

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# MEMBERSHIP CLASS LISTENING GUIDE

## Session 1: What is the Church?

1. The Church is not primarily a \_\_\_\_\_, but a \_\_\_\_\_.

In your words, what does this statement mean?

2. Three purposes of the church:

- \_\_\_\_\_ God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ believers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ to the needs of the world.

## Why Membership?

3. We believe that the New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ membership.

4. What does it mean to be a committed member of Church at the Cross (CATC)?

- Have \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus Christ in faith and repentance.
- Have identified with Jesus and his people through \_\_\_\_\_.
- Affirm the CATC affirmation of faith. (Appendix 1 of the membership booklet)
- Membership process:
  - complete the class
  - meet with an elder team for an informal membership interview, and

- joyfully enter into covenant through affirming and signing the CATC church covenant.

5. In light of this session on the church, why do we value membership at CATC?

## Session 2, Part 1:

### What is the Gospel? (Individual facet – gospel of our salvation)

6. Two facets of the gospel:

- \_\_\_\_\_ facet(*gospel of our personal salvation*) .
- \_\_\_\_\_ facet(*gospel of the kingdom*).

7. The gospel is the good news that God has reconciled us to himself through the work of Jesus

- **Implication: We have been reconciled to God.**
  - In our natural-born condition, we are actually at odds with God, not in a right relationship with him, and because of our sin we are:
    - \_\_\_\_\_ or alienated from God.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ before God, deserving his just condemnation and punishment.
  - God who is merciful, chooses to reconcile us to himself:
    - He does this by not counting our \_\_\_\_\_ against us - choosing to cancel or drop all charges.
  - How does God exercise his mercy, love, and grace by forgiving sinners and at same time uphold his justice, righteousness, and holiness by punishing and condemning sin? Write your answer in below:

- **Implication: We have been made righteous:**

- The Great Exchange of the gospel: My sin is given to Christ and he is \_\_\_\_\_ in my place. His righteousness is given to me and I am accepted. In other words, *God treated Jesus like he lived my life so that he could treat me like I lived Jesus' life.*

8. Summarized headings of the gospel (*Individual facet*):

G\_\_\_\_\_, → S\_\_\_\_\_, → C\_\_\_\_\_, → F\_\_\_\_\_

9. What was new to you in this section, or stated in a way that was fresh for you?

## Session 2, Part 2:

**What is the Gospel?** (Corporate facet – gospel of the kingdom)

10. The corporate facet (gospel of the Kingdom) takes a broader look at how God is healing this broken world. Its summarized headings are:

**Creation, → Fall, → Redemption, → Restoration**

- **Creation**

- For all eternity, God has existed as one God in three persons – the trinity. A community of divine love in which the Father fully loves the Son, the Son fully loves the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

- Creation was an \_\_\_\_\_ of his glory and love.
- Creation was a \_\_\_\_\_ of the kind of God he is.

- **Fall**

- In Genesis 3 sin enters the world. What are the implications of this for all of creation?

- **Redemption**

- In Genesis 3, God devises a plan to heal this broken world. What was that plan?

- **Restoration**

- Jesus has promised to return and make all things new. What are the implications of this for all of creation?

11. It is important to understand and hold firmly to the individual facet (*gospel of our salvation*) and the corporate facet (*gospel of the kingdom*) of the gospel. What could happen if we focus on one more than the other?

## Session 3: Vision, Mission, Values

### VISION

12. In Ephesians 1, we see that God's great vision for all time is to bring everything together under the authority of Jesus, making all things new.

- With that in mind, we have formed our vision here at CATC. Write it out here:
- What places do we want to see transformed, as they encounter Jesus:

**MISSION: the means by which we help people encounter Jesus.**

13. Our mission endeavors to take people through a pathway of growth that includes 4 things:  
Reaching, Teaching, Training, and Sending.

- REACHING: C\_\_\_\_\_: people coming to know the grace of Jesus
- TEACHING:
  - C\_\_\_\_\_: helping people develop a biblical mind.
  - C\_\_\_\_\_: becoming more and more like Jesus.
  - In the context of c\_\_\_\_\_.
- TRAINING: developing ministry c\_\_\_\_\_ and c\_\_\_\_\_.
- SENDING: sending people into m\_\_\_\_\_.

**VALUES: the gospel culture that drives us as a people as we strive to accomplish our mission.**

14. Give a short description of your understanding of each of the following values:

- Centered on Jesus:

- Driven by Grace:
- Renewed as Community:
- Scattered on Mission:
- Empowered by the Spirit:

## Session 4: The Worship Gathering

### 15. Elements of the Worship Gathering:

- PREACHING: the proclamation of God's word.
  - We believe that people will not be \_\_\_\_\_ apart from the preaching of God's word and Christians will not be \_\_\_\_\_ apart from the preaching of it.
  - A sermon can be for both the non-believer and the believer at the same time. What does this mean?
- SACRAMENTS
  - What is a sacrament?

○ What are the two sacraments given to us in the Bible?

1.

2.

○ Why is baptism important and what is being expressed in it?

○ How are our hearts nourished by communion (Lord's Supper) as we take it each week?

16. What are ways that you can come to the worship gathering prepared?

## Session 5: Life Groups

17. Thinking of church primarily as a venue or location tends to make us see church as a place that markets goods and services. What does this mean and what happens when we see church this way?

18. Thinking of church as more than a place where we go but as a people to whom we belong requires a movement towards an intentional pattern of shared life together. How do we seek to accomplish that here at CATC? .....

19. Knowing others and being known requires a shift in our lives where we move from seeing church as an event to seeing church as a rhythm of life. Describe your understanding of the following rhythms talked about in this session:

- Personal Rhythms:
- Communal Rhythms:
- Missional Rhythms:

20. What does it mean to renounce compartmentalization and embrace integration?

## **Session 6: Leadership and Membership**

21. CATC is a congregationally-ruled, elder-led church. What does that mean?

22. Elders

- We believe that the church should be led by a \_\_\_\_\_ of leaders known as elders.



- What are some of the qualifications and duties of the elders?

### 23. Deacons

- What are deacons called upon to do and how do they differ from elders?

### 24. Covenant Members

- What are ways that covenant members can lead out in the church?

25. In becoming a covenant member of CATC, we are submitting ourselves to the leaders of the church and to the other members of the church. Why are we doing this?

26. What is the purpose for church discipline?