

FOUNDATIONS NOTES



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COMMUNITY CHURCH

OUR CHURCH AT A GLANCE

1002 Cieneguitas Road • Santa Barbara, CA 93110

INVITING YOUNG AND OLD TO THE TRULY GOOD LIFE IN JESUS AND THE FAMILY OF GOD. SBCC IS A CHURCH THAT IS JOYFULLY FAITHFUL. RELENTLESSLY RELATIONAL. COLLECTIVELY INVESTED. AND GENEROUSLY ENGAGED.

Each church has unique characteristics and SB Community is no exception! Here are some important, high-level descriptors that outline what you can expect to encounter in this church family both in belief and practice.

- We are a Bible-teaching church.
- We best fit in the Reformed theological tradition.
- We are a part of the Converge affiliation of churches.
- We teach and practice believers' baptism.
- We are committed to an approach to church life that calls for high investment in one another's lives and the life of the broader church family.
- We practice shared leadership at every level and see the primary role of church leadership as equipping the saints for the work of the ministry.
- We affirm the ministry of gifted and Spirit-empowered women in every arena of church life, including as Elders and in preaching.
- We uphold traditional and historical Bible teaching on marriage.
- We believe that personal faith has social implications and we advocate and work for justice in our community and in the world.
- We enjoy a strong commitment to gospel engagement and demonstrate a generous posture toward other kingdom-aligned churches and ministries, both locally and globally.

If you would like any additional information on these commitments, please feel free to reach out. We would be happy to provide supplemental information or to engage in ongoing conversation as you discern whether SB Community might be a good fit for your passion, skills, and calling. Visit our [website](#) for more information about our church.

Ambition

Inviting young and old to the truly good life in Jesus and the family of God.

Atmosphere

We are a family that is...

- **Joyfully faithful**

Demonstrated by...

- Leadership and ministry marked by playfulness, humility, laughter, a high view of Scripture, and commitment to prayer
- Taking the gospel seriously, but not ourselves too seriously

- **Relentlessly relational**

Demonstrated by...

- Freely offering grace and friendship with one another
- Being a spiritual family sharing life together even when things are hard

- **Collectively invested**

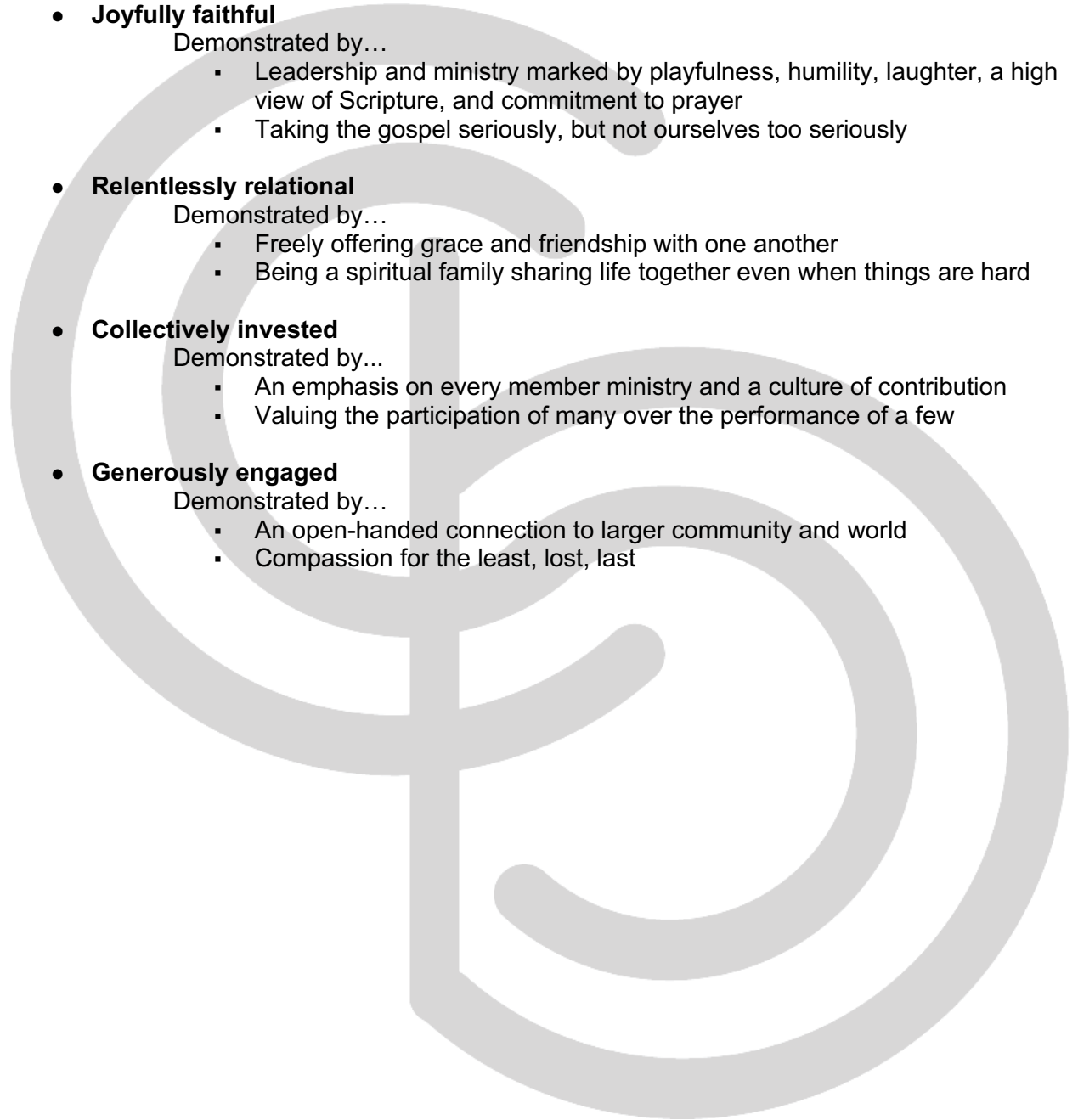
Demonstrated by...

- An emphasis on every member ministry and a culture of contribution
- Valuing the participation of many over the performance of a few

- **Generously engaged**

Demonstrated by...

- An open-handed connection to larger community and world
- Compassion for the least, lost, last



Aim

Marks of a Mature Disciple

Because of an encounter with the living God, maturing disciples demonstrate:

Minds shaped by the Word of God

Maturing disciples increasingly understand the person of God, the glory of God, and humanity's need for grace as a result of dedicated time spent in the Scriptures.

Q: How has your time in the Scriptures led you to delight in God, repent of sin, relish forgiveness, or give thanks for grace?

Q: What questions have you grappled with as you seek to understand and be shaped by God's Word?

Hearts shaped by the character of God

Maturing disciples increasingly evidence character consistent with the life of Jesus.

Q: What practices are helping you align your heart with God's heart?

Q: Where are the places that God is calling you to grow in conformity with Jesus?

Relationships shaped by the kingdom of God

Maturing disciples have relationships--both within and outside of the church--that evidence commitment to God's kingdom and its principles and characteristics.

Q: How have friendships within the family of God helped you sharpen one another into the image of Christ?

Q: How have your prayers, speech, and interactions with those who don't yet know Jesus pointed to the grace of God?

Priorities shaped by the mission of God

Maturing disciples increasingly orient their daily lives around the spread of God's glory both near and far.

Q: How have your time, abilities, and finances been used for the sake of Jesus' renown?

Q: How have your decisions reflected the priorities of God's mission?

Approach

Pause and pursue

...develop rhythms that lead to individual growth in Christ

Come and worship

...prioritize regular corporate worship as a vital aspect of growth in Christ

Join a group

...share life together with other believers in pursuit of common growth in Christ

Go and serve

...utilize giftedness for daily ministry and mission within the church family and in the broader world as a result of growth in Christ

Vision:

Though Santa Barbara enjoys a reputation as an idyllic destination, there is much in our city and surrounding community that reveals the emptiness of the claims of paradise. For over four decades, Santa Barbara Community Church has invited people to discover the good life in Jesus and a place in the family of God. Situated in one of the most post-Christian regions in the country, SBCC looks forward to a future in which a continued focus on growing deep disciples also leads to deep change in our surrounding community. We are committed to seeing our city transformed for Christ both through individual lives surrendered to Jesus and through bringing the blessings of the kingdom to bear on our community.

Pursuit of this vision of bringing the whole gospel to the whole city will yield fresh approaches to equipping SBCC members in gospel fluency; to fostering small groups marked by common pursuit of becoming and living more like Jesus; to training and raising up leaders; and to encouraging neighboring well in the places where we already live, work, and play.

As we live into this vision by the power of the Spirit, we believe we will see noticeable change in individual lives and our broader community. We look forward to celebrating the miracle of hundreds of changed lives demonstrated in baptism. We envision increased engagement in ministry to the least, lost, and last of our community. We dream of launching several new pastors, church planters, and missionaries from our body to bring the good news of the gospel to the ends of the Earth. We long to see every member unleashed to use their gifts both within and outside of the church family. As this vision comes to pass, we eagerly anticipate seeing our city transformed from one of the least-churched in America to a place where people discover the surprising good life of living for God's kingdom and the joy of belonging to his family.

SB COMMUNITY CHURCH AND MEMBERSHIP

If you are trusting by faith in Jesus Christ as your savior, are in harmony with the doctrinal statement and approach to church life and service of SB Community, have been baptized, and desire to be a committed participant in this church family, you are invited to become a member of SB Community. At the conclusion of Foundations there will be an opportunity to join the church. (For a helpful article on why we believe church membership is important, please see “Why Bother With Church Membership?” at the end of this packet, Appendix A.)

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM YOUR CHURCH AS A MEMBER

God has faithfully provided leaders to oversee our church - specifically elders, overseers, and pastors (or shepherds). But the Church, indeed SB Community Church, does not belong to its leadership. It belongs to Jesus. As such, our leadership is called to certain responsibilities under Christ, just as its members are called to fulfill their part in church family life - together for God's glory and for mutual spiritual growth and thriving life together in the Spirit. So what are church leaders called to provide the church?

- Prayer for the church - for its health and vitality, specific individual needs, and for crisis situations, to name a few.
- Regular discussion together on how to work toward an increasingly healthy church.
- Protection from heresy and misleading or sinful cultural practices.
- Provision of truthful, “spiritual food” - biblically-based teaching and sound doctrine.
- Shepherding of individuals within the church family.
- To be present in life situations - in births, marriages, deaths, decisions, and to be involved with its members if they should go astray.
- To be among the body, “doing” life together, fellow disciples using God-given gifts just as members offer theirs, all in service to one another, the church.
- Members together committed to the good of one another as fellow citizens of Christ's kingdom, as brothers and sisters in Christ's family.





WHAT YOUR CHURCH CAN EXPECT FROM YOU AS A MEMBER

We often refer to the church as a family and being part of a family comes with both privileges and responsibilities. To that end, the membership covenant seeks to spell out what members can gladly expect from church leadership and from other members while also stating what expectations will, in turn, be placed on new members. These expectations are not burdensome, but the kind of joyful practices that help create and foster unity in our church family! The expectations of the membership covenant are listed here:

- I will pursue God in my daily life through practices such as Bible reading, prayer, and fellowship.
- I will submit to the authority of God's Word and seek, by God's grace, to live a life that pleases him.
- I will make weekly corporate worship a priority.
- I will participate in a small group gathering where I can practice the "one anothers" of the Christian life.
- I will gladly give of my time, talents, and financial resources for the expansion of God's kingdom.
- I will find a place to use my gifts to love and serve in the name of Christ.
- I will seek the unity of the church for the sake of the gospel.
- I will pray for my church family and its leaders regularly.

By assenting to these expectations—while also learning of the commitments one can rightly expect from other members of the church family—each person who signs the membership covenant is agreeing to live out church life in a certain way.

SANTA BARBARA
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Membership Covenant

Last Name: _____

(Spouses must complete and submit their own responses.)

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

YOUR STORY

Membership in a local Christian church presupposes that a person has had a life-changing encounter with Jesus. In the space below, please share some of the story about how you came to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. (Feel free to use a separate page if more space is needed.)

YOUR CHURCH BACKGROUND

If you have never previously been a part of a church, we are so glad are with us! If you have a previous church background, where have you been involved? If you are changing churches within the SB area, what is the reason for the change?

YOUR BAPTISM

The Scriptures teach that every believer is to be baptized as a physical demonstration of our spiritual union with Jesus.

I have been baptized. [Date of baptism: _____ My birthdate: _____]

- If you were baptized as an infant, do you believe from your reading of Scripture that this was a legitimate baptism? ___ Yes ___ No
- Would you like to have a conversation with a pastor to discuss this. ___ Yes ___ No

I would like to schedule a date to be baptized.

YOUR COMMITMENT

Church membership is a gift! Not only did Jesus come to make the Father known to us through his life, grant us salvation through his death and bring us assurance through his resurrection, through faith in Christ we have also been made part of a new family, the church.

Like in any family, there are privileges and responsibilities that are part and parcel of being in the family of God. This means that members of SB Community we should be able to expect certain things of one another. Recognizing that certain seasons of life make exceptions necessary, membership generally entails the following commitments:

- I will pursue God in my daily life through practices such as bible reading, prayer, and fellowship.
- I will submit to the authority of God's word and seek, by God's grace, to live a life that pleases him.
- I will make weekly corporate worship a priority.
- I will participate in a small group gathering where I can practice the "one anothers" of the Christian life.
- I will gladly give of my time, talents, and financial resources for the expansion of God's kingdom.
- I will find a place to use my gifts to love and serve in the name of Christ.
- I will seek the unity of the church for the sake of the gospel.
- I will pray for my church family and its leaders regularly.

The fact that you should expect these same things from the other members of your church family is a gift to you! When we all fulfill our responsibilities in the family, we all benefit. And most importantly, God is glorified as his people prioritize his kingdom before their own comfort and preferences.

- I am happy to make these commitments.
- I understand and agree with the doctrinal statement of SBCC.
- I have attended Foundations and desire to become a member of SBCC.

Signature

Date

Please return your completed application to Deana Gilman in the office or mail it to 1002 Cieneguitas Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110. If you have questions, contact Deana at 687-7797 or deana@sbcommunity.org.

Pastoral Review Signature: _____ Date: _____

Notes: