

# New Connections

A CLASS FOR THE CURIOUS

This class is designed to introduce you to the *Beliefs* and *Life* of North Park Baptist Church

Week 3:

## OUR BODY LIFE

UNDERSTANDING THE MINISTRY OF SERVING AT NPBC

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE WE BEGIN. . .

In your past church experiences/expectations, who was responsible for the following. . .

- \* **teaching** others the word of God?
- \* **discipling & mentoring** others to be more mature followers of Christ?
- \* **confronting sin** and bringing an erring member to repentance?
- \* **visiting and comforting** the sick, hurting and distressed of the community?
- \* **organizing** evangelistic outreach events to the lost in the area and world?
- \* **showing** new people **hospitality** either by having them over or visiting them in their house?
- \* **encouraging** families by attending showers, open houses, 50th wedding anniversaries?
- \* **fixing** leaky pipes and moving chairs?

How strong would a church body be if everyone saw these opportunities as their chance to serve Christ?

**Our Core Mission [The WHAT]:** Multiplying and Maturing Followers of Jesus Christ

**Our Core Vision [The HOW]:** Gather. Grow. Go.

**Gathering** to glory in God through collective worship.

**Growing** in the grace of God through authentic community.

**Going out** with the gospel of God through missional action.

### Theological Undergirding for our Mission and Vision:

Our central philosophy for church ministry centers around three key responses to God's saving grace:

1. **Celebration:** We gather together in truth, unity, and love to worship the risen and exalted Jesus Christ through the preaching, teaching, and public reading of God's Word, prayer, giving, singing, and celebration of the ordinances; communion and baptism.

(Acts 2:37-47; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Colossians 3:11-17; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:23-25)

2. **Formation:** We grow to become more like our Savior Jesus Christ, both collectively and individually, through the Word of God by the work of the Spirit in progressive sanctification.

(John 17:13-26; Romans 12:1-8; Ephesians 2:11-22; 4:1-16; Colossians 2:6-7)

3. **Reduplication:** We go on the mission of God by reaching out as disciples who make disciples, who in turn make more disciples.

(Matthew 28:19-20; John 20:21; Acts 1:8)

## How can we foster unity in the body of Christ?

1. Understand the high value God places on unity (1 Cor. 12:11-26)
2. Distinguish between essentials, doctrines, and preferences
3. Commit to an unselfish spirit for the common good of all
4. Pray for God to help you adjust as inevitable changes take place

## What are reasons for becoming a member of North Park?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## How would your spiritual gift or gifts fit into the ministry of North Park?

1. There are over sixty different ministries in which people serve at NP
2. A large majority of adult members at NP serve in at least one capacity.
3. Look at your "Membership Profile" and list your primary spiritual gifts:

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4. How would you like to serve if the opportunity comes to you? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Tools and Training

1. The Bible is our main tool and guide for faith and practice.
2. Nurture your soul through your personal devotional life and in the classes and services at church
3. Curriculum—Generations of Grace, Desiring God, and LifeWay.
4. Church Ministries Conference—Second weekend of March at Calvary Baptist Church in G.R.
5. On-the-Job Training
6. Sample job descriptions
7. Other special opportunities on finances, parenting, etc.

## Motives for Serving—Matthew 22:37-39

1. Motives toward God
2. Motives toward others
3. Motives toward self
4. Unworthy motives