

The Upper Room Church Membership

We are thrilled you are interested in membership at The Upper Room Church. It's an important commitment and we know you probably have some questions. Our hope is that this packet will answer those questions and start you on the journey of understanding fully what being part of the body of Christ at The Upper Room Church (hereinafter referred to as "URC" is all about.

Here's a quick description of what you'll find in this packet.

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"Membership at " URC"

This is a brief description of what the Bible teaches us about membership. Here you'll find the "7 expressions of membership" that are a normal part of being in community at URC.

"5 Action steps toward Membership"

This is a description of the steps we ask each person seeking membership to take toward being affirmed and celebrated as a member.

"Why Serve?"

Following Jesus is a movement, and it gains momentum when people are actively untied in purpose. Find out more details about serving at URC following.

"Why Give?"/"Why give Time?"

It's a touchy subject but giving financially is a biblical expression of worship. We don't withhold **any** form of worship from God at URC. You can read our perspective here.

Part two: Church Information

This section is intended to give you a closer look at our motivations, beliefs, governing structure and distinctive as a church, along with some contact information, etc.

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Membership Form – “I Want to Be a Member”

This is a form we ask you to complete so we can help you find your place with us here at URC.

MEMBERSHIP AT URC

The meaning of “membership” in America is different depending on who you talk to. It could mean something as simple as having your name included on a common list, access to swim or golf at a private club, being a monetary donor to an organization or owning a subscription. But for a Christian church, it’s something **far more significant** and is understood only by hearing what the New Testament has to tell us.

A member is a part of a whole; specifically a functional part like an eye or a kidney is to a physical body. That’s exactly what the Apostle Paul meant in Romans 12:4-5:

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

Membership is about belonging to a community, or body, of **shared value and responsibility**. Simply put, Christians value Jesus, love him, and share the responsibility to bring glory and honor to him by fulfilling his desires, ultimately to fulfill his “great commission” to the church in

Matthew 28:19-20

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Based on Scripture, a member of the church expresses his or her membership in the seven ways outlined below. We call these our...

“7 Expressions of Membership”

Worshipping together regularly

(Hebrews 10:25, Acts 2:42, 46-47, Psalms 95:6)

Being unified through authentic relationships

(Colossians 3:12-15, Acts 2:44, 1 Thessalonians 5:13b, Romans 15:5)

Learning the Word of God

(Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 6:17, Acts 15:35)

Giving financially

(Acts 2:45, 2 Cor 9:6-7, Matthew 10:8b, 23:23)

Working to serve the mission

(Ephesians 4:16, Colossian 3:23, Romans 12:6-8)

Encouraging one another

(1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 3:13)

Honoring leadership

(1 Thessalonians 5:112-13, Hebrews 13:7, 17)

This is not a comprehensive list, but it's a mutual starting point built on our core values. We've assembled this list as our membership criteria. We're not asking you to do these things to **earn** membership from the church. Our goal is not to **force** anyone to uphold these commitments, though the Bible does encourage us to confront idle members (1 Thess. 5:14). We're saying these are "7 Expressions" of **what member do** in their community of faith **because** of their commitment to Christ. As Rev. Johnny Hensley always said, "We aren't saved because we work, we work because we are saved!"

5 Action Steps toward Membership:

If you are committed to the "7 Expressions" of membership listed above, then you **are** a member at Upper Room Church. Here are some action steps we ask everyone to take as we further confirm you into the church community:

1. Attend URC services and gatherings for long enough to decide if this is truly the community of faith to which you want to belong. Membership is a significant commitment so be sure to allow yourself the time to really assess your feelings, experience a broad range of community interaction and to ask important questions.
2. We will be implementing "One Faith" meetings for Q & A about URC. Dates will be posted on the church calendar at www.elktonchurch.com or www.upperroomelkton.com or announced, placed and advertised regularly in bulletin boards and other events. One verse we want to encourage our member in is I John 2:6... "Who ever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did".
3. Fill out an "I Want to Be a Member" form...
..which will acquaint us with you and your family and help us to help you find a place to serve. This form is the last page of this packet.
4. Begin giving a percentage of your income...
....to God toward the efforts of his church, with **ten percent** (tithe means tenth) as your **goal** (1 Corinthians 16:2, Malachi 3:10, 2 Cor. 9: 6-7). Give faithfully and regularly. It is a generous mark we are all reaching for and beyond. For more on this, see page 5 entitled "Why Give?"

5. Be celebrated and affirmed...
.....at a scheduled Sunday AM membership celebration. We are excited to let the whole church know you're with us on the faith journey and united in the effort to fulfill the call of Jesus Christ on your life in partnership with this church, The Upper Room Church.

Why Serve?

Ephesians 4:16 tells us that "from him (Jesus) the whole body, Joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, **as each part does it's work**". Anything worth having or accomplishing requires some hard work, wouldn't you agree? The tendency in our culture is to think of the church as simply a weekend event, sort of a religious "product" made available by a staff and pastor that provides inspiration and information for religious people. But that's just not it. Not even close.

Expressing Love-

The church of Jesus Christ is a truth movement courageously carried through the generations by people who have experienced a passionate relationship with the Truth Himself. It's not a religion, with hoops to jump through and a system to adhere to so we can be accepted by God into heaven. **It really is a relationship of love that makes life here powerful, and the life after glorious.** Like every relationship that involves humans, it has it's ups and downs, but it ultimately works on the same principles as our friendships and marriages. In those relationships, we express our love and value and the relationship becomes healthier and deeper. So like every great relationship, it's dynamic **and** growing, **NOT** static and stagnate. Serving God's people as God's church is part of how the relationship grows. Simply put, if you care, it shows!

"But we're just too busy!" We get it. We're all busy. Too busy. But we can't afford not to love Jesus in this way, who loved us first, doing so with our time, focus and our energy. He said in John 14:15, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." He's not saying to do things to prove you love him. He's saying loving him results in that proof. It expresses itself. We obey by loving people enough to join together in this effort to let them know that they too are loved and were made for eternal purpose. 1 Thess. 1:3 says. "We continually remember before our God and Father **your endurance** inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." An

acronym Pastor Barbara uses, “Busy is B. (buried) U. (under) S. (Satan’s) Y. (yoke).” Let’s assess our “busyness”!

So the Bible tells us that faith produces work, love prompts labor and hope inspires endurance. It’s cause and effect!

Using your gifts- Everything we do at The Upper Room Church, whether it’s handing out programs, sweeping floors, teaching, or playing an instrument, is service to the commission Jesus gave us to invite people to follow Him. Not to mention, God has given you gifts to do just that. For more information on spiritual gifts, Check out page 13.

And remember this...

“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them” ... Hebrews 6:10

Why Give?

We know this is a touchy subject. Let’s be honest, money and the church have a strained history. From the “super-apostles” in 2 Corinthians who exploited early believers for money, to the sale of indulgences that ignited Martin Luther and the Reformation in the 16th century, to our modern day when some TV evangelists find ways to turn everything into an appeal for money (and then spend it on their own luxuries), it’s evident that we in the church haven’t always gotten it right. **But the Bible always has,** and so it’s to the Bible we appeal. Here are **6 Biblical reasons** to give financially to the church:

1. **To obey God, who expects his people to give** (Mal.3:8-10)
There is really no better reason. If we believe in God, our goal is to be able to simply say, “God requires it, I want to do it.” But along with the command in Malachi 3 comes a promise of great blessing. His command reflects his desire for us to cooperate obediently in an occasion to show us his love and generosity to us!
2. **To help the church fulfill it’s call** (Mal 3:10, 1 Cor 16:2, Philippians 4:18-19)
The church’s **only** income stream flows from God’s people investing in that which they say they value. The church’s focus must remain on it’s far reaching

mission while relying on a “storehouse” stocked with the necessary resources to fulfill that mission.

3. **To avoid worshipping money** (Luke 16:13, Heb 13:15, Matt 13:22)

The Bible says wealth is deceptive and money is the single greatest potential idol in our lives, whether you have lots of it or not. Because it is our basic human resource, it begs us to love and trust it. Jesus challenged the wealthy to balance their lives by being more generously sacrificial and less entitled to personal luxury.

4. **To express thanks to God** (2 Corinthians 9:10-12)

Paul wrote our generosity results in thanksgiving to God. If we as individuals or the church receive something, then we thank God for it! And the end result acknowledges and blesses God. Not only that, giving out of what you've been given is a direct expression of how you feel about the gift itself and the Giver.

5. **To demonstrate our eternal values** (Luke 8:14)

In one story, Jesus described people who were so concerned about riches and pleasures as “seeds” that did not mature when they were planted. Giving realigns our focus and demonstrates that we are most driven by and toward eternal, spiritual blessings.

6. **To demonstrate to God that we are trustworthy** (Luke 16:9-12)

God really wants to bless us. We believe that at URC. But how we use what we have whether it's money, time, or relationship is a reflection of how much we can **faithfully** handle.

How much should I give? Or how much do I have to give?

Maybe the better question is “How much should I keep?” It's interesting that we all tend to ask how much is “enough,” with minimums in mind. Christians giving is based on pursuing an attitude like Jesus' - humility, utter generosity and sacrifice. Though giving a tenth of one's income, or tithe, IS rooted in the Old Testament and has been adopted as a standard in many church traditions, we see people who are staggered to even begin to give in this way, especially when they are new to it. So let us encourage you to **start somewhere set** some percentage for giving and do it regularly while reaching for the **Biblical goal (10%)**. It is sacrificial for most people, and yet, the Word promises a **bountiful** blessing for obedience. We also encourage graduated giving that asks folks with increased income who already give 10% to go further and express sacrificial generosity “in keeping with(their) income, a principal from 1. Cor. 16:2. This makes Christ – like giving an experience that is shared, no matter how much you make. So how much should you give? 2 Corinthians 6-7 offers the following insight:

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Somehow in the church-world we have forgotten about excellence. Excellence, too is biblical. See Colossians 3:23-24. Oftentimes, people give what is left over – whether it is money or other needs the church has. “I will take this old----- (whatever) to the church, since we got a new one.” I believe that His kingdom deserves the best and our **first fruits!**

Giving of yourself/ your time:

You may give of yourself and your time just by being present. See how God will use you for his kingdom, if you simply make yourself available. (also see, “Why Serve?”)

We offer many opportunities to assemble together:

Sunday morning worship is at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday! Praise and worship leads us into the message prepared for the congregation from God’s word. Sunday school for the children.

Sunday nights – 6:00 P.M. – 1st Sunday of the month – open Mic night – Music and talents are shared. Bring your talent, your instruments, your poetry, or whatever you would like to share!

2nd - Family Event Night with Praying Women, Men’s Group and the Youth and children meeting. Something for all!

3rd -

4th -

Wednesday nights – 7:00 P.M. Faith Café`- our own little coffee house with Bible study is a great mid- week opportunity to learn, share, have fellowship.

In addition, we have many other events to get involved in, enjoy and serve.

Future Goals: The sky is the limit!

Leadership Team

Rev. Barbara Hensley, Pastor- Barbara Hensley, daughter of Carrington and Catherine Robinson, grew up in Staunton, VA. She “cut her teeth” on the pews of the Lincoln Avenue Pentecostal Holiness Church, with her parents being charter members. She graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Staunton. She went on to attend Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, GA, one of the colleges of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church. Pastor Barbara has been devoted to ministry in The Upper Room Church for more than 25 years. She served as Upper Room Church Christian Academy Supervisor for about 7 years. She also served as Secretary/Treasurer under the ministry of Rev. Johnny Hensley for about 15 years. She has served as Praise and Worship Leader, Women’s Group Leader, and other ministry aspects of the church. Pastor Barbara has been licensed for a number of years with Anchor Bay Evangelistic Association out of Maryville, IL. She has spoken at various women’s conference’s (locally and otherwise) and numbers of regular church services (here and other churches) before being elected Pastor. She has also received licensing and ordination credentials from The International Pentecostal Holiness Church headquartered in Oklahoma City, OK. Our church is now an affiliate of the International Pentecostal Holiness, locally associated with the Appalachian Conference headquartered in Dublin, VA. Pastor Barbara is married to J. Glendon Hensley, the oldest son of former Pastor Johnny E. Hensley. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree with a double in Management and Marketing. He is also a very talented musician and is an integral part of the music department and other technical parts of our church.

Mary Strickler/ Secretary/Treasurer- Mary is the secretary/treasurer

Ronnie Shifflett, Trustee/Board Member- Ronnie is a native of Elkton and has attended the church since February 1989. He was saved through the television ministry and has been faithful and dedicated to every event and aspect of this church. He has a special gift of prayer and God is using him to assist in the Bible Study group. He was elected to the board in the fall of 2009 and made Trustee in 2016.

Joey Dennis, Trustee – Joey is a great asset to the church as a Trustee and brings much knowledge of building with him. He has been a part of URC since 2012. He is a part of the praise team and also helps in the sound booth. He has great insight and is more than willing to share prophetically.

John Ginter, Board Member-

Shirley Kline, Board Member-

Mike Mason, Board Member

Our Vision

To proclaim Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. To be a center for Christian discovery experience and development. To uphold God's Word above tradition, legalism, and liberalism.

Our Purpose

To lead people to a life of faith through the Word and then on the journey to full devotion by constant fine-tuning one life at a time! To provide life lessons to help people be victorious in this life until He returns!

Our Values

Prayer & Divine direction

(Philippians 4:6-7)

Worship- the act and attitude

(John 4: 23-24)

Biblical Integrity

(2 Timothy 3: 16-17)

Lost People

(Luke 15:7)

Cultural Relevance

(Neh. 8:8, Acts 17:22-34)

Authentic Relationships

(Ephesians 4:14-16)

Spiritual Gifts & Empowerment

(1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

Compassion & Care-giving

(Galatians 6:2)

Giving

(Malachi 3:8-10)

Excellence

(Colossians 3: 23-24)

Our Statement of Belief

We believe the Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit and is God's Word – a revelation of Himself to man, a flawless witness to His perfect plan to redeem humanity and the final authority for all true Christian faith and practice.

(Psalm 119, Luke 8:21, John 17:17., II Tim. 3:16-17, II Pet. 1:20-21)

We believe there is one God revealed in the relationship of three persons; Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit – the Triune God or Trinity. (Gen.1:26, Deut. 6:4, Mt. 28:19, John 10:30, 17:11,22)

We believe Jesus of Nazareth was fully man and is fully God, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles with unlimited power by the Holy Spirit, and sacrificed himself in obedience to the Father for our salvation, He was resurrected from death and ascended to the Father's side. (Mt. 1:21,23, John 1: 1-2, 14, 3: 16,34, Acts 1:2-3,9, 2:22, Eph.2:14-18, Col. 1:20, Heb.4:15)

We believe in the sinfulness of all mankind and in our need for salvation. Salvation is available only by the grace of God through personal faith in Jesus Christ, by whose death the guilt for our sins is removed and by whose resurrection we have eternal life with Him.

Salvation, which involves confession and repentance, is followed by baptism in water, a powerful symbol of death and spiritual rebirth. (Rom. 3:23, 6:3,23,10:13, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:4-7, Acts 2:38)

We believe in sanctification, the process of being separated from sin unto God to do good works produced by faith. This process begins at salvation when the believer receives the Holy Spirit and continues throughout his/her lifetime. (I Cor. 6:11, Gal.5:22-23, IThess. 4:3-5, 5:23, II Pet.3:18, James 2:26, Hebrews 10:22)

We believe the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an initiation into spiritual life and relationship with God by his indwelling Spirit. Furthermore, we believe that subsequent filling by the Spirit is available to all believers, which releases His power through us in the "fruit" and gifts of the Spirit and thereby enabling us to be and to do what he desires. (Joel 2:28-29, Lk. 3:16, Acts1 :4-5, 8,2:4, 38-39,10:44-47, I Cor. 12:4-11,13)

We believe the Church of Jesus Christ, founded on the prophets and apostles with Jesus as the chief cornerstone, is the hope of the world when it's functioning according to God's Word. (Mt. 16:18, 28:19-20, Eph. 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 3:10, Col. 1:27, I Tim. 3: 15)

We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ, who is coming to justly judge the living and the dead and to establish a new heaven and a new earth. (John 5:24-29, Acts 1:11, I Thess. 4 16-18, Titus 2:13, I Peter 4:5, II. Peter 3:7,13)

We believe the faithful will inherit eternal life from the heavenly Father, and the faithless (who have no father), will have no inheritance and be separated from God for eternity. (Mt. 19:29, 25:46, John 3:18, 5:29, Acts 24:15, I Cor. 15: 20-24, Rev. 20: 4-6, 12-15, 21:7)

We believe the finished work of Christ on the cross provides for spiritual and physical healing. (Isa.53:4-5, Mt. 8:16-17, I Pet. 2:24, James 5: 14-15)

We believe that the responsibility of every believer to partner in reaching the world with the good news of Jesus Christ is fundamental to faith. (Mt. 28:19-20, Mk.16:15-20, Acts 1:8, 2:40-41, 47)

We believe that God has commanded that all intimate sexual activity be solely and exclusively within a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality including, but not limited to, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's birth gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

Three important questions and answers about Upper Room Church

A local church IS a community. It's actually more like your neighborhood than a corporation or business. The goal of this community, like a great neighborhood, is to make a quality life among quality people possible. Instead of a subdivision as our common ground, it is our faith in Jesus Christ and love for humanity that brings us together as one body made up of many parts or members. The goal of a church is inputs, not outputs. In other words, the focus is on building the lives of people themselves so they can be a healthy part of the body, as opposed to producing or selling a product to people for their individual use.

So with that being said....

Who leads this church?

URC is a team effort and doesn't elevate any one personality. Jesus Christ is at the helm. At URC, we are building a team of people who have individual gifts of leadership, teaching and care who combine their efforts to "prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:12) Upper Room Church believes in the Biblical model for church leadership set out in Ephesians 4 and 1 Corinthians 12, which establishes apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to ultimately lead the church. Our goal is **to build** such a team under the leadership, direction and guidance of Pastor Barbara Hensley, who is called of God and was elected by the church to minister the word of God in teachings to the body. Leadership and ministry decisions are made by Pastor Barbara along with the official board of the church. On occasion, there are some decisions that will be brought to the ministry Leadership Committee of the church and at times, to the total membership for discussion. As Pastor, Barbara Hensley has the prayerful responsibility of final authority on such decisions.

Are the leaders accountable to anyone?

Upper Room Church has an official board of trustees/board members. Steve Dean and Ronnie Shifflett are Trustees/Board Members and Joey Dennis is a Trustee, while John Ginter, Shirley Kline and Mike Mason are Board Members. The trustees hold office indefinitely and were put in place by appointment of pastors. The Board Members hold

office for two years, at which time the church holds elections. Trustees are specifically entrusted to guide the church's stewardship of the church's facilities and finances. Board members help to make decisions in regular or called board meetings. All are available, together with Pastor, to answer questions and meet needs of the congregation. Our goal is for decision-making and guidance to be done by consensus. This team of leaders are accountable one-to-another, under the guidance of God's Word, in handling issues or decision relating to our church community.

Is Upper Room Church affiliated with a denomination or movement?

For purposes of ordination, Upper Room Church is connected to the Appalachian Conference of The International Pentecostal Holiness Church. This affiliation will serve as great support for us, from materials and training, check out "What Does It Mean...that we are Pentecostal?" on the IPHC.com website.

What Does It Mean....That we are "Pentecostal?"

The Pentecostal "movement" as it has been called, is about God's power in us and for us, not just speaking in tongues. So what you're reading is meant to help clarify what we're about at URC and follow the Apostle Paul's lead in teaching on this topic. God gives many "spiritual gifts" (1 Corinthians 12:1, see page of this packet) to the church so that we can be powerful in life. This is for the ultimate purpose of knowing God better, living life with hope, and telling others the good news of Jesus at Pentecost in Acts 2, miraculously speaking the actual languages of foreigners visiting Jerusalem. Many first converts responded to being instantly "filled" with the Holy Spirit by speaking in tongues. Speaking in tongues is how some Christians edify or encourage themselves by the spirit (1 Cor. 14:4) and communicate thanksgiving (1 Cor. 14:16-17). You might call this a "prayer language". These tongues can be interpreted so that others can know what is being said, so they too can be encouraged and give thanks. Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians that he "would like everyone to speak in tongues," although he would rather have them prophecy, speaking a message to everyone from God that they can understand without the need for interpretation (1 Cor. 14:5).

Historically, there's been a lot of confusion about tongues. Over time, some cultural traditions have developed in the Pentecostal movement. Sometimes it has caused folks to "steer clear" of Pentecostals. Here are a few:

Speaking in tongues disruptively during worship, often doing so without interpretation. We believe that speaking in tongues is perfectly appropriate in worship but should ideally and usually happen in a quiet manner because of its personal nature. At times, we have experienced a message meant for the church. In this case, there should be interpretation. Some messages over the years, have actually been damaging to the churches. This is not Biblical because the Bible actually states that it is to "edify" or lift up. We should be prayerful to follow the leading of Christ.

Being Pentecostal has often meant avoiding order, clarity, education or intellectual thinking just because the gifts are mysterious. We, at URC believe in order- the Bible commands that things be done in decency and order and we believe in educating ourselves in the Word of God along with being open-minded to accept change, when needed, to line up with God's Word as it is revealed to us. In addition, we DO absolutely, believe in allowing liberty to worship, though, as God leads us by His Spirit in our worship service. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty!"

We believe it is good to move beyond (or away from) traditions that are not anchored in the Bible. In fact, we want to learn from the Corinthians' mistakes, as they were firmly corrected by Paul for an overemphasis on tongues. We are excited that God's people can be filled with the Holy Spirit, an awesome experience that is available to all Christians when they've come to faith in Jesus. Not all will speak in tongues as a result (1 Cor. 12:30) and not all have to, but we should desire to receive whatever spiritual gifts God wants to give us. This "filling" can happen sooner or later, it can happen often and it can happen anywhere. In the Bible, it often occurred when great power was needed for a task, for facing trouble, for encountering God more deeply, or for overcoming areas of personal sin or doubt. Being "filled" with the Holy Spirit, however, is different than baptism indwelling presence of God, promised by Jesus before he ascended to the Father's side (John 16:7, 1 Cor. 12:13). But we should not EXCLUDE people based on this.

Conclusion: This topic has a way of raising lots of questions, so please understand that what you've just read isn't everything there is to know, but hopefully it will help you begin to see what being Pentecostal is all about. We hope you will soon discover how God wants to pour out his power on you, help you to love him and his people more and to be effective for him in your world. After all, it's the fruit of the Spirit that tells us and others we know the

Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control! (Galatians 5:22). One of our mottos, used along with the dove which represents the person of the Holy Spirit, on our letterhead is “God’s Power – Your Life!”

What does it mean...To have spiritual gifts?

As mentioned on the last page, God gives many “spiritual gifts” (1 Corinthians 12:1) to the church by the Holy Spirit so that together, we can be powerful in life, this power is for the ultimate purpose of knowing God better, living hopeful lives, and telling others the good news of Jesus. At no time in history has God stopped giving these gifts, but there have been times when believers have not been open to receiving and using them. We simply believe that there are spiritual gifts from God that are **waiting** to be used by you for the “common good.” Read what Paul has to say in 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11:

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophesy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”

After he wrote this letter, Paul went on to explain that the church is like a body with different parts working together in unity toward one purpose, all the parts being important. So you and your gifts contribute to the way the body works. And because spiritual purpose in the world is the greatest motivation for a believer, you might say that **God gives you to your gift!**

How do I get spiritual gifts?

Paul told a young minister, Timothy, that the gifts were given to him when Paul and others laid their hands on him, a sign of connection and agreement, and prayed for him to receive them (1 Tim. 4:14, 2 Tim. 1:6). At URC we are excited to agree with and pray for believers to discover the gifts God wants them to have. Because we believe that being “filled” with the Holy Spirit who dwells in your life is a vitally important part of the Christian life, we encourage you to desire the Spirit’s filling on your way to discovering and using your gifts. It’s as simple as agreeing together for God to do it. **And he will!**

How do I know what my gifts are?

We should desire to receive whatever spiritual gifts God wants to give us. It seems that most often, our gifts are discovered when we begin working together with other believers, applying ourselves to the greater purpose. Apparently, some gifts are more personal in nature, such as speaking in tongues, and others are more community-oriented, such as encouragement. Paul encourages believers to seek to have gifts that “build up” the church, that is, the whole community (1 Cor. 14:12). Many people have more than one gift. Here are the spiritual gifts identified in the Bible, specifically in 1 Corinthians 12. They are all very important:

Appointed Leadership (Apostles, Prophets, Pastors & Teachers)

Messages of wisdom (special inspiration to know and communicate the right things)

Messages of knowledge (special and specific knowledge of certain matters)

Faith (apparently, a special degree of belief, trust and expectation)

Healing (special faith for physical or emotional restoration)

Miracles (special grace to perform what would seem otherwise impossible)

Discernment (deeper insight into matters of life and spirit)

Speaking in tongues (for special personal edification)

Interpreting tongues (for making a personal tongues edification available to **all**)

Helps (special grace to meet the needs of the hurting or lacking)

Administration (managing affairs of the church)

Contact Information

Upper Room Church

14890 Rockingham Pike

P.O. Box 6

Elkton, Va. 22827

(540) 298-8000

(540) 298-8055 – fax

Pastor's personal phone: 540-746-0624 (cell)

To e-mail Pastor Barbara Hensley:

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Website:

Upperroomelkton.com

Also, please like the Upper Room Church on Facebook

The Members Section of our Website

A page is being added to our website with addresses and telephone numbers of active members (by approval). This section will have a password so that only members of the church will be able to attain this information for sending Christmas and birthday cards, visitation, etc. Those who do not use the website can obtain a copy from the secretary. You can obtain this password form Pastor or Mary (church office secretary). As Members, you remain as active member as you attend regularly. If a period of six months passes with non-attendance, or a current member states that they will be leaving the assembly or is going to another church, that member is placed on the inactive list.

CALL-EM-ALL

This is a “phone tree” type service that helps us to be good stewards of time. It is NOT meant to be impersonal, but allows various leaders (Pastor, secretary, etc.) to get a message out to many in one concise message, in a short period of time.

Cancellations

During inclement weather, our local channel 3, WHSV, will carry our closings, along with use of our Call-Em-All phone tree, and the URC Newslines on Facebook.

The Church Calendar

A detailed interactive calendar of events is kept up to date on our website. We also have a yearly calendar on the bulletin board in the breezeway of the church, upon completion of Leadership and Planning Meetings.

SO NOW...

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”Matthew 28:19-20

I WANT TO BE A MEMBER!

(Please submit this form to the church office (Mary, Secretary) or give it to Pastor Barbara at your earliest convenience.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Birthdate: _____

Occupation: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Spouse's Birthdate: _____

Occupation: _____

Email address we can send notifications to: _____

All children's names and birthdates (attending with you):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

How did you find The Upper Room or how long have you attended?

Are you comfortable with the 7 expressions of membership listed in this packet?

Are there areas you would be interested in serving? (such as nursery, ushering, greeting, Sunday School, Music, Men's group, Women's group, or other)?

All adults, please sign below and date:

_____	Date _____
_____	Date _____

