



Cross Church FAQ's
August 26, 2018

- I. **Question:** Why Does Cross Church exist?
- A. Cross Church exists to help people glorify God by enjoying him (now and forever) with an ever-increasing capacity.
 - B. By enjoying God, we ***do not*** mean enjoying his gifts—for valuing gifts above the giver is idolatry.
 - C. Instead, by enjoying God, we mean:
 1. enjoying God himself—the giver of all good things.
 2. valuing him
 3. knowing him
 4. treasuring him
 5. experiencing him
 6. loving
 7. cherishing him with capacity that increases forever and ever.
 8. The Biblical term “worship” involves all these ideas.
- II. **Question:** Is Cross Church a denominational church?
- A. No.
 1. Cross Church is an autonomous, independent, self-governing church.
 2. We ***do not*** identify as Catholic, Protestant, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Pentecostal, or any other denomination.
 3. We are ***not*** a non-denominational church ***nor*** an interdenominational church.
 4. Nevertheless, we do partner with many like-minded churches, associations, and conventions to reach Greater Portland and the world with the message and person of Jesus Christ. For instance, we affiliate with The North American Mission Board (NAMB) and The International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) by associating with and contributing to the Baptist Convention of New England (BCNE) and the Maine Baptist Association.
- III. What kind of Church is Cross Church?
- A. We are a Cross Church.
 1. That means we are a God-centered, Gospel-driven, Holy Spirit-empowered, church focused on the message and person of Jesus Christ as revealed through God’s Word, the Bible.
 2. We exist for the purpose of learning to glorify God by enjoying him with an ever-increasing capacity.

3. Cross Church is committed to enjoying God through fulfilling the Great Commandment (Mathew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

B. **Matthew 22:36-40** *“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus replied: ” ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

1. “Enjoying” is a better translation than “loving” God and “loving” others.
2. Since this is the greatest commandment, the vilest and most abhorrent sin is a failure to uphold this commandment.
3. Since, Jesus defined “neighbor” to include even those we despise, all of us have committed the vilest transgression.

C. **Matthew 28:19-20** *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*

IV. **Question:** How old is Cross Church?

- A. In 2012, Aaron and Kathy Werner felt God leading them to start a new church in Southern Maine.
- B. They moved to Maine in May of 2013 and incorporated in Cross Church the State of Maine on June 4, 2013.
- C. Cross Church held its first public service on January 12, 2014 with 208 in attendance. The next Sunday, as predicted, 104 returned.
- D. Cross Church averaged 112 in weekly attendance during its first year as a church and has grown steadily since then.

V. **Question:** If Cross Church exists “to help people glorify God by enjoying him,” how do you attempt to accomplish this mission?

A. We intend accomplish our mission of helping people to enjoy God by establishing (planting) a God-centered congregation (Church) committed to 1) God-centered culturally relevant music, 2) encouraging and engaging expositional preaching & teaching, 3) authentic fellowship, 4) Christ-centered discipleship, 5) Biblical leadership, and 6) passionate outreach resulting in fruit-bearing disciples of Jesus committed to his plan (The Master’s plan) for evangelism *and* planting new churches.

1. The next ten questions expand and explain these six ideas.

VI. **Question:** What do you mean by “God-centered culturally relevant music” and what is your vision for a worship-music ministry?

A. Cross Church envisions music that is 1) God-centered, 2) Gospel-driven, 3) Holy Spirit empowered, 4) cross-generationally, sensitive while young-adult connected, 5) seeker-sensitive, but disciple-driven, 6) more engaging than entertaining, and 7) more participatory than performance. An ideal worship experience will engage our minds, stir souls, and strengthen our hearts so that we can glorify God by enjoying him more completely.

- B. The result of this kind of worship music experience will, ideally, leave the congregation thinking *and* feeling “**God is awesome**” rather than, “What an awesome worship team we have.”
- C. Since human beings express emotions in a variety of ways, Cross Church encourages participants to engage in worship in whatever way helps them enjoy God most fully.
- D. For some, that may involve standing up and raising their hands.
- E. For others, that may entail sitting down, or kneeling with a bowed head.
 - 1. God does not care about the position of our body during worship.
 - 2. He is much more concerned with the position of our heart.
 - 3. However, certain body positions may make it easier for you to get you heart in the right place.
 - 4. Since those positions will vary from person to person, and may vary with the same person from week to week, please feel free at Cross Church to worship and enjoy God in whatever way his Holy Spirit leads you.
 - 5. However, since we are a congregation of worshippers, our individual preferences must be sensitive to this truth. Therefore, our expressions ought not to distract others from worshipping God.

VII. **Question:** What do you mean by “encouraging and engaging expositional messages?”

- A. Cross Church values expositional or expository preaching.
- B. This type of preaching involves teaching through the Bible chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse with the goal of exposing, revealing, and applying the Bible’s life-changing truths.
- C. Cross Church believes in teaching God’s Word in a way that is encouraging, engaging, thoughtful and inspiring in a way that engages the congregation (opposed to putting them to sleep) so that congregants leave encouraged and loved rather than depressed and defeated.
- D. The ideal sermon will NOT cause people to think “What an awesome pastor.” On the contrary, if the preacher has been successful, congregants will leave thinking “God is absolutely awesome” and will have an increased capacity to enjoy him and all that he has made.
- E. Cross Church’s sermons are a part of a four-phase system teaching the church members 1) What they believe, 2) Why they believe it, 3) How to communicate their beliefs, and 4) How to live a Jesus-centered life.

VIII. **Question:** How do you engender authentic fellowship?

- A. The Bible says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17).
- B. In this illustration, we are the pieces of iron, and God is the blacksmith.



- 1.
- C. He uses us to encourage and strengthen each other.

- D. Some of us are mallets and anvils, others are the swords being formed.
E. Once formed, swords are sharpened with an iron...like this file...



1.
 - F. And if that is not possible, another sword will work...
 - G. For this reason, Cross Church offers frequent opportunities that provide an opportunity for authentic, iron, sharpening fellowship.
 - H. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, recreation such as small groups, meals, sledding, surfing, hiking, camping, beaching, pick-nicks, mom's play-dates, and the like.
 - I. They also include various special events such as Christmas parties, hayrides, bonfires, winterfest, summerfest, and other celebrations.
 - J. Cross Church encourages all members to create their own fellowship opportunities.
- IX. **Question:** What do you do to facilitate passionate community outreach?
 - A. Cross church engages the community in an number of ways including, but not limited to weekly sand castle competitions (summer), serving snow cones and popcorn at community events, providing free child-care to participants of races around back-cove on Sunday morning, providing fee funeral services to the entire community, fall festivals, and seasonal community fellowships.
- X. **Question:** What is biblical leadership?
 - A. In short, there are three primary ways to run a church.
 1. Method #1: CEO or Moses Model
 - One person hears from God and makes all the decisions.
 - Although this model is extremely efficient, it is easily abused.
 2. Method #2: Congregational Method
 - The entire church to make every decision.
 - While this method provides excellent accountability, it is not very efficient.
 3. Method #3: Elected Leaders Method.
 - According to this approach, the church members elect several honorable men and women to make the majority of decisions.
 - These elected persons are accountable to the members.
 - With significant decisions (such as electing and removing leaders) the group of elected leaders presents the entire membership with their recommendations, and the church will decide as a congregation.
 - B. Cross Church's Model:

1. While Cross Church operated with start-up funding from its external partners, the church will be led by founder and lead planter—Aaron Werner
 2. However, once the church becomes financially independent and once membership is implemented, then the lead planter, Aaron Werner will become the church's senior elder (senior pastor). The senior pastor affirms elders, deacons, and deaconesses after they are nominated by individuals but before they are elected by voting members.
- C. Cross Church uses the term elder synonymously with “pastor.”
1. Most hired staff members that assist the pastor in his role are not elders but ‘assistants to the elder’ and serve under the senior pastor.
 2. Elders are the theological authorities in charge of the church's “Ministry of the Word and prayer” as described in Acts 6:1-4.
- D. Cross Church elders must be men that meet the following biblical qualifications.
1. **Titus 1:6-9** *An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless — not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.*
 2. **1 Timothy 3:2-7** *Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*
- E. Cross Church Deacons and Deaconesses handle the physical and material needs of the church building and her members. A select group of deacons and deaconesses will serve as the “personnel and finance board.” These men and women serve as trustees and handle the church's finances, staffing, and long-range planning.
- F. Here are the biblical qualifications for deacons and deaconesses:
1. **1 Timothy 3:8-13** *Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.*

Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

2. Although verse 11 reads “wives” the original Greek and literal translations read “women.”
3. Also, the word “their” is not “there” in the original.
4. Here is a word-for-word transliteration of 1 Timothy 3:11

11	must their <u>9999</u>	Γυναῖκας wives <u>1135</u> Gunaikas	ὡσαύτως Even so <u>5615</u> hoosaútoos	be <u>9999</u>	σεμνάς, grave, <u>4586</u> semnás	μὴ not <u>3361</u> meé	διαβόλους, slanderers, <u>1228</u> diabólous
	νηφαλίους, sober, <u>3524</u> neefalíous	πιστὰς faithful <u>4103</u> pistás	ἐν in <u>1722</u> en	πᾶσιν. all things. <u>3956</u> pásin			

- Γυναῖκας [Gunaikas] = women
 - ὡσαύτως [hoosaútoos] = “likewise” or “in a similar way”
 - σεμνάς [semnás] = honorable
 - μὴ [meé] = not
 - διαβόλους [diabólous] = slanderous or devilish
 - νηφαλίους [neefalíous] = sober (or not given to drunkenness)
 - πιστὰς [pistás] = faithful or trustworthy
 - ἐν [en] = in
 - πᾶσιν [pásin] = all.
5. Also, since the Bible does not provide qualifications for the wives of elders, the more restrictive position, but describes the qualifications for female deacons, it follows that a deaconess is not merely the wife of a deacon.
 6. Although a deaconess could be the wife of a deacon, we don’t not believe that deaconesses are merely the wife of a particular deacon.
 7. Instead, Cross Church believes that a deaconess is a female deacon.
 8. Moreover, we appeal to Romans 16 and the Phoebe factor.
 - **Romans 16:1-2** *I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea. Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me.*

- XI. **Question:** If I meet the above qualifications, can I have a leadership role at Cross Church?
- A. Not necessarily. 1 Timothy 3:10 mandates, “*And let them also be tested first; then let them serve.*”
 - B. For these reasons, Cross Church will not allow a person into a leadership position until after a time (at least a year) of testing by observing.
 - C. During that year, potential leaders will have the opportunity to lead by serving others.
 1. Even a hired staff members (such as a youth ministry director) cannot become a formal leader in the church until after a year of serving.
 2. For this reason, all new staff members have a provisional, one-year, agreement.
 - D. Cross Church believes that leaders in the church lead by serving, and giving our lives for others, rather than by “lording it over” as explained by Jesus when he washed the feet of the disciples.
 1. **John 13:12-15** says, “*When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, ‘Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.’*”
 2. Moreover, in Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus said, “*You know that the rulers of the Gentiles **lord it over** them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall **not be so** among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*”
 - E. In short, if you feel called to lead in the church, and you meet the biblical qualifications, and then let the pastor know of your calling and desire. After a *time of testing*, you may be a deacon or elder.
 - F. Deacons and elders serve until God calls them to another position or they no longer meet the biblical requirements.
- XII. **Question:** What do you mean by fruit-bearing followers?
- A. We use the term fruit-bearing in the following four ways it is used in the Bible:
 - B. **First**, ongoing Repentance
 1. **Matthew 3:8** *Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*
 - Biblical repentance is not merely a one-time event, but a life-long attitude of turning away from sin and turning toward Jesus.
 - C. **Second**, leading others to Jesus
 1. **Colossians 1:6** *All over the world this gospel is bearing **fruit** and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth.*
 - We ought to be like Andrew...
 2. **John 1:41-42** *The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to*

Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

D. Third, obedience to God's Will

1. **Matthew 7:15-23** *Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their **fruit** you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

E. Fourth, Goodness and growing in knowledge of God

1. **Colossians 1:10** *And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing **fruit** in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.*
2. **Ephesians 5:8-9** *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light—for the **fruit** of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth.*
3. **Galatians 5:22-23** *But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*
 - We contrast this fruit with its antithesis:
4. **Galatians 5:19-21** *Sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.*

XIII. Question: What is the master's plan of evangelism?

- A. The master's plan of evangelism is one-on-one discipleship.
- B. Its effectiveness is seen by contrasting it with the effectiveness of a master evangelist.
- C. For instance, consider the following mathematical illustration.



1. **D.** Suppose a master evangelist, like the late Billy Graham, could lead 1,000 people to Jesus every day of the week-how long will it take to reach the world?
- E.** On the other hand, consider a Christian committed to the master's plan of evangelism—leading one person to Jesus per year and spending a year mentoring that person so that the new disciple could go and do the same at the end of the year.
- F. Question:** Which system will reach the world for Christ faster?

G. Answer: Let's see:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Master Evangelist</i>	<i>Master's Plan</i>
0	1	1
1	365,001	2
2	730,001	4
3	1,095,001	8
4	1,460,001	16
5	1,825,001	32
6	2,190,001	64
7	2,555,001	128
8	2,920,001	256

1.

- Year #3 one million vs. 8—the discipleship guy starts to question his model.
- Year #6 over two million vs. 64—the discipleship guys gets fired and becomes a commercial lobsterman
 - a. However, since he believes his approach is biblical, he uses the extra time to write a book defending this method.
- Year #8 almost 3 million vs. 256
 - a. The book written by this discipleship person is burned.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Master Evangelist</i>	<i>Master's Plan</i>
8	2,920,001	256
9	3,285,001	512
10	3,650,001	1,024
11	4,015,001	2,048
12	4,380,001	4,096
13	4,745,001	8,192
14	5,110,001	16,384
15	5,475,001	32,768
16	5,840,001	65,536

2.

- Year #10 the master has 3.6 million but the discipleship man breaks the 1,000 barrier

<i>Year</i>	<i>Master Evangelist</i>	<i>Master's Plan</i>
17	6,205,001	131,072
18	6,570,001	262,144
19	6,935,001	524,288
20	7,300,001	1,048,576
21	7,665,001	2,097,152
22	8,030,001	4,194,304
23	8,395,001	8,388,608
24	8,760,001	16,777,216
25	9,125,001	33,554,432

3.

- Year # 20 the disciple breaks the million barrier.
 - a. The disciple guy's books are re-printed
- Year #23 the models are nearly even
 - a. The disciple guy is packing out conference centers.
- Year #25 nine million vs. 33 million

- a. The master evangelist is fired—even though he is just as effective as ever...

<i>Year</i>	<i>Master Evangelist</i>	<i>Master's Plan</i>
26	9,490,001	67,108,864
27	9,855,001	134,217,728
28	10,220,001	268,435,456
29	10,585,001	536,870,912
30	10,950,001	1,073,741,824
31	11,315,001	2,147,483,648
32	11,680,001	4,294,967,296
4. 33	12,045,001	8,589,934,592

- Year #33 twelve million vs. 8.5 billion—the worlds population
 - In short, it will take only 33 years to reach the current world with the master's plan
5. The disciple is had died, but is celebrated as a genius and hero despite the early days of rejection and ridicule.
6. Even though he never did anything different than he did in the early days, his model worked much better.

H. **Question:** So how long will it take to reach the current world population with the master evangelist model?

I. **Answer:** 16,438 years

J. **Question:** So what? Should we burn master evangelists?

K. **Answer:** No, however we dare not rely on them—for it cannot keep up with the population.

1. However, if this group, today, committed to the master's plan, we could reach the word in less than 33 years.
2. The primary problem with my model is that sometimes it takes longer than one year to disciple a person to the point that they are ready to go and do the same.
3. In fact, Jesus himself, spent three years with his disciples before leaving them.

XIV. **Question:** What is your plan for discipleship one-on-one?

- A. We believe the best way to learn to follow Christ is similar to the way we learn skills such as welding, fixing automobile engines, performing open heart surgery, becoming an electrician, or learning any—by being an apprentice.
- B. First by watching, then by helping, then by doing it alone.
- C. Although reading books is an essential part of medical school, all doctors must complete a lengthy residence or apprenticeship program.
- D. Likewise, the best way to learn to fix a car's engine is to take one apart with someone who has done it before.
- E. For these reasons, we believe that biblical discipleship involves both education (reading books) and apprenticeship (following Christ with a mature Christ followers).
- F. Consequently, we will offer courses as well as life-mentors.
- G. Since we believe that every disciplined Christian should know 1) What they believe, 2) Why they believe it, 3) How to communicate their beliefs, and 4) How to live a

Jesus-centered life, we will offer small group classes in Theology, Apologetics, Evangelism, and Spiritual Formation.

- H. Persons exhibiting leadership or teaching potential (giftedness) during these courses will be encouraged to serve as a teacher's apprentice in subsequent courses and small groups.
- I. Every teacher at Cross Church will be given Wayne Grudem's systematic theology as a reference, and all new members will be encouraged to walk through the abridged version of this book titled "Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know."
 - 1. Other material will include "I Don't Have Enough Faith to be An Atheist" by Turek and Geisler, and Donald Whitney's "Spiritual Disciplines." Evangelism training will involved "The Way of the Master" or "Share Jesus without Fear."

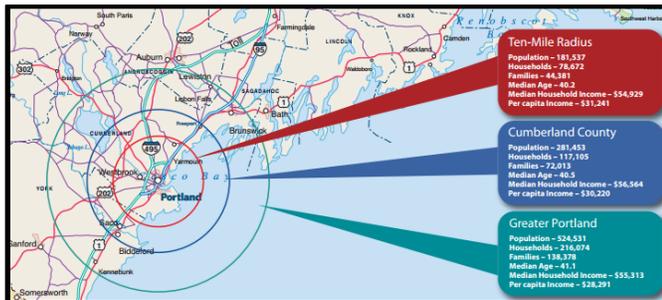
XV. **Question:** What is your plan for evangelism or sharing your faith?

- A. In short, Cross Church believes that healthy sheep will naturally reproduce.
 - 1. Therefore, our primary means of outreach (evangelism) is developing healthy followers of Jesus (discipleship).
 - 2. For instance, if we enjoy a restaurant or coffee shop, we will share that joy with others.
 - 3. The more we enjoy it, the more often and boldly we tell others about it.
 - 4. The same is true with our enjoyment of God.
 - 5. Hence, the best evangelism is to have church members increasing their capacity to enjoy God as well as escalating their actual enjoyment of him.
- B. Although we believe systems are helpful, we are not looking for (or depending upon) new or novel methods or plans. Here is why:
 - 1. Over 150 years ago E. M. Bounds wrote, "*We [Churches] are constantly on a stretch, if not on a strain, to devise new methods, new plans, new organizations to advance the Church . . . The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men [and women]. . . What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men [and women] whom the Holy Ghost can use—men of prayer.*"
 - 2. Since we agree with Bounds, our primary evangelistic plan is to develop men and women of prayer that are passionate about glorifying and enjoying God through living a Christ-centered life.
- C. Nevertheless, we still encourage, train, model, and celebrate the often neglected discipline of personal evangelism.
 - 1. In order to maintain an outward focus, Cross Church Portland will encourage members to maintain (or develop) socially interactive hobbies or activities for the purpose of developing evangelistic relationships with non-Christians.
 - 2. Here are a few examples of local clubs and activities:
 - Hiking
 - Skiing
 - Surfing
 - Bowling
 - Kite Flying
 - Video Gaming
 - Cycling
 - Chess

- Knitting
- Fishing
- Cooking
- Soap making
- Paddle boarding
- Kayaking

XVI. **Question:** How, when, and where do you plan to plant other churches?

- We plan to plant churches by starting multiple campuses that eventually become an autonomous self-sufficient, reproducing, like-minded church.
- Some of these campuses may result from mergers with churches in decline.
- Others will be new venues that have never had a church.
- Cross Church launch a second campus (second service) a few months after its third anniversary as a church.
- If a sufficient number (50 or more) of people are traveling a long distance (30 minutes or more) to our main campus, we will start a campus in their community.
 - Initially, our senior pastor will do all the preaching.
 - Then, over time, he will systematically hand preaching over to the campus pastor.
 - The second campus will stay under the authority of the main campus until it is financially self-sufficient and has initiated its own plant.
 - We plan to plant these churches up and down the Maine coast starting in Greater Portland.



5.

XVII. **Question:** What is Cross Church's vision?

- We envision a church that ...
 - worships God with all of its heart, soul, and mind.
 - loves its neighbors as itself.
 - engages culture rather than accommodates it or isolates ourselves from it.
 - helps our community connect with and enjoy God through Jesus.
 - defines itself primarily by what it stands "for" rather than what it might be against.
 - causes guests of our Sunday gatherings to experience God's love and grace.
 - liberates Christianity from man-made religious barriers to the gospel.
 - Today, many who call themselves Christians act more like those who rejected Jesus than those who followed him.
 - It's so common that Gandhi lamented, *"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."*
 - Consequently, Cross Church endeavors to remove religious barriers and reconnect people with the message and person of Jesus Christ so that they can enjoy God.

B. **Question:** Does the above vision mean that Cross Church “waters-down” the gospel or historical Christianity.

1. No. Instead, it means we will purify the gospel of any man-made additions.
2. In short, Cross Church is a place for those interested in following Jesus, but have reservations regarding organized religion.

XVIII. **Question:** What are Cross Church’s core values?

- A. Cross Church celebrates love, joy, kindness, goodness, grace, mercy, peace, justice, simplicity, authenticity, patience, gentleness, self-control, beauty, reason, and even science.
- B. In fact, since this world is God’s, we believe Christians should care for the environment more than anyone.
- C. All of our decisions are made in light of these values.

XIX. **Question:** How do I become member of Cross Church?

- A. If you feel that God is leading you to seek Cross Church membership, we ask you to complete the [online membership application](#).
- B. If you prefer a paper or oral application, please let us know.

XX. **Question:** What does Cross Church’s application involve?

- A. Cross Church’s application involves the following questions:
 1. **First**, articulating your testimony (spiritual journey) or how you became a Christian.
 2. **Second**, explaining the Gospel.
 3. **Third**, describing your previous church history.
 4. **Fourth**, affirming the church’s beliefs and membership covenant.

XXI. **Question:** What are Cross Church’s beliefs and what is your membership covenant?

- A. See the next sections.