Introduction To Our Church Family

Class 101

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church

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Knowing Christ!!!
Strengthening the Congregation!
Key Truths

1. The church is a **family**

2. If you are a Christian, God expects you to be a **member** of a family

3. A Christian without a church family is an **orphan**
The Goal Of This Class

I will commit myself to Christ and to the Church family!
What Makes Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church A Family?

- Our History
- Our Vision
- Our Purposes
- Our Life Phases
- Our Administration
- Our Facilities
- Our Biblical Foundation
- Our Core Values
What Makes Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church A Family?

- Our Mission Statement
- Our Driving Force
- Our Motto
- Our Ministry Target
- Our Strategy
- Our Doctrinal Distinctives
- Our Membership Vows
I. Our History

◆ A. The History of Presbyterianism
◆ B. The History of the Presbyterian Church in America
◆ C. The History of the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church
II. Our Vision

TBPC’s 2020 Vision envisions a church that:

• Glorifies God

• Has a “God-sized” vision

• Is true to the Scriptures, faithful to the Reformed faith, obedient to the Great Commission

• Is committed to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment
II. Our Vision

• Is healthy and committed to developing healthy relationships with God and with one another

• Provides an opportunity for every person in New Tampa to hear the Gospel

• Provides a place for hundreds of people to gather for worship each week

• Welcomes hundreds of members

• Develops believers to spiritual maturity
II. Our Vision

• Equips every believer for ministry

• Empowers every believer to know his or her life mission in God’s kingdom

• Trains believers for service in God’s kingdom

• Sends out believers on short-term and career missions projects/ministry
II. Our Vision

• Will plant 5 daughter churches by 2020, and then at least 1 daughter church every other year after that

• That has a pre-kindergarten through middle school that is classical and covenantal

• Has outstanding facilities
III. Our Purposes

• A key issue for us is church health and not church growth

• We are committed to growing people with a process rather than growing a church through programs
III. Our Purposes

This process involves helping people to:

1. Know Christ
2. Grow in Christ
3. Serve Christ
4. Share Christ, and
5. Worship Christ
III. Our Purposes

• The primary goal is to produce **disciples**, and not simply **bodies**, **budgets**, and **buildings**.
III. Our Purposes

Community
Crowd
Congregation
Committed
Core
Lay
Ministers
Maturing Members
Members
Regular Attenders
Unchurched & Occasional
III. Our Purposes

• TBPC’s goal is to move people from the community to the core
• Community is where evangelism takes place
• Crowd is where worship takes place
• Congregation is where fellowship takes place
• Committed is where discipleship takes place
• Core is where service takes place
III. Our Purposes

TBPC has 5 Purposes

- **Mission**: Proclaiming God’s Word through evangelism
- **Magnification**: Celebrating God’s presence in worship
- **Membership**: Assimilating God’s family into our fellowship
- **Maturity**: Developing God’s people through discipleship
- **Ministry**: Demonstrating God’s love through service

All ministries are based on these 5 purposes
III. Our Purposes

Mission / Evangelism

• The purpose of mission has to do with evangelism, which takes place in the community

• Hire a Pastor in 2004

• Two ways to prepare our members to reach our community:
  ▪ Class 401
  ▪ Evangelism Training
III. Our Purposes

Mission / Evangelism

• Various ways we contact people in our community:
  ▪ Bridge Events
  ▪ Cultural Engagement
  ▪ Outreach meetings
  ▪ Seeker Groups
  ▪ Missions Ministry
  ▪ Church Planting
  ▪ Multicultural Outreach
III. Our Purposes

Magnification / Worship

• The purpose of magnification has to do with worship, which takes place in the crowd

• Crowd consists of all those who worship on Sunday mornings

• Ministries that take place under worship:
  ▪ Worship Services
  ▪ Music Ministry
III. Our Purposes

Membership / Fellowship

• The purpose of membership has to do with fellowship, which takes place in the congregation

• Ministries that take place under fellowship:
  - Class 101
  - Member Care Ministry
  - Prayer Ministry
  - Fellowship and Social Events
III. Our Purposes

Maturity / Discipleship

• The purpose of maturity has to do with discipleship, which takes place among the committed

• Ministries that take place under discipleship:
  ▪ Class 201
  ▪ Adult Education Ministries
  ▪ Annual Bible Conference
  ▪ New Tampa Christian Academy
  ▪ Resource Center
III. Our Purposes

Ministry / Service

- The purpose of ministry has to do with service, which takes place among the core
- Ministries that take place under service:
  - Class 301
  - Officer training
  - Leadership Team Meetings
IV. Our Life Phases

The Life Phases of TBPC’s Ministry

• Children
• Youths
• Adults
V. Our Administration

The Administration of TBPC’s Ministry

- Staffing
- Policy and Ministry Manual
- Application of Purposes
VI. Our Facilities

The Facilities of TBPC’s Ministry

- Education Complex
- Sanctuary
- Office Complex
- Fellowship Hall/Gymnasium
TBPC’s Foundation is Biblical

• Three Biblical Texts are foundational:
  ▪ Matthew 22:37-39 (Great Commandment)
  ▪ Matthew 28:19-20 (Great Commission)
  ▪ Acts 2:42-47
VII. Our Biblical Foundation

So we exist for 5 purposes:

• To celebrate God’s presence in **worship**
• To demonstrate God’s love through **ministry**
• To communicate God’s word by **evangelism**
• To incorporate God’s people into **fellowship**
• To educate God’s people through **discipleship**
VIII. Our Core Values

At TBPC, we value:

• The Scriptures
• The Historic Westminster Standards
• Prayer
• The Great Commandment
• The Great Commission
• Teaching
• The Ministry of Every Member
• Ordered and Inspiring Worship
IX. Our Mission Statement

To bring people to Jesus Christ and membership in his church family, develop them to Christlike maturity, equip them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world, in order to magnify God’s name.
X. Our Driving Force

To bring people to maturity in Christ
XI. Our Motto

The Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church is a church where you can find... 

**Answers for Life!**
XII. Our Ministry Target

◆ Five Circles Of Commitment

1. The Community: *Unchurched*
2. The Crowd: *Regular Attenders*
3. The Congregation: *Members*
4. The Committed: *Maturing Members*
5. The Core: *Core Ministers*
XII. Our Ministry Target
XIII. Our Strategy

- The Life Development Process
  - Knowing Christ
  - Growing In Christ
  - Serving Christ
  - Sharing Christ
  - Worshipping Christ
XIII. Our Strategy

◆ The Life Development Process

- Knowing Christ: Membership
- Growing In Christ: Maturity
- Serving Christ: Ministry
- Sharing Christ: Missions
- Worshipping Christ: Magnification
XIII. Our Strategy

Committed To:

Maturity

Magnify

Ministry

Missions

1

2

3

4

5

SERVING CHRIST

GROWING IN CHRIST

KNOWING CHRIST

SHARING CHRIST

400 Level Classes

300 Level Classes

100 Level Classes

200 Level Classes

Class 101
XIII. Our Strategy

The Four TBPC Commitments:

1. The *Membership* Commitment. . . is a commitment to CHRIST and THE CHURCH FAMILY.

“You are members of God’s very own family. . . and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” Eph. 2:19 (LB)
The Four TBPC Commitments:

2. The *Maturity* Commitment. . .

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
The Four TBPC Commitments:

3. The *Ministry* Commitment. . .

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 (LB)
The Four TBPC Commitments:

4. The *Missions* Commitment. . .
is a commitment to **DISCOVERING** my life mission and to **SHARING** the Good News with others.

“. . . you will be my witnesses. . . to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8
XIII. Our Strategy

Why do we have these commitments?

Because...

We become what we are COMMITTED TO
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

A. Our **Attitude** Regarding Our Beliefs

1. We believe in majoring on the **majors** and minoring on the **minors**

2. We believe that in the essentials there must be **unity** and in the non-essentials there must be **liberty**

3. In order to join the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, one must adhere to the **essentials** of the Christian faith
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

A. Our Doctrinal Beliefs

It is important to note that our theological commitments are summarized in the **Westminster Standards**.

Three documents comprise the Westminster Standards:

1. The Westminster *Confession of Faith*
2. The Westminster *Shorter Catechism*
3. The Westminster *Larger Catechism*
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

1. We believe in the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture

- 2 Timothy 3:16
- 2 Peter 1:20-21
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

2. We believe in the **majesty** and **sovereignty** of God

- Ephesians 1:11
- Ephesians 3:11
- Acts 4:24-27
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

3. We believe God created the universe of nothing
   - Genesis 1:1
   - Hebrews 11:3
   - Isaiah 44:24
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

4. We believe that man was created by God

- Genesis 1:26
- Colossians 3:17
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

5. We believe in the fall of man

- Romans 3:9
- Romans 8:7-8
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

6. We believe in God’s gracious plan of salvation
   Christ in this covenant is a mediator
   1. A prophet
   2. A priest
   3. A King
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

7. We believe God applies the salvation earned by Christ to us through the Holy Spirit.

This takes place through a five stage process.

- Romans 8:28-30
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

The five stage process includes:

1. **Calling**
   - 2 Timothy 1:9

2. **Justification**
   - Romans 3:23-24
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

3. Adoption
   - Romans 8:14-17
   - Ephesians 1:5

4. Sanctification
   - Romans 6:11
   - Ephesians 2:10
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

5. Glorification

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
8. We believe in a doctrine of salvation that emphasizes both the responsibility of man and the sovereignty of God

- Romans 3:10-18
- Ephesians 2:1-10
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

9. We believe in **covenant** theology
   - Galatians 6:11-16

10. We believe in the doctrine of **covenant** baptism
    - Acts 16:31
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

11. We believe in a final judgment by God
   - 1 Corinthians 15:24-28
   - Revelation 20:11-15

12. We believe in the priority of the Church
   - Ephesians 2:19-22
13. We believe the *Presbyterian* form of government is the Biblical form of church government.

There are three types of church government:

1. Episcopalian
2. Congregational
3. Presbyterian
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

The Biblical basis for a Presbyterian form of church government is:

1. The **office-bearers** were chosen by the people
2. The office of **bishop** and **elder** were identical
3. There was a **plurality** of elders in each church
4. There was the privilege of **appeal**
5. The only **head** of the church is the Lord Jesus Christ
XIV. Our Doctrinal Distinctives

The Presbyterian Churches are governed by graded courts. These courts are:

1. Session
2. Presbytery
3. General Assembly
Finally, our Church officers are:

1. **Elders**: Teaching and Ruling
2. **Deacons**
XV. Our Membership Vows

Two requirements for membership:

1. A credible profession of faith
2. A willingness to submit to the five membership vows
   - Numbers 30:2
Our Membership Vows

Membership Vow #1: My Predicament

Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving his displeasure, and without hope, except through his sovereign mercy?

◆ You must acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God.
a. The Bible is clear that everyone is a sinner (Romans 3:23). However, you must believe that you are a sinner.
b. But, what is sin?
c. The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 14: “Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.”
d. Sin is not measuring up to the law of God or breaking the law of God.
e. Our problem with respect to sin is that we have a bad record, which is the result of a bad heart.
2. The consequence of sin is separation from God.
   
a. The immediate result of sin is broken fellowship with God.

b. The ultimate result is eternal separation from God.

c. Our predicament is that we are sinners separated from God and under the penalty of death because of our sin.
3. A sinner justly deserves the displeasure of God.
   a. God is holy and cannot look on sin (Isaiah 6:3; Habakkuk 1:13).
   b. God hates sin because he is holy.
   c. God must punish sin because he is also just (Romans 3:23).
XV. Our Membership Vows

4. A sinner is without hope except through God’s sovereign mercy.
   a. God has made a provision to deal with sin in the person of Jesus Christ.
   b. God in his sovereign mercy has declared that we must respond to Jesus Christ: “acknowledge.”
2. Membership Vow #2: My Profession

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and trust him alone for salvation as he is offered in the Gospel?
XV. Our Membership Vows

1. Jesus is the **Son** of God.
   a. The first issue deals with **who** Jesus is.
   b. Jesus is **God**, the **Son**.
   c. Jesus is the **second** person of the Trinity.
XV. Our Membership Vows

2. Jesus is the Savior of sinners.
   a. The second issue deals with what Jesus did.
   c. From God’s perspective, Jesus provided redemption, reconciliation, substitution, and satisfaction.
   d. From our perspective, Jesus provided cleansing and forgiveness.
XV. Our Membership Vows

3. Salvation is received by receiving and trusting in Jesus alone for salvation as he is offered in the Gospel.
   a. We must receive the living Lord Jesus into our lives.
   b. We must transfer our trust from ourselves to Jesus alone for the gift of salvation.
3. Membership Vow #3: My Promise

Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
XV. Our Membership Vows

1. You must believe that Jesus gave his life for you.
2. You must give your life to Jesus by trusting what he has done for you.
3. You must give your life to Jesus by promising to live a life free from scandalous sin. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
4. Membership Vow #4: My Participation

Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
XV. Our Membership Vows

1. A promise to support the Church is another way of saying that all Christians are called to a life of *servanthood* and *service*.

2. This vow is a promise to support the Church. What is the *Church*?

3. This vow is a promise to support the Church in its *worship*. What is meant by “*worship*”? 
4. This vow is a promise to support the Church in its work. What is meant by “work”?

5. The following are some of the commitments which support the church’s worship and work:
   a. Faithful attendance.
   b. Discovery and use of spiritual gifts.
c. Regular *prayer* on behalf of TBPC’s health and growth.

d. *Sharing* with unbelievers.

e. *Inviting* the unchurched to attend church with you.

f. Warmly *welcoming* those who attend.

g. Regular *financial* giving.
5. **Membership Vow #5: My Position**

*Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to strive for its purity and peace?*
1. You must first be willing to **submit** yourself to Christ.
2. You must be willing to submit to his **authority** in his church.
3. You must be willing to further the **purity** of the church.
4. You must be willing to further the **peace** of the church.
Congratulations! You have now completed Class 101 for Membership.
What’s next?

First, if you would like to become a member of the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, please fill out the Membership Application form.
Once you have completed the Membership Application form, please sign it and give it to me. I will then help you complete the membership application process. This includes the following:
Conclusion

1. I will meet with you and prepare you for your membership interview with the Session.
2. You will meet with the Session and be interviewed for membership.
3. If you are currently a member at another church, please let me know (on your Membership Application form) so that I can request a transfer of membership.
4. Once the Session receives you as a member of the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church I will schedule a Sunday worship service to introduce you to the congregation.

5. Also, once the Session receives you as a member, you will be assigned to a Shepherding Group.
And second, I would like to encourage you to attend Class 201 for Maturity
Thanks for coming to Class 101 for Membership!