



The Connect Church

CONNECT 1.0

(Student's Outline)

Introduction to
The Connect Church
Family

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CONTENT

1. Introduction	3
2. Understanding Who We Are	4
3. Our Leadership Structure	6
4. Church Finances	7
5. What We Believe	8
6. Church Membership	10
7. Appendix (How To Get Saved)	12

INTRODUCTION

“Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God...” Psalm 92:13 (NKJV).

Welcome to Connect 1.0, an introduction to our church family. This Step is designed to acquaint you with the details of who we are, what we believe, how we do ministry, how we are governed and how we are organized. In the end, it should help you answer the question, “Is this church for me?” This Step takes place on the first Sunday of each month.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

In the summer of 2015, Pastor Manne took a huge step of faith and left his position as lead pastor of a church in Baltimore, MD, which he had also been instrumental in helping start. He moved his family to Pearland, TX, driven by the vision of a new church that would invite people from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities into relationship with Christ and into fellowship with one another. This would be the fourth church plant that he would pioneer.

Almost immediately after their arrival in Pearland, he began building a team to launch the new church he envisioned. At the time, he was a single father of three young children. Before long, he discerned that it was not yet the right time for him to embark on launching the church. So, Pastor Manne made the difficult but wise decision to wait with launching the new church. Instead, he started building relationships in the community, with a desire to understand the people and the needs in the area.

Pearland is one of the most diverse and fastest growing areas in the state and has equally growing and diverse needs. Manne and his family quickly realized that as people migrate to the area, some lose their close connections and the support systems they had. Therefore, they need new connections and a sense of community in their new place of settlement. Subsequently, the Favours began hosting monthly social gatherings in their home to help people in the community make new connections. These gatherings were casual get-togethers, usually with food, games and lots of laughter. This became their way of expressing radical hospitality, by opening their home to people in the community to make them feel welcome.

The desire for deeper, God-centered and mission-driven community was born out of those social gatherings. And a small group of friends began to pray together and the vision of The Connect Church began to crystalize. They began building a launch team and eventually on September 26, 2021, The Connect Church was launched. There were a total of 151 people in attendance at that first celebration. Two people made a decision to follow Jesus and three recommitted their lives. It was an awesome start.

UNDERSTANDING WHO WE ARE

The Connect Church is a unique body of believers. To fully understand who we are, you will need to consider the following:

Our Mission

Connecting people to Christ, to each other, and to purpose.

Our Strategy

How we go about achieving our mission.

1. Connecting people to Christ means helping people know, love and follow Jesus.

*“Come, **follow me**,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”* Matthew 4:19 (NLT).

- We achieve this through our _____.
- Our weekend services are designed primarily to reach the unsaved, unchurched and unconnected, with the message of Christ love and forgiveness.

2. Connecting people to each other means helping people become part of God’s family.

“Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!)” Ephesians 1:5 (MSG).

- We achieve this through our _____.

3. Connecting people to purpose means helping people discover their unique SHAPE.

“God has given gifts to each of you from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT).

- We achieve this through our _____.

4. Connecting people to purpose means helping people fulfill their purpose.

“I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called...” Ephesians 1:18 (NLT).

- We achieve this through our _____.



**HOPE
COMMUNITY
PURPOSE**

Our Core Values:

1. **People** - People matter to God; therefore, people matter to us.
2. **Generosity** – It is more blessed to give than receive.
3. **Community** – we are better together.
4. **Devotion** – we are following Jesus, not just playing church.
5. **Outreach** – We have a heart for our community.
6. **Diversity** – Because it reflects God’s beauty.
7. **Excellence** – God deserves our very best.

Our Mindset Statements:

1. There is always room for one more.
2. It’s not the role, it’s the goal.
3. We have guests, not visitors.
4. We are the church.
5. Ministry is about making impact, not about having a title.
6. Every member is a minister.

OUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP

As you consider investing your heart, time, finances into The Connect Church, it is important for you to feel confident in our church leadership. Our goal in sharing the details of our government is so you can better understand that our church is structured to support the values of integrity, accountability, and spiritual authority. Our church government is as follows.

Pastors

The pastoral staff team is led by the Lead Pastor, Manne Favor. They oversee the day-to-day ministry and operations of our church and are responsible for the spiritual life and formation of our church. Pastor Manne does not receive any financial compensation from The Connect Church.

Elders

Elders are volunteer pastors/shepherds who support and help the pastoral staff. They are the primary protectors and encouragers of a positive spiritual climate within the church body. They serve in a spiritual capacity to create and maintain stability in potentially negative situations.

Trustees

Trustees are members of the congregation appointed by the Lead Pastor to oversee the finances and provide counsel to the pastoral team regarding major financial commitments of the church. For the first three years of The Connect Church, the Overseers will double as Trustees.

Overseers

We currently have three respected senior pastors of other congregations who serve as the Overseers. They provide spiritual covering for and oversight of the Lead Pastor. They may be called upon to help in accountability matters relating to the Lead Pastor, if requested to do so by the Pastoral Staff or Elders.

CHURCH FINANCES

At The Connect Church, we teach and practice giving as an act of worship. Giving is a central theme in the Bible. Jesus regularly taught on giving. And giving is an important practice of the Christian faith. Why? Because we more like God when we give. As Christ followers, we are called to a lifestyle of generosity.

Financial Disbursement

We give 10% of our church's income toward other local and international missions. And our financial budget and disbursement is guided by on the following principles:

- Missions: Ten percent (10%) of all funds received goes to serve local and international missions.
- Operations: Twenty percent (20%) is invested into the ministry/operations of our church.
- Facilities/Building: Thirty-five percent (35%) is invested in facilities.
- Staff: Thirty five percent (35%) is invested in personnel/salaries.
- The annual budget is based on ninety percent of the previous year's revenue. This allows the church to operate with margin.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Holy Bible: The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26).

Trinity: There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal (1John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7-11).

Jesus Christ: Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the cross for mankind and thus, atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory (John 1:1,14, 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; 1Timothy 2:5).

Virgin Birth: Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in the virgin Mary's womb; therefore, He is the Son of God (Matthew 1:18, 25; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 23-25; Luke 1:27-35).

Salvation: We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ through His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human efforts (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22).

Repentance: Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation (Acts 2:21, 3:19; 1 John 1:9).

Sanctification: Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, Romans 8:29, 12:1-2, Hebrews 2:11).

The Holy Spirit: Christians are people who have invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come and live inside them by His Holy Spirit. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to him thus making Jesus the Lord of their life as well as Savior. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried, and rose again from the dead (John 1:12; John 14:17, 23; John 15:4; Romans 8:11; Revelations 3:20).

The Gifts of The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to lead the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel. The Bible lists of these gifts are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters (Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12 :4-8; Ephesians 4:16; 2 Timothy 1:5-16, 4:14; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; 1 Peter 4:10).

Marriage And Family: We believe that God established marriage as a lifelong exclusive relationship between a man and a woman for the purpose of loving companionship, mutual sexual pleasure and procreation (Genesis 2:18 – 24). The family is the first and most important classroom and training ground for society. The family provides the security, the heritage, and the perpetuation of morality without which no society can survive (Genesis 4:1-2; Ephesians 6:1-4).

Gender And Sexuality: We believe that God created the human race, male and female; and that all conduct with the intent to change or adopt a gender other than one's birth gender goes against God's original plan and design (Genesis 1:27). In addition, we believe that all intimate sexual activities outside of marriage, whether heterosexual, homosexual or otherwise are not in accordance with God's original intent as revealed in the scriptures (I Timothy 1:10; 1 Corinthians. 6:9).

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Membership in a local church is a Biblical concept. At The Connect Church membership is not about adding your name to a roster. Rather, it is about adopting the mission, vision, and values of our church. When you become a member of The Connect Church, you agree to:

1. _____ the unity of the church.

You will refrain from every and anything that can lead to division and fracture in the church. You are to:

- Act in love toward other members.
- Do not gossip.
- Follow the leaders, as they follow Christ.

“So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.” Romans 14:19 NLT

“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

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.” Hebrews 13:17

2. _____ for the church.

You will consistently:

- Pray for the health and growth of our church.

“To the church...we always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.” 1 Thessalonians 1:1–2 NIV.

“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that the house will be full.” Luke 14:23 TLB.

“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” Romans 15:7 TLB.

3. _____ people to church.

You agree to:

- Invite and bring people in your orbit to attend.
- And warmly welcome those who visit.

⁴⁵ *Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, “We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.”* John 1:44 NLT

4. _____ in the church.

Be intentional about:

- Attending service and participating in small groups regularly.
- Use your God-given gifts to make a difference in the lives of others.
- Be willing to serve others, as you have been served.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10 NIV.

“So Christ Himself gave...pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” Ephesians 4:11–12 NIV.

“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...taking the form of a bondservant...” Philippians 2:4–5, 7 NKJV.

5. _____ support the church.

- Giving regularly.

We believe in giving God our best, since God first gave us His one and only Son. Giving cheerfully and generously to God, through our local church, is a primary way of acknowledging that God is first in our lives. Giving is an act of worship and an expression of gratitude to God.

“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT).

Congratulations! You have successfully completed the Connect 1.0 Class.

NEXT STEPS

- 1. Join a Small Group.** Browse our online Small Groups directory at www.theconnectchurch.tv/connectgroups.
- 2. Take The Next Connect Steps. 2.0.**
- 3. Serve on our Dream Team.** You decided how often you want to serve; once a month, or as often as you are able to.

APPENDIX

How To Be Saved

- 1. Acknowledge the fact that you have a sinful nature that separates you from God.**

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23 NIV.

- 2. Accept the truth that you cannot change this nature by your effort, no matter how many good things you do.**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9 NASB.

- 3. Put your trust in Jesus Christ, who took upon Himself the punishment of your wrongs, so you could be freely forgiven by God.**

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 NLT.

- 4. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Savior.**

“if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” Romans 10:9-10 NASB.