FIRST PRES

Membership WORKBOOK

Welcome to your online membership experience! We're excited that you are taking a step toward your discipleship growth here at First Pres. Over the next two weeks, a First Pres Elder will reach out to set up a meeting time (by phone or video chat) to get to know you, hear about your faith story and to encourage you in your faith journey. You will receive an email each week that includes all you need to complete your homework.

To prepare for our first online meeting:

- Turn to page 10 of your booklet and begin writing your faith story.
- View the Discipleship Pathway video.
- On page 3, put a mark where you think you are on your own discipleship journey.

We'll see you at Session 1.

Session 1: MY STORY

A great place to meet Christ

Mark 1:1–11

Write down key words:

The beginning of the good news
about Jesus the Messiah, the Son
of God, [2] as it is written in Isaiah
the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of
you, who will prepare your way"
[3] "a voice of one calling in the
wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the
Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

[4] And so John the Baptist appeared
in the wilderness, preaching a
baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins. [5] The whole
Judean countryside and all the
people of Jerusalem went out to
him. Confessing their sins, they
were baptized by him in the Jordan
River. [6] John wore clothing made
of camel's hair, with a leather belt
around his waist, and he ate locusts
and wild honey. [7] And this was his
message: "After me comes the one
more powerful than I, the straps of
whose sandals I am not worthy to
stoop down and untie. [8] I baptize
you with water, but he will baptize
you with the Holy Spirit."

[9] At that time Jesus came from
Nazareth in Galilee and was
baptized by John in the Jordan.
[10] Just as Jesus was coming up
out of the water, he saw heaven
being torn open and the Spirit
descending on him like a dove.
[11] And a voice came from heaven:
"You are my Son, whom I love; with
you I am well pleased."

Your Story:
How did your faith journey begin? When did you meet Christ, and who helped "prepare the way" for you?

Why Membership?

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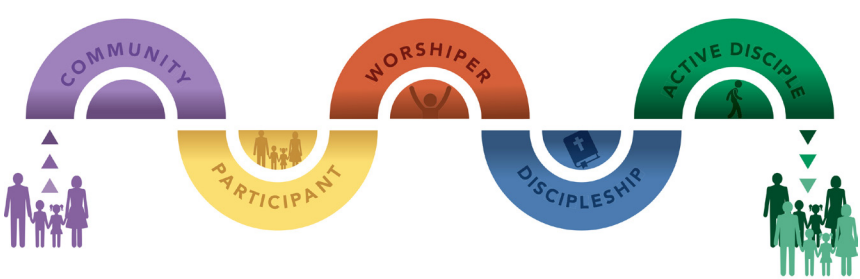

Homework:

- View Pastor Tim's Testimony video
- View Pastor Tim's Reformation Tradition video

Session 2: Our Mission

Pastor Tim's Testimony

Tim grew up in Colorado Springs and met Christ through Young Life ministries. The verse that changed his heart is Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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First Pres Mission and Vision
Light and Life for the City

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The Reformed Tradition
"The Bible declares salvation by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ Alone to the Glory of God."

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Homework:

- View the First Pres Mission philosophy video
- Take the Spiritual Gifts Assessment Tool
- Complete your one-page faith story and send to imeyer@firstprescos.org

Session 3:
THE KINGDOM LIFE

The Good Samaritan and our Pattern of Mission

Luke 10:25–37

Write down key words:

25 On one occasion an expert in
the law stood up to test Jesus.
"Teacher," he asked, "what must I
do to inherit eternal life?"

26 "What is written in the Law?" he
replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered, "'Love the Lord
your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all
your strength and with all your
mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor
as yourself.'"

28 "You have answered correctly,"
Jesus replied. "Do this and you
will live."

29 But he wanted to justify himself,
so he asked Jesus, "And who is
my neighbor?"

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was
going down from Jerusalem to
Jericho, when he was attacked by
robbers. They stripped him of his
clothes, beat him and went away,
leaving him half dead. 31 A priest
happened to be going down the
same road, and when he saw the
man, he passed by on the other
side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he
came to the place and saw him,
passed by on the other side. 33 But
a Samaritan, as he traveled, came
where the man was; and when he
saw him, he took pity on him.
34 He went to him and bandaged
his wounds, pouring on oil and
wine. Then he put the man on his
own donkey, brought him to an
inn and took care of him. 35 The
next day he took out two denarii
and gave them to the innkeeper.
'Look after him,' he said, 'and when
I return, I will reimburse you for any
extra expense you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you
think was a neighbor to the man
who fell into the hands
of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied,
"The one who had mercy on him."
Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

The Neighbor Pattern

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Your Story:
Think about your current "neighbors" (family, occupation, community, church). Is there a specific person God is asking you to be a neighbor to right now?

Generosity and Stewarding our Resources

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Joining the Church:
YOUR STORY

What are your spiritual gifts and how do you want to use them at First Pres?

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_____

- Read the membership covenant
- Questions of Membership
- Vote by Elders

WORSHIP +2

Worship Service I attend:

My Community Group:

Where I am Serving:

My Story with God: A Brief Spiritual Journey

Each person's journey with Christ is unique. When we share our stories, community can grow deeper and we can spur one another on along the path of discipleship.

During the next of couple weeks, find some quiet time to write your story. You will share your story with your Elder.

1. Describe your early spiritual life. You might include life experiences, religious upbringing, ideas about God.

2. Describe how you came into a relationship with Jesus Christ. You might include significant people, places or life situations. Be as specific as you can.

3. Describe your life with God since meeting Jesus: changes, priorities, struggles, spiritual desires/goals. He is leading each of us uniquely.

Name: _____

Date: _____

When You Join

If you choose to become a First Pres Covenant Partner at the completion of this course, an elder will ask you the following questions, then the entire Session (Board of Elders) will vote to receive you into membership:

1. Do you celebrate that you have been created in God's image?

2. Do you acknowledge your sinful nature and that you have been saved by grace alone?

3. Who is your Lord and Savior?

4. Will you be actively involved in God's church, using your gifts to make a difference in this world and sharing Christ's love with those around you?

A copy of the covenant will be mailed to you after you've been received into membership.

My Covenant

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that I am a sinner, and that He is my Lord and Savior. It is my desire to trust in Him, to be His disciple, to obey His Word and to show His love.

As part of the body of First Pres, I promise to grow in the values we hold:

Live for God

Share the Good News

Hold Fast

Deploy Generosity

Keep Growing

Make Beauty

Love Like Jesus

SAMPLE

Signed _____

Do not sign

Date _____

MISSION ENGAGEMENT

City Engagement
16 Local Mission Partners

- Catholic Charities
- COSILoveYou
- Dale House
- Family Life Services
- Family Mentor Alliance
- Family Promise
- Fostering Hope
- Greccio
- Hope and Home
- Life Network
- Lutheran Family Services
- Pikes Peak Academy
- Springs Rescue Mission
- Thrive
- Urban Peak
- Pikes Peak Young Life

Global Engagement
4 Global Mission Partners

- Cuba
- Egypt
- Guatemala
- Mongolia

For more information, visit **firstprescos.org/mission-engagement**.

Elders

CLASS OF 2021

Mike Albright
Sam Edwards
Christina Harrell
Warren Roach
Gary Shugart
Joe Simpich
Andrea Tepley

CLASS OF 2022

Paul Batura
Heather Bauman
Kathy Freyschlag
Tonya Lark
Jim Martin
Melissa Owen
Greg Sharp

CLASS OF 2023

Dorothy Alvarez
Randy Case
Bonnie Cherry
Kurt Eilmes
Stephannie Fortune
Nick Fuller
Alan Jacobs

Pastors and Ministers

Chris Cullins
Jim DeJarnette
John Goodale
Greg Hartnett
Matt Holtzman
Jennifer Holz
Tim McConnell
Michael Thornton

ECO
A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians

MISSION: To build flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ.

eco-pres.org

FIRST PRES

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