



70 Clay School Road
Ephrata, Pa 17522
717.721.1975
www.gatewayprayer.com

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Gateway House of Prayer (GHOP). We are excited about your application to serve as a volunteer. Below is a checklist of required items to be completed and returned to the Administration Office before we can contact you for placement:

- Volunteer Application
- Personal Testimony (On your own paper, please type or hand print)
- Pastoral Recommendation
- Verification that you have read and are in agreement with:
 - GHOP Vision & Values
 - Doctrinal Statement

Please complete the entire application packet and turn in all of the documents at the same time (Except for the "Pastoral Recommendation"). We will not be able to process incomplete applications. A picture of yourself is required.

If you have any questions, please contact the Administration Office at admin@gatewayprayer.com.

We look forward to meeting you!

All for Christ,

GHOP Administration



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Application Date: ____/____/____

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

All information shared herein is completely confidential and will only be seen by pertinent GHOP staff. If you have any questions about this application, please call 717-721-1975 and ask to speak with the administrator or email: admin@gatewayprayer.com.

We urge you to be honest in your responses. We are not looking for perfect people to serve at GHOP. We are seeking those who are in pursuit of holiness in the midst of their weaknesses, who can assess their hearts and lives honestly. Many involved in GHOP have ugly pasts that God is making beautiful through His love, presence, and power. Resist the temptation to "shade" your responses to what you think we want to hear. Thanks!

General Information:

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------------|--|
| Last Name: | | | Please attach a recent photograph of yourself here. (This helps us to identify your face with your name. It may be any size. It does not need to fit this box.)  |
| First Name: | | Preferred Name: | |
| Address: | | | |
| City: | State: | Zip: | |
| Phone: | Email: | | |

Birth Date: ____/____/____
Month Day Year

Gender: Male Female

Place of Birth: _____

Nationality: _____

Marital Status: Single Engaged Married Widowed Separated Divorced Remarried

Name of spouse or fiancé: _____ Date of marriage (if engaged): _____

Does your spouse support your desire to serve in this ministry? Yes No

Spiritual Life:

Home Congregation: _____ Pastor's Name: _____

Church Phone: _____ Are you a member? Yes No How long have you attended there? _____

How long have you been a Christian? _____

What spiritual gifts do you see at work in your life? (Evangelism, serving, teaching, prophetic ministry, etc.)

Comment on your devotional life. Are you meeting your expectations for your personal spiritual life?

Please try to assess yourself on the following:

| | Weak | Fair | Good | Very Good |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Spiritual Maturity..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Devotion to Christ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Personal Integrity / Honesty..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Self-Discipline..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Willingness to Serve..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Teachability..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Flexibility..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ability to Work with Others..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family Life..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Communication Skills..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Leadership Skills..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reliability..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Physical Health..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Emotional Stability..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Openness to Correction..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Attitude Toward Authority..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Comments on any of the above:

What would you consider to be your strengths?

What would you consider to be your weaknesses?

List some of your hobbies and interests:

Personal Testimony. On a separate sheet of paper, type or write a brief spiritual autobiography. Include your conversion experience, your present walk with God, and any plans or goals you have for the future.

I have read, understand and I am willing to submit to the values, commitments, and policies required to serve as a volunteer in Gateway House of Prayer. I have read and I am in general agreement with the Statement of Faith.

GHOP Vision & Values

Doctrinal Statement

Do you give GHOP permission to communicate with you by email? Yes No

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Name</i> | <i>Date</i> |
| X | |



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Name: _____

Volunteer Time Commitments & Position Interests

What day(s) and time(s) are you committing to serve in Gateway House of Prayer?

Position: Intercessor Musician/Singer Time/Day: _____

GET INVOLVED

Directions: Please clearly mark the boxes of the specific positions you have interest in serving within the GHOP Prayer Room. If you are seeking to serve in a worship team position, your skill will be evaluated to determine eligibility.

You may select as many options as you desire. If you like variety whether you play more than one instrument, want to serve in worship and prayer, etc., you can construct a plan that best serves your talents, spiritual gifts, and interests.

Prayer Room Involvement:

- Watch Leader (Be in charge of a 2-hour time slot on the Prayer Room Schedule.)
- Intercessor (Join a time slot that already has a Watch Leader.)
- Worship Team

Worship Teams:

- Worship Leading
- Singer
- Acoustic Guitar
- Electric Guitar
- Electric Bass
- Piano / Keys
- Drums
- Other Instrument (Flute, djembe, violin, etc.): _____
- Prayer Leader
- Sound Board Technician (We will train)
- Video / Media Projection (We will train)

Worship Teams Skills Assessment: You only need to evaluate the skills for the Worship Team positions you indicated that you are interested in. *If you are not interested in serving in a Worship Team, you may skip this section.*

Assess yourself on the following:

| | Inexperienced | Minimal | Intermediate | Advanced |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Worship Leading..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Singer..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Acoustic Guitar..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Electric Guitar..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Electric Bass..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Piano / Keys..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Drums..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Instrument(s)..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Video / Media Projection..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sound Technician..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



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PASTORAL RECOMMENDATION

| | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
| TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT: | | |
| Last Name: | First Name: | |
| Address: | | |
| City: | State: | Zip: |
| Phone: | Email: | |
| <p><i>To the Applicant:</i></p> <p>By allowing your pastor / overseer to submit a character reference on you, you agree to waive the right to see this completed character reference. If you would like to know your pastor's / overseer's opinions of your character, we encourage you to discuss it with your pastor / overseer.</p> <p>To encourage my pastor / overseer's unhindered honesty, I agree to waive my right to see this character reference.</p> <p>X _____ Date: _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Sign Here (<i>Applicant Signature</i>)</p> <p>I am applying for the position of "Volunteer". This will be for a position in the Prayer Room as an intercessor or serving on a worship team.</p> | | |

To the Pastor / Overseer:

This application is to be completed by the applicant's primary pastor / overseer. If the applicant's parent is the pastor, an elder or other church leader may act as the pastoral reference. **Please return this form to GHOP OFFICE, 70 Clay School Rd, Ephrata, PA, 17522.** If you have any questions, you may email: admin@gatewayprayer.com or call: 717-721-1975 and ask for administration. You may learn more about the Gateway House of Prayer online at www.gatewayprayer.com.

Thank you for your involvement in this important phase in the applicant's life. Your honest opinions are carefully considered for the applicant's placement in this ministry. We recognize no one has a flawless history in God outside of Jesus Christ and that all of our applicants have made mistakes in their journey. We are not looking for perfection. We are looking for character, patterns, and habits. We will keep your responses confidential and encourage the applicant to talk with you if they have questions about your opinions of them. Your timely response is appreciated, as the applicant cannot serve until this application form is received. Thanks again for your time!

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|-------------|
| TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PASTOR / OVERSEER: | | |
| Your Name: | Your Position: | |
| Church Name: | | |
| Address: | | |
| City: | State: | Zip: |
| Church Phone: | Home or Mobile Phone: | |
| Email: | | |

1. **How long** have you know the applicant? Years_____ Months_____
2. **How well** do you know the applicant? Very Well Fairly Well Casually By name / sight only
3. How long has he / she attended your congregation? Years_____ Months_____
4. Does the applicant's life express their Christian testimony? Yes No Inconsistently
5. What are the strengths and spiritual gifts of the applicant according to your observation?

6. What is your assessment of weaknesses or struggles you have observed in the applicant?

7. Factoring in the applicant's character, spiritual gifts, and knowledge of the Scriptures, rate (circle) their maturity on a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being worldly and 10 being Christ-like: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
8. Describe the applicant's level of involvement in your congregation. What areas of ministry do they currently serve in?

9. Has the applicant ever been a source of dissension or disunity in the congregation? Yes No
 If yes, was it a one-time occurrence or is it a continuing pattern? _____
10. Has the applicant proven on any occasion to be unreliable, dishonest, or of questionable character? Yes No
 If yes, please explain. _____
11. Does the applicant possess leadership abilities? Yes No
12. What is the applicant's effect on his / her peers?

13. If the applicant is married: How would you describe the relationship of husband and wife?
 Excellent Good Fair Poor No Observation Not Applicable
14. If the applicant has children: How would you describe the relationship with their children?
 Excellent Good Fair Poor No Observation Not Applicable
15. Please give any relevant details about the family background of the applicant.

16. Please try to assess the following based on your knowledge of the applicant:

| | Uncertain | Weak | Fair | Good | Very Good | Outstanding |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Spiritual Maturity..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Devotion to Christ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Personal Integrity / Honesty..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Self-Discipline..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Willingness to Serve..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Teachability..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Flexibility..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ability to Work with Others..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family Life..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Communication Skills..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Leadership Skills..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reliability..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Physical Health..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Emotional Stability..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Openness to Correction..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Attitude Toward Authority..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Comments on any of the above:

17. What would be your level of recommendation for this applicant to serve at Gateway House of Prayer?

- Highly Recommend
 Recommend
 Recommend with reservations*
 Do not recommend*

*Please explain any concerns:

18. Please give any other helpful comments:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Pastor / Overseer's Signature</i> | <i>Date</i> |
| X | |



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Vision & Values

Gateway House of Prayer

Gateway's Purpose

Vision: Gateway House of Prayer (GHOP) exists to honor Jesus Christ and open heavenly gates for transformation over Lancaster County, PA and the surrounding regions through night and day worship and prayer. Simply put: **Regional Transformation.**

Operational Value: Prayer Works "Prayer is not an activity of Christians; it is the essence of Christianity."

Our Response to the Worth of Jesus Christ: Simple and Pure Devotion to Jesus keeps the First Commandment as first priority.

Our Values: What Transformation Looks Like

1. **The Presence of God** | Gateway values the manifest presence of God as a distinguishing characteristic of the Body of Christ. We want to live 'From the Secret Place to Every Place.'
2. **The Kingdom of God** | Gateway values the priorities of the King; love God and love people.
 - **Kingdom Process** | This is simply being with Jesus. We want to submit to the Presence of God and allow Him to empower us to manifest His character.
 - **Kingdom Power** | This is the end result of being with Jesus. It catches His heart for us to intercede and act for His Kingdom to come "on earth as it is in Heaven."
 - **Kingdom Purpose** | This is the Great Commission. We are called to proclaim the gospel of Christ, make disciples of the nations, contend for the faith, and influence and impact society.
3. **Word & Spirit** | Gateway values the Word of God and its partnership with the Holy Spirit in all dynamics of ministry.
4. **Authentic Relationships** | Gateway values authentic relationships by honoring each other in our strengths and weaknesses that we might advance the kingdom of God together.
5. **Team Ministry** | Gateway values doing ministry as a team.
 - **Ministry Teamwork** | We believe all of the "ministry" and "spiritual" gifts are essential to the fulfillment of God's purpose for the Church on earth.
 - **Regional Teamwork** | Gateway is a para-church ministry that supports the work and mission of local congregations and their regional expression.
 - **Multi-generational Teamwork** | We believe God intends for 3 generations to work together collectively: fathers and mothers, young men and women, and children.
6. **Health** | Gateway believes the Kingdom of God is a place of health and vitality. Healthy leaders, relationships, and organizations reproduce healthy disciples. We value personal, relational, and organizational health.
7. **Local Church** | Gateway values existing local churches and the continued establishment of new local churches as the primary means of Kingdom expansion.



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DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

SECTION 1 – THE PERSON OF GOD

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 4:6; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1)

FATHER:

We believe God the Father is eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. God is absolutely holy, righteous, and just. His love, grace, mercy, and justice were manifested in the atoning death of His only begotten Son on Calvary, giving to all who believe salvation through faith. (Isaiah 9:6; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 147:5; Psalm 139:2-4, 7-10; Psalm 62:11; Exodus 15:11; Psalm 36:6; John 3:16; Romans 5:6-10)

SON:

We believe in the absolute deity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the absolute humanity of our Lord through His virgin birth. We believe in the perfectly sinless life of our Lord though tempted at all points in His humanity. We believe in His vicarious sufferings and atoning death through His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal return in glory and power. (John 1:11; Acts 2:22; John 1:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Hebrews 4:15; Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5; Acts 2:22-23; Ephesians 1:20-22; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16)

THE HOLY SPIRIT:

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, who convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. He is the agent of God in the regeneration of the lost. He is the gift of Christ to the church indwelling all believers, sealing them in the body of Christ unto the day of redemption. He is the divine teacher who guides believers into all truth. He imparts the gifts of the Spirit as found in Scripture. (John 16:6-15; Titus 3:5-7; John 14:17; John 15:26; Romans 8:11; Ephesians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

SECTION 2 – THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, inerrant and infallible in their original writing. They are the supreme and final authority for faith and practice. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Peter 3:16)

SECTION 3 – MAN

We believe that man was originally created in the image of God, but the entire race of man was separated from God through sin. We believe no man can reconcile himself to God. Therefore, man remains separated from God until he is regenerated, through faith in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. (Genesis 3:24; Romans 3:23; Romans 3:9-12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1,10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

SECTION 4 – SATAN

We believe that Satan is the author of sin and the instigator of the fall of man. He has been defeated by the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary, and he and his angels will be punished eternally at the coming of Christ. (Genesis 3:17; Colossians 2:14-15; John 12:31-33; Revelation 20:10)

SECTION 5 – SIN

We believe sin is every lack of conformity to the will of God or transgression of the law of God. Sin is manifest in the selfishness, rebellion, and total depravity of man's attitude, conduct, and behavior before God and man. (James 4:17; Romans 14:32; 1 John 3:4; 1 John 5:17; Romans 3:9-18; Ephesians 2:1-3)

SECTION 6 – SALVATION

We believe salvation to be the whole counsel of God, and it is the gift of God by grace, received through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. This faith is manifested in works pleasing to God. (1 Peter 1:3-12; Ephesians 2:8-10)

SECTION 7 – THE KINGDOM OF GOD

We believe the Kingdom of God to be God's right to rule, which was prophesied through the law and prophets, and came to fulfillment in Jesus Christ. We believe Jesus to be the King in the Kingdom, which is working for consummation at the end of this age. (Mark 1:14; Matthew 12:28; Luke 11:20; Luke 17:20-21; Revelations 19:11-16; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Revelation 11:15)

SECTION 8 – HEAVEN AND HELL

We believe that heaven is the throne of God manifested in His Kingdom on this earth. Hell is a literal place of eternal separation from God for those who are not redeemed. (Isaiah 66:1; Acts 7:49; Matthew 6:10; Luke 16:19-31; Revelations 20:11-15)

SECTION 9 – THE CHURCH

We believe that the church is composed of all born-again believers everywhere. We believe that the local church is comprised of born-again believers who come together in commitment to the Lord and one another for mutual worship, instruction, conformity to the Lord's will, and Christian service. We believe all believers are placed by God in specific local churches. (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12:26; Colossians 1:24; 1 Peter 2:4-6; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Corinthians 3:9-11)

SECTION 10 – MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The mission of the church is to demonstrate the power and reality of the Kingdom of God on the earth, specifically through the transformation of people's lives into the likeness of Jesus by the power of the cross of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit. The biblical means of accomplishing this is evangelism and discipleship. God fulfills His purpose for His church through local churches. (Matthew 5:13-16; Ephesians 3:10; Matthew 28:19; Colossians 2:19)

SECTION 11 – SACRAMENTS

A sacrament is a formal act that is sacred as a sign or symbol of a spiritual reality, which was instituted or recognized by our Lord Jesus Christ.

BAPTISM

Water baptism, the immersion of the believer, is a visible testimony to the work of regeneration and a mark of identification and union with Christ. It is an appeal to God for a good conscience, hence should be administered to those who, by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, have realized the forgiveness of their sins and have the assurance of acceptance with God, having turned from their past lives to follow Jesus. (Acts 2:41; 1 Peter 3:21; Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38)

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein, by giving and receiving the bread and the cup, according to the appointing of Jesus Christ, His death is proclaimed. Those who worthily partake, in remembrance of Him, feed upon Him to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace, have their union and communication with Him confirmed, and testify and renew their thankfulness and commitment to God and their mutual love and fellowship with each other as members of the same body. (1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

SECTION 12 – BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is distinct from the new birth. It is the initial filling of God's power for witness and godly living. (Matthew 3:11; Acts 2:1-4; Acts 8:14-17; Acts 19:1-7)

SECTION 13 – HOLINESS

God demands that His people be holy, as He is holy. His holiness is produced in us, His people, by the Holy Spirit, as we believe and obey His Word. (1 Peter 1:2, 13-16)

SECTION 14 – MARRIAGE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

We affirm as a church the biblical definition of marriage as between one man (husband) and one woman (wife) to be the only acceptable definition of marriage. God has designed sexuality to be expressed only within such a marriage. While we believe this defines the biblical standard of marriage and sexual expression, we also affirm that we are called to minister to all who fall short of God's standards with love and compassion. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)