to identify with Him through baptism.

Go therefore and make disciples of all 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 always, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

The baptism ceremony is your public testimony that you belong to Christ. Marriage is a good illustration of this relationship. When you get married, you are declaring that your mate is the person you will stay with and be faithful to your whole life.

One way you publicly declare this new relationship is by wearing a ring that tells the world you are married and you are not ashamed to be identified with your mate. Baptism is the Christian's "wedding ring" that tells everyone you are married to Christ and that you are not ashamed of your relationship with Him.

Just as marriage takes you from the world of singlehood to an entirely different world in a new relationship, baptism separates you from your former world and unites you with a new world, a new kingdom, a new family, and a new relationship with the one and only Lord...a relationship that should be publicly known, observed and lived out.

At OCBF, baptism is by immersion, or complete covering, of the believer in water, setting forth the essential facts of redemption—the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. For the believer, that is death to the former way of life and resurrection to newness of life. (Romans 6:4; Acts 8:26-39)

Who should be baptized?

1. Anyone who has not been baptized since becoming a Christian.
2. A Christian who did not clearly understand the meaning of baptism, even if the person has been previously baptized.
3. A believer who wants to renew his or her commitment to Christ.

THE SYMBOLISM OF BAPTISM:

Death: Placed in the water
"Baptized into his death"
- (Rom 6:3)

Burial: Submersion
"Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death..." (Rom 6:4a)

Resurrection: Brought up out of the water
"In order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." (Rom 6:4a; Col 3:1a)

The Ordinance of Communion

At OCBF, we believe that the Communion, or The Lord's Supper, is a privilege afforded to all believers in commemoration of our Lord's death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-28). As such, we believe there are two very clear purposes for communion:

1. To remind us of what was accomplished on the cross, and
2. To tap into the benefits of that accomplishment.

First, communion is a regular reminder of our relationship with God. The Bible says that the church met on the first day of the week "to break bread" (Acts 20:7). That is, the church observed communion weekly to remind themselves of God's new covenant relationship with His people through Christ. The early church understood the spiritual significance of the Lord's presence at the table, not in His literal body, but the spiritual presence of Christ in the midst of His people.

If you read Paul's full teaching on communion in 1 Corinthians 10-11, you will see that this ordinance is a channel for the provision of both the blessings and benefits of grace that the cross makes available to God's people as well as a conduit for God's judgment on sin and His discipline for rebellious Christians. This makes communion a spiritual experience and not just a religious observance.

Paul said, "is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?" (1 Corinthians 10:16). The blessing of communion is the impartation of the gracious benefits of the new covenant to the body of Christ.

But the communion table also involves discipline, and thus it demands that we examine and judge ourselves as shown in Paul's teaching below:

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world (1 Corinthians 11: 27-32).



Too many times we as Christians forget where we're really sitting. God says that while we are physically on earth, spiritually we are already seated with Him in heaven (Ephesians 2:5-6). At the communion table, you're supposed to recall your spiritual identity and position in Christ – and rejoice in our daily participation in His victory!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold new things have come (1 Corinthians 5:17).

How often do we take communion at OCBF?

Communion is done on a weekly basis. At a specific time during the worship service, communion is served to all baptized believers in attendance. On occasion, we practice representative communion, whereby the elders of the church take communion on behalf of the congregation.

Communion is a privilege afforded to all believers in commemoration of our Lord's death until He comes.



Ministry Overview

The Foundation of the Word

2 Timothy 4:2 states, "Preach the Word." The ministry of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship is built on the proclamation and application of the Word of God. Everything about OCBF...from its doctrine, philosophy, programs, and decisions has its origin in God's Word. Dr. Tony Evans uses biblical principles to cultivate a Kingdom culture within the church so that members are equipped to live life as the Savior intended and impact the world around them. To this end, Dr. Evans has instituted a set of guidelines and principles for establishing a Kingdom culture and agenda for OCBF that includes:

- The Kingdom Agenda Ministry Philosophy
- The Four Vital Experiences of a Christian
- The Vision and Mission of OCBF
- The Spirit of the Ministry
- The Ministry's Core Values

The Kingdom Agenda

The Kingdom Agenda expresses Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship's comprehensive worldview and philosophy of life and ministry. It is a worldview that is based solidly on the authority of Scripture and communicated in a way that relates to the everyday realities of life.

More specifically, the Kingdom Agenda is defined as the visible demonstration of the comprehensive rule of God over every area of life. God's rule is reflected through the four divinely ordained spheres of the individual, family, church and society (government).

The absence of a comprehensive agenda for life has led to deterioration in our world of cosmic proportions. People live segmented, compartmentalized lives because they lack a Kingdom worldview. Families disintegrate because they exist for their own fulfillment rather than for the Kingdom. Churches are having a limited impact on society because they fail to understand that the goal of the church is not the church itself but the Kingdom.

At OCBF, we teach our members the principles of the Kingdom of God so they learn to function under the authority of the Kingdom in every dimension of life.



Christians need to operate by an agenda that is big enough to include individuals, families and societal structures, clear enough to be understood and appropriated by the average person on the street, yet flexible enough to allow for the considerable differences among peoples, cultures and societies.

At OCBF, we teach our members the principles of the Kingdom of God so they learn to function under the authority of the Kingdom in every dimension of life. Through the proper blending of God's Word with good works, the goal of our church is to visibly model God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Kingdom Agenda sets the stage for discipleship, which is the progressive process of moving Christians from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity so that they are able to repeat the process with others.

The Four Vital Experiences

Discipleship is predicated on the presence of specific, ongoing experiences in a Christian's life. The four experiences of Christian Education, Fellowship, Worship, and Outreach are vital to a Christian's development towards spiritual maturity. These experiences were reflected in the early church, resulting in the spreading of the Gospel and expansion of the church. Acts 2: 42, 47 provides the basis for the Christian's four vital experiences.

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

- 1. Christian Education** gives us an experience with God's perspective - continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching". (Acts 2:42a)
Result: A church that teaches the knowledge and application of God's Word.
- 2. Fellowship** provides an experience with God's people - "continually devoting themselves to fellowship". (Acts 2:42b)
Result: A church where no one stands alone.
- 3. Worship** provides an experience with the Person of God - "the breaking of bread and prayer" (Acts 2:42c).
Result: A church that celebrates the glory of God.
- 4. Outreach** offers an experience with God's purpose - "praising God...the Lord added to their number". (Acts 2:47).
Result: A church that spreads the Good News of Christ in word and deed.



The Four Experiences are vital to a Christian's development towards spiritual maturity.

We have organized OCBF around the four vital experiences, also called ministry areas, in an effort to make the Word of God real in the realm of our experience. OCBF's spiritual and social outreach programs are reflected in the ministry areas of Christian Education, Fellowship, Worship, and Outreach. The administrative ministries of OCBF fall under the ministry areas of the Senior Pastor's Office and Administration.

This biblical method of organization allows every aspect of our church to function in the presence of God; under the authority of God; to the glory of God. Consequently, OCBF is positioned to fulfill the Great Commission in 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 always, even to the end of the age.”

Our goal, then, is to make YOU a disciple, equipped to reflect the vision and carry out the mission of OCBF.

Vision Statement

To have transformed lives that reflect the values of the Kingdom of God.

The Mission

To disciple the members of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship so that they are equipped to impact individuals, families, churches and communities from a Kingdom perspective.

Mission Statement

Discipling the Church to Impact the World.

The Spirit of the Ministry

Through the Spirit of the Ministry, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship seeks to cultivate an environment that's conducive to discipling members toward spiritual maturity, ministry excellence and loving relationships. The purpose of the Spirit of the Ministry is to create a relational atmosphere among leaders, staff, volunteers and members that reflects a Kingdom culture and emphasizes "skill of hand and integrity of heart" (Psalms 78:72).

Technical excellence in the execution of ministry is important, signifying "skill of hand". Equally important is "integrity of heart"—how we demonstrate love, the primary proof of discipleship, where we passionately and righteously pursue the wellbeing of others.

The Spirit of the Ministry sets the tone for how we treat and serve one another as we do the work of the ministry. As members, we should use every opportunity to infuse these biblical truths in the life of the church.



Spirit of the Ministry

These core values reflect the essential elements and priorities that ought to characterize the leadership, staff, and membership of OCBF. It is through these values that we make known the Spirit of the Ministry. It is also how we demonstrate love, which is the primary proof of discipleship, where we passionately and righteously pursue the wellbeing of others.

UNITY

To work in harmony toward a shared purpose.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. - Ephesians 4:3

INTEGRITY

To possess a commitment to biblical truth and honesty, refusing to allow our character to be compromised.

May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you. - Psalm 25:21

EXCELLENCE

To work as unto the Lord with the highest degree of professionalism, productivity, and skill.

...And every willing man skilled in any craft will help you in all the work. - 1 Chronicles 28:21

SERVANTHOOD

To demonstrate true humility by seeking, serving, and protecting the wellbeing of others.

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

- 1 Peter 4:10

COMMUNICATION

To interact with each other on matters of ministry in a respectful and timely fashion.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. - Ephesians 4:29

ACCOUNTABILITY

To love, encourage, and correct each other as we do the work of the ministry, each taking responsibility for decisions and actions that impact the ministry.

So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. - Romans 12:5

JOY

To have a positive, infectious, and cheerful attitude while performing assigned tasks and responsibilities.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! - Philippians 4:4

The Ministry's Core Values

The following core values reflect the essential elements and priorities that ought to characterize the members of OCBF. It is through the practical application of these values that we make known the Spirit of the Ministry where attitudes and behavior, our social development, are aligned with the Word of God. The Spirit of the Ministry and its core values illustrate the divine connection between the spiritual and social realms of human behavior.

The Spirit of Unity

- We promote cooperation both within our ministry areas and between ministries.
- We offer to help and encourage others when possible, without compromising our own responsibilities.
- We show mutual respect for our fellow volunteers and members.
- We give constructive critique, but once a direction has been set and a decision made, we will support it.
- We look for creative solutions to problems and not just complain about them.
- We lovingly correct those who disturb the harmony of the ministry.

The Spirit of Integrity

- We ensure that everything we do relates to and reflects the vision and mission of the Church.
- We are committed to always speaking the truth.
- We practice the highest standard of honesty in the practice of all tasks and duties.
- We believe in doing the right thing in every situation, no matter the cost.
- We have the same pride in representing and preserving the reputation of OCBF as our own family.
- We do not put the ministry in a situation that could be embarrassing or create a need for damage control and to quickly communicate when there is the possibility that such a situation has occurred.
- We maintain flexibility with process and rigidity in purpose.

The Spirit of Excellence

- We understand the goals of the ministry and work diligently to achieve them.
- We appropriately use our God-given talents and skills to advance the ministry of OCBF.
- We know and do our work and will ask for appropriate help when necessary.
- We exhibit professionalism in our appearance and behavior.
- We believe that the true strength of our Church comes in knowing our limitations and being open to partnerships that strengthen those areas that are not our core competency.
- We are committed to the notion of prudence: using sound business practices to contain costs and maximize results as we grow toward our clear goal.
- We believe passionately that using sound business practices in human resources, administration, marketing and financial management are as much a ministry as are programmatic outreaches that promote the spiritual development of members and the community.



The Spirit of Servanthood

- We are committed to the notion that relationships are the currency of the Kingdom of God.
- We believe people are truly the largest and most important asset of any organization.
- We are committed to investing in people, their personal development and spiritual growth, creating an environment of lifelong learning.
- We believe that we should be role models that other members would want to follow.
- We support the ministry of the Church with our time, talents and treasures.
- We demonstrate humility by the way in which we serve and help other members of the body.

The Spirit of Communication

- We give the highest priority to any communication coming from the Senior Pastor's office.
- We effectively communicate with each other and leadership at all times.
- We are willing to convey all information including bad news.
- We provide detailed information in a timely manner.
- We exhibit good listening and comprehension skills.
- We communicate in such a way as to build up and not tear down.
- We communicate in advance if we are thinking about leaving OCBF or want to change what we are doing at OCBF.

The Spirit of Accountability

- We are committed to building quality relationships with those to whom we minister and serve.
- We make sure that we adhere to the policies and procedures of OCBF.
- We will not be a party to starting or continuing gossip and will seek that which promotes the health and wellbeing of the Church.
- We confront unacceptable behavior of fellow members, holding each other accountable.
- We accept personal responsibility for quality and timeliness of tasks.
- We believe that results achieved are a direct result of personal decisions and actions.
- We refuse to offer or accept excuses for failures.
- We hold a fanatical commitment to the proper use of all financial and physical resources of the church.

The Spirit of Joy

- We have energy, passion and love for the majority of assigned tasks.
- We exhibit enthusiasm and a positive attitude toward volunteers, members and visitors.
- We show optimism in difficult and challenging situations, not focusing on problems but creative solutions.
- We are able to show a positive and constructive sense of humor.
- We are a positive influence on others.
- We celebrate our accomplishments as well as the accomplishments of others.

**Spiritual Growth**

Following Discover OCBF, the next step in your journey is our 12-week Spiritual Growth course. Spiritual Growth has been designed to provide a solid foundation for your personal and spiritual development. Conducted within the context of small group studies, the Spiritual Growth course fosters relationships and connection within the OCBF family.

In addition, you will grow in your personal relationship with Jesus Christ as you discover your spiritual gifts, purpose in life, and ministry within the church and/or community.

Course Highlights

- Examining God's word and its practical application in our daily lives.
- Memorizing key passages of the Bible that relate to spiritual growth and development.
- Sharing personal insights and reflections from each member's own spiritual journey.
- Fostering an atmosphere of loving accountability and encouragement.
- Exploring the development of spiritual gifts through service in a ministry at OCBF.



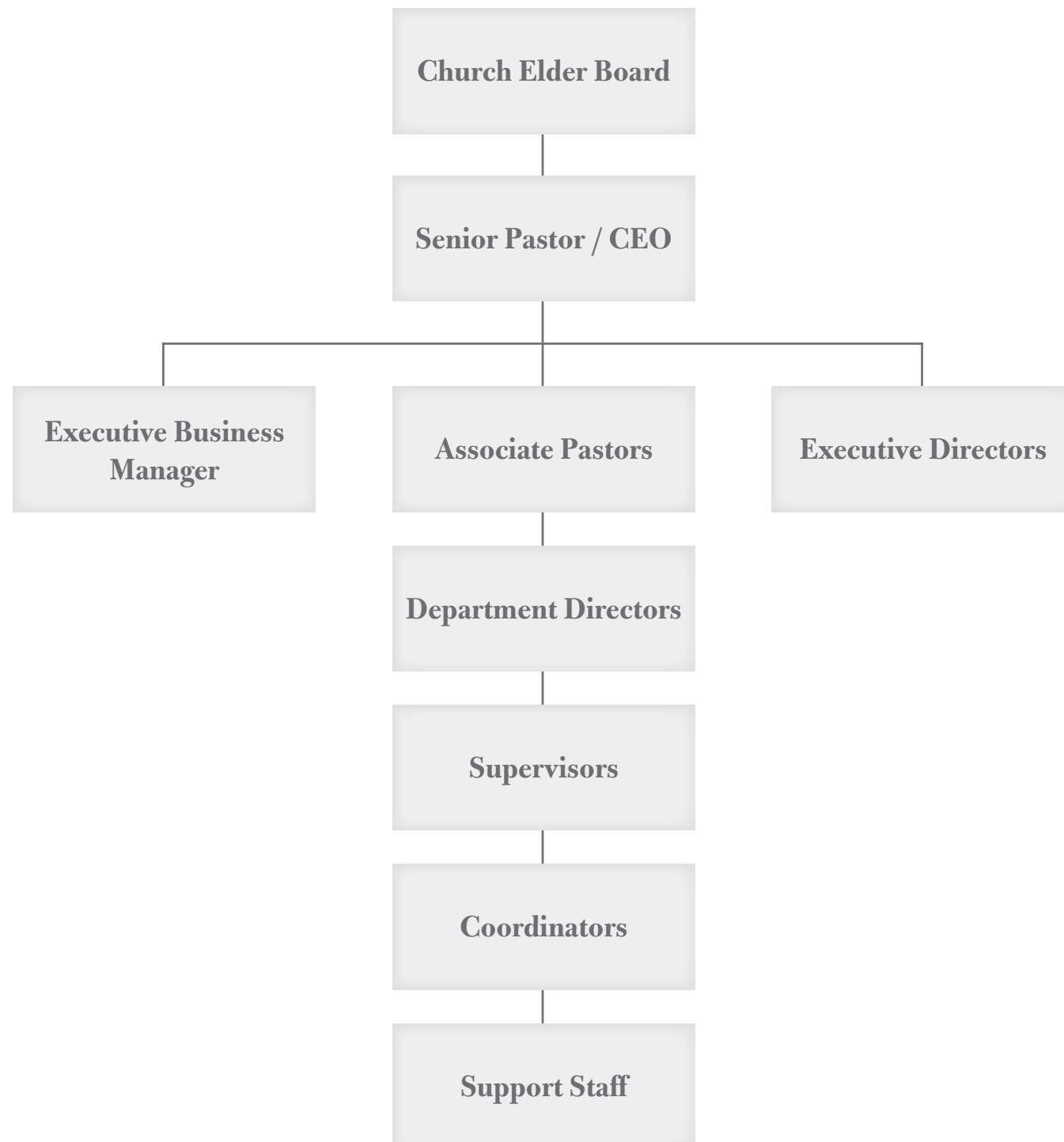
I have established real friendships that have lasted the test of time. Spiritual Growth helped me to think through my faith rather than simply accept it on the surface.

- 2009 course member

“I feel that Spiritual Growth was the glue that connected me to the church. It made me accountable to my commitment as a member. It is because of Spiritual Growth that I understand the importance of serving, giving, and growing”

- 2008 course member

The OCBF Organizational Structure



The OCBF Ministry Areas

Senior Pastor’s Office

Senior Pastor, Dr. Tony Evans

- Men’s Fellowship
- Women’s Fellowship
- Reconciliation Ministry
- Human Resources
 - Connie Williams, Executive Director
- Ministry Advancement
 - Shari Carroll, Executive Director
- Office of Business Management
 - Gregory Smith, Executive Business Manager

Administration

Executive Director of Administration Dallas Diggs

- Accounting
- Building Operations
- Information Systems
- Membership Services
- Security
- Stewardship
- Special Events

Worship

Associate Pastor, Michael Bethany

- Liturgical Services
- Media Communications
- Music and Fine Arts



Fellowship

Associate Pastor, Bobby Gibson

- Comfort and Care
- Counseling
- Couples
- Health and Wellness
- Silver Stars
- Singles
- Small Groups

Christian Education

Associate Pastor, Norman Vasquez

- Adult Education
- Children’s Ministry
- Fellowship Christian Academy
- Next Level Youth Ministry

Outreach

Associate Pastor, Charles Wolford

- Evangelism & Missions
- The Turn•Around Agenda
 - Family Care Pregnancy Center
 - Human Needs Assistance
 - Public Schools Outreach
 - Technology and Education Program
 - Turn•Around Basketball League & Summer Program
 - Turn•Around Resale Store



Ministry Information

Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship
1808 W. Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, TX 75232
ocbfchurch.org

Fellowship Christian Academy/EC
1821 W. Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, TX 75232
fcasoars.org

Outreach Center
7125 S. Polk Street, Suite 1
Dallas, TX 75232
turnaroundagenda.org

Main Office (T) 214-672-9100
Worship Center (T) 214-672-9100
Family Life Center (T) 214-672-9100, x9113 (F) 972-228-1329
Fellowship Christian Academy (T) 214-672-9200 (F) 214-672-9201
Building Operations Office (T) 214-672-9200 (F) 214-672-9121
Christian Education Office (T) 214-672-9200 (F) 214-672-9202
Outreach Center (T) 214-672-9100, x9319 (F) 972-228-1110

Ministry Communications

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. OCBF uses a variety of media to communicate to our church family. Similarly, members can use the same media to communicate with the church.

A recent survey indicated that the majority of our members prefer email as their 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 Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship (see section entitled OCBF Affiliate Organizations for a complete listing of organizations that are associated with our church). From time to time, OCBF's affiliate organizations may contact you 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 membership office.

Telephone and Email

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

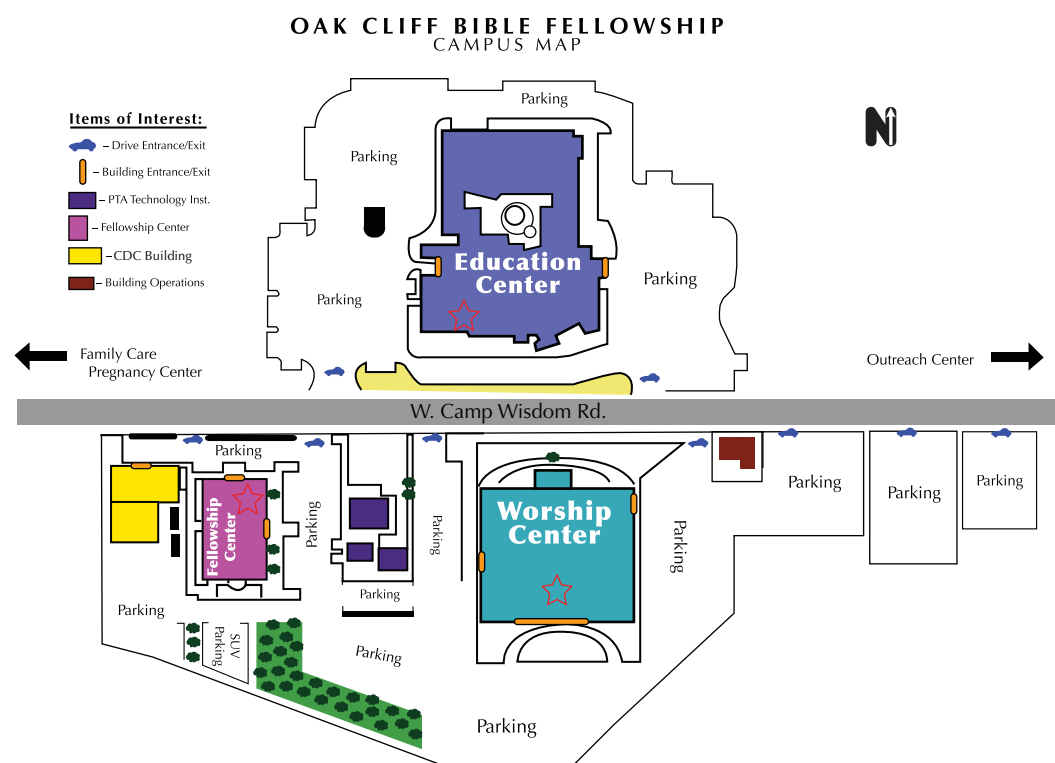
Church Bulletin and Digital Signage

Our church bulletin is the most effective informational tool for our members and visitors. It is designed to be used by members and visitors on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. The bulletin includes information that is of interest to our members and visitors such as the order of service, sermon title and speaker, lyrics to songs, event and program highlights and announcements, job postings, comfort and care, and church contact information. Information highlighted in the bulletin also appears on digital signage or monitors located in the Worship Center, Family Life Center and Christian Education Center.

The OCBF Website (ocbfchurch.org)

The church's website is the most effective communication and ministry tool for our members and visitors. Our website offers a number of features and facilitates two-way communication between staff, volunteers, members and visitors. A sampling of our website's functions includes:

- promoting church ministries, special events, and job opportunities;
- educating members and potential members about OCBF and its ministry philosophy, ministries and services;
- providing better customer service by allowing members and visitors to take care of their ministry business online;
- registering for special events;
- selling Christian products directly over the Internet;
- encouraging our members and the public to contact us by phone, mail or e-mail; and
- offering links to other relevant sites such as Fellowship Christian Academy, Oak Cliff Christian Federal Credit Union and The Urban Alternative, the national ministry of Dr. Tony Evans.



OCBF Affiliate Organizations

The following represents the Kingdom impact beyond the four walls of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship. These organizations allow us to reach all sectors of society with the Gospel message in the areas of education, economics, social services and spiritual outreach.



Fellowship Christian Academy (FCA) is a private Christian school of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship with a mission to provide a quality education in a nurturing Christian environment that enables children to reach their highest academic potential and apply a Biblical worldview to every area of life. FCA offers programs and a college preparatory curriculum consistent with the Word of God for cultivating the mind, body and spirit of young people—giving them the greatest opportunity to excel in life.

www.fcasoars.org



OAK CLIFF CHRISTIAN
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Oak Cliff Christian Federal Credit Union (OCCFCU) was officially chartered on September 22, 2008 with a mission to give our members confidence in their financial wellbeing by providing superior service and better rates through a Christian credit union. Membership in OCCFCU is open to members, employees, and families of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Fellowship Christian Academy, The Turn•Around Agenda, and The Urban Alternative. OCCFCU has a Kingdom orientation towards wealth and permits the church to financially empower its members.

www.occfcu.org



The Turn•Around Agenda (TTA), formerly Project Turn•Around (PTA), is the social outreach arm of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship with a mission to rebuild communities from the inside out with comprehensive, faith-based programs and community partnerships that transform the lives of urban youth and families. TTA programs touch the whole person, offering wraparound services that enable individuals to make the right choices by changing the way they think, providing opportunities for positive change and giving them hope for a brighter tomorrow.

www.turnaroundagenda.org



The Urban Alternative (TUA) is the national ministry of Dr. Tony Evans with a mission to equip, empower, and unite Christians to impact individuals, families, churches and communities for rebuilding lives from the inside out. TUA serves as the national expression of Dr. Evans' local ministry impact through Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship and its affiliate organizations. TUA offers a wide variety of programs for individuals, families, churches and communities. Programs include national radio and television broadcasts, three training conferences, The Kingdom Agenda and First Lady Conferences and the National Church Adopt-A-School Initiative; the Kingdom Agenda Fellowship of Churches; and a variety of online ministry resources.

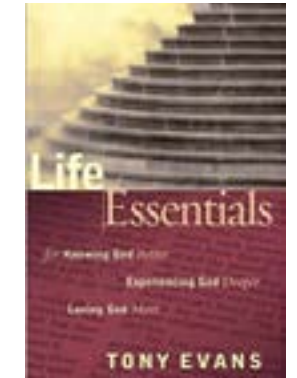
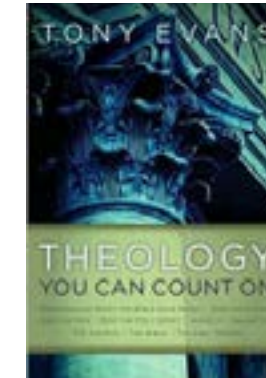
www.tonyevans.org

Reference Materials

Dr. Tony Evans is the author of numerous books and sermon series that can be purchased in the OCBF Bookstore or ordered online at www.tonyevans.org.

Each new member is encouraged to purchase and read the following books:

- The Kingdom Agenda
- Life Essentials
- Theology You Can Count On



Discovering Church Membership

presented by Dr. Tony Evans - Senior Pastor

1. 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:

- According to Romans 3:23, _____ are sinners.
- 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.

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

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

- 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?

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

Sinner's Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

I acknowledge to you that I am a sinner and cannot save myself. I believe that your Son, Jesus Christ, died on the cross in my place for my sins and rose from the dead to give me salvation.

I now accept the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, trusting Him alone to give me the forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and a personal relationship with You.

Thank you for saving me, and help me from this day on to turn from my sins and live a life pleasing to You. Amen

2. 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?

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

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

3. 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?

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

4. 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.

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

The Experiences of a Christian

The goal of discipleship is achieved as believers grow in the four vital experiences Christ has for His church.



A. Worship (Acts 2:42c): Worship is the celebration of God for who He is, what He has done, and for what we are expecting Him to do. Each member is to demonstrate the exaltation of God by faithful participation in the corporate gathering of the church on Sunday and regular partaking in communion.

B. Christian Education (Acts 2:42a): Education is expanding your knowledge of God through His Word because you can't grow beyond what you know. Each member is to know and apply the Bible to their daily living. Each member is encouraged to participate in the Kingdom Agenda Bible Institute.

C. Fellowship (Acts 2:42b): Fellowship is the mutual sharing of our relationship with Christ with believers. Each member is responsible for building quality Christian relationships that strengthen their spiritual walk through love and sharing with one another. This is accomplished through participation in monthly ministry meetings as well as gender-based and/or seasons-of-life fellowships.

D. Outreach (Acts 2:47): Outreach recognizes that spiritual development occurs as God works through His people to impact the lives of others. Each member is to further the ministry of OCBF internally through their service to our membership for the building up of our local body, and externally through evangelism to the world for the salvation of souls and the improvement of society.

Q. After reading Acts 2: 42-47, state some of the effects the four vital experiences had on the first century church.

The Accountability of a Christian

When a person becomes a member of the local church, he/she is responsible for pursuing godliness and spiritual maturity through the application of the Scripture in their daily lives. It is the responsibility of the church and its leadership to assist the believer in achieving spiritual maturity and holding him/her accountable through the process of church discipline when the believer refuses to submit to biblical authority.

Q. Based on your understanding of the following passages, how is accountability built into the believer's life?

a) According to Matthew 18:15-20, what are the steps that a believer must follow in order to biblically address the sin of another believer?

b) According to James 5:19-20, why is it important to correct believers who are trapped in sin?

The Christian's Expressions of Accountability

The believer's willingness to be accountable to the local church and its leadership is reflected in the two symbols or expressions of faith in Jesus Christ, which is baptism and communion.

A. Baptism is where a believer publicly identifies with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As such, the believer pledges to publicly live under the authority of Jesus Christ in the context of the local church.

B. Communion is the ongoing renewal of the believer's commitment to Jesus Christ. It is a continuous pledge of faithfulness to Christ through confessions of sin and a renewed dependency on an experience of God's grace.

Q. After reading the passages below, what is your understanding of baptism and communion in the believer's life?

a) According to Romans 6: 3-4, how should the spiritual principle of baptism affect our life?

b) According to Matthew 28:19-20, we are to be baptized in the _____ of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

c) According to 1 Corinthians 11:23-25, we are to take communion in _____ of Christ and the new _____ He has established with us.

d) According to 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, when we take communion, we become sharers in the _____ and _____ of Christ.

5. The Kingdom Agenda and Church Membership

The Church has been established to be a spiritual community that models the Kingdom of God on earth. Our members are taught the principles of the Kingdom of God so they learn to function under the authority of the Kingdom in every dimension of life. Through the proper blending of God's Word with good works, our church and its members are to provide a divine alternative of God's activity in the world without becoming a part of it.

Q. Based on your understanding of the following passages, how does the Kingdom Agenda position the Church and its members in the world?

a) According to Matthew 16:18-19, God has entrusted to the church the _____ of the _____ in order to exercise spiritual authority in history.

b) According to Matthew 6:33, believers are to seek _____ God's _____ and His _____.

c) According to Psalm 103:19, God's Kingdom authority means His _____ over all.

d) According to Hebrews 12:28, believers are a part of a _____ that cannot be _____

and they are to show _____ and offer acceptable _____.

e) According to Matthew 6:10, believers are to pray thy _____ come thy

_____ be done on _____ as it is in Heaven.



6. The Mission and Church Membership

Since it is the role of the Church to model God's Kingdom in history, then it is the mission of OCBF to "disciple the church to impact the world" through comprehensive programs that touch every area of life, i.e. spiritual, social, health, economics, education, and politics, etc. Each disciplined member is to demonstrate the sovereignty and supremacy of Christ through his/her spiritual impact through "good works" in their home, community, country and/or the world.

Q. Based on your understanding of the following passages, how are the Church and its members to relate to the world?

- a) According to Matthew 28: 19-20, we are to make _____ of all nations, _____ them in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have _____ you.
- b) According to Matthew 5:13-16, what are the two roles God's people ought to play in society? _____ and _____.

7. The Culture and Church Membership

Through the Spirit of the Ministry, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship seeks to cultivate an environment that's conducive to discipling members toward spiritual maturity, ministry excellence and loving relationships. The Spirit of the Ministry sets the tone for how we treat and serve one another as we do the work of the ministry.

Q. Based on your understanding of the following passages, how are believers to relate to one another?

- a) According to John 13:34, people will know we are authentic disciples of Christ by our _____ for _____.
- b) According to 1 John 3:18, we are to love with _____ and _____.
- c) According to Philippians 2:1-2, the atmosphere of the church should be characterized by _____ of love, _____ with the spirit, having _____ and _____, by being _____, having the same _____, being _____ in spirit and _____.
- d) According to Ephesians 4:3, Christians are to be diligent to _____ the _____ of the spirit in the _____ of peace.

8. Responsibilities and Church Membership

2 Peter 1:3 states that "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness". God expects us to grow in His Word and show evidence of the fruit of His Spirit in our lives.

Additionally, each member is equipped with at least one spiritual gift that is designed to serve the body of Christ. As believers, we have a responsibility to serve the household of faith with our time and God-given talents by participating in one or more of the ministries of the church.

Finally, we are to give back a portion of our wealth to the One who owns it and has given us the ability to create it out of sincere gratitude and with the purpose of expanding His Kingdom through the local church. At OCBF, members are expected to give at least one-tenth of their household income to support the work of the ministry. In addition, members are invited to participate in the annual Thanksgiving offering where they contribute one week's household income to the ministry.

Q. From reading the passages below, what does the Bible say about the Christian's responsibility to grow?

- a) According to 1 Peter 2:2, we are to desire the _____ of the Word so we can grow spiritually.
- b) According to 2 Peter 3:18, in what two areas should Christians be growing?
_____ and _____

Q. From reading the passages below, what does the Bible say about the Christian's responsibility to serve in the local church?

- a) According to Ephesians 4:12, 16, your service to the church is important for the _____ of the body of Christ.
- b) According to 1 Peter 4:10, God has given every believer a _____ in order to serve the church.

Q. From reading the passages below, what does the Bible say about the Christian's responsibility to give one's financial resources in the form of tithes and offering to the local church for the advancement of the ministry?

- a) According to Malachi 3: 8-9, refusing to give tithes and offering is equal to _____ God.
- b) According to 1 Corinthians 16:2, on the _____ day of every week, one should give as he may _____.
- c) According to 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8, what is the benefit of contributing your financial resources to the local church?

9. Benefits and Church Membership

As the saying goes, membership has its privileges. As YOU, a member, become an authentic disciple of Christ, not only do YOU benefit the body of Christ, YOU partake in the spiritual and social benefits offered through our church. YOU, a member, can expect to receive the following:

- A. The faithful teaching and preaching of God's Word that is necessary for your spiritual growth.
- B. Comprehensive children, youth, and adult programs that serve the unique needs of you and your family.
- C. A ministry leader and Touch Point facilitator who will maintain contact with you so that the church is informed about your needs, prayer requests and praises.
- D. Dynamic small groups (men, women, couples, singles and counseling support groups) that can foster your spiritual growth, help you through trials, and/or enable you to develop quality Christian relationships.





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Also visit our OCBF affiliates: TurnAroundAgenda.org • FCASears.org
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