

**THE VISION OF HOPE CHURCH:**

“LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. LIVE ON MISSION”

THE MISSION OF HOPE CHURCH:

WE ARE A FAMILY FOLLOWING THE WAY OF JESUS.

WE LIVE BY FAITH

WE ARE KNOWN BY LOVE

WE WILL BE A VOICE OF HOPE TO THE COMMUNITY.

THIS IS HOPE CHURCH

Hope Church is not a building. Hope Church is people. It’s always been people.

From the small group of us gathered in the barn on Post Oak Road to the 120 year old building on Harker Road to this new building on Pine Grove Rd, Hope Church still believes that our most valuable asset is the only one Jesus died for: **people**.

That’s why we are so excited that you feel God nudging you in our direction. What you will see as you make your way through the next several pages is that Hope Church is anything but ordinary and average. God has done extraordinary things through our church, and the great thing is, He’s still writing our story.

Hope Church is a church where lives are changed - not just improved - changed! Families are put back together, broken relationships are restored, and people who are far from God learn that God is not far from them.

Hope Church is a church that doesn’t just say to people, “We love you.” Hope Church gives sacrificially to the people around us to show our love because of God’s love. Are we perfect? No! And we will never, not even for a second, claim to be - we’re a family with faults, but since we’re a family, we love one another anyway.

Thank you for being willing to go beyond the front door to joining as a member. Hopefully, you will find the information contained in this packet aligning with where you are spiritually, and you will feel complete peace in your heart about becoming a part of our family and go **“ALL IN”** here at Hope!

WHAT WE BELIEVE AT HOPE CHURCH:

- **The Scriptures are inspired by God and therefore true, authoritative, and sufficient.** (Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- **There is only one God.** (Deut. 6:4; Isaiah 46:9-10; John 17:1-3; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; 1 Tim. 2:5)
- **The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. The Father is neither the Son nor the Holy Spirit. The Son is neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son.** (Gen. 1:26; Psalm 45:6-7; Psalm 110:1; Matt. 3:13-17; Matt. 28:17-20; 1 Cor. 12:4-6)
- **I am, along with all humanity, a sinner** (Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:23, 5:8, 5:12-21)
- **The deserved penalty for sin is death, both physical and spiritual.** (Gen. 2:15-17; Gen. 3:19; Romans 5:12, 6:23; James 1:14-15)
- **Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin, and is both fully God and fully human.** (Matt. 1:20; Luke 2:52; Jn. 1:1-4, 14; Col. 1:15-20; Heb. 1:1-3)
- **Jesus Christ died as my substitute to pay the penalty for my sin.** (Jn. 1:29, 10:1-18; Rom. 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18)
- **Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead.** (Matt. 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; Jn. 1:20-21, 25; 1 Cor. 15:12-34)
- **Jesus Christ physically ascended into Heaven, and one day will one day physically return.** (Jn. 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thes. 4:16; Heb. 9:28; 1 Jn. 3:2; Rev. 1:7)
- **There will be a future physical resurrection of the dead. Those who trust in Jesus Christ alone will be raised to eternal reward. Those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal punishment.** (Matt. 25:31-46; Jn. 5:28-29; Acts 24:15)
- **Only by trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone can I be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy.** (Jn. 3:18, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 3:21-26; 1 Tim. 2:5-6)

HOPE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AKA BEING “ALL IN”

Membership within a local church carries both privileges and responsibilities. Those who call themselves Hope Church Family are held accountable to the responsibilities of general Christian obligations. These responsibilities include praying for and pursuing the health of the church body and personal holiness.

In signing the “**ALL IN**” agreement (last page), you will be affirming that you are “**ALL IN**” and understand that membership is not forced on any individual and includes:

Submitting to the Scriptures as the final authority on all issues. (Psalm 119; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

Pursing the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of spiritual disciplines. (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Eph. 5:1-21; 1 Thes. 5:12-22)

Following the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His church: by being baptized after conversion, and by regularly remembering the person and work of Christ through communion.

Stewarding the resources God has given each member of the HCF, including time, talents, spiritual gifts, and finances. This stewardship includes regular financial giving, service and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary. (Matt. 25:14-30; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 8-9; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

By God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:13-16, 4:1-3)

HOPE CHURCH IS A GOSPEL-CENTERED CHURCH

The most important thing you could ever know about Hope Church is that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is both the beginning and the ending of everything we do. The Gospel is our message, it determines our methods and it drives our mission. We are a Gospel-centered church. That means we apply the sinless life of Jesus, the sacrificial death of Jesus, and the supernatural resurrection of Jesus in and to every area of ministry. Our fellowship as friends is based on the Gospel. Our missions efforts, our church gatherings, our singing, our serving, and our lives are all a reflection of the Gospel.

Jesus came to earth to fulfill the Gospel (2 Corinthians 5:21), and the church exists for the spread of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Romans 1:16). The Gospel isn't just a verse in the song of Hope Church - it's the entire song, and we pray God will teach us new ways to sing it more clearly, more loudly, and more boldly than ever before. If we yelled through an amplified megaphone, we still couldn't stress loudly enough the importance of existing, living, and functioning as a Gospel-centered church.

It is so important, that you should never identify with a church that isn't Gospel-saturated and Gospel-centered. The greatest demand that you should make of any church congregation is that they have a correct view of who Jesus is, what Jesus has done, and His authority over the church that He purchased by shedding His own blood. Please know that you can be completely confident that here at Hope Church we are now, and will continue to be, fully committed to the responsibility of presenting the truth of the Gospel without deviation or compromise. Since the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God to salvation (Romans 1:16), we can't alter or abandon that truth.

GOSPEL-CENTERED COMMUNITY

- Followers of The Way work together like a family. (1 Tim. 3:5, 5:12)
- Followers of The Way work together. “The Body” (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:16-17)
- Followers of The Way guard the well-being of other Christians. (Acts 2:44-45)
- Followers of The Way strive to live peaceably with one another. (Rom. 12:18; Heb. 12:14)
- Followers of The Way confess to one another without fear of betrayal. (James 5:16)
- Followers of The Way apologize for their offenses against others. (1 For. 6:1-20)
- Followers of The Way faithfully attend services and intentionally exhort one another. (Heb. 10:25)
- Followers of The Way actively engage in discipleship. (Matt. 28:19-20)
- Followers of The Way live to glorify God. (1 Cor. 6:20)

HOPE CHURCH LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND DNA

- Jesus is the Senior Pastor of the Church.
- Pastors and Elders are called by Jesus to lead the church under Jesus’ authority.
- HLT are the lead servants in the church
- Staff lead ministry areas and those who are “ALL IN”
- Those “ALL IN” (Members of the church) are the life of the church and the continuation of the ministry. No local church could ever move forward without committed families and individuals. People are the Church, and are ultimately empowered by Jesus to be the Church.

JESUS IS TO ALWAYS BE THE CENTER FOCUS OF THE CHURCH

- He is to be the only celebrity in the church.
- He is to always be the foremost object of our affection
- The pastor’s identity should never be promoted beyond the identity of Jesus, the church’s identity or its commitment to the Gospel. (Col. 1:18; Acts 4:11; Eph. 2:20)

WE SUBMIT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE OVER THE TRADITIONS OF MAN

- Our pursuit is to be Biblical, not traditional
- We will not teach anything as doctrine that is not clearly defined in Scripture. (Gal. 2:20; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20)

LEADERS ARE REQUIRED BY GOD TO EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY, AND THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY ADVANCES THE MISSION OF JESUS

- Healthy, equipped saints make disciples, the lost are reached, the church is cared for, the community is served, and the number of disciples is increased. (Eph. 4:12; 2 Cor. 5:18)

WE ARE NOT CALLED TO “GO TO CHURCH” BUT TO “BE THE CHURCH”

- Public worship should not be seen as “going to church” but rather the gathering of the church. Being outside of a church building doesn’t make us less than “the church,” but actually presents us with the opportunity to impact our community by living as the church.
- Jesus declares believers to be “the temple,” which means He doesn’t live in buildings, but His Spirit lives in those who are saved. (1 Cor. 3:16-17; Eph. 2:21)

WE ARE TO “ROLL AWAY” THE STONES THAT KEEP PEOPLE FROM EXPERIENCING THE POWER OF JESUS

- We believe in removing the unnecessary, legalistic, and religious stones that stand between people and the life-changing power of Jesus. (John 11:38-44; Matt. 15:1-14; Col. 2:8)

MISSIONS SHOULD BE A LIFESTYLE RATHER THAN A PROGRAM

- Christians are to give generously and serve generously
- We believe missions happens in our daily lives in our local communities, and planned trips that advance the cause of Christ and His Church. We are on mission everyday as we live with Gospel intentionality. (Matt. 25:35-46; 1 Cor. 4:11-13)

WE ARE DIFFERENT IN OUR PREFERENCES, BUT ONE IN OUR OBJECTIVE

- We believe in unity on the basis of the Gospel, and the shared common goals of advancing the Gospel. The world needs to encounter the message of a Savior who died and rose again to make it possible for sinful people to be accepted by a holy God. For us, that takes preeminence over every unscriptural preference. (Rom. 15:5-6; Phil. 1:27)

GOD HONORS PLANTING, NOT SPLITTING OR MAKING CAMPUSES

- We are wholeheartedly committed to advancing the cause of Christ by multiplying the number of healthy, Gospel-centered, Biblical churches. (1 Cor. 1; Luke 10:2)

HOPE LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups are the primary means by which we make disciples, and exists to help people learn the Bible and live out the practical Christian life together.

What exactly is a Life Group?

It's fellowship, it's eating, it's serving, it's studying, it's sharing, it's growing, it's becoming, it's praying, it's caring, it's loving, it's meeting the needs of a friend and having friends who can help when you're in need. Simply put, Community Life is beautiful because it is a chance for followers of the Way to live life together.

Community is a lot like a river, it flows. There isn't a one size fits all approach. There isn't even one geographical location or one gathering opportunity where everyone meets, but instead there are various times, places, and opportunities that best meet the needs of your specific group.

The hope is that as many people as possible would experience the life changing power of Biblical community. Life Groups are a radical call amid a culture of mere attendance and casual involvement. It involves mutual love, care, consistency, and authenticity as we seek to adore the person and work of Jesus Christ with our lives.

HOST TEAM

The purpose of The Host Team is to provide a vehicle for followers of Jesus to use their gifts, talents, and abilities to serve their community on Sunday mornings, in our neighborhoods, in our city, and around the world.

At Hope Church, we believe in moving from spectators to participants in the mission of God. He has designed us for a specific purpose and equipped each of us with specific

gifts, talents, and abilities. We strongly believe that God intends for all of us to use these attributes for His glory and purposes.

We have formed different HOST TEAMS to fit each individual based on what God has equipped them with. Whether it's helping guests find a parking spot, greeting and escorting people, holding an infant, operating the sound booth or anything in between, our HOST TEAMS are connection opportunities to the work of Jesus.

There is no greater joy than to know that you are being used by God in a way that is making an eternal impact on others. If you feel like it's time to get off of the sidelines and get into the action, then serving on a HOST TEAM is the place to volunteer.

WHY DO WE USE THE TERM “ALL IN” for Members of Hope Church?

We replaced the word “member” with the words “**ALL IN.**” These are the reasons:

- Member implies privilege and entitlement
- Member implies exclusivity and elitism
- **ALL IN** implies common mission and effort
- ALL IN implies belonging and commitment

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BECOME ALL IN HERE AT HOPE CHURCH?

Hope Church is made up of many who are **ALL IN.** Without each contribution, the church cannot operate at full effectiveness. Fulfilling the mission of the Gospel in our communities, the work of the Gospel in our neighborhoods, and serving one another in way that honors God becomes impossible without the dedication of those who call Hope home and are “ALL IN”

These individuals have placed their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, and have obediently surrendered to Christ's commands (*baptism, giving, serving, etc...*)

These individuals also commit to promote and serve the cause of Christ through Hope Church, working to ensure its health and well being.

These Individuals reveal their love for the church by giving their time, talent, and treasure to help fulfill the mission of Hope Church.

WHY SHOULD YOU BE ALL IN?

BEING ALL IN....

- Affirms your belief in the ministry of Hope Church. It shows that you are in agreement with our doctrinal statement, vision, and mission.
- Takes you from being a spectator to a participator. We give together, we serve together, and we celebrate together.

- Places you under the care and leadership of our Pastor and Leadership, who guide you in God's Word and pledge to guard the well-being of those who make up the family of Hope Church.
 - Calls you to make a commitment and provides a healthy level of accountability/opportunity.
 - Allows the leadership to identify those who are serious about our vision and mission.
- Being "**ALL IN**" allows you to be obedient to the Word of God by partnering with a local body of believers.

HOPE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT TO BEING "ALL IN"

Hope Church is a ministry that is carried out by individuals who willingly labor in the Lord and are ALL IN to advance HIS Kingdom!

Hope Church believes the local church is the means by which God is accomplishing His purposes in the world. The church exists to display the glory of God, because all things exist for His glory. Followers of Jesus are participants in God's redemptive purposes for the world through the church.

One of Hope Church's greatest convictions is that church membership should be meaningful. Therefore, we believe it is important to covenant together as a church family. As a family Hope Church, we therefore covenant with God and with each other:

TO PROTECT THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH:

- By acting like a how a christian should towards others who call Hope Church home
- By refusing to gossip
- By seeking out those who know answers to your questions instead of starting rumors
- By just saying no to drama
- By following, trusting and praying for leadership

TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HOPE CHURCH:

- By praying for its growth
- By inviting the unchurched to attend
- By warmly welcoming our guests. (*Think of yourself as the host*)

TO SERVE THE MINISTRY OF HOPE CHURCH THROUGH:

- Discovering my gifts and talents
- Developing a servant's heart
- Being equipped and choosing to serve

TO SUPPORT THE VISION, MISSION, & PURPOSES OF HOPE CHURCH:

- By attending
- By living a Godly life
- By being generous through financial giving & serving to fuel the mission forward

READY TO GO ALL IN? FILL OUT THE NEXT PAGE AND TURN IT IN!



SIGN YOUR NAME HERE

PRINT YOUR NAME HERE

DATE

Address: _____

City/State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Are you interested in joining a Life Group? Yes / No (Please Circle)

Are you interested in joining a Host Team? Yes / No (Please Circle and list your preference)

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____

Please complete this page and return it to us for our records.