



Introduction to Faith Student Guide

Revised February 2022

INTRODUCTION TO FAITH

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, I believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father, the Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

The Athanasian Creed

Excerpt:

Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian Faith. Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.

Now this is the true Christian faith: We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being. For each person -- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit -- is distinct, but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty. What the Father is, so is the Son, and so is the Holy Spirit.

And within this Trinity none comes before or after; none is greater or inferior, but all three persons are coequal and coeternal, so that in every way, as stated before, all three persons are to be worshiped as one God and one God worshiped as three persons. Whoever wishes to be saved must have this conviction of the Trinity.

Augsburg Confession

<https://blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy/1/augsburgconfession.htm>

Luther's Small Catechism

<http://ctkelc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Martin-Luthers-Small-Catechism.pdf>

OUR LUTHERAN HERITAGE

Grace Alone

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. **Romans 3:20**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Word Alone

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. **2 Timothy 3:16**

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. **2 Peter 1:20-21**

Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. **1 Corinthians 8:1**

Priesthood of All Believers

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **1 Peter 2:9**

Hans Nielsen Hauge

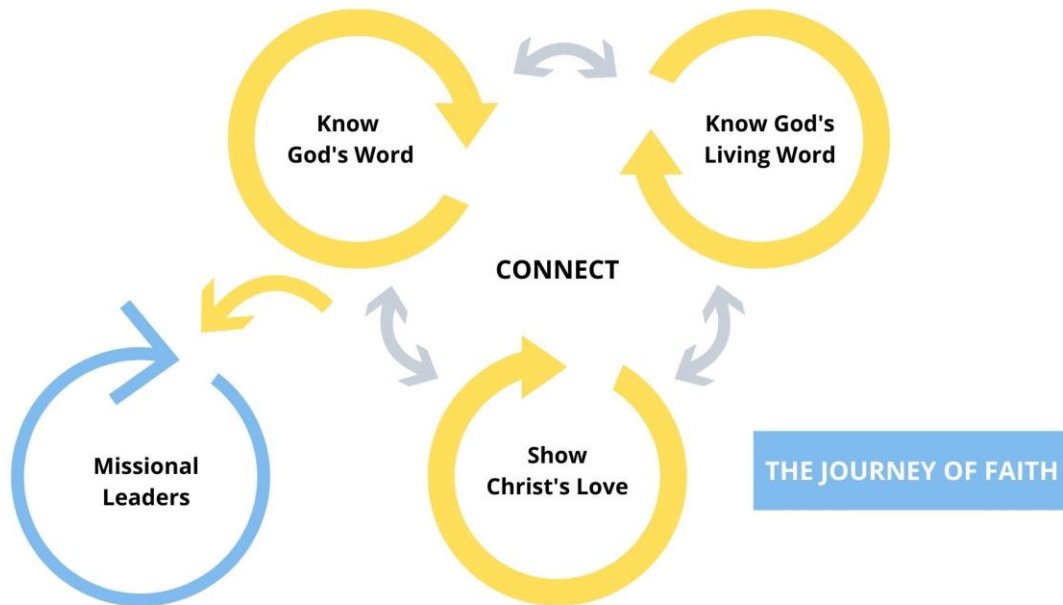
OUR STRATEGY

Our Mission:

Know God's Word, Show Christ's Love, Grow Disciples, One Person at a Time

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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20



Our Vision: Growing a Community to Serve a Community

The Story of St. Patrick and the Celtic Church

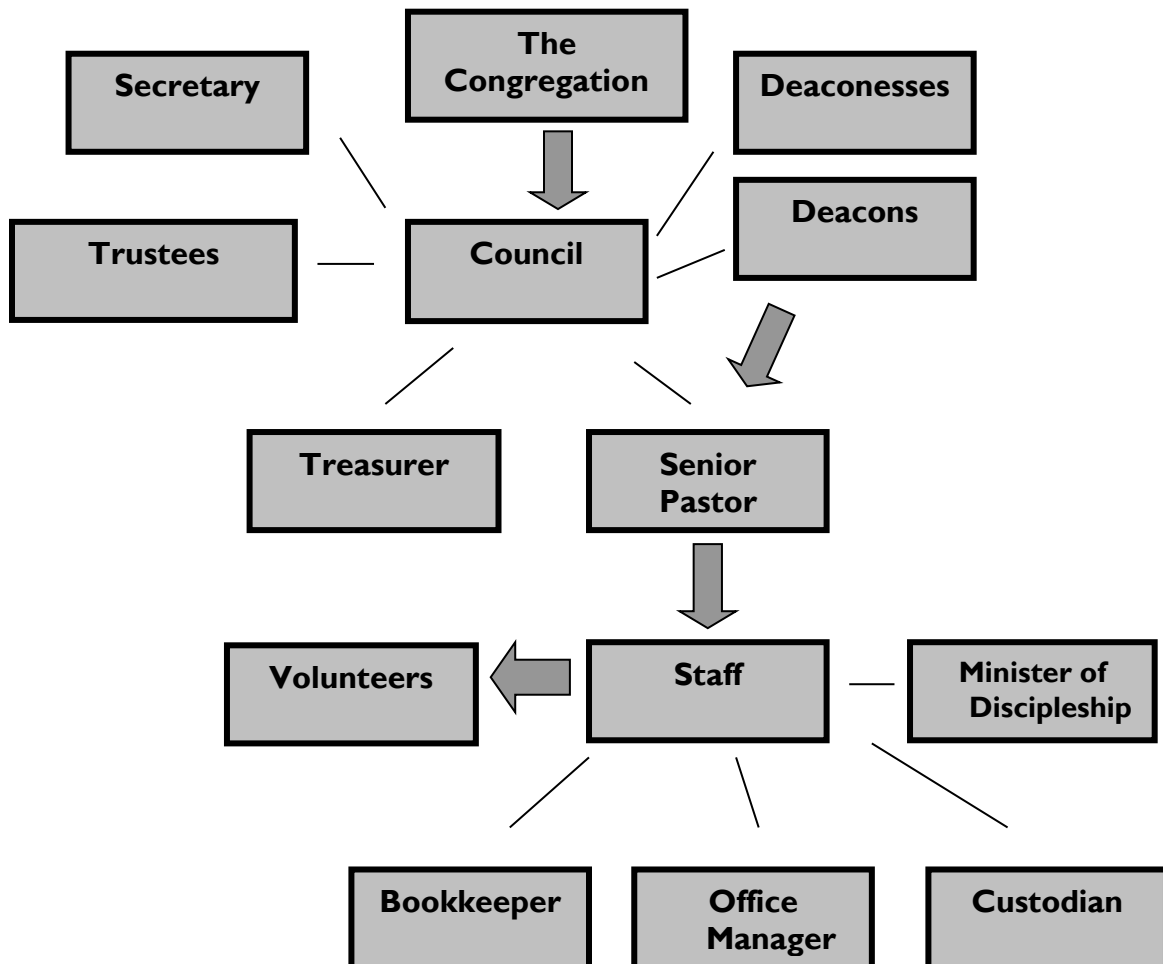
Discipleship Characteristics of Celtic Communities

1. Team approach to ministry.
2. The community prepared them to live a powerful Christian life by:
 - A. Time Alone with God
 - B. Have a good friend you can be honest with

- C. Time with a small group under the guide of someone known for their devotion
 - D. Participating in the common life
 - E. Use the experiences above as witness to pre-Christian people
3. A dedicated and imaginative prayer life
 4. The community was devoted to hospitality to seekers.
 5. Seekers experience the Christian community as the major contributor to their conversion.

OUR STRUCTURE

A free church is autonomous.
 Faith is incorporated in the state of Montana with by-Laws and a constitution.



**Growing a
Community
To Serve a
Community**

**CREDO
OUR SACRED TRUTH'S**

“A people advance and develop based on the ideas they collectively hold to be sacred.”
John Alston

“The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart” **Luke 6:45**

We believe the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. It is true, reliable and effective in changing lives. Our primary purpose is to preach and teach the Bible with integrity and authority. *2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20.*

We believe that everyone has a role to play in the church. We honor and support our leaders and encourage all believers to discover and use their spiritual gifts. *Ephesians 4:11-12*

We believe that our congregation is a community of faith. God works consistently in our congregation through committed relationships. Our congregation maintains an atmosphere that strengthens marriages, families and organizations that provide supportive and caring relationships. We accept our role in the larger community of all believers. *Acts 2:44-46*

We believe that our gathering for public worship is a vital and powerful time. When we gather together, we strive for sincere, heartfelt worship and a joyful celebration of the sacraments. *Romans 12:1-2*

We believe that God hears and answers prayer. We rely on prayer to guide all of our ministry activity. We pray for one another for all our needs. *Matthew 7:7-8*

We believe that God loves and accepts us unconditionally. God offers us complete forgiveness through the work of Jesus Christ. Our motivation to follow Christ is based on love and thankfulness. We are set free to follow Christ. *Galatians 5:1-2*

We believe that becoming a Christian is the start, not the end, of following Christ. God calls every believer to grow in spirit and in truth. We are committed to providing biblical instruction and relationships that encourage growth. *2 Peter 3:18*

We believe that people are precious to God. We welcome new people to our fellowship and look for ways to introduce others to Jesus Christ. *Luke 15:7, John 13:35*

We believe that God calls us to be responsible stewards of the gifts He has given us. We believe the priorities of our Father in Heaven should be our priorities as well.
Matthew 25:15-32

We believe that we should show the love of Christ in our world. We seek out and support practical projects that serve our community and our World.

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:15-16

CONCLUSION

Membership Application. There are four requirements for membership here at Faith.

1. Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trusted Him for salvation?
2. Have you been baptized?
3. Meet with Pastor Steve for additional information and questions.
4. Complete the membership application and return it to the church office. Membership becomes official at the next congregational meeting.