

Outline of Membership Class

1. History – Call – Vision – Goal

[15 min]

- Give a 3 min intro of your life

Name, age, where you grew up, went to school, degrees, etc. and basic job history.

[15 min]

- 2-3 min explanation of HOW you came to TCC and WHY you continue to come here, thus WHAT do you want/need from “church.”

[15 min]

We attended First AG in Tuscaloosa all 11 years. Solid church of 300-400 people for the last 50 years. We loved that church. It was a good church.

But over the 11 years I watched 2 pastoral changes and a building program, all of which were painful and brutal with the Board fighting the Pastoral Staff and the congregation fighting the Board.

In each of these struggles we lost people due to bickering and we watched our church family become divided. The church survived each conflict, but we lost people and some of our unity.

But the main thing I saw that I did not like was that with each pastoral change the entire focus and direction of our church had to change. Each new pastor came in and made changes to suit his personality and vision. This is how we are taught to do things in the Assemblies of God. Kind of like a new football coach or CEO coming into a

company. A lot of new leaders in business, sports and church come in and fire everyone so they can assemble their own team. This makes some sense in business and in sports, but I did not like it in church.

History of Troy AG

This little church was at its zenith when I was here in 1982 (nothing to do with me). We had a fairly good pastor, but like most AG pastors, he was a Type A leader and wanted to direct everything. Over the last 20 years this church has been through numerous pastoral changes and relocated to this new building, each major change causing conflict. A few men decided to run the church as the Board and never did much to bring in a pastor...the church went down to around 18 people and stayed that way for around two years.

The Vision

The vision I felt God give me was to establish a community of Christians who would help me as a TEAM to build a congregational church.

[Break – 10 min] - Start Back at 7PM

[15 min]

Let's take a few minutes. I want to hear from each of you what you think a good congregational church would look like.

2. Community

We want to do a simple overview of what a community of Christians should look like.

- WORSHIP
- FELLOWSHIP
- DISCIPLESHIP
- OUTREACH
- PRAYER

WORSHIP

In our community we cannot come and lift our hands in worship with anger or hurt or offense in our hearts towards another brother or sister. We **MUST** approach one another and ask for forgiveness quickly.

We want vibrant worship, but not overly orchestrated. Unity in worship does not mean unison. In a community we encourage others to do whatever they need to do in order to enter into true worship. A community does not force everyone to do the same thing.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is “a sharing together.” You have

already heard me say “one another” or “each other” several times. In the New Testament this term is “allelous:”

Be devoted to one another - Romans 12:10
...do not pass judgment on one another.

- Romans 14:13

Greet one another with a holy kiss.

- Romans 16:16

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. - Eph 5:21

confess your sins to one another...

- James 5:16

IF we just live the “one anothers” consistently we WILL be a solid community. The problem is we ALL fail. This is why the Ephesians verse is so critical:

Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other... - Eph 4:32

A community of Christians will eat together,
watch football together, watch movies
together, help each other around the house.

We will help each other during difficult times:
family sickness or death, financial stress.

We will be there for each other when we are
emotionally down or struggling with sinful
issues. We will not preach at our struggling
brother or sister - we will hurt with them and
let them know we are still friends...and family
no matter what comes.

DISCIPLESHIP

A community of Christians will urge one
another to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

While we will not preach to each other and push our personal views on each other, we will be challenged to follow Jesus:

- with more of our personal time
- with financial commitment
- with living a disciplined lifestyle
- living the “one anothers” with a genuine heart

Fellowship and Discipleship overlap in our strategy of building the church with small groups. As the church grows we cannot possibly know EVERYONE and be close to EVERYONE, thus we want everyone connected in a small group.

The small group becomes a micro-church.

OUTREACH

Evangelism, reaching out to those who either do not know Christ or are NOT in a

committed relationship with a community of believers.

A true community draws others into the church simply by the example of being genuine.

I can give you many examples of people being drawn into faith by seeing and “feeling” the love of a community. My wife would be my first example.

Genuine community draws people, but the gospel message must be presented.