

CALLED AND ACCOUNTABLE STEPPING UP OUR COMMITMENT



WE EXIST TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S WORD

MINISTRY

- *“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples – that you have love for one another.”* John 13:35
1 John 3:16-17, Matthew 25:34-40, Hebrew 13:16, Romans 12:13
- “Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)...**All of you together** form the one Body of Christ and **each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.**” 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27(Living Bible)

OUR STRUCTURE

- The People are the “ MINISTERS ”
- The Pastor is the
- “ADMINISTRATOR/EQUIPPER ”

- **THE CHURCH IS A FLOCK**
(Jesus' favorite description of the church) John 10:1-30, Matthews 26:31; 25:33

- **THEREFORE IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY SHEPHERDS**

- *“Jesus asked Simon Peter, ‘Do you really love me?’ ‘Yes Lord’, said Peter. Then take care of my sheep.”*
John 21:16-17

- Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leaders:

• “POIMEN”	Pastor	Caring
• “PRESBUTEROS”	Elder	Maturity
• ‘EPISCOPOS’	Overseer	Administration

- *“To the elders I say...Be shepherds of God’s flock, serving as overseers...”* 1 Peter 5:1-2

- *“Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived he said to them...Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be pastors of the church of God...”*
Acts 20:17-18,28

- Titus 1:5-7, 1 Timothy 5:17

At Rodman....

- Every member is a minister
- Every task is essential
- Every member is a “10” in something

Our Statement of Faith

(What we believe)

In essential beliefs – we have unity.

“There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...Ephesians 4:4-6

In non-essential beliefs – we have liberty.

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgement on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” Romans 14:1,4,12,22

In all our beliefs – we show charity.

“...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains...but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.” 1 Corinthians 13:2(Ph)

WE EXIST TO EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE

DISCIPLESHIP:

- *“Let us leave the elementary teaching about Christ and go on to maturity...” Hebrew 6:1*
- *“Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18*
- *“(God has given)...some to be pastors, and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all...become mature...like Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13*

Why Our Church Must Never Stop Growing

1. Because GOD LOVES PEOPLE



“The Lord...is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but wants everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

2 Corinthians 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matthew 9:12-13

2. Because GOD COMMANDS US TO REACH OTHERS

*“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that **My House will be full.**”* Luke 14:23(Living Bible)

“...you will be my witness...” Acts 1:8

3. Because GROWTH EQUALS GOD'S WILL

“Under Christ’s control, the whole Body is nourished...and grows as God wants it to grow.” Col. 2:19 (GN)

“(Jesus) I will build my church” Matthew 16:18

- **Unbiblical excuses for not growing:**
 - *“God isn’t interested in numbers”*
 - *“Our church wants quality not quantity”*
 - *“Large churches are impersonal”*
- We believe our church must grow SMALLER and LARGER at the same time.

*“And the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **THEN** the end will come.” Matthew 24:14*

RODMAN STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH STRATEGY

- *(Paul) “I have been all things to all sorts of people that by every possible means I might win some to God. I do all of this for the sake of the Good News.” 1 Corinthians 9:22-23(Ph)*

FIVE CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT



Community

Crowd

Congregation

Committed

Core

Lay

Ministers

Maturing Members

Members

Regular Attenders

Unchurched & Occasional

- Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church's objective is to keep moving people toward the center by encouraging personal spiritual commitments.
- Specifically, we call people to four basic commitments:

THE RODMAN STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANTS

1. THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT.....

Is a commitment to CHRIST and TO THE CHURCH FAMILY

- *“You are members of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s house with every other Christian.”* Ephesians 2:19(Living Bible)
- *“We are all parts of Christ’s Body, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and need all the others.”* Romans 12:4-5(Living Bible)

2. THE MATURING COVENANT...

Is a commitment to the HABITS necessary for spiritual growth.

- *“Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* 2 Peter 3:18
- *“Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.”* 1 Timothy 4:7

3. THE MINISTRY COVENANT...

- Is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in **SERVING** God and others.
- *“God has given each of you some special abilities: be sure to use them to help each other...”* 1 Peter 4:10(Living Bible)
- *“There are different kinds of service to God...together you form the Body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it.”* 1 Corinthians 12:5,27(Living Bible)

4. THE MISSIONS COVENANT...

Is a commitment to **SHARE** the Good News with others.

- *“...you will be my witness for me...to the ends of the earth.”* Acts 1:8(GN)
- *“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect...”* 1 Peter 3:15
- **Why do we have these Covenants?**
WE BECOME WHAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO.

• 1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF RODMAN STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

- By acting in love toward other members
- By refusing to gossip
- By following the leaders

• *“So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and growth of our fellowship together.”*
Romans 15:19(Ph)

• *“Live in complete harmony with other – each with the attitude of Christ toward each other.”* Romans 15:5(Living Bible)

• *“Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts.”* 1 Peter 1:22(GN)

• *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to the needs...”* Ephesians 4:29

• *“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.”* Hebrews 13:17

- **2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RODMAN STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**
- **By praying for its growth**
- **By inviting the unchurched to attend**
- **By warmly welcoming those who visit**
- *“To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.”
I Thessalonians 1:2*
- *“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in so that My House will be full.” Luke 14:23(Living Bible)*
- *“So warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” Romans 15:7(Living Bible)*

- **3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF RODMAN STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**
- **By discovering my gifts and talents**
- **By being equipped to serve my pastors**
- **By developing a servant's heart**
- *“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you.” 1 Peter 4:10(Ph)*
- *“God gave...some to pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” Ephesians 4:11-12*
- *“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant...” Philippians 2:3-4,7*

• 4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF RODMAN STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

- By attending faithfully

- By living a godly life

- By giving regularly

- *“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another.”* Hebrews 10:25

- *“But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ.”* Philippians 1:27 (Ph)

- *“Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering.”* I Corinthians 16:2

- *“A tenth of all you produce is the Lord’s, and it is holy.”* Leviticus 27:30