

Valencia Christian Center



Membership Manual

"Providing Encouragement and Hope
Through the Comfort and Love of God's Word"

Revised
July 2019

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Objectives

At the end of this session, you will have knowledge of:

- How we began
- Pastor Swanzi Saunders
- The Mission, Vision, and Core Values of VCC
- A Biblical description of church membership and the true purpose of the church
- What it means to have a relationship with Jesus Christ
- The importance of scripture as the final authority in the Christian life
- The relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- The basic mission of the Holy Spirit.
- 23 doctrinal beliefs as outlined from scripture
- The process whereby a member can become actively involved in an area of ministry
- The current and upcoming ministries at VCC
- What it means to serve (volunteer) in the Body of Christ
- Ministry contact information

How We Began...



Pastor Marlon and Tamara Saunders

Pastor Marlon Saunders was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Being raised the grandson of an Apostolic Bishop, the cousin of one of the most beloved former Presiding Bishops within the Church of God in Christ, and the son of two Pentecostal Ministers, preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ is embedded throughout Pastor Marlon's lineage as he is a 5th generation Pentecostal preacher. He was licensed as a minister at the age of 19 within the United Council of Christian Churches, an organization in which his grandfather served as the founder and presiding bishop. At the age of 21, Pastor Marlon was ordained as an elder within the church. More than a decade later, he began to sense God's calling toward pastoral ministry in Valencia where he and his family resided.

On Sunday, March 2, 2008, Pastor Marlon and his wife, Tamara, launched Valencia Christian Center, a nondenominational church birthed out of the mandate and vision he received from God. The church opened that Sunday, without any prior services or bible studies, with approximately 30 people, 15 to 20 of whom were family who drove up to Valencia from Los Angeles to show support. The following Sunday, without family from Los Angeles, would reveal the true foundation of the church. There were approximately 30 people again, and growth ensued. In the years following, God has been faithful to VCC through both victories and challenges, developing a wonderful family of faith with a heart for outreach and ministering to the needs of its people and the community at large for the glory of Jesus Christ.

VCC also reflects true multiculturalism (ethnic, social, and economic), and has been featured in the L.A. Focus Newspaper, The Signal Newspaper of Santa Clarita, Inside Santa Clarita Valley Magazine, and featured on KTLA Channel 5. Today, Pastor Marlon serves as senior pastor of Heritage Christian Center in Denver, Colorado.

VCC Today



Pastor Swanzi Saunders

Dr. Swanzi Saunders, or Pastor Swanzi as she is affectionately called, is the Senior Pastor of Valencia Christian Center. At the heart of her ministry and calling is a passion and commitment for helping others grow toward wholeness and victorious living as they follow Jesus Christ. For more than three decades, she has touched many lives through church ministry, speaking, counseling, and education. Her message inspires and motivates hearers by effectively applying the principles of the Word of God to the issues of life. She holds the conviction that to live less than victoriously as a believer is to live beneath one's privilege.

In addition to the pastoral role, Pastor Swanzi is a licensed professional clinical counselor who also has a deep desire for helping to enhance the quality of life for couples and families by providing the tools necessary for building relationships as well as the whole person - body, soul and spirit. Also, as a credentialed former educator, advisor, and school program administrator, she has worked in the field of adult education and has written for several publications, including curriculum for several parent education courses for the parents of children in the school district of greater Los Angeles.

Pastor Swanzi's education includes undergraduate studies from LIFE Pacific College, a professional designation in journalism from UCLA, and graduate degrees in both theology and psychology from Fuller Theological Seminary. In addition to church ministry, she is currently conducting research that explores the lived experiences of spousal caregivers caring for partners with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia.

Born in New York, NY and raised in Los Angeles, CA, she is the first of eight sisters and one brother. She is also the proud wife of Jim Saunders. Together, they are the proud parents of four adult children, Tosca Saunders-Stepter, Donald Saunders, Ronald Saunders, and Marlon Saunders, all of whom are married with beautiful children of their own. Pastor Swanzi and her husband, Jim, are the dotting grandparents of six grandsons and two granddaughters.

Mission Statement

Providing encouragement and hope through the comfort and love of God's Word.

Vision Statement

It is the vision of Valencia Christian Center to become a place where the love of Christ is inherent throughout every area of our ministry. It is our desire to create an atmosphere so that regardless of the individual's condition upon their arrival, they leave edified, strengthened, encouraged, hopeful, and motivated to have a deeper relationship with Christ.

It is the vision of Valencia Christian Center to be a Bible based church. This means that the encouragement and hope that we experience and adopt is not based on mere emotionalism or what people say, but rather what God's Word says about our circumstance. So that, when it is all said and done we can walk in the assurance of a hope that does not disappoint because it is supported biblically.

It is the vision of Valencia Christian Center to become a multicultural church which possesses the awesome ability to meet the needs of all people regardless of ethnicity, age, gender, background, education, marital or economic status.

No matter what your situation may be, it is our prayer that God will use us to touch you right where you are.

Our Core Values

to **EXALT** the Lord our God

(Psalm 34:1-3, Psalm 107:32, Psalm 118:28, Psalm 134:2, Psalm 150, Isaiah 25:1)

to **EVANGELIZE**

(Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15, Luke 9:2, Acts 20:21)

to **EDUCATE**

(Exodus 18:20, 1 Samuel 12:23, Romans 15:4, 1 Timothy 4:11, 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Timothy 4:2, Titus 2:1-15)

to **ENCOURAGE**

(Acts 15:32, Romans 15:1-6, Hebrews 3:13, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

to **EXEMPLIFY**

(Matthew 5:16, 1 Corinthians 11:1, 1 Thessalonians 1:7, 1 Timothy 4:12b, Titus 2:7)

to **EMPOWER**

(Ephesians 3:16, Ephesians 4:12, Ephesians 6:10-18, Colossians 1:11-12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:3)

to be **EFFECTIVE**

(Proverbs 16:3, Matthew 5:16, Acts 26:17-18, 2 Corinthians 2:14-15)

A Biblical Look at Church Membership

In Acts 2:41-47, Luke records a detailed description of church membership.

The New Living Translation

- ⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church—about three thousand in all.
- ⁴² They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper and in prayer.
- ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.
- ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had.
- ⁴⁵ They sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with those in need.
- ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—
- ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

Luke was writing to a great Roman leader named Theophilus (Acts 1:1-3) to describe the true purpose of the church. A lot of myths about the church had been circulating and he wanted to set the record straight. In Luke's description of the church, he uses key words to describe how these early members responded to church. This description became common to the church at Jerusalem. Below is a list describing the early church.

The First Members Described (Acts 2:41-47)

1. They were growing. (v41)
2. They were joined with other believers. (v42)
3. They were devoted personally. (v42)
4. They were submitted to teaching. (v. 42)
5. They were big on fellowshipping. (v. 42)
6. They were big on sharing in the Lord's Supper. (v. 42)
7. They were big on prayer. (v. 42)
8. They were open to the miraculous. (v. 43)
9. They met often. (v. 44)
10. They shared their possessions. (v. 44)
11. They shared with each other. (v. 45)

12. They met in each other's homes. (v. 46)
13. They shared meals with great joy and generosity. (v. 46)
14. They praised God a lot. (v. 47)
15. They were growing daily with new converts. (v. 47)

The early church members had a recruit-to-discipleship approach to church membership. They understood that each new recruit had to be ministered to individually. There was a big connection between the new convert and the establishment of the Jerusalem church. Church membership went far beyond meeting just the spiritual needs, but it also implied a physical and financial relationship.

1. The physical needs of each member were met (Acts 6:1-4)
2. The financial needs of the members were met (Acts 4:32-35).

Without a doubt, the greatest membership anybody can have is one with Jesus Christ. All of us are members of Christ's body if we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior (Romans 10:9, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13). Believing in Christ opens the door for us to be forgiven (Romans 10:9). Once we are forgiven, we are then members of Christ's spiritual body.

John the Baptist was the first to recruit members for the Kingdom of Heaven.

- ¹ In those days John the Baptist began preaching in the Judean wilderness. His message was,
- ² "Turn from your sins and turn to God, because the Kingdom of Heaven is near."
- ³ Isaiah had spoken of John when he said, "He is a voice shouting in the wilderness: "Prepare a pathway for the Lord's coming! Make a straight road for him!" (Matthew 3:1-3 NLT)

John the Baptist's message was clear and powerful. He wanted to recruit men for the Kingdom of Heaven. Membership in the Kingdom was John's goal for everyone. He never tried to build a congregation or have devoted followers. In order to understand what John the Baptist was trying to accomplish, we must understand the meaning of the word kingdom.

Here is a biblical definition:

Kingdom defined (Source: Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dictionary)

- 1) Basileia: royal power, kingship, dominion, rule
 - a) not to be confused with an actual kingdom but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom
 - b) of the royal power of Jesus as the triumphant Messiah

- c) of the royal power and dignity conferred on Christians in the Messiah's kingdom
- 2) the territory subject to the rule of a king
- 3) used in the New Testament to refer to the reign of the Messiah

In simple terms, a kingdom is a realm over which a king has power and rule. The kingdom of Heaven is really God invading the world (John 1:1,14) and offering men a chance to serve the King. Some responded to the invitation by saying “yes” and others said “no”. Those who said “yes” were willing to submit to become members of a new family with new guidelines and standards. They gathered and formed what is known as the early church (Acts 2:41).

Matthew 11:12 admonishes us to forcibly advance the Kingdom.

LIFE Application Points

Acts 2:41-47 provides a description of the characteristics of the early church. Which three characteristics mean the most to you? Why?

The early church met the spiritual, physical, and financial needs of each member. How do you think you can help fulfill these needs in the lives of others?

Valencia Christian Center's goal is the same as that of John the Baptist, to recruit members for the Kingdom of Heaven. What does the word “kingdom” mean to you?

What is the difference between being a member of the Kingdom of Heaven and a member of a church?

VCC Culture

1. We believe in a well-trained staff that is highly effective.
2. We believe in creating an environment where the corporate wisdom and culture should be reviewed and changed carefully. However, changing the culture, without understanding the consequences, can lead to the recurrence of problems we solved long ago.
3. We believe in openness that does not embarrass or unnecessarily remove the privacy rights of our staff and members.
4. We believe that every staff and volunteer person who serves in a leadership position should be willing to adapt to our cultural approach.
5. We believe we should listen to all ideas that may advance our goals and objectives. Once the request has been weighed, the leadership must be allowed to make the final decision.
6. We believe in honest and loving confrontation, when necessary. It should always be done in love and never in the wrong spirit.
7. We believe in the rotation of volunteers to ensure the long-term health of any department. We believe in continual and non-stop recruiting. Posterity (creating descendants) is our top priority.
8. We believe in small groups as a model for every department. Keeping the numbers between ten and twenty is crucial to long-term health. The ability to bond, be educated, mature emotionally, and develop spiritually, is greatly aided in the smaller environment.
9. We believe in the explosive growth models of the book of Acts. But growth in any large religious community should be seen as an assignment to support and help build the smaller communities. The early church started out big but quickly grew small. Jesus modeled a commando style training structure. He took twelve guys and poured His life into them.
10. We believe in restoring those who have failed morally after a season of restoration and root re-development.
11. We believe marriage is a sacred, eternal commitment between a man and a woman before God as ordained by Him in Genesis 2. For a variety of reasons, good and bad, people too often break this covenant. It is our

belief that we must, with patience and love, assist in the recovery of those who have had such a traumatic experience.

12. We believe in long-term planning that is thorough and purposeful.
13. We believe in the prosperity of the saints of God while remaining committed that this point of view does not foster greed or a lack of concern about posterity.
14. We believe in advanced training programs that continue to press forward the skill level of our entire staff and volunteer force.
15. We believe in creating opportunities for other ministries to learn from our experiences. If we can help by sharing our experiences, we are more than willing to be open and transparent.
16. We believe in fighting for the things that the gospel says should be our priorities.
17. We believe in living across the ethnic boundaries of comfort.
18. We believe seven things should be our main priorities: exalting the Lord, evangelizing, educating, encouraging, exemplifying, and being effective. As we glorify our Heavenly Father, reaching the lost is our main job. Making sure we educate believers is our second greatest responsibility. We must always find time to support, embrace, and encourage each other. We must exemplify what it means to be a Christian. It's important that the members of VCC agree to maintain the integrity that should be associated with the Christian walk. VCC is committed to giving people the opportunity to show love, encouragement, and a sound biblical foundation in a variety of areas both inside and outside of the ministry. As Christians, we must be a positive influence within the environment around us.

Salvation

One great promise regarding the coming of Christ is that he would “save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). Jesus offers salvation to everyone, but only those that accept this free gift will enjoy its benefits.

Salvation Defined

- A.** To be delivered
- B.** To be set free

Misconceptions About Salvation

- A.** You must work for salvation.
- B.** You must be perfect before you qualify to be saved.
- C.** Church membership secures your salvation.
- D.** Family heritage secures your salvation.
- E.** Water Baptism secures your salvation.

According to Ephesians 2:8-9, we are “saved by grace”.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

The Bible teaches that all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God. (Romans 3:23) Jesus died to save us from sin. (Romans 5:8)

LIFE Application Points

What is the biblical definition of salvation?

There are a lot of misconceptions regarding salvation. Prior to your biblical knowledge of salvation, what were some of your misunderstandings?

What does the Bible say I must do to be saved?

Acts 16:30-31 "... And brought them out, and said, sirs: what must I do to be saved, and they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

What do you need to be saved from?

The Power of sin.

Romans 6:20 states that "...when you were the servants of sin, you were free from righteousness." If you are not saved, you are a servant of sin. The only power that can free you from this enslavement is Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:1)

The Penalty of sin.

Romans 6:23 states that "the wages of sin is death [eternal separation from God], but the gift of God is eternal life [living forever with God] through Jesus Christ our Lord." The price for sin has been paid in full, but you must receive God's payment. (John 3:16)

What steps do you take to get saved?

1. You must ACCEPT the fact that you are a sinner and you need God. (Romans 3:10, 23; Galatians 3:22)
2. You must BELIEVE (trust, rely on and cling to) on the finished death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. (Romans 10:9; Acts 4:12)
3. You must REPENT of your sins and turn your life totally over to Christ. (Acts 17:30-31)

What happens after you are saved?

1. Your sins are forgiven (Hebrews 10:17). This forgiveness results in your sanctification (John 17:17, 19), justification (Romans 5:1), and cleansing (1 John 1:9).
2. You are born again (John 3:3) and you become a new creature in Christ. (II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20)
3. You become a member of the kingdom of God. God is now King of your life. (Colossians 1:13)
4. You are sealed with the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13)

Now that you are saved through the acceptance of Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, what should you do?

1. You should get involved in a good Bible-teaching church so that you can grow spiritually. (1Peter 2:2)

(Note: No matter how excited you are now, you need to plant yourself in a good Bible-teaching church so that your excitement will grow into spiritual maturity.)

2. You should get baptized in water. Water Baptism is commanded by Jesus to publicly declare that you have died to sin and have risen to walk in a new life with Christ.

Romans 6:3-4 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by Baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the Glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life.”

3. You should win others to Christ.

Proverbs 11:30 “...and he who wins souls is wise.”

LIFE Application Points

Why is believing and confessing important in declaring your salvation?

The Bible declares that you must accept that you are a sinner, believe on Jesus Christ, and repent of your sins in order to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. At what point in your life did you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? Describe your experience.

The Authority of Scripture

One central key to the Christian Faith is the teaching of the scriptures. It is important to understand the origin of scripture. The Bible is a library of books containing God's inerrant Word. God's Word can be fully trusted and does not need to be interpreted outside of its context or original language. Without the Word, the believer has no foundation or source of knowledge to understand or support his faith.

The Bible is inspired by God and inerrant.

II Timothy 3:16 states that, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."

The Bible must be interpreted properly.

II Peter 1:20-21 states, "But know this that no prophecy of Scripture is of one's own interpretation, for prophecy or Scripture never came by the will of many, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

In our culture, it has become very common for groups to depart from the reliability and the importance of the Scripture. We encourage members to familiarize themselves with the series on Cults offered in our tape library.

LIFE Application Points

Where in scripture is it revealed that "All scripture is inspired by God"? Why is this important truth in Christianity?

Why is it important not to have your own interpretation of scripture?

Do you believe it is important to base your decisions on the word of God. Why?

The Godhead

The doctrine of the Godhead has always been viewed as one of the most difficult doctrines in the Scriptures. In simple language, the doctrine explains that God has manifested Himself to mankind in three Persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. The term "Persons" is chosen to describe the Godhead for lack of a better term. We find great difficulty in describing our God in human language. How could it be possible to describe such omnipotence with mere words! In short, we have listed an outline that will at least guide you to a simple explanation of this very important teaching.

The Father is called God

Matthew 6:9-10 "Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven..."

The Son is called God

Hebrews 1:8 "But to the Son He says: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom."

Hebrews 1:5-6 "For to which of the angels did He ever say: You are my Son, today I have begotten You? And again: I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says "Let all the angels of God worship Him."

John 5:16-18 "So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. But Jesus replied, "My Father never stops working, so why should I?" So the Jewish leaders tried all the more to kill him. In addition to disobeying the Sabbath rules, he had spoken of God as his Father, thereby making himself equal with God."

The Holy Spirit is called God

Acts 5:3-4 "But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land?...Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God."

LIFE Application Points

The Godhead does not imply that God is not One. The word is simply used to describe how God manifested Himself to mankind in three Persons. Describe these three Persons.

The Role of the Holy Spirit

In the mind of Jesus, the Holy Spirit plays a very crucial role in our eternal destiny, so much so that he said, “Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against (or resist by speaking evil) the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.” (Matthew 12:32)

He is a Person, not a force or a thing.

John 14:16 “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.”

John 16:7 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you, but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”

The Basic Mission of the Holy Spirit

1. To help us. (John 16:7)
2. To convict us. (John 16:8)
3. To teach us righteousness. (John 16:8)
4. To teach the reality of judgment. (John 16:8)
5. To guide us. (John 16:3)
6. To be the voice of Christ in your life. (John 16:13)
7. To tell you things to come. (John 16:13)
8. To make available the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2, I Corinthians 12,14)

There is much to say about the ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is our intent in this church to expose you to the wonderful gifts the Holy Spirit gives that can revolutionize your life. We especially want you to experience the joyful experience of “speaking in other tongues.” To many this has been a very confusing and difficult aspect of the Holy Spirit’s work to explain, but remember the words of Paul the Apostle in 1 Corinthians 14:18, “I speak with tongues more than you all.”

I Corinthians 14:2 “For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men, but to God, for no one understands him; however in the spirit he speaks mysteries.”

I Corinthians 14:39 “Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.”

LIFE Application Points

Where in scripture is the Holy Spirit described as a Helper? In your life, how has the Holy Spirit helped you?

Describe three basic missions of the Holy Spirit.

23 Doctrinal Basics

Our Foundation [1-5]

1. The Holy Scriptures
We believe the Bible is God-inspired. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17)
2. The Eternal Godhead
We believe God is One in Essence manifest in Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (2 Corinthians 13:14)
3. The Fall of Man
We believe that man was created in the image of God, but that by voluntary disobedience he fell from perfection. (Romans 5:12)
4. The Plan of Salvation
We believe that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us, signing the pardon of all who believe on Him. (John 3:16; Romans 5:8)
5. Salvation Through Grace
We believe that we have no righteousness and must come to God pleading the righteousness of Christ. (Ephesians 2:8)

Our Life [6-8]

6. Repentance and Acceptance
We believe that upon sincere repentance, and a whole-hearted acceptance of Christ, we are justified before God. (1 John 1:9)
7. The New Birth
We believe that the change that takes place in the heart and life at conversion is a very real one. (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20)
8. Daily Christian Life
We believe that it is the will of God that we be sanctified daily, growing constantly in the faith. (Hebrews 6:1)

Our Duty [9-11]

9. Water Baptism
We believe that baptism by immersion is an outward sign of an inward work. (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:1-4)
10. The Lord's Supper
We believe in the commemoration of the Lord's Supper by the symbolical use of the bread and juice of the vine. (1 Corinthians 11:24, 25)

11. Baptism of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to endue the believer with power and that His in coming is after the same manner as in Bible days. (Acts 1:8, 2:4, ICor14:4, 18, 39; Eph1:13)

Our Connection [12-13]

12. The Spirit filled Life

We believe that it is the will of God that we walk in the Spirit daily. (Ephesians 4:30-32)

13. The Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit had gifts to bestow upon the Christian; and that we should show spiritual fruit as evidence of a Spirit-filled life. (1 Corinthians 12:1-22; Galatians 5:22)

Our Standard [14]

14. Moderation

We believe that the experience and daily walk of the believer should never lead him into extremes of fanaticism. (Philippians 4:5-6)

Our Healer [15]

15. Divine Healing

We believe that divine healing is the power of Christ to heal sick in answer to the prayer of faith. (James 5:14-16)

Our Hope [16]

16. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe that the second coming of Christ is personal and imminent. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

Our Values [17-18]

17. Church Relationship

We believe it is our sacred duty to identify ourselves with the visible church of Christ. (Acts 16:5; Hebrews 10:25)

18. Civil Government

We believe that rulers should be upheld at all times except in things opposed to the will of God. (Romans 13:1-7)

Our Future [19-21]

19. The Final Judgment

We believe that all shall stand some day before the judgment seat of Christ; and there receive eternal life or death. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

20. Heaven

We believe that heaven is the glorious eternal home of born-again believers. (John 14:1- 3; Revelation 7:13-17)

21. Hell

We believe that hell is the place of eternal torment for all who reject Christ as the Savior. (Revelation 20:10, 15)

Our Assignment [22]

22. Evangelism

We believe that soul winning is the most important responsibility of the Church. (James 5:20)

Our Provision [23]

23. Tithes and Offering

We believe that the method ordained of God for the support and spread of His cause is by the releasing of tithes and the giving of free-will offerings. (Malachi 3:8-10)

Ministry Involvement Process

Members of VCC, including new members, are strongly encouraged to get involved in one of the ministry departments of the church. Your active involvement is a significant aspect of spiritual growth, understanding, insight, and flourishing in your Christian walk. Your church needs and welcomes your participation!

Ministry involvement at Valencia Christian Center is any area of volunteer service performed by a member of the VCC family. Whether you request to be an usher, sing in the choir, work with children, or any other ministry involvement, a Ministry Member Information Form must be completed.

The Process

1. Complete a Ministry Member Information form.
2. Schedule an appointment with the Administrative Pastor, Sheila Preston, and complete an interview. Min. Sheila may be contacted by email: minsheila@valenciachristiancenter.org
3. Complete a ministry trial period. (Usually 90 days)
4. Continue your ministry involvement in the ministry area chosen. In the event you would like to become involved in a different ministry, the Administrative Pastor will help to facilitate that process.
5. If desired, you may serve in more than one area of ministry. However, to maximize your effectiveness, we suggest no more than two areas of ministry at a time.

NOTE: Some areas of ministry, such as children's and youth ministries require a background check.

Current Volunteer Ministry Involvement Opportunities

- Beautification Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Counseling Ministry
- Couples Ministry
- Event Planners Ministry
- Greeters/Ushers Ministry
- Health and Wellness Ministry
- Media and Marketing Ministry
- Membership Ministry

- Men's Ministry
- Mother's Board
- Music Ministry
- Outreach Ministry
- Pastoral Care
- Prayer Ministry
- Scholarship Ministry
- We Care Ministry
- Women's Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Youth Ministry

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- Academic Tutoring Ministry
- Arts and Dance Ministry
- Celebrate Recovery Ministry (Addictions/Abuse)
- Clothing Bank Ministry
- Food Bank Ministry
- Mentorship Ministry
- Missions Ministry
- Prison Ministry
- Single Parent Support Ministry

What it Means to Serve in the Body of Christ (The Church)*

Reference: Mark 10:45 – “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.” (NKJV)

- I. Definition of Serve
 1. Vine’s Concise Dictionary – to render any kind of service
 2. Webster – to work as a servant; to render obedience and worship to God; to comply with commands or demands of; to work through or perform a term of service

- II. Characteristics of a Servant
 1. Transparent Humanity 1Corinthians 2:1-3
 2. Genuine Humility 1Corinthians 2:4-5
 3. Absolute Honesty 1Corinthians 4:1-2
 4. Generously humble before God, turning to Him in absolute dependence
 5. Showing compassion on behalf of the needy and hurting
 6. Gentleness – strong within yet controlled without, bringing a soothing graciousness into irritating situations
 7. Passionate appetite for righteous
 8. Merciful – concern for others in need
 9. Pure in heart – the motive of doing the right thing for the right reason
 10. Peacemaker
 11. Persecuted

- III. Misconceptions of a Servant
 1. Servants have special powers in themselves
 2. Servants don’t struggle with everyday problems
 3. Servants are protected against subtle dangers ex. 2 Kings 2, 2 Kings 4:8

- IV. Perils of a Servant
 1. Temptations and Reactions
 2. Overprotection and Possessiveness
 3. Feeling Used and Unappreciated
 4. Disrespect and Resentment
 5. Hidden Greed

- V. Potential Consequences of Serving
 1. Suffering for doing what is right (1Peter 2:20 – 24)
 2. Responding to treatment that is wrong
 3. Affliction
 4. Confusion

5. Persecution
 6. Rejection
 7. Coping with consequences
-
- VI. The Rewards of Serving 1Corinthians 3:10-14
 1. Most rewards are received in heaven, not earth (3:13-14)
 2. All rewards are based on quality, not quantity
 3. No reward that is postponed will be forgotten

 - VII. God's Promises to His Servants
 1. God's Faithfulness
 2. Our Faithfulness
 3. Temporal Rewards
 4. Eternal Rewards

*Based on the book, "Improving Your Serve" by Charles Swindoll

LIFE Application Points

In Mark 10:45, Jesus modeled for us the importance of serving. Do you consider yourself to be a servant? Why?

There are many characteristics of a servant written in scripture. Which of these characteristics best describe you? Give an example.

Where do you plan to serve in Valencia Christian Center?

VCC Ministry Leadership

Name	Ministry Director
Ann Kendricks	Counseling
Bea Edmondson	Health & Wellness
Gail Owens	Beautification
Ivan Cole	Prayer Team
Jay Stepter	Teaching Pastor
Jay & Tosca Stepter	Couples
Jeffrey Smith	Ushers
Jevin & Tasha Smith	Youth & Young Adults
Kim Upshaw	Outreach
Lea & Demarius Jefferson	Children
Linda Holguin	Events
Lori Dooley	Membership
Mike Flowers	Men's Dept.
Mimi Cotton	Administrative Assistant
Sandra Cole	Women's Dept.
Sheila Preston	Administrative Pastor
Shirley Thomas	Greeters
Terry Collier	Media & Marketing
Theresa Bailey	Music Dept.
Tommie Ward	Mothers Board
Tosca Stepter	Scholarship Fund

General Church Contact Information

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