

MEMBERSHIP



ANTIOCH
CHURCH

Table of Contents

Mission | 4

Story | 5

Identities | 6

Practices | 7

Beliefs | 8-9

Discipleship | 10

Ministries | 11-12

Online Platforms | 13

Membership Process | 14

Membership Covenant | 15-17

Leaving Well | 18

Mission

We pursue intentional gospel relationships to display Christ's glory among the nations.

WE PURSUE: Followers of Jesus Christ in covenant with one another, called Antioch Church, located in Louisville, Kentucky, choosing to pursue God and his mission because he first pursued us.

INTENTIONAL: Seeking to proactively and strategically proclaim the gospel to one another and to our diverse community in ways that echoes among the nations.

GOSPEL: Although we were created in God's image, we as his creatures have rebelled and pursued our own way. But thanks be to God, who is rich in mercy, he has rescued us through the Person and work of Jesus Christ, who came from heaven, lived a perfect life, died on a cross as our substitute, was buried, rose again on the third day, and now intercedes for us before the Father. Gospel transformation comes through the power of the Holy Spirit and is received by faith in Jesus and repentance from sin. Working from the inside out, the gospel conforms us more and more into the image of Christ until he returns or raises us to meet him face to face.

RELATIONSHIPS: At the heart of the gospel is relationship. Because God exists in perfect communion within himself, we were created to be in community with him and one another. Gospel living is only possible in relationships with one another as the family of God.

DISPLAY: We desire for God to reveal and make himself tangible to the world through us.

CHRIST'S: We are no longer our own; we were bought with the blood of Christ. Therefore he has supreme authority over our lives and over the church. Thus our mission is all that he commands of us.

GLORY: God is the sum and weight of everything good, pleasing, and perfect. We see his glory most clearly in Christ, who is the radiance of his glory and this exact imprint of his nature. He is at the center of all things and does not need us, but he has chosen to reveal his glory to us and through us. His glory is our delight and pursuit.

AMONG: Because Jesus took on flesh and dwelled among us, we seek to incarnate ourselves among our neighbors with gospel living and witness.

NATIONS: God is a sending God with a heart for the entire world, therefore we are sent ones who bear his heart for every nation, tribe, people, and language.

Story

We pursue intentional gospel relationships to display Christ's glory among the nations.

It was with this original vision that founding pastor Todd Robertson sought to plant our church in the most multi-ethnic neighborhood of Louisville, Kentucky. In July 2009, the group of families that would eventually form Antioch Church began to meet. Three months later, home-based family groups started, along with monthly Sunday evening gatherings in the basement of the Lynn Acres Building on Southside Drive. In May 2010, Antioch launched weekly gatherings and moved to the main sanctuary at the Lynn Acres building, now called Refuge Louisville. In March 2013, Antioch was constituted as an autonomous church.

In those first four years Antioch quickly became a cross-cultural hub. Some of our earliest gatherings included the translation of songs and sermons into multiple languages. This eventually led to the planting of Asha Church, a congregation made up of Nepali refugees. In light of our intentionally global vision, numerous people were drawn to Antioch with the hope of being sent to proclaim the good news of Jesus among the nations. Soon, a considerable percentage of Antioch members were distributed in this way around the U.S. and the world.

Shortly after our constitution, Antioch leaders were approached by New Heights Baptist Church and asked to consider adopting their congregation and facility. Later in August 2013, the adoption of New Heights was completed and the newly united Antioch received our current facility along with 11 acres of surrounding land, including a community garden and a soccer pitch. This season of receiving continued as Asha Church returned with the desire to reintegrate with us into a single multi-ethnic congregation. We also persisted in our commitment to send as TC Taylor was launched to plant New Breed Church in the west end of Louisville.

In late 2016, pastor Todd Robertson transitioned into a new role as the Director of Missions for the Louisville Regional Baptist Association. Then in May 2017, we welcomed Bradley Bell as our new lead pastor, himself a former missionary and missions pastor. To this day the original vision remains the same. Who we are is informed by five key identities: eyewitnesses, worshipers, family, disciples, and blessing. What we do is defined by three simple practices: gathering, grouping, and going. Above all, our desire is to see God graciously enable us to live up to our biblical namesake, Antioch, as we pursue intentional gospel relationships to display Christ's glory among the nations.

Identities

Eyewitnesses - Acts 1:1-11

- Jesus chooses us as his eyewitnesses
- Jesus empowers us as his eyewitnesses
- Jesus sends us as his eyewitnesses

Family - Acts 2:36-47

- The devotions of the family of God are baptism, the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer
- The outcomes of the family of God are awe, unity, growth

Disciples - Acts 6:1-7

- Disciples are fruitful followers of Jesus
- Disciples do whatever Jesus commands
- Disciples are made at Antioch by focusing on our union with Jesus in such a way that our lives become more and more characterized by the gospel advancing both in us and through us

Worshippers - Acts 9:1-22

- Worshipers see the end of themselves
- Worshipers see suffering as a privilege
- Worshipers see how much they've been forgiven

Blessing - Acts 10:1-48

- God is blessing
- God is blessing through us
- God is blessing in us

Practices

Group

Family Groups are central to Antioch. Our Sunday gatherings are incredibly important, but Antioch's vision to pursue intentional gospel relationships centers around the effectiveness of Family Groups. They are where we live out life together. Family groups are structured as weekly gatherings in someone's home. Each Family Group has three leadership roles: hosts (who provide hospitality), facilitators (who oversee the group), seconds (who are being raised up for the purpose of branching and starting new Family Groups). Every week Family Groups invest in one another by doing at least three things: sharing evidences of grace (tangible experiences of God at work in one another's lives), studying and applying Scripture, and praying for one another. Each Family Group has its own unique identity, along with freedom in scheduling meeting times, sharing meals or snacks, hanging out, and choosing a form and rhythm for being on mission together (such as serving at Iroquois High School, partnering with Refuge Louisville, reaching out to neighbors, etc.).

Gather

We also come together each Sunday at 10:15 AM for a corporate worship service called our Sunday Gathering. This is where we join the whole church together to experience together the grace of Jesus over and over, and then be sent out into his mission over and over. Sunday Gatherings always include worship, liturgy (call to worship, confession, giving, assurance, and benediction), Scripture reading, prayer, preaching, communion, and announcements. They also often include evidences of grace (similar to its use in Family Groups, only leveraged for the entire church), communal prayer, and sending (commissioning prayers for sent ones). We consider communion to be the climactic moment of every Sunday Gathering as everyone in attendance is called to respond to Jesus in light of his body that was broken and blood that was shed for us.

Go

We also recognize that a biblical church is called to go and make disciples of all nations. Because God is a sending God, we are all sent ones by identity. Therefore, it is each member's responsibility to live out his or her identity as a sent one in every setting of his or her life. We also seek to do this communally in Family Groups, through strategic local outreach, and by sending members on mission beyond Louisville.

Beliefs

Antioch Church is a Christian church within the baptistic tradition that holds to the following document and the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000* as our statements of faith. First and foremost we hold such statements of faith with three guiding principles:

In essential beliefs, we have unity.

This means we hold some beliefs to be essential to membership and we are all committed to be united in those beliefs. This does not necessarily mean that Christians must believe exactly as we do to be Christians. If that were the case we would be essentially saying that faithful Christians from church history were not Christians like Augustine, Jerome, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, John Wesley, and C.S. Lewis, because none of these individuals were Baptists. The reality is we agree entirely with the Christian tradition of the church in the following: the Trinity, the Scriptures, the deity of Christ, that salvation is by faith, that Jesus will return, etc. Yet at the same time have some areas of disagreement that prevent us from weekly worshiping with other Christian traditions, and that's okay.

In non-essential beliefs, we have diversity.

There are some beliefs about the Christian faith that we consider non-essential to our unity. With these types of beliefs we not only allow but delight in the diversity that God has created at Antioch. First and foremost, because diversity in our body promotes humility. Some examples of non-essential beliefs would be: spiritual gifts, eschatology or end times, roles of women within the church (we have women deacons, and some Christian traditions do not), the relationship between the Old and New Testaments, the art and practice of biblical interpretation, faith and politics, the specific meaning of the Lord's Supper, the nature and means of sanctification, and social justice issues. Attitudes of superiority and pejorative statements about these beliefs are not welcome here. The use of language of "more biblical", or "more faithful" in these areas is not acceptable for members of Antioch Church. The reality is that all Christians who seek to understand and apply the Bible have to resolve areas of tension within the text of the Bible in different ways. Or Christians make choices about issues that are less clear in the Scriptures than others. And that's necessary and okay.

In all of our beliefs, we promote love.

Both our essential and non-essential beliefs should have the result of love. Love of God and neighbor is the great commandment (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:38-29; Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:27-28). Love is the cardinal virtue of the Christian life (1 Corinthians 13:13; Galatians 5:22). Love is the fulfillment of God's law (Galatians 5:14; Romans 13:8-10).

We believe God wrote the Bible through men without error. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

We believe God exists eternally in trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:13; Jude)

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal God-man who became a man, lived a sinless life, died on a cross, was buried, and physically rose from the grave to redeem sinful humanity. (John 1:14; 1 Peter 2:21-22; Acts 4:10; Philippians 2:7-11; Luke 23:26-24: 53)

We believe the Holy Spirit is the supernatural agent in salvation, baptizing all Christians into the universal church at conversion, indwelling and sealing them until the day of Christ's return. (John 16:8-11; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 5:18)

We believe all humans are sinful and in need of salvation. Salvation is the gift of God brought to humans by grace alone, and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. A true Christian will be kept by God's power forever. (John 6:37-40; John 10:27-30; Romans 8:1; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5)

We believe God has created all humans in his image. He has created them uniquely female and male. (Genesis 1:26-27)

We believe the church is a spiritual body made up of all believers everywhere for all time. (Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2)

We believe the establishment of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament. (Acts 14:27; Acts 18:22; 1 Timothy 3:1-3; Titus 1:5-11)

We believe in the autonomy of the local church and practice believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper as our ordinances. (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; Romans 16:14; 1 Corinthians 3:9; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41, 42; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-36)

We believe that Jesus is returning to earth to judge all people and to rule and reign with His saints forever. (Revelation 22:12; 2 Timothy 4:1)

A broader explanation of beliefs we affirm can be found in the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*.

Discipleship

How does Antioch make disciples? Talking about the concept of a disciple can be really inspiring, but that inspiration can easily die without real, practical clarity for our church. Recently I was approached by member of our church who asked the simple question, "How do you grow as a leader at Antioch?" What was meant by the question was, "What are the onramps?" "What is the process?" "What are the steps for growing in responsibility in our church?" It was a great question and it troubled me that it wasn't already crystal clear. To grow as a leader is to grow as a servant, and to grow as a servant leader is at the heart of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. So to me this question is a discipleship question. Not what curriculum do we use. The curriculum is the word of God applied to the heart that bleeds into your life. The classroom is the people of God, the church, bleeding out into the world.

A disciple is a person who has been united to Jesus and is characterized by the gospel advancing in them and the gospel advancing through them. A person may grow from an Antioch visitor to a fruitful disciple in the following movements both inside and outside of the church:

Sunday Gathering
Family Group
Covenant Membership
Service
Training

Servant Leader
Family Group Facilitator
Family Group Second
Family Group Host
Candidate

Elder
Deacon
Distributed
Staff

and/or fruitfulness in
Mission | Family | Ministry | Marketplace

Ministries

All Antioch ministries are guided by the same mission: pursuing intentional gospel relationship to display Christ's glory among the nations. They are led by deacons/deaconesses or deacons/deaconesses in development.

Arts

Creatives who seek to cultivate beauty in the church facilities and among the community.

Facilities

The strategic management and stewardship of our facilities and surrounding 11 acres.

Kids

Meets during Sunday Gatherings for children ages nursery through kindergarten, in classrooms designated by age.

Young Disciples

Meets before Sunday Gatherings at 9:30 AM and every third Friday of the month from 6:30- 8:30 PM at the building. Kids are divided into grades 1-3 and 4-6.

Youth

Meets before Sunday Gatherings at 9:30 AM and every other Saturday of the month. Youth are grades 7-12.

College

This ministry to college students and college-age non-students is just beginning.

Worship

Volunteer musicians who prepare and lead the church in worship and liturgy.

Men

This ministry is currently without leadership.

Women

A team of women cultivating intentional gospel relationships among women through quarterly events such as trainings, retreats, and Christmas gift exchanges.

Missionary Care

Meets the first Monday of the month at a member's home at 7:00 PM. It is made up of members who advocate for missionaries who are preparing to be sent, those who are have already been sent, and those who have returned from being sent.

Mercy

The 3rd Saturday of every month we host a food pantry that helps meet the needs of families and gives us a chance to connect and pray with them. Doors open at 10:15 AM.

Hospitality

Hospitality for Sunday Gatherings is assigned to Family Groups according to a monthly rotation. This allows Family Groups to serve the church together on a regular basis, as well as involves everyone in the ministry of hospitality. Tasks include greeting, cleaning, serving coffee, taking up giving, and serving communion.

Sound

The sound team oversees the sound production and sermon recording at Sunday Gatherings.

Online Platforms

Website

antiochpeople.org

The City

antiochpeople.onthecity.org

Breeze

antiochpeople.breezechms.com

Social Media

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google

Easy Tithe

app.easytithe.com/g3/

Membership Process

Because Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant, his followers are reunited both to God and to one another (Hebrews 9:15; Ephesians 2:14-16). In other words, the covenant God has a covenant family (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:26-28). At Antioch we express that covenant through church membership. This is a mutual commitment between the church and the member, a way of saying, 'I'm all in--let's journey together toward Jesus' (Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:25).

The membership process at Antioch takes place once each quarter and includes the following:

First Sunday - Membership Interest Meeting - A ten-minute meeting immediately following the Sunday gathering to express interest in membership and discuss the process

Second Sunday - Membership Class - A 2.5-hour class immediately following the Sunday gathering to teach membership candidates about Antioch and dialogue with pastors

Following two weeks - Membership interviews - A short conversation with an Antioch leader for a membership candidate to share his/her story, discuss any questions, and sign the Member Covenant

Fourth Sunday - New member introductions - During the Sunday gathering new members are presented to the church, given stones of remembrance, and prayed for

New Antioch members are then able to serve, attend Family Meetings, and vote on church matters. In order to maintain a strong identity as the family of God, we also take time each January to emphasize membership and renew each member's Membership Covenant.

Membership Covenant

We pursue intentional gospel relationships to display Christ's glory among the nations. Living out this declaration means...

With the help of the Holy Spirit, the pastors covenant the following:

- We commit ourselves to lovingly caring for you and seeking your growth in Christ (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12).
- We covenant to provide teaching, preaching and counsel from the Scriptures (Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
- We commit to teach you the whole counsel of God's Word (Acts 20:27-28).
- We commit to give you no reason for shame but to rightly divide God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15)
- We commit to helping you in times of need (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; James 2:14-17).
- We covenant that your elders and deacons will meet the qualification required of them in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-13 & 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- We covenant to pray for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14).
- We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).
- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1).
- We covenant to help you become equipped to serve Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).
- We covenant to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-5).
- We covenant to set an example of life and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12).

We, the covenant members of Antioch Church, do hereby covenant with each other before God to:

- Be family; committed to each other; to love, accept, and forgive each other until God's call causes us to part. (John 13:34-35; Romans 12:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11, 1 Peter 4:8).
- Live in, by, and for Jesus Christ and take His commands seriously. (Colossians 1:15-23)
- Help others grow toward Christian maturity by bearing each other's burdens, encouraging, exhorting, praying for, confessing our sins to one another, speaking the truth in love, admonishing, building up, teaching, comforting, submitting, serving, and patiently bearing with one another; by being hospitable, greeting, living in peace with, regarding one another as more important than ourselves, caring for, exercising our spiritual gifts to, being kind and tenderhearted to, being devoted to, accepting, forgiving, and loving one another. (see attached "One Another" passages)

- Invite fellow members to pray for us, teach us, correct us, or rebuke us, if necessary, in a spirit of gentleness and humility should we stray from our Lord’s commands, because the thing we desire most in life is to serve Christ. (Ephesians 4:15,16; Hebrews 10:24, 25)
- Voluntarily submit to one another and to the discipline of the church. Such discipline will always be for the loving purpose of restoration—restoration to fellowship with God and with the covenant community—and it will always be done in accordance with Matthew 18:15-22. (1 Corinthians 5:11-12)
- Bring honor to the body of Christ by maintaining a good testimony. (Titus 2:11-14)
- Guard the unity of the body. (Philippians 1:27)
- Support the work of the church through faithful stewardship of time, talent, and finances. (Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 9:11; 1 Timothy 6:18)

We enter into this covenant because we have the common purpose of obeying Jesus Christ, and because we believe that we need one another’s help to do this.

As believers, and disciples of Jesus Christ, we have entered into a covenant relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—with the God who revealed Himself in Jesus. Since the blessings and promises of the covenant have been freely extended and given to us, out of wonder, love, thanksgiving, and reverence, we hereby accept and take up the covenant responsibilities that go with such a privilege. This is our reasonable service, and we should do nothing less.

I commit to actively participate in the life of this gospel community by striving to:
 Group, especially in Family Group; Go, especially engaging in evangelism and mission;
 Gather, especially through weekly gathered worship.

We rely on His grace and hold fast to His promise that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. We live under the promise and power of the Gospel.

I affirm that I have yielded my life by trusting Christ alone, by grace through faith. I affirm that I have been baptized as a believer as a public declaration of my faith in Christ. I am in agreement with the areas discussed in this covenant and with the Antioch Church Declaration and Statement of Beliefs. I understand this covenant is not expecting me to be perfect, but to have a heart attitude that is pleasing to the Lord. With that in mind, I commit myself to the Lord and to the Antioch Church family.

Sign/Date:

Your Name

Date

Please sign and keep this copy as an encouragement and reminder.
 Please sign and return the other attached signature page.

The “one another” passages in the Bible passages are essential for us to understand and develop healthy relationships by knowing we are called to one another:

- Love one another: John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; Romans 12:10; 13:8; 14:13; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11, 3:22; 4:8; 23; 4:7, 11-12; 2 John 1:5
- Serve one another: Galatians 5:13; 21; Philippians 2:3; 1 Peter 4:9; 5:5
- Accept one another: Romans 15:7, 14
- Strengthen one another: Romans 14:19
- Help one another: Hebrews 3:13; 10:24
- Encourage one another: Romans 14:19; 15:14; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25
- Care for one another: Galatians 6:2
- Forgive one another: Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13
- Submit to one another: Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5
- Commit to one another: 1 John 3:16
- Build trust with one another: 1 John 1:7
- Be devoted to one another: Romans 12:10
- Be patient with one another: Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13
- Be interested in one another: Philippians 2:4
- Be accountable to one another: Ephesians 5:21
- Confess to one another: James 5:16
- Live in harmony with one another: Romans 12:16
- Do not be conceited to one another: Romans 13:8
- Do not pass judgment to one another: Romans 14:13; 15:7
- Do not slander one another: James 4:11
- Instruct one another: Romans 16:16
- Greet one another: Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:12
- Admonish one another: Romans 5:14; Colossians 3:16
- Spur one another on toward love and good deeds: Hebrews 10:24
- Meet with one another: Hebrews 10:25
- Agree with one another: 1 Corinthians 16:20
- Be concerned for one another: Hebrews 10:24
- Be humble to one another in love: Ephesians 4:2
- Be compassionate to one another: Ephesians 4:32
- Do not be consumed by one another Galatians 5:14-15
- Do not anger one another: Galatians 5:26
- Do not lie to one another: Colossians 3:9
- Do not grumble to one another: James 5:9
- Give preference to one another: Romans 12:10
- Be at peace with one another: Romans 12:18
- Sing to one another: Ephesians 5:19
- Be of the same mind to one another: Romans 12:16; 15:5
- Comfort one another: 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11
- Be kind to one another: Ephesians 4:32
- Live in peace with one another: 1 Thessalonians 5:13
- Carry one another's burdens: Galatians 6:2

Leaving Well