



NEXT STEPS

The Heart Behind Harvest







HARVESTMINISTRIES.ORG



**LET'S MAKE
HEAVEN
STANDING
ROOM ONLY**



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Ready to get more connected to God and our church? Take your Next Step today!



Introduction

We are delighted that you have decided to learn more about our church and get connected to our faith community. The local church serves as a visible display of God's Kingdom on earth, which is why involvement is a declaration and expression of Kingdom citizenship. When a person chooses to follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they are immediately given a new identity in Christ and adopted into the Father's Heavenly family. This adoption calls people to be actively engaged in the household of God. Here at Harvest Ministries, a Kingdom citizen has the responsibility and privilege to represent Christ and a local church to our community-at-large.

Beliefs are things we consider to be our sources of truth, which come from God. Please read our Statement of Faith at harvestministries.org/beliefs. Becoming a member at Harvest Ministries means you agree to the beliefs described in our Statement of Faith.



Our Story



How did this church come to be?

By God's grace, Pastor Eric and Antoinette along with their two daughters moved to the Little Elm/Aubrey area, along the US 380 corridor in the summer of 2022. They reside just a few minutes from Braswell High School where the church meets every Sunday. Their desire is to reach the unchurched people in the area, as two-thirds of the residents are not engaged in any religious community at all. Most are Millennials and Gen Xers identifying as transplants and/or young families with multi-ethnic backgrounds. Many believe in God but don't have a personal, life-changing relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As a church, our desire is to reach each individual by worshiping God through serving the community, creating genuine connections and relationships with our neighbors, teaching God's Word faithfully, and encouraging people to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Our hearts long for everyone to harvest a ministry where they are by carrying out our mission statement: "Loving God and all people while preparing everyone to boldly follow Christ."



Where is God taking us and how?

01



A VISION IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL WE BELIEVE GOD IS LEADING US TO

Our Vision

We exist to see life transformation in Christ and develop Godly leaders in our community who harvest ministries where they are. *(1 Corinthians 3:6-7; Galatians 6:9; Ephesians 3:20-21)*

02



A MISSION IS SIMPLY WHAT WE DO IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION

Our Mission

To love God and all people while preparing everyone to boldly follow Christ. *(Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:12-13; 1 Peter 3:15)*



Our Values

BELIEFS THAT IGNITE US TO BE ON FIRE FOR JESUS
AND AID US IN LIVING OUT OUR GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE

B Bold Faith

Demonstrated by intentionally modeling Christ and sharing His timeless truths of the gospel with others without compromise in order to transform lives so Heaven will be standing room only.

S Servant Leadership

Demonstrated by lovingly putting others before ourselves through irresistible acts of service in order to meet physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs.

U Unconditional Love

Demonstrated by living out a pure, willful, and sacrificial love that's grace-filled and God-honoring while going out of our way to intentionally love and serve others well.

K Kingdom Multiplication

Demonstrated by developing and equipping godly leaders and church planters through discipleship and training to reproduce generations into eternity.

Discipleship Pathway

PREPARE the Soil



Steward those who will not accept Christ or are curious in a God-honoring, safe, and welcoming environment in order to help them transition to belief. (Next Step: I'm New Here)

PLANT the Seed



Fill in all the gaps for those wanting to understand what it means to be a believer by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ by grace through faith with hopes they will become saved. (Next Step: Salvation, Baptism)

POUR Water on the Seed



Teach, equip, and model for them what discipleship looks like by sharing biblical truths with practical applications so they are confident that God can use them to help others grow in their faith. (Next Step: Serving, Membership, Giving, Groups)

PRODUCE Good Fruit



Reap the harvest of transformed lives while providing encouragement, accountability, and training so they can reproduce this strategy with those within and outside our spiritual community. (Next Step: Evangelism)



How do we know we're producing Good Fruit?



Glorify

We recognize God through worship, our glorified King.



Gather

We gather with God's family through fellowship for deep connection.



Grow

We educate God's people through discipleship so they can grow spiritually.



Give

We show God's love through ministry by the giving of our time, talents, and resources.



Go

We share God's Word through evangelism, which is the Good News of Jesus Christ.



NOT
TODAY
SATAN

Next Steps



01



Salvation: Faith in Jesus

Discover who Jesus is and how salvation from sin only comes through Him. This is the most important Next Step!

02



Baptism: Public Declaration of Faith

Learn about baptism, why we do it, and how you can be baptized here at Harvest.

03



Serving: Volunteer in the Local Church

We serve because Christ served. Learn how you can serve here at Harvest through a variety of opportunities.

04



Membership: Joining the Local Church

Learn about the importance of the local church and what the Bible says about church membership.

05



Giving: Generosity to the Local Church

Learn the biblical foundation of giving and how to take your next step in God's Generosity Pathway!

06



Groups: From Rows to Circles

Discover why groups are important and the various group types we have at Harvest for you to be a part of.

07



Evangelism: Share Your Testimony

Learn how to share the gospel and your testimony with confidence in simple and effective ways.



SALVATION: FAITH IN JESUS



Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus is God's Son who came to earth as a man. He was born to Mary by the Holy Spirit. Jesus is fully God and fully human. He never sinned. He died for our sins and made a way for us to be saved. God raised Him to life. He is in Heaven now and will come again. (Matthew 1:23; Luke 24:50-53; John 1:1-5, 14; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 4:4-6; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:21-22; 1 John 3:5; 4:2)

What is Sin?

People were made in God's image to fill the earth, but sin separated us from Him. God's image through humanity is damaged, but not gone. We are born sinful and need new life from God. Jesus will restore us when He returns. (Genesis 1:26-30; 3; Isaiah 45:12; 53:6; Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1; 6:11-12; James 4:17; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 2:16-17; Revelation 21:3-5)

What is Salvation? Why do we need it?

Salvation is a free gift from God. We are sinners and cannot save ourselves. When we trust Jesus, who died for us and rose again, we are saved. God forgives us and gives us new life through the Holy Spirit. We become new people and begin to live for Him each day. (Mark 10:45; Luke 19:10; John 3:16; 10:28; 14:6; Acts 2:21; 4:12; Romans 1:16; 5:1-17; 6:23; 8:2; 10:9-13; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 2 Corinthians 1:9-10; 5:17; Galatians 2:16, 20; Ephesians 2:1-9; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:13; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 7:25)



SALVATION: FAITH IN JESUS



The Gospel

God's Design (Genesis 1:27-31; Psalm 19:1)

God made a perfect world. He made people to know Him and tell others about Him.

Sin (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

People chose their own way and sinned. Everyone has sinned. Sin separates us from God now and forever if we don't repent and believe in Jesus.

Brokenness (Romans 1:25)

Sin brought brokenness into the world. We try to fix it but can't on our own. We need help from someone greater than us.

Redemption & Restoration (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-10)

Jesus is that someone greater and that's good news! God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus. He lived a perfect life, died, and rose again from the dead to save us from sin. This fixed our broken relationship with God!

The Gospel Response

Repent & Believe (Mark 1:15; Romans 10:9-13)

The good news changes us when we believe it. We admit our sin, trust God, and ask for forgiveness. Jesus gives us new life. We follow Him every day. Then we live our true purpose: to know God and tell others about Him.



BAPTISM: PUBLIC DECLARATION OF FAITH



What is Baptism?

Baptism is a public profession of Jesus as our Savior & Lord before the Church. It is the immediate Next Step after Salvation. It does not save us; however, it does allow us to spiritually identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Why should you be Baptized?

There are 4 reasons why you should be baptized:

- To **OBEY** Christ's Command (Matthew 28:19-20)
- To **PUBLICLY PROFESS** Faith in Christ (Acts 2:38-41)
- To **COMMIT** to Christ's People (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- To **MODEL** Jesus baptism demonstrating His own obedience, humility, and the filling of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:13-17)

What is Believer's Baptism?

Baptism is an important step after trusting Jesus. It shows our new life in Him and obeys His command. We are dipped under water and raised up, showing Jesus died, was buried, and rose again. This also shows our new life. The word "baptize" means to dip or go under water. We baptize people who can personally share their faith in Jesus. (Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; Acts 2:38-41; 8:35-38; 10:47-48; 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21)



BAPTISM: PUBLIC DECLARATION OF FAITH



Why Believer's Baptism?

Only people who believe in Jesus and are old enough to share their faith should be baptized. After we trust Jesus, baptism shows others we follow Him. It is a public step of obedience. It shows our new life and that we belong to Jesus and His church.

What is Communion?

We believe Jesus told the church to remember Him by taking communion ("Lord's Supper") together. This is a special and recurring act of obedience after baptism. Before we take it, we take time to look at our hearts, think about our lives, and confess any sins to God.





SERVING: VOLUNTEER IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



Why is Serving important?

Jesus is the greatest example of a servant leader as Mark 10:45 states, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

There are 4 main ways a believer can serve the local church:

- Attend and be active in Sunday worship experiences
- Display irresistible hospitality inside and outside the church
- Share the gospel with non-believers
- Make disciples who then make disciples

Servant Leaders display 6 main qualities:

- They show **INITIATIVE**
- They come **PEACEABLE**
- They have **NO HIDDEN AGENDA**
- They make **SACRIFICES**
- They stick to **COMMITMENTS**
- They display **HUMILITY**





Where can I serve?

Administration
(Admin,
Finance, Tech)



Adult Ministries
(Bible studies,
small groups)



**Care (Prayer,
Benevolence)**



Communications
(Marketing,
Social Media)



Connections
(Parking, Usher,
Greeting, Coffee)



Creative Arts
(Production,
Worship, Dance)



Health & Safety
(Medical,
Security)



**Missions &
Outreach (Local &
Global, Events)**



Mobilization
(Setup &
Teardown)



**NextGen (Kids
& Students)**





MEMBERSHIP: JOINING THE LOCAL CHURCH



What is the Church?

There is one church made of all who follow Jesus. Believers meet in local churches. Jesus leads the church. We worship, pray, learn God's Word, take baptism and communion, serve and care for others, and share Jesus with people who do not know Him. (Matthew 16:18; 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13, 27; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:1-16)

What does the Bible say about Membership?

Becoming a member at Harvest Ministries is about becoming part of a family, not simply putting your name on a roll. The Bible shares many examples that describe the relationship of the church to Jesus. The church is described as:

- The **BODY OF CHRIST** (1 Corinthians 5:12)
- The **BRIDE OF CHRIST** (Ephesians 5:22-23)
- Christ's **EMBASSY** (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- Christ's **FLOCK** (Psalm 95:7; 1 Peter 2:25; 5:2)
- **STONES** in a Spiritual House (1 Peter 2:5)

What does the Bible say about Membership?

There are 3 main reasons for to become a church member:

- So that you can be **DEVELOPED** (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- So that you can be **SHAPED** (Isaiah 64:8)
- So that you can be **INSTRUCTED** (Galatians 6:6)



MEMBERSHIP: JOINING THE LOCAL CHURCH



What are the benefits of Church Membership?

- Pastoral Care (1 Peter 5:2)
- Spiritual Health (Philippians 2:3)
- Contributor to Legacy Building (Psalm 78:5-8)
- Adds Value to Yourself (Romans 12:4-5)
- Gives Opportunity for Obedience and then Blessings (Ephesians 5:25)
- Benevolence (Galatians 6:10)
- Strategically Positions You to be on Mission (Matthew 28:19)

How do I become a Member at Harvest?

1. Be a believer in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
2. Have experienced Baptism by water immersion.
3. Complete our Membership application.
4. Complete a membership interview.
5. Sign our Membership Covenant.





GIVING: GENEROSITY TO THE LOCAL CHURCH



Why should we Give?

The world wants money to take Jesus' place. We show we're in Harvest Mode and love Jesus most by giving. Christians should be very generous by helping the church and others. We trust God to take care of us, not money. When we give, we show faith and live with open hands, using what God gives us to help people and honor Him. (Matthew 6:24; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Ephesians 3:10)

God's Generosity Pathway

We encourage every believer to take their Next Step in giving according to God's Generosity Pathway:

- 1. Beginning Giver** – This is giving to the local church for the first time.
- 2. Advancing Giver** – This is giving with intentionality on a regular basis.
- 3. Tithing Giver** – This is giving 10% (tithe) of total gross income regularly.
- 4. Expanding Giver** – This is giving an offering of any amount above the tithe.
- 5. Extravagant Giver** – This is giving an offering of any amount above the tithe from stored resources (i.e. investments, real estate, cryptocurrency, wills and trusts, etc.)



GROUPS: FROM ROWS TO CIRCLES



Why should I join a group?

The best environment for life transformation in Christ is one of both truth and love. We want every person to be deeply engaged in relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ. This builds community and opportunities to care for one another as we grow closer to Christ.

In the Book of Acts, there was tremendous growth of the first church in Jerusalem because small groups meeting in homes laid the foundation. Our desire is for groups to always be inviting and foster authentic and life-giving discussions for personal discipleship and spiritual growth. Groups include Bible Studies, Serve Teams, Clusters, and other events that move us from rows to circles. Ask leadership about either joining or leading a Bible Study, Serve Team, or Cluster.





EVANGELISM: SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY



What is Evangelism?

Evangelism is teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade.

- Teach – Teaching helps remove obstacles, answer questions, and reveal the gospel's truth that Jesus is at the center of our faith.
- Gospel – This is the message of what God achieved in Christ that leads us to salvation. (Next Step “Salvation: Faith in Jesus”)
- Aim – Evangelism is not about simply the transfer of information but rather the bringing about of life transformation.
- Persuade – Evangelism is not about manipulation or coercion but rather how we speak and what we say should be filled with grace.

How to Evangelize & Share Your Testimony

Here are a few ways to evangelize or share the gospel with others:

- 3 Circles (<https://vimeo.com/227782208>)
- One Verse Evangelism (<https://youtu.be/rHnSIHlg4XI>)
- Roman's Road (<https://youtu.be/K9wSOwMYAhA>)

When evangelizing, it's encouraged to share your testimony, which is simply a personal account of how God has worked in your life.

Your testimony can be shared by answering 3 simple questions:

- What was my life like **BEFORE** Christ?
- When did I **ACCEPT** Christ?
- What is my life like now **WITH** Christ?

By answering these 3 questions, you are sharing a personal account of how God has worked in your life.



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

Ready to Accept Christ or Get Baptized?

Take your Next Step through one of the following:

- Let church leadership know
- Visit harvestministries.org/following-jesus
- Text "JESUS" or "BAPTISM" to 80797



Ready to Serve on our Dream Team?

Take your Next Step through one of the following:

- Let church leadership know or scan QR code
- Visit harvestministries.org/volunteer
- Text "SERVE" to 80797



Ready to Become a Member?

Take your Next Step through one of the following:

- Let church leadership know
- Visit harvestministries.org/membership
- Text "MEMBER" to 80797



Ready to Give?

Take your Next Step through one of the following:

- Visit harvestministries.org/give
- Text "GIVE" to 80797



Ready to Join a Group?

Take your Next Step through one of the following:

- Let church leadership know or scan QR code
- Visit harvestministries.org/clusters





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