

## **PART ONE:**

### **OUR PURPOSE**

*“I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”*

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NLT)

## OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT: WHY WE EXIST AS A CHURCH

The purpose statement of The Courageous Church is derived from the final words of Jesus to His followers. These words are known as the Great Commission.

“The Courageous Church exists to reach people with the life-giving message of Jesus that they might become fully devoted followers of Christ.”

### THE GREAT COMMISSION:

*Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!*

*Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Matthew 28:16-20 (NLT)

*“So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. That’s why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ’s mighty power that works within me.”*

Colossians 1:28-29 (NLT)

1. “So we tell others” is Evangelism.
2. “Warning (Admonishing)” is Pastoral Care.
3. “Teaching everyone” is Discipleship.
4. “Present them to God, perfect” is Ministry.

### I. WE PROCLAIM – Weekend Services.

*“God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom...”*

Ephesians 3:10

## WEEKEND SERVICES

### A. Celebration

*“I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord.”*

Psalm 122:1

*“...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.”*

John 4:23-24

**B. Inspiration**

*“But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don’t understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin and judged by what you say. As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, “God is truly here among you.”*

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

**C. Preparation**

*“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup> Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.”*

Ephesians 4:11-12

**D. Salvation**

*“Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?”*

Romans 10:13-14

**HOW TO WIN PEOPLE TO CHRIST:**

1. Accept the personal Responsibility.
2. Build a personal Relationship.
3. Share your personal Story.
4. Give a personal Invitation.

**POINTS OF PASSION**

*“...And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Acts 1:8

**1. Jerusalem – My City.**

*“Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress...”*

James 1:27

**2. Judea and Samaria – My Nation.**

*“When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.”*

1 Corinthians 9:22

### 3. The ends of the earth – My World.

Jesus said to His followers, "Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone."

Mark 16:15

## WHAT CAN I DO?

### 1. Pray.

"He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

Matthew 9:37-38

### 2. Go.

"Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us? ... And he said, "Yes, go, and say to this people..."

Isaiah 6:8-9

### 3. Give.

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."

Matthew 6:19-21

## II. ADMONISHING – Small Groups.

Getting connected at The Courageous Church means participating in a small group. Some people enjoy a large church because of its focus on others while others want a small, intimate church.

We believe that our church must become larger and smaller at the same time.

*"I never shrank back from telling you what you needed to hear, either publicly or in your homes. "*

Acts 20:20

## SMALL GROUPS PROVIDE THREE THINGS:

### 1. A place to connect.

*"... Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some."*

1 Corinthians 9:22

**2. A place to protect.**

*“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.”*

1 John 3:16 NLT

**3. A place to grow.**

*“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”*

Proverbs 27:17

## **HOW SMALL GROUPS WORK**

### **1. Free market groups**

Our groups are varied as we are; group leaders use their gifts and passions to create a group that allows others to join with them in serving God. Whatever the age, interest, or location there is a group that is just right for you.

### **2. Three semesters**

New groups start and stop three times a year—spring, summer and fall semesters. Each semester is kicked off with an online registration and a new small group directory.

### **3. Becoming a leader**

We believe that everyone has areas of strength and gifting that could benefit others. The first step in becoming a small group leader is to attend the Small Group Leader Orientation. These classes are offered throughout the year to give you an overview of what it takes to start a group. You’ll discover that it’s easier than you think.

## **III. TEACHING EVERYONE – Growth Track.**

The Courageous U Growth Track offers the information and experiences necessary to develop you into a fully devoted follower of Christ. From the initial decision to accept Jesus as your Lord to your final destination in ministry, the Growth Track will lead you through a step-by-step process of healing, growth, and leadership.

*“So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding”*

Hebrews 6:1

## THE COURAGEOUS U GROWTH TRACK

### 1. Church 101.

This class is a basic introduction to the ministry of The Courageous Church and will help you understand church membership. Church 101 is held once a month on the first Sunday.

### 2. Essentials 201.

This class develops the essential habits that every believer needs to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. Essentials 201 is held once a month on the second Sunday.

### 3. Discovery 301.

This class will help you discover your personality, gifts, and purpose in life, and see how God combines them for the best fit in ministry. Discovery is held once a month on the third Sunday.

### 4. Dream Team 401.

Attend an orientation or training session in the ministry area of your choice to learn more or to join the Dream Team. Dream Team 401 is held once a month on the fourth Sunday.

God's ultimate goal for our life is to make an eternal difference in the life of another person. The Growth Track is complete when you join or start a ministry team.

## IV. PRESENT EVERYONE FULLY MATURE – Dream Team.

*“But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.”*

Matthew 5:48

All of us were created by God to make a difference in the life of another person. God has a place for you where your unique abilities and passions can touch the lives of others. We believe that your life will never make sense until you find, develop, and fulfill that purpose.

*“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”*

Ephesians 2:10

*“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.”*

Acts 20:24

*“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service (ministry), but we serve the same Lord...All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.”*

1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27

## **AT THE COURAGEOUS CHURCH...**

...every member is a   *minister*  .

...every task is   *important*  .

...every member is a “10” in   *some area*  .

## **JOINING THE DREAM TEAM – DREAM TEAM 401**

### **1. Training**

Attend an orientation or training session in the ministry area of your choice to learn more about how to be involved.

### **2. Application**

Complete and submit the Dream Team application to a ministry leader or the church office.

### **3. One-on-one**

Schedule a meeting with a ministry team leader to share your ideas and complete your training.



## **PART TWO:**

### **OUR BELIEFS**

*“Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you.”*

1 Timothy 4:16

## OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH: WHAT WE BELIEVE

### 1. 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

### 2. In non-essential beliefs, we have liberty.

*“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment 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

### 3. 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)

## I. FIVE ESSENTIAL TRUTHS

### 1. The Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God.

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.”*

2 Timothy 3:16 NLT

*“We also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men, but actually as it is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe.”*

1 Thessalonians 2:13

God’s Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority and we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is, “What does the Bible say?” We practice daily Bible reading and Bible study. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

### 2. There is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). He is the creator of heaven and earth, and all living things. He has revealed Himself to humanity as the Father (creator), as the Son (Savior), and as the Holy Ghost (Indwelling Spirit)

*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

John 14:6

*“For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’ There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them.”*

Acts 4:11-12 NLT

Jesus Christ, second Person of the Trinity, lived a sinless life on earth and voluntarily paid for our sin by dying on the cross as our substitute. This accomplished salvation for all who receive grace by trusting in Him alone. He rose from the dead and is the only mediator between God and us. He baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit and will return to earth to consummate history.

**3. You must be born again.**

*“When anyone becomes a Christian he becomes a new person inside. The old passes away, a new life has begun.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17 LB

*Jesus: “If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life.”*

Matthew 16:25 NLT

God created humans to have fellowship with Him, but they defied God by sinfully going their own way. As a result, we need God’s saving grace to end our alienation from Him. Salvation comes only through God’s grace - not human effort - and must be received personally by repentance and faith. At the end, everyone will experience bodily resurrection and the judgment. Only believers will enjoy eternal fellowship with God.

**4. We believe in water baptism by immersion.**

*“Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? <sup>4</sup> For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives”*

Romans 6 :3 -4

Through baptism we identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**5. We believe in the great commission ,**

*“You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind... Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Matthew 22:37-39

We endeavor to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with love, mercy and compassion.

**Our full Statement Of Faith is available upon request.**



## **PART THREE:**

### **OUR STRUCTURE**

*“For God is not a God of disorder but of peace...*

*But be sure that everything is done properly and in order.”*

1 Corinthians 14:33 & 40

## THE COURAGEOUS CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Believers who invest their hearts, time, families and finances in the building of a local church deserve to have confidence in church leadership. People are looking for leaders who conduct themselves with integrity and respect when making decisions that affect their lives.

### **1. GUIDED BY Elders**

The Elders refer to the pastoral team led by the Lead Pastor. This team oversees the day to day ministry and operations of the church. These pastors serve the congregation and are responsible for the development of the spiritual life of the church.

All elders are responsible to model a Godly lifestyle, provide a prayer shield for the members, defend and protect the integrity of the church, pray for the sick, mediate disputes, counsel, and represent the church to the community.

### **2. PROTECTED BY The Official Board of Trustees**

The Trustees are five members of the congregation, appointed primarily by the congregation to oversee the finances and direct the provision of the physical facilities needed by the church. They provide counsel to the Lead Pastor regarding the major financial commitments of the church and additional support regarding church and denominational by-laws and constitutional compliance.

#### **The Courageous Church Board:**

Broderick Santiago

Michael Braswell

Monique Boyce

Renee Ross

Samuel DeLeon

### **3. STRENGTHENED BY Overseers**

The Overseers are three pastors of respected congregations and ministries and two organizations who love and support The Courageous Church and its pastor and are willing to provide spiritual protection to the church. They may be called in to help in accountability matters relating to the Lead Pastor if requested to do so by the Elders or The Official Board.

#### **THE COURAGEOUS CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL OVERSEERS:**

The Evangelical Covenant Church, Dr. Robert Owens (Regional Superintendent)  
ARC (The Association of Related Churches), Michael Smith (President)

### **4. CHURCH FINANCES**

*“A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.”*

Leviticus 27:30

At The Courageous Church we practice tithing for the support of Christ’s Body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving.

Many people love to give to God, but need to have confidence in the methods and purposes used by organizations to which they give. Therefore there are a great number of people willing to give if they are able to see honesty, integrity, and genuine spiritual values reflected in the lifestyles of their church leaders.

The giving of tithes and offerings is worship to Jesus Christ and is an expression of the relationship between the individual giver and the Lord. That is why we don’t have people fill out pledge cards or make faith promises. Funds are not “income only,” they are worship, and must not be considered as a business transaction, but as an expression of gratitude toward God.



## **PART FOUR:**

### **OUR HOPE FOR YOU**

*“...we hope that your faith will grow so that the boundaries of our work among you will be extended.”*

2 Corinthians 10:15 NLT

## OUR HOPE FOR YOU

### I. THE NEXT STEPS

1. Become a member of The Courageous Church.
2. Join a Small Group.
3. Begin the Growth Track.
4. Serve on the Dream Team.

### II. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word:  
**COMMITMENT**.

An Attender is a **consumer**.

A Member is a **contributor**.

**At The Courageous Church we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for 4 reasons:**

**1. A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church.**

*“...Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for her.”*

Ephesians 5:25

**2. A Cultural Reason: It is an antidote to our society.**

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers”. Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

**3. A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted on.**

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

**4. A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth.**

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you’re not committed to any specific church family.

### III. THE COURAGEOUS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and being in agreement with the values and ideas presented in the Church 101 class, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with The Courageous Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

#### 1. I will protect the unity of my church...

...By acting in love toward other members

...By refusing to gossip

...By following the leaders

*“So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.”*

Romans 14:19

*“May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.”*

Romans 15:5

*“You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.”*

1 Peter 1:22

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

Ephesians 4:29

*“Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow.”*

Hebrews 13:17

#### 2. I will share the responsibility of my 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.”*

1 Thessalonians 1:2

*“Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.”*

Luke 14:23

*“So warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.”*

Romans 15:7 (LB)

### **3. I will serve the ministry of my church...**

...By discovering my gifts and talents

...By being equipped to serve by my pastors

...By developing a servant’s heart

*“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”*

1 Peter 4:10

*“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.”*

Ephesians 4:11-12

*“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”*

Philippians 2:3-4, 7

### **4. I will support the testimony of my church...**

...By attending church and small groups faithfully

...By living a godly life

...By giving regularly

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*

Acts 2:42

*“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.”*

1 Corinthians 16:2

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