

Covenant Community Baptist Church

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Be and Bring a Friend to Jesus: Building and Bringing

Nehemiah 4:6: So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.



Relating to the theme of building and bridging, the logo shows a structure of bricks representing the church while each individual brick represents members of the church. The various colours of each brick suggest the differences of each individual, and through sharing their common identity in Christ, they come together to form support for each other. The brick formation expands by reaching out to the 'lost' bricks beyond the community. These 'lost' bricks have a void which only Christ can fill.

January 2013

TOWARD A HEALTHY GROWING DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCH 2013-20+

Today, January 6, 2013, we celebrate CCBC's 18th Anniversary. I take this opportunity to paint for all of us, Lord willing, what a disciple-making church might look like for CCBC in the coming years. We've struggled in the past to "get out act together" and recently we have come to the point of asking if we are willing to surrender ourselves fully to obey the Great Commission as the church's "core business"—disciple-making. "What's a disciple?" you may ask. John 15:1-17 portrays for us a disciple as a person who demonstrates a growing Christ-likeness exemplifying a love for God and others, a vibrant prayer life, a love of God's Word, bears the fruit of the Spirit, and uses his or her personal resources, spiritual gifts and service to extend God's kingdom, in and through the church or wherever God places the person. **How do we develop disciples for Christ—Spiritual formation into the likeness of Christ, and using our God-given gifts to serve Christ? This is our mission, our "core business."**

Our Lord Jesus Christ exemplifies for us a disciple-making model in the Gospels. He first picked His followers and said to them: "Come and See" (John 1:38-39)—He first built a relationship with them. Then He told them, "Come, follow me" (Mark 1:16-17)—He answered their questions, and responded to their needs, taught them His Message and Mission. Finally He said to them, "Come and be with me" (Mark 3:13-14)—to take up their crosses and follow Him wholeheartedly to embody His Message and Mission to their known world—the birth of the church in Acts. Before He ascended to Heaven, our Lord taught the disciples to "Abide in me" (John 15).

Today, the church takes the same Message and Mission to our world and ask people to "come and see," "come, follow me," "come and be with me," and "abide in me"—the process of disciple-making: Winning, Building, Equipping, and Multiplying—TOWARD A HEALTHY GROWING DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCH 2013-2020+!

For CCBC, 2013-16, are foundational as we develop and test the process/strategy of a disciple-making church in progress. We invite everyone to come to a One-Day Envisioning-Covenanting Prayer Retreat, January 18 (Fri)—to seek God's face. The prayer retreat will be dedicated to PRAYER in the morning, and in the afternoon we will deliberate who (Strategy-Team) and how (Process/Strategy) we can move the church forward; culminating with a COVENANTING prayer together, to move forward toward a healthy, growing disciple-making church, 2013-2020+, Lord willing.

The Strategy-Team will be praying, planning, and working together in January-May, on the specifics of discipleship and disciple-making for CCBC. They will share their plans at the June retreat (Jun 13-18), and to everyone at CCBC for input, suggestions and refinements to sharpen the strategy. By November, we pray for CCBC to embrace and own the proposed disciple-making strategy to be implemented in 2014, and tested subsequently for their efficacy and effectiveness to advance the Gospel.

The accompanying pages provide an overview of CCBC as a disciple-making church as she progresses from stages 1-6, meeting her qualitative faith-projections/desired outcomes, and discipling/equipping her members from levels 1-5 to fulfill her called mission-vision.