



CITY OF HOPE
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

New Partners Orientation

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OUR MISSION

We exist to HONOR God in everything, to EVANGELIZE everywhere, and to PRODUCE according to the power of our Savior Jesus Christ.

OUR VISION

We strive to be a relevant, biblically-based, and multicultural ministry that seeks to grow, develop, and mobilize disciples of Jesus Christ.

OUR VALUES

We value God's Word as the ultimate guide of our natural and spiritual life.

We value being a multicultural and multigenerational faith community.

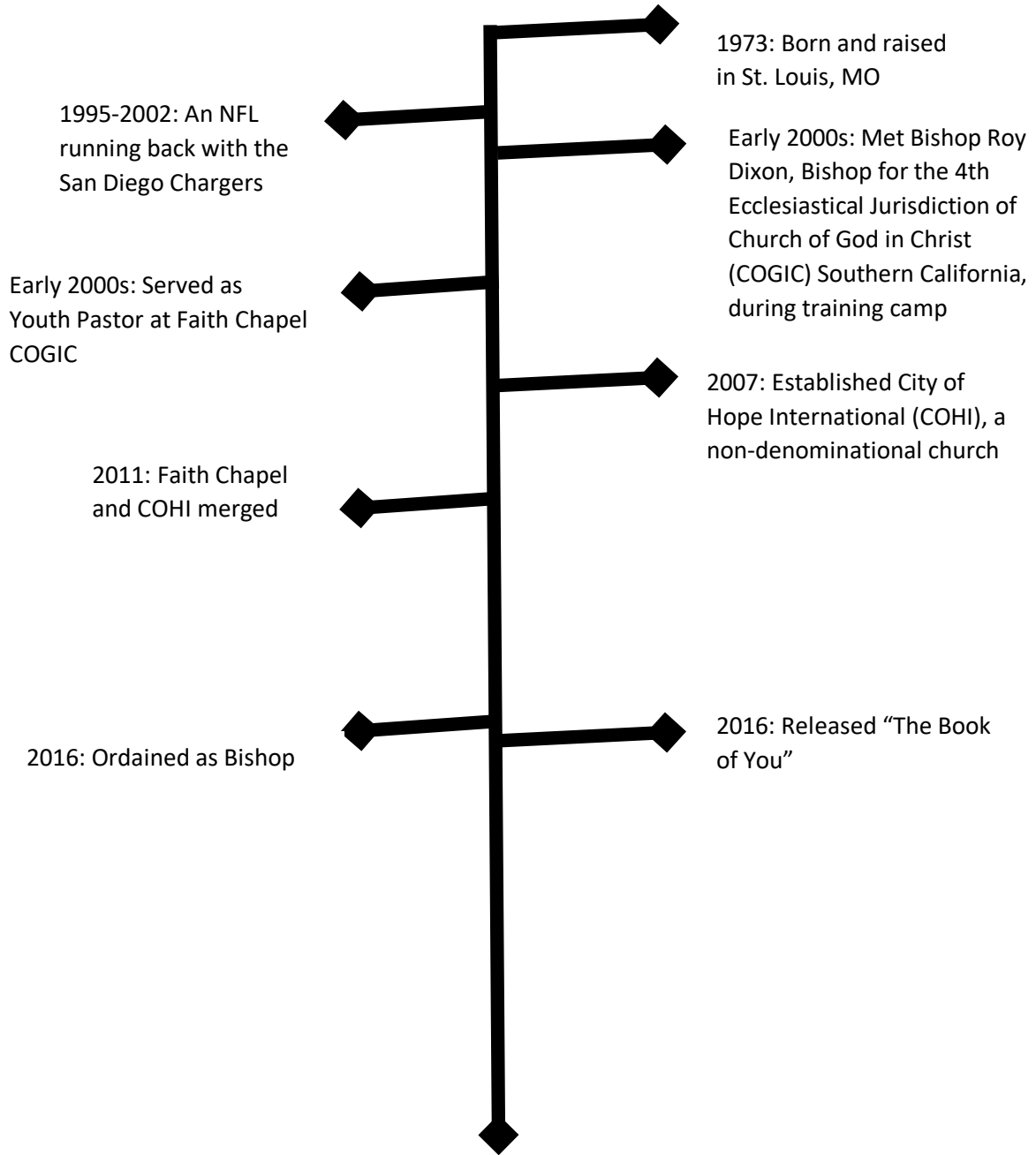
We value authentic worship.

We value personal responsibility.

We value, moral, financial, and spiritual integrity.

We value every person's individual purpose, function, and significance.

A BRIEF HISTORY - BISHOP TERRELL FLETCHER

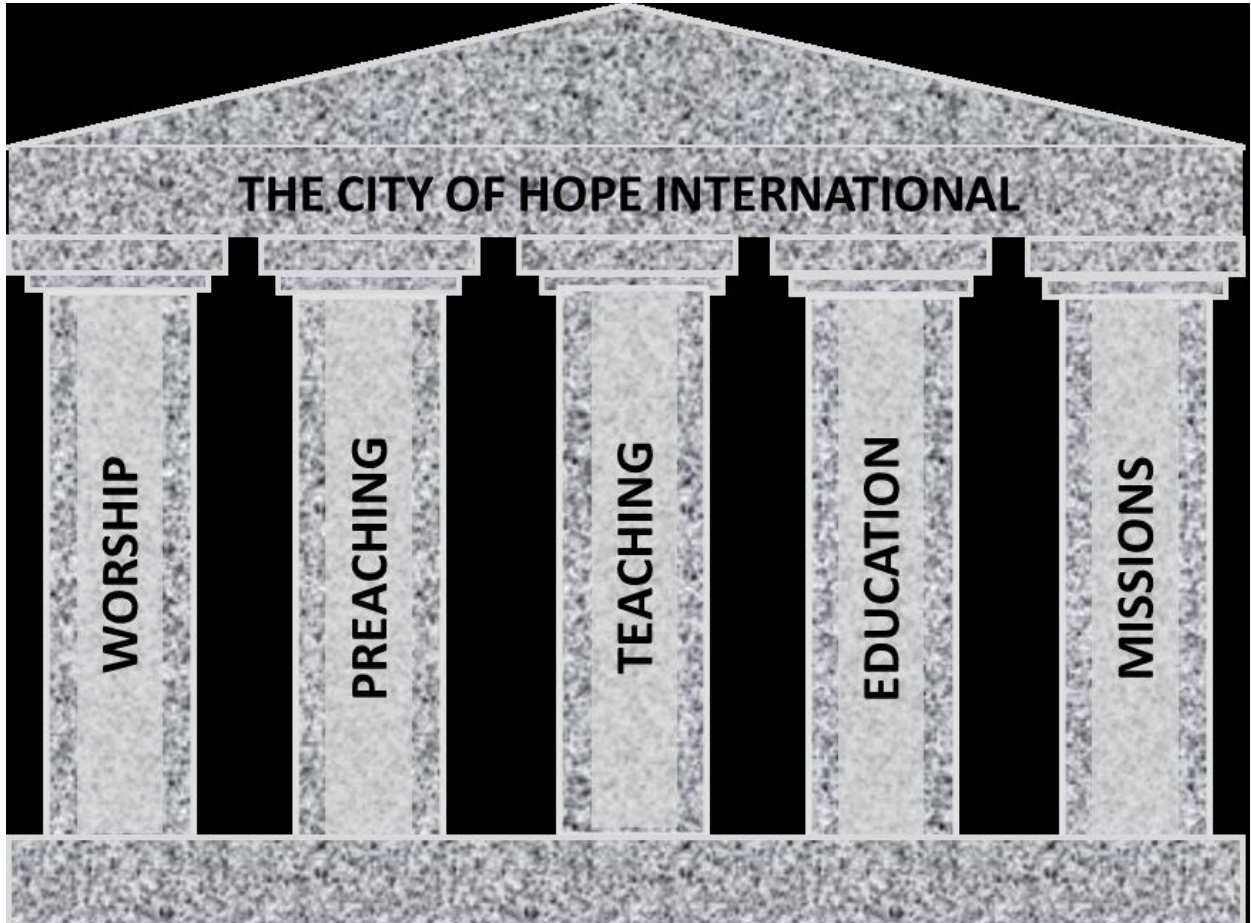


WHAT WE BELIEVE (STATEMENT OF FAITH)

- 1. We believe in one God, creator of all things, who has revealed Himself in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He is the supreme being, the source of all power, wisdom, and moral authority.**
(Genesis 12:33; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalms 90:2; Psalms 102:27; I Timothy 1:17; John 1:1-2; John 8:58; Heb. 1:8; I John 1:2; Micah 5:2; Revelation 1:8; Hebrews 9:14; Romans 1:20)
- 2. We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, completely truthful in its entirety without contradictions or error and is the authority by which we base our faith, conduct, and doctrine.**
(Matthew 5:18, John 17:17, II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:19-21)
- 3. We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, and in His personal return to earth with power and glory.**
(Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7, Matthew 1:18-25, John 1:1-3, Colossians 2:9, Isaiah 53:5-6, Luke 24:36-43, Acts 1:6-11, Romans 3:21-26, I Corinthians 15:3-8, Galatians 3:13, Colossians 1:13-14, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 20:6)
- 4. We believe in the infilling of the Holy Spirit as a gift to believers who ask for it as well as the operation of the nine gifts of the Spirit as stated in scripture.**
(Act 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:6, I Corinthians 12:4-11)
- 5. We believe that man was created by God in His own image and is not the product of evolution; he fell into sin through personal disobedience to the revealed will of God; as a result, all mankind is sinful in nature and practice, cannot save himself, and faces eternal separation from God.**
(Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7; 3:1-24, Matthew 19:4, Mark 7:21-23, John 8:42-44, Romans 1:18; 3:10; 5:1, Ephesians 2:1-3)
- 6. We believe in the bodily return of Christ to earth and the literal rapture of the Church of God which is in Christ.**
(John 14:2-3, Romans 14:10-12, I Corinthians 3:11-15; 15:51-53, II Corinthians 5:10, I Thessalonians 4:15-17, Titus 2:11-13, Revelation 3:10)
- 7. We believe that salvation is available to everyone, and the only means of attaining this salvation and being free from sin is through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.**
(John 1:11-13; 3:16; 5:24, Acts 16:31, Romans 3:23-26; 5:8, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5, Hebrews 7:24-25, I Peter 1:18-19, I John 5:11-13)
- 8. We believe in the priesthood of the believer. That every believer has a unique relationship to the Lord. As His children, every Christian has immediate access to the throne of grace and the ability to manifest the power of the Lord Jesus Christ in ministry and in their personal lives. It is part of the authority of the believer to ask freely of the Lord for his needs.**
(I Peter 2:9, Hebrews 4:16, Revelations 1:6-8)
- 9. We believe in a literal Heaven where the righteous will enjoy everlasting life in the presence of our Lord.**
(II Peter 3:10-13, Revelation 21:1-4)
- 10. We believe in a literal Hell, a place of everlasting punishment for the wicked (unsaved).**
(Mark 9:43-48, II Thessalonians 1:9, Revelation 20:11-15)

THE FIVE PILLARS OF CITY OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

Built on five principles for spiritual maturation, City of Hope International (COHI) aspires to become a relevant, biblically based, and multicultural ministry that seeks to evangelize the lost, inspire and revitalize families and individuals through a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ.



Worship

At the center of a right relationship with God is one's personal approach to Him. At COHI, we wholeheartedly accept Christ as the only true God of the universe and declare that He deserves the worship of every living thing. Our approach to His existence is one of adoration, reverential fear, and extreme joy (Ps. 68:3-4 and Ps. 97:1). Therefore, worship of our great God will be a pillar on which COHI is founded. We will worship Christ through our overall efforts to further His kingdom which includes but is not limited to our weekly worship services, singing songs and hymns, our domestic and foreign efforts, financial stewardship, and the way we conduct our daily lives. We desire that each be holy and acceptable in His sight. With every endeavor of COHI, we will exhibit the overflow of joy associated with the opportunity to worship the living Christ.

Preaching

Romans 10:14 asks the question: "How will they hear without a preacher?" Preaching the gospel via public proclamations of Christ, His character, and saving power is a primary method of sharing the Christian message. At COHI we count it a privilege to preach the gospel. At COHI, we will preach the entire gospel as presented in the Holy Bible, not overly focusing on one particular doctrine or ministry expression at the expense of the others. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is to be proclaimed by every Christian at every proper and opportune time as the Holy Spirit leads. We will use every traditional and progressive method possible to preach the gospel to the world and equip believers to give effective proclamations of their faith.

Teaching

COHI will use various teaching methods to assist willing believers, both young and old, to mature in their personal relationship with God and to be effective evangelists. The weekly teaching ministries are an important aspect of COHI because they allow for deeper interaction with study materials and with qualified instructors. II Timothy 2:15 admonishes each believer to "present themselves approved to God... rightfully dividing the Word of truth."

Education

One of the three distinctive areas that every nation boasts of, aside from its chosen deity and its artistic expressions, is its education. In I Peter 2:9 God declared the body of Christ to be a "holy nation." Therefore, COHI has a godly aspiration to educate on both a secular and spiritual level. A continuing Christian education program for believers will be a training ground for every clergy and lay- member to equip and enhance each personal ministry so the gospel might be shared with power and clarity to the world. Also, COHI desires to build a K-12 school. The purpose of such an undertaking is to provide a generation built on biblical principles to combat the foundational fallacies provided by most secular institutions. While learning the accelerated basics of traditional education, the students will also learn biblical building blocks not only enhancing their academic knowledge of facts but also of God's truth.

Missions

Preaching the Kingdom of God to all the nations of the world is a command by Christ to the Church (Matthew 28:18). COHI will place a great emphasis on evangelizing the earth with the truth about Jesus Christ. We will accomplish this with crusades, outreach efforts, multi-media, and through supporting missionaries and mission programs. COHI is so committed to missions work that we will allocate 10% of our annual budget toward supporting missionaries and missions work.

VISION

A City of Commerce

The parable from Luke 19:13 instructs the believer to “occupy until I come.” The word “occupy” literally means to “do business” or “be busy.” Effective cities have the ability to do business and create commerce to sustain it and the people which live in it. COHI will encourage Kingdom commerce which aids in the vitality of the community at large. City of Hope will maintain alliances with the business community and maintain an entrepreneur’s spirit, teaching and participating in creating entrepreneurial pursuits. Kingdom principles for generating commerce will be employed to accomplish the following core objectives:

- a) To help improve the quality of life for COHI partners and the community at large by providing jobs, encouraging employment and self-owned businesses. It is a proven fact that employed families:
 - Divorce at a lesser rate
 - Have children who do better in school
 - Produce children with a greater college attendance rate iv. Produce children who are less likely to go to jail
 - Produce children that are more likely to adopt the ‘working mentality
- b) To produce a ‘working’ mentality which is transferable to the next generation.
- c) To provide a Christian working environment to those offering traditional services.
- d) To provide an additional outlet for “the City” to serve its community.
- e) To supply COHI with a working community within the membership.

A Legacy of Education

The foundational aspect of a people’s future stability is its capability to properly prepare its current and coming generations for future challenges (Proverbs 22:6). At COHI, we ascribe to the belief that aside from spiritual reformation, the stability of a generation lies in its education. To answer this need, COHI will place a high emphasis on education. Built on Kingdom principles, COHI will employ traditional education with Christian values/beliefs to build competent, balanced and effective members of society.

- a) pre- K educational experience
- b) K-8 accelerated education program
- c) 9-12 High School College Preparatory Program
- d) Bible College program (to equip for ministerial service)

A City that is Socially Responsible

To raise a balanced people within a city, the city must maintain entities which foster both physical and psychological growth. The primary purposes of City of Hope International’s social programs are to stabilize the family structure and provide healing in broken areas. Therefore, in the foreseeable future City of Hope International Church will become parent to:

- a) **A Christian based counseling center** - an in-depth program for those in need of ongoing support. This component focuses on mental and emotional development using the principles from the Word of God to bring restoration. This center will be maintained by qualified Christian-centered counselors, who uphold both spiritual and secular integrity concerning counseling systems.
- b) **CDC (Community Development Corporation)** - Maintaining any city is the shared responsibility of the members in the community. The CDC will provide a legal means for “the City” to help the surrounding communities through a non-profit outlet. The CDC can provide a means into non-profit dollars for community-based projects and objectives (social and political) which enhance the area in which we serve.

- c) **HOPE Recovery Center** - Each community has been tainted by factors which facilitate the need for a substance abuse recovery affiliation. COHI will house and maintain an alcohol and drug abuse recovery division as an affiliation program which brings restoration and wholeness through the principles found in the Word of God.
- d) "The Alternative" (youth recreations project) - **In conjunction with the COHI Youth ministries**, "the City" will offer a recreational oasis for youth and young adults--complete with after-school tutoring, social crisis management, a skills center, as well as additional recreational activities (basketball, softball, bowling, etc.). This program can be reduplicated in various neighborhoods where "Hope" ministries reside.

GIVING

Tithing & "Free-Will" Offerings

What is a tithe?

A tithe is a "tenth."

What is biblical tithing?

In general, biblical tithing refers to the practice of giving one tenth of one's income for the work of God. In the Hebrew Bible, tithing was understood as a response of gratitude and an obligation. In light of the New Testament, some Christians believe tithing is still an obligation, whereas other Christians understand tithing to be a loving, freely chosen response to God's gracious provisions for life: God's grace!

What are some of the most important Old Testament references to tithing?

Genesis 14:20 and 28:22. Deuteronomy 14:22, Leviticus 27:30

How does the New Testament deal with the opportunity to tithe?

We understand that Jesus and the apostles assumed that the tithe was a healthy guide to one's stewardship. In Matthew 23:23 Jesus warns the scribes and Pharisees not to misuse the tithe as an "excuse" for neglecting other weightier matters of justice, mercy, and faith. Paul follows the same logic in emphasizing that believers should give proportionately, as God has blessed, though not necessarily a tithe (See I Corinthians 16:2 and II Corinthians 9:6-12). Nowhere in the New Testament is tithing repudiated. However, it was an assured and expected practice of the early church as a God ordained obligation for every believer. At COHI we adhere to the early church practice of tithing as a command from God to be honored, even today, by every believer.

What is a "Free-Will" Offering?

A free-will offering is a voluntary sacrifice as opposed to one given out of vow or consequence. Generally, it is given above and beyond a person's tithe. Free-will offerings were the most noted New Testament methods of giving. It expressed an overflowing expression of God's grace in an individual's life through giving.

What are some scripture references to "free-will" giving?

Leviticus 22:18; Ezra 2:68-70; Acts 2:44-46; II Corinthians 8:1-9:15

How does the New Testament deal with the opportunity to give a "Free-Will" Offering?

Concerning giving, the New Testament highly encourages free-will giving. It is not to be given grudgingly or under constraint, but given cheerfully before the Lord (II Corinthians 9:1-7), whereas it is the overflow expression of God's active grace in our lives.

COMMUNION

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth, but He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. It was after Judas had left the room that Jesus instituted something new, the Lord's Supper. He took two elements from the Passover feast: the unleavened bread and the cup, and He used these to picture His own death. Communion is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

What is communion (the Lord's supper)?

(I Cor. 11:23- 26)

1. The _____ represents Christ's body given for the sins of the world.
"The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread..." (v. 23)
2. The _____ represents His blood shed for the remission of sin.
"In the same way, He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me'." (v.25)
3. It is a _____ to proclaim His death.
"For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes back." (v. 26)

Communion reminds us to look ahead for Christ's return. We will observe this communion until He comes. The Passover pointed ahead to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The Lord's Supper announces that this great work has been accomplished.

Who should take communion?

Only those who _____

"Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." I Corinthians 11:27-28.

By...

1. Self-Examination (I Corinthians 11:27)
2. Confessing my sins (I John 1:9)
3. Recommitment (Romans 12:1)
4. Restoring relationships (Matt. 5:23-24)

NOTE: At City of Hope International, we do not observe the traditional order of communion but will be observed upon the discretion of the Senior Pastor.

BAPTISM

The Bible is very clear in its teachings that all Christians are expected to be baptized in water. It is equally clear that men can become saved as Christians before receiving water baptism. The key to understanding baptism is that it should not be considered as an optional extra for the Christian. It is a command that Christians are expected to obey. However, it is not obedience to this **command** that saves us, but believing in Christ.

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord

We believe that baptism is an ordinance of the Lord... What we mean by this is that the Lord Jesus commanded it - he ordained it - in a way that would make it an ongoing practice of the church.

Baptism is a command, an ordinance of the Lord Jesus to be performed in making disciples until Christ returns at the end of the age.

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God - not works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

Baptism is for Believers Only

Baptism is an expression of faith and therefore only for believers. We believe that baptism is an ordinance of the Lord by which those who have repented and come to faith express their union with Christ in His death and resurrection. Our understanding of the New Testament is that the meaning of baptism includes the fact that it is an expression of the faith of the one being baptized. It is not something that an unbeliever can do. It is not something that an infant can do. That is why we don't baptize infants.

Why should I be baptized?

1. Out of _____ to and love for Jesus.
"If you love me, you will obey what I command." John 14:15
2. To follow the _____ set by Jesus.
"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth at Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan." Mark 1:9
3. To demonstrate that I am a _____ and have given my life to _____.
"...many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8

At City of Hope International, we view Baptism as carrying an association with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism is a necessary ordinance honoring the request of our Lord, although not necessary for salvation.

In order to be scheduled to be baptized you must complete a Baptism Form located in the church office. Our traditional formula is to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. If there is a dissimilar request, you will be able to note this on the Baptism Form.

CELEBRANT WORSHIP

At City of Hope International, you can expect a jubilant and expressive worship experience. We believe in engaging God through an exciting time in worship. Worship is ascribing a worth to God and is certainly not limited to what happens in a Sunday service. True worship includes a commitment to God expressed in a lifestyle that ascribes a worth to who we believe Him to be in our lives. You are free to join in the worship experience with any biblically ordained manner. We only ask that you be mindful of the movement of the Holy Spirit to ensure there is no disruption during service.

Why we Worship:

1. **God the Father Seeks It:** God is the greatest and ultimate being known. We celebrate this fact and we ascribe great worth to His person, character, and acts as creator of all things. For this God the Father seeks our worship.

- “But the hour is coming and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father is seeking those to worship him.” (John 4:23)
 - “Thou are worthy, Oh Lord, to receive glory and honor and power for you have created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” (Revelation 4:11)
2. **Jesus Commands it:** Christ confirms that there should be no other that we ascribe our worship to other than the God of the Bible. a. “Then Jesus said, ‘for it is written, thou shall worship the Lord thy God and Him only shall you serve’.” (Matthew 4:10)
 3. **The Holy Spirit prompts it:** The key to a fulfilling time in worship is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will prompt and drive worship to penetrating places in the heavenlies.
 - “And [they]...were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God...(Acts 10:45-46)

At City of Hope International, you can expect biblically proven expressions of worship. We maintain that spiritual expressions often conflict with earthly and cultural expressions. So, there may be times when biblical expressions of worship may appear odd to the naked eye, but nonetheless are biblically inspired and ordered by God as common methods to inspire true worship.

1. By Lifting Our Hands

Raising our hands as a form of unconditional surrender proving that we are open to God and not hostile to Him is a common Christian expression of worship.

- Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord! (Psalm 134:2)

2. With Instruments

Instrumentation has historically been a medicine for the soul used in scripture to honor God, drive away demonic activity, and encourage the believers. We expect the same as we offer God a skillful expression of worship with music.

- David and Hezekiah ordained it in their worship services: II Chronicles 29:28- So all the assembly worshipped, the singers sang, and the trumpets sounded; all this continued until the burnt offerings were finished.
- It is prophetic: Musicians were separated for service and were given the order to “Prophecy with harps, stringed instruments and cymbals...” I Chronicles 25:1

3. Silence and Meditation Before Him

Perhaps you are not an expressive person. Occasionally, our services will offer times with silence and reflection. Honoring God in your silence and or meditation of His greatness is as biblically acceptable as other methods!

- “But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him!” Habakkuk 2:20
- “Be silent before the Sovereign Lord.” Zephaniah 1:7

4. With Singing and Shouting

- Psalm 95:1-3: Oh come let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation; Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms, for the Lord is the great God...

- Psalm 96:2 and 4: Sing to the Lord, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day...for the Lord is great and greatly to be praised.

5. With Dancing

Both historic and contemporary dance is applicable when the heart is in alignment with the expression. Dance is a form of jubilation. It expresses the overflow of joy associated with knowing the greatness of God.

- “Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourine and with dances.” (Ex. 15:20)
- “Praise Him with the tambourine and the dance.” (Psalm 150:4)

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP (TIME, TALENT, FINANCE AND RESOURCES)

Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.

Five Principles for Stewardship

1. **God’s stewards are “God’s stewards.”**
God’s stewards are stewards by virtue of creation; therefore, they belong to the Lord.
2. **God’s stewards are managers, not owners.**
God’s stewards have been entrusted by God with life and life’s resources and given the privilege of responsibly and joyfully managing them for Him.
3. **God’s stewards are uniquely singular, yet profoundly plural.**
God’s stewards recognize that their lives are not solo performances, but are personal responses to God, lived out within the community of faith to benefit the whole world.
4. **God’s stewards are loved and loving.**
God’s stewards recognize that their stewardship flows out of God’s act of love for them in Christ which empowers them, in turn, to love others in acts of Christ-like love.
5. **God’s stewards are served and serving.**
God’s stewards recognize that their stewardship involves a gospel-powered style of life that is demonstrated in servanthood within all the arenas of life.

PART 2

COHI MINISTRIES

Christian Education

- Clergy Development
- Leadership Development
- Discipleship Development
- New Believers
- Hope University

Congregational Life

- Women's Ministry (WOW - Women of Worship)
- Men's Ministry (Champions)
- Marriage Ministry (Rings)

Creative Arts

- Audio/Visual
- Marketing & Communications
- Praise Team
- Dance Team
- Musicians

Kingdom Builders

- New Partners Onboarding
- New Partners Support
- Hospitality, Ushers, and Greeters (HUG)
- Events

Missions, Evangelism, Outreach & Service

- Health & Wellness
- Missions
- Prison Ministry

Student Ministries

- Young Adults (Driven)
- High School (Hope Road)
- Jr. High School (Merge)
- Elementary School (City Kids)
- Toddlers (Toddler Park)

Temple Operations

- Clergy
- Intercessory Prayer
- Deacons
- Deaconesses

KINGDOM BUILDERS

Love! The Motive to Serve

A ministry vision from God cannot be achieved by one person - and neither was it meant to be. God always sends people to work and assist in accomplishing the given vision. We believe that those who want to be involved with the vision of the City of Hope International are sent to us by God to serve as His arms, legs, feet, and mouthpieces to reach the world for Christ. You are one of those people! We need your involvement to build the Kingdom of God.

Our men and women who serve are not called volunteers but **KINGDOM BUILDERS**.

Service in the ministry of the City of Hope International cannot be based on personal gain. It must be based on an attitude of love and excellence. We must be known as "The Church of Excellence!"

Because we love as a ministry, we embody an attitude of all "in- reach" and "out-reach." What do you think this means?

Read I Corinthians 13:4-8.

Why do you think it is important for those who serve to focus on this passage of scriptures?

As we understand more about service at the City of Hope International, remember these 3 important points.

1. We serve God by serving people. (Matt 25:40)
2. We will never lose when we are serving God.
3. The victory we desire is linked to the success of our church. (I Cor. 15:58)

Let no task be too small; let no task be too great!

The important task for every Kingdom Builder is to be able to lead someone to a victorious life in Christ. This responsibility does not rest on the Pastor alone, but on all of us. No Kingdom Builder should be ill-equipped in this area.

What task would you be apprehensive to perform if you were asked?

What task would you embrace and perform easily if you were asked?

The Unstoppable Worker

A vital ingredient of service and care is preparation. How can we truly care for the hungry if we have not first prepared the food? How can we clothe the naked without first gathering clothes to give? We cannot be "the City" if we are not prepared to love and encourage one another. In other words, if we don't prepare, we don't care.

To be unstoppable involves a full-fledged commitment. God does not want half-hearted commitment or a half-done job. Commitment involves longevity. Our service cannot be approached with a temporary, "let's try this out and see what happens" attitude. There must be an unstoppable statement of longevity that says:

"This is where God has planted me; this is my church home and I am here to work."

Read I Corinthians 15:58.

You must understand the following in order to be unstoppable:

1. A great work for God requires a great people willing to sacrifice their priorities, time, and talents to see the job done.
2. A mind to work will withstand all opposition.
3. Don't make the mistake of thinking everyone will be happy with what you are doing for God.
4. Our honor must come from God.
5. Our work cannot be done with eye service. We have to get our hands dirty!
6. The primary thing that will knock people out of the work of God is offenses; therefore, you must be good at walking in love towards people. (Review notes on I Corinthians 13: 4-8.)

Your participation as a Kingdom Builder is not mandatory. No one is forcing you into servitude; you decide to serve as unto the Lord. Since what we do is for the Lord, let's offer God our very best.

Read Ecclesiastes 9:10.

Challenge Question: If everyone serves the church as I do (will), what kind of church would it be?

There is no service without needs being met. The essence of serving God is meeting needs in the lives of people. Service is not service if a need is not being met.

Keep a view of the value of your contribution as a Kingdom Builder at City of Hope International Church.

1. Someone is free to get saved
2. I sow a seed for someone to minister to me when I need it.
3. I represent God's will being done on earth.

Be an Encourager

The word encourage has the prefix "en"—meaning to put in or into and the word "courage"—meaning confident, brave, strong. To "encourage" then literally means to put courage into someone. You might ask, "Courage to do what?" As Christians, many times, we need courage to trust and obey God.

Throughout his entire ministry, Paul had one important concern on his mind and heart: to do all the good he could, whenever he could, to build up the body of Christ for the glory of God. Paul's life purpose is captured in the Phillips paraphrase of Colossians 1:28-29, "So, naturally, we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about Him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ Jesus. This is what I am working at all the time, with all the strength that God gives me." Knowing that he could only do so much himself, he developed a strategy to transfer this concern to others—to encourage every other Christian to develop the same concern for all other Christians (Col. 2:2; 4:8; II Tim. 2:2).

God's plan is that, as each of us does our part, the church grows as it builds itself up in love (Ephesians 4:15-16). Paul's directive to the first century church is the same for us, "...encourage one another and build each other up just as in fact you are doing."

Mutual encouragement, exhortation, and comfort towards one another is a strong weapon of spiritual warfare. We encourage you to be an encourager!

Basic Practices

Do:

- Be prayerful about all ministry service.
- Smile and be cordial.
- Be welcoming and helpful.
- Be sincere (everyone can sense a phony); personality counts.
- Be cooperative with each other: leaders and people we serve.
- Be flexible - ministry is unpredictable.
- Be on time.
- Be professional - you represent this great ministry
- Be accountable - if you say you will be there, be there.

Do Not:

- Consistently be late for service duty and meetings.
- Assume - if you don't know, ask.
- Never give out information you are not sure of.
- Fight fire with fire; when people get testy, win them over with love.
- Go over the head of your leader. Address them directly with your questions and concerns.
- Misrepresent the God you serve or the ministry by:
 - Swearing
 - Fighting
 - Inappropriate comments/jokes
 - Attire
 - Attitude

Do you remember the 3 important points of serving?

1. You _____ God by _____ people.
2. You will _____ when you are serving God.
3. The _____ you desire is _____ to the _____ of your church.

Match the scripture with the important points.

Matthew 25:40 _____

I Corinthians 15:58 _____

Mark 10:27 _____

PARTNERSHIP

City of Hope International is a Christian Church. Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Shepherd, and the leadership of the Senior Pastor, Bishop Terrell Fletcher, the Church retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government.

In accordance with biblical doctrine, this church also reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church, and the conditions of such membership. The terms “partner” and “partnership” as used in this manual refer to being a partner of the congregation of this church.

Any person may offer himself or herself as a candidate for partnership in this church. All such candidates shall be presented to the Senior Pastor for membership in this church. All such candidates shall be presented to the Senior Pastor for partnership in the following ways:

1. Through restoration, by Christian experience, upon a statement of prior conversion.
2. By a letter of recommendation from another Christian Church.
3. By becoming a candidate for water baptism upon the profession of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. By Watch Care in which a candidate becomes affiliated with the Church for a temporary period of time while residing in the area.

What constitutes partnership?

1. Must be a born-again believer in Jesus Christ as Savior
2. Must make a public acknowledgment of partnership intentions
3. Completion of new partners orientation class (which includes acceptance of beliefs, adherence to the vision of COHI and pledged support) is highly recommended
4. Acceptance by presbyter/elder/minister

Intake process for new partners (who are already believers):

1. Public acknowledgment of partnership
2. New Partners class completion
3. Acceptance into partnership by presbyter by the laying on of hands

Intake process for new partners (new believers):

1. Public acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior
2. Public acknowledgment of partnership intentions
3. New believers class (optional, but highly recommended)
4. New partners class (optional, but highly recommended)
5. Acceptance into partnership by presbyter by the laying on of hands

New Partner Orientation & Training

New Church partners will be expected to participate in and complete the church’s New Partner Orientation & Training Program. Completion of New Partner’s program is a condition of participation in any ministry of the church.

Retaining Partnership

1. Persons on the church roll should be in regular attendance to retain partnership at COHI.
2. All church partners at COHI are expected to support the ministry with their finances, and by their presence and/or attendance.
3. Residents in mitigating circumstances will not be removed from the church
4. Any partner who falls ill and cannot attend worship has the responsibility of contacting the church and report his/her situation. When situations of this type are reported then the necessary adjustments are made to retain one’s partnership.

Termination of Partnership

Partnership in the church shall be terminated in the following ways:

1. Dismissal to another church by letter or by verbal indication
2. Excommunication by action of this church
3. Death

Discipline

1. It shall be the basic purpose of City of Hope International to emphasize to its partners that every possible measure will be taken to assist any troubled partner. The Senior Pastor and others, who may be appointed by the Senior Pastor, are available for counsel and guidance. Redemption rather than punishment shall be the guideline which governs the attitude of one member toward another. (Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 12:3-15; Revelation 3:19)
2. Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the church, every reasonable measure will be taken by the Senior Pastor to resolve the problem. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance. The scripture, Matthew 18:15-17, will be used as a guide in the resolution of such a condition. (Galatians 6:1-2; Romans 15:1-7; James 1:5)