



CROSSVIEW
COVENANT CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP CLASS HANDBOOK

1. GETTING TO KNOW CROSSVIEW

Sessions – who we are – what we believed and how to get engaged

A. Questions to get us started:

What was your church experience before coming to Crossview?

In your time at Crossview, what have you seen as some of our strength and weaknesses?

B. Crossview's History

C. What is the good news?

Video: The Big Story (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uv15GygmW2Y>)

D. What is the church?

What comes to your mind when you think about the word church?

The term *Church (ekklesia)*

The body of Christ on earth (Eph. 4.4-13 & Romans 12.1-31)

(the presence of Jesus here on earth)

A witnessing community (Luke & Acts)

(forgiveness & kingdom) (you will be witnesses | go and make disciples)

Acts 2-3 – worship (invite) | smaller community | serving | generosity

E. Who we are (organization and organism)



WE ARE LASER-FOCUSED ON CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS AND UNLEASHING PEOPLE TO CONNECT JESUS TO THEIR WORLD.

THE KIND OF LIFE WE VALUE TO ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION:

WE INVITE PEOPLE

WE DO SMALL GROUPS

WE SERVE IN OUR CHURCH, CITY & WORLD

WE ENGAGE IN RADICAL GENEROSITY

We're willing to remove all obstacles and barriers for people to connect with Christ.

We are intentionally outward focused in our mission.

We prioritize ministry to the Coming Generations because they are the future of the church.

We are a safe place for people to come back to faith.

We are a melting pot of backgrounds.

We balance excellence, casual connection, humor and authenticity in all our environments.

We provide a community centered in Covenant theology & ethos.

We are willing to act on our beliefs around justice, compassion, and evangelism.

We will listen to where God is leading us (dependence on the Holy Spirit).

Our environments are guest-friendly, Christ-centered, and life-changing!

10-YEAR TARGET

Planting churches in our region.



Living on mission in our community



Bringing sustainable change to DR Congo



Get involved – member or not

2. OUR DENOMINATIONAL “FAMILY”

A. What is the Evangelical Covenant Church?

B. Our Covenant Roots.

Three key statements that describe the Covenant:

- Psalm 119:63 - “I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts.”
- “Are you living in Jesus?” or “How goes your walk?”
- “Where is it written?”

C. Some Unique Characteristics of the Covenant.

- Our Polity.
Congregational – congregation holds authority and delegates responsibility
- Our Affirmations.
 - The centrality of the Word of God.
(Biblical but not doctrinaire)
 - The necessity of the new birth.
 - A commitment to the whole mission of the Church.
 - The church as a fellowship of believers.
 - A conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit.

- The reality of freedom in Christ.

D. A special word about the Sacraments.

- The Lord's Supper.
- Baptism.

E. "In it Together."

- In our regional conference *Northwest Conference, www.nwc-cov.org*
- In North America *Evangelical Covenant Church denomination, www.covchurch.org*
- Around the World *Covenant World Missions, www.covchurch.org/mission
www.covchurch.org/relief*

3: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PART OF THE CHURCH?

A. Why join the local church?

B. What are the requirements?

Believer's church

Plus baptism

4: HOW CAN YOU FIT IN?

A. Possible Next Steps.

DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS TO SERVE

Each of us has been gifted by God with unique talents, abilities, and passions, and we want to help you to learn and use those gifts. One of the ways to discover your gifts is through a Spiritual Gifts Assessment. The assessment normally takes about 10-12 minutes to complete, and your results will be emailed to you.

Go to: www.crossviewcov.org/spiritualgifts

Password: gifts

After you've discovered your spiritual gifts, the next step is to find a place to serve at www.crossviewcov.org/serve and sign-up or contact the appropriate staff.

B. Membership application and requirements:

Fill out application.

Sign up to share your story.

C. Questions?

Sharing Your Faith Story

When you share your faith, it's important to be able to articulate your own story, which is really how your life intersects with God's story of redemption for all of creation. Some call this a "personal testimony". When you go to court, somebody who provides testimony shares what they have seen and heard, and what has happened to them as a result. In this case, you are sharing what you saw and heard that led you to **Know** of Jesus Christ, **Believe** in him and ultimately to **Trust** him with your life, your death and the life to come.

The apostle Paul shares his personal testimony to King Agrippa in Acts. Take a minute to read Acts 26.

Notice that it was difficult for King Agrippa to deny the authenticity of Paul's story. As a matter of fact, he didn't even try. The same is true for you. As you share your story, it will be tough for others to say, "That's not true." This is because you are sharing what you know to be the truth from your own experience. The challenge is learning how to share your encounter with Jesus in a compelling and authentic way.

What's the story of God's pursuit of you?

There are three questions that make up your story, because we all have past, a present, and a future. In the space provided, take time to really reflect and answer the questions and watch as your story unfolds (use other paper as needed):

1. Where have you been? Where has God led you from? What was your life like before you knew of Jesus or believed that what the Bible says of him is true? Is there a point in your life when you surrendered your life to Jesus and began to trust him? This is your past.

2. How is God moving in you now? What's stirring in your heart right now that God is breaking or inspiring you towards? How do you see God at work in your everyday life? This is your present.

3. Where are you heading? Where is God leading you to next? Is there something greater that God is calling you to do with your life? This is your future.

These questions will help you communicate what new life with Jesus looks like. This is the work of God in your life. It is how your life has come to intersect with the LORD's great story of redemption! And now that you have written out your story, it's time to practice it and be able to share it with others.