



Indian River Presbyterian Church

# Join the Family

## “NEXT STEPS”



SO YOU ARE CONSIDERING JOINING THE FAMILY.

## What Are Your NEXT STEPS?

*This publication, "NEXT STEPS", is designed to encourage one's faith in our Lord Jesus Christ through information about membership in the church family universal and the family of believers at Indian River Presbyterian Church (IRPC).*

*NEXT STEPS provides information about what we believe, the steps we can take to grow your faith, and how we might become an active member of the Body of Christ at IRPC.*

*NEXT STEPS is yours to keep and refer to as you walk with Jesus and his disciples at IRPC and throughout the world.*

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**THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL  
GOD'S FAMILY**

*To become a Covenant Partner (member) at Indian River Presbyterian Church (IRPC), one must first be a member of God's Family. To be part of it, God only requires a person to proclaim Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior and believe in His saving grace and redemptive work on the cross for the forgiveness of their sins.*

*To help you articulate your profession of faith and what it has meant to you, the NEXT STEP is to answer the questions on this page. Doing so will prepare you to answer the question:  
**Tell me about your faith journey.***

**What was your life like before you came to know Jesus?**

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**How did you come to know the Lord? How old were you?  
What persons were important in you coming to faith?**

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**How has knowing Jesus as your Savior changed your life? What has changed?**

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**How has your faith grown since accepting Jesus as your Savior?**

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**How have you honored Jesus in service to Him and others?**

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**THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL  
WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE**

*Being a member of God's Family is as easy as seeking His forgiveness, which He afforded to us through the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

*Belief in Jesus and in His saving grace is what makes us Christians, but what else do we believe?*

*There are several different churches and church denominations, but only ONE LORD. So what do they have in common?*

*The NEXT STEP is to affirm the **essential beliefs of the Christian faith** regardless of the church or denomination.*

**The Apostles' Creed**

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;*

*And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

**What Christians Believe**

**The Trinity**

There is one God, who exists forever in perfect unity as one essence and three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**The Word of God**

The Bible, the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments, is the infallible written Word of God. We believe God's Holy Spirit inspired the authors of the Bible and therefore they are completely trustworthy. The Bible is the final authority on all matters of life and faith.

**Jesus – The Cornerstone**

Jesus Christ is the incarnate Word become flesh, both fully man and fully God. He is the perfect reflection of God's character and glory. He lived a sinless life and offered himself as the only perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people, by dying on the cross. All who believe in Him are declared righteous on the basis of His death. He rose physically from the dead and will return again to the earth to reign forever with those who are His.

**The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit persuades us to repent of our sins and confess Jesus as Lord. He lives in us, convicts us, teaches us, gifts us, comforts us, and enables us to live godly lives.

**Creation and Sin**

Man and woman were created in the image of God, but they fell short of God's perfect standard. As sin entered into the world through the first man and woman, it affected all of God's earthly creation. This resulted in men and women being dead in their sins and in need of salvation.

**Salvation – The Free Gift of Grace**

Salvation from our sinful condition is a free gift from God to us, as He calls us back to Himself. It is not something we earn or deserve. It is offered in grace and received by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Those who believe in Jesus Christ and call on His name are made right with God and given eternal life.

**The Church**

The Church is the living Body of Christ on earth; Christ is its head and source of life. The Body is composed of those who have received Him personally. The Church exists to worship the living God, love one another in Christ, cultivate personal growth in Christ, and communicate Christ to the world through word and deed.

## What Christians Believe (Continued)

### The Sacraments

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we exercise our faith in God's Word, celebrating in covenant community the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion. Baptism is a sign and seal of God's grace, an outward proclamation of our faith and trust in God, and serves as an entrance into the covenant community. In partaking of the Lord's Supper, we are renewed and empowered by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The Lord's Supper is a reminder of His sacrifice and faithfulness to us, and binds us closer as the Body of Christ until our Lord comes again.

### Jesus' Return

Jesus Christ will return to earth to raise the dead, judge the world, and establish His glorious Kingdom. He will restore His church and all of creation through His promise of a new heaven and a new earth. This is the hope of the Church and its encouragement for ministry.

### **THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL THE GOSPEL**

*Gospel means "good news". The Gospel is the good news of who Jesus is, what He did, and what it means for us.*

*The NEXT STEP is to affirm Jesus as Lord and the saving grace He made possible through His work on the Cross at Calvary.*

*Additionally, the NEXT STEP is to **consider your gracious response to that which Jesus did for you.***

## The Gospel of Jesus Christ

### Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the Son of God, the firstborn of all creation, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, He is the beginning and the end, and the savior of all who believe in Him and trust Him.

### What did He do?

We call Him Savior because He came to be with us and rescue us from sin and death. We call Him Lord and King because He is our holy and perfect God. Because God is holy and perfect, He must put to death that which isn't holy and perfect. We are not holy or perfect, so out of love, our perfect God became like man. And on the cross, our Savior King took our broken, flawed, and sinful record from us and gave us His perfect, beautiful, and sinless record. In other words He took our broken life and gave us His perfect life. On the cross He stood in our place and died and then He rose from this death and now lives as King. He promises not to leave us on our own but to walk with us through the pain of this world, and promises to one day come and make all things new. This grace is not something that we can earn or work towards; it is a gift to us from God.

### What does this mean for us?

First, the gospel means that we have gracious acceptance from the living God. He paid for our brokenness by becoming broken on the cross, so we can be made whole. On the cross there was a great exchange, our record for Christ's record. Jesus takes the wrath we deserve and gives us the love that He deserves. He is hated so we can be loved. He is rejected so we can be accepted. Because of this there is nothing we can do or not do to make God love us more or less! We are seen like God sees His perfect Son. That means the Father looks at you and says, "I love you", as if He is saying it to His one and only Son. This loving acceptance is only possible through the costly love of Christ.

(Continued on Page 6)

## The Gospel of Jesus Christ (Continued)

### What does this mean for us? (Continued)

Secondly, *the gospel means* that we have the power to change more and more into who God created us to be. God had the perfect you in mind when He created you. Now through faith in the gospel He is calling you to change more and more into the “you” He has in mind. Not only is He calling you to this new way of living, He is also giving you the power to do it. When we turn toward Christ continually and believe Him to be our only hope who will save us from the power of sin and death, it is then that He draws us progressively away from our sin and more into new life with Him.

Thirdly, *the gospel means* that one day our Savior will return to make all things new and right. He will come to wipe every tear from our eyes, and will completely lay mourning, pain, and death in it’s grave. We, and the world around us, will be new and right.

### How should we respond?

On the cross Jesus took His hands off of His own life for you. Now He is calling you to take your hands off of your life for Him. He is saying to us, I have lived for you, now I want you to live for Me. He also promises us He will deliver for us. It’s not that our life will be easier, it might even be harder, but He promises us that He is worth it. This gift He has given us (in Himself) is not meant to make us respond out of guilt but is meant to make us fully alive, responding with joy and gratitude. Run to Him. Put your faith, hope, and love in Him; and He will give you the desires of your heart.



**IRPC Men enjoying work that was well done!**

### WORDS BY WHICH TO LIVE

*“Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want.*

*But if you are led by the Spirit, you are subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.”*

**(Galatians 5:16-26)**

## **THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL**

### **THE CHURCH**

*In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John refers to the Church as the Bride of Christ. In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul instructs husbands to love their wives as Jesus loves the Church. Jesus loves His Church!*

*The Church is not a building, but the body of believers who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior.*

*The early Church, as described in Acts 2:42-47, devoted themselves to the:*

- *Teaching of (the Gospel by) the Apostles*
- *Worship & Prayer*
- *Fellowship & Community*
- *Sharing the Good News of the Gospel (i.e. Evangelism)*
- *Service to others in and through the Church (i.e. Mission & Outreach)*

*These five (5) areas of devotion are referred to the Spirit Led Purposes of the Church.*

*The NEXT STEP is to **affirm the importance of the Church** in the Christian faith from its beginning and to that today.*

*Another NEXT STEP is to begin thinking about where you fit in the bigger picture of the Church. Information about possibilities will be provided later in "NEXT STEPS".*

## **Five Spirit Led Purposes of the Church**

### **Teaching the Gospel**

The fellowship of believers devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles. The apostles taught the Gospel. There was a high commitment to learning. It was completely centered on the 'apostolic teaching'. It was not learning in general, but rather the study of the Gospel revealed throughout all of scripture. Today, the apostles' teaching is in the Scriptures. We are taught not just what to believe, but given evidence for why to believe it. Teaching the Gospel from all scripture must be a high priority in our church.

### **Worship and Prayer**

The worship of the early church had Christians coming together to praise God. They devoted themselves to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42). It was not random, there was an order to it. It had both an informal and formal aspect. It happened in homes and in the 'temple courts' (church) (v.46). This means that there was both informal worship in small groups and more formal worship in the large group.

### **Fellowship and Community**

Again, fellowship was intense, they devoted themselves to fellowship. Community was not something that just happened. They worked at it. This implies accountability with one another, a sense of responsibility to care for and support and guide each other. It was daily, not just on Sundays. As Christians we are called to come together in fellowship. Engagement will follow good fellowship. Churches need to provide many opportunities for fellowship and being in community with one another.

### **Evangelism**

There were conversions 'daily' (Acts 2:47). It was based on demonstration through community and service. To be Disciples of Christ we have to know and live out the implications of the Gospel in all that we do. One reason that people were saved is that the love and act of praising was highly attractive to 'all the people'. The Great Commission commands us to spread the good news of the gospel. As we equip ourselves, we will be effective conduits of the Word through outreach and evangelism.

### **Mission & Outreach**

The church is called to be of service to the world, to those in need, be it physically, emotionally, economically, or spiritually. A church lives out one of the purposes of Christ's church in and through its service to others. As Christians, we are to devote ourselves to spiritual maturity in all five of these purposes to equip ourselves to be Disciples of Christ; Indian River Presbyterian strives to nurture and equip our covenant partners for discipleship.

**THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL**  
**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*The Church Universal is composed of many denominations and independent churches. All have the common belief that Jesus Christ is the only Lord God, and belief in Him is the only way to be redeemed and saved from our sins.*

*So why would someone choose a Presbyterian Church? What makes it special?*

*The NEXT STEP is to affirm that a **Presbyterian Church is a good fit** for you theologically. Herein contains information about what makes Presbyterians different from other denominations and independent churches.*

### **A Confessing Church**

Most Presbyterian Churches are considered “confessing churches”. What they believe can be found in their “Confessions”. Here are the confessions standards used by ECO - The Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians:

- ◆ The Apostles’ Creed (on Page 4)
- ◆ The Nicene Creed
- ◆ The Heidelberg Catechism
- ◆ The Westminster Confession of Faith
- ◆ The Westminster Shorter Catechism
- ◆ The Westminster Larger Catechism
- ◆ The Theological Declaration of Barmen

### **The Presbyterian Church**

The Presbyterian Church is a part of the Reformed tradition within Protestantism and its origins trace to Great Britain, particularly Scotland. Presbyterian churches derive their name from the presbyterian form of church government, which is governed by representative assemblies of elders.<sup>1</sup>

Presbyterian theology typically emphasizes the sovereignty of God, the authority of the Scriptures, and the necessity of grace through faith in Christ. The roots of Presbyterianism lie in the Reformation of the 16th century, the example of John Calvin's Republic of Geneva being particularly influential.<sup>1</sup>

The word “Presbyterian” comes from the Greek word *presbuteros* meaning “elder”. Two aspects to Presbyterianism: first, it holds to the reformed theological tradition; and second, it is governed by elders and pastors.

Reformed theology upholds and emphasizes the scriptural principle that God is sovereign (all-powerful) and is at the center of all things. This theology has a lot of implications for our lives and ministry. We believe that:

- Everything is done for the glory of God, not human comfort.
- Our responsibility is to glorify God in all we do.
- If we “do” anything for God’s purposes it is only because He allows us to partner with Him. The results of ministry are up to Him.

If we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior it is only because He has first allowed us to through His Holy Spirit. (This plays out in the way we celebrate baptism.)

With respect to governance, Presbyterians believe in the following basic principles:

- Presbyters (elders and pastors) make most of the decisions for the governing body.
- The larger governs the smaller, but does not dictate to the smaller.
- We are confessional. We have confessions and theological statements that are drawn from scripture.
- Christ is head of the church; God’s word governs us, and then the constitution (our polity).

1 - Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presbyterianism>)

## IRPC is an ECO Congregation

Indian River Presbyterian Church (IRPC) is currently part of the denomination known as ECO - A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.

In 2012, IRPC decided to leave the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) following its decision that the Bible was a guide and no longer the authoritative Word of God. After PCUSA's decision, several churches in the denomination decided to band together to form ECO. Following IRPC's decision to move to ECO, its Senior Pastor Dana Allin was hired as the new denomination's lead staff person, Synod Executive.

As a denomination, ECO strives to be a support to local congregations with programs and resources to help them thrive and flourish as ambassadors of our Lord Jesus Christ and to achieve His goal of sharing His great love with others.

ECO is organizationally lean. It doesn't have an office infrastructure to support. ECO Staff are decentralized around the country, working from their homes.



Indian River Presbyterian Church  
is an ECO Congregation.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

About ECO, and its  
Polity and Essential Tenets,  
go to <https://eco-pres.org/>

### **INDIAN RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*The Church Universal is composed of many denominations and independent churches. All have the common belief that Jesus Christ is the only Lord God, and belief in Him is the only way to be redeemed and saved from our sins.*

*So why would someone choose Indian River Presbyterian Church? What makes it special?*

*The NEXT STEP is to affirm that **Indian River Presbyterian Church is a good fit for you and your family.** Information is provided herein for you to learn more about our IRPC Family.*

### **The Mission of Indian River Presbyterian Church . . .** *is to "Love God, Love Others, and Make Disciples".*

Achieving this mission is accomplished as we: (1) Engage in Worship; (2) Encourage in Service, and (3) Equip in Growth. We trust that God will work in and through us, for His glory, and the furtherance of His Kingdom.

Our Mission is taken from the two "great" passages:

#### **Great Commandment** (Matthew 22:36-40)

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? He said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

#### **Great Commission** (Matthew 28:18-20)

"And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore 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 that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

## **IRPC LEADERSHIP**

*Presbyterian churches derive their name from the presbyterian form of church government, which is governed by representative assemblies of elders<sup>1</sup>.*

*IRPC's assembly of elders is called the Session. The Session governs the overall administration of the Church. With few exceptions, it makes decisions on behalf of the Church.*

*ECO Polity requires the Congregation to approve: (1) the call of Senior and Associate Pastors or dissolution of such calls; (2) the election of Elders; (3) buying, mortgaging, transferring or selling of real property; and (4) approving amendments to the Congregation's articles of incorporation, bylaws, or similar corporate documents.*

*The Senior Pastor provides spiritual direction for the Church and the overall management of Church Staff including hiring and termination.*

*The Senior Pastor is also responsible to providing spiritual and emotional care for members of the Church. Pastoral care is also extended through other staff members, trained Stephen Ministers, and those called to serve as Deacons.*

*The NEXT STEP is to affirm your **understanding about IRPC's leadership structure**. Additionally, you should begin discerning if you are being called to leadership within the Church. Additional information is contained herein about volunteer opportunities at IRPC.*

*1 - Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presbyterianism>)*



### **Our Vision:**

Indian River Presbyterian Church envisions a movement of the Gospel transforming lives, communities, and the world.

### **IRPC Leadership Values**

These are the organizational values of the church leadership team (Pastors, Staff, Elders, and Deacons).

#### **Unity In The Gospel**

The leadership team strives to see the church stand united together in the Gospel and for the Gospel.

#### **Simple In Structure**

The leadership team strives to keep a clear and simple structure that points people towards the Gospel.

#### **Appropriate Environments**

The leadership team strives to create and maintain healthy and appropriate environments that will provide consistent movements toward unity in the Gospel.

#### **Right Content And People**

The leadership team strives to get the right content to the right people in order to facilitate growth in the Gospel.

#### **Faithful Stewardship**

The leadership team strives to be faithful stewards of the Gospel message and the resources that have been entrusted to us by Jesus, who is Lord over all of life.

#### **Multiplying And Growing Leaders**

The leadership team strives to reproduce new disciples, leaders, and churches by identifying, equipping, and empowering new leaders for Gospel ministry.

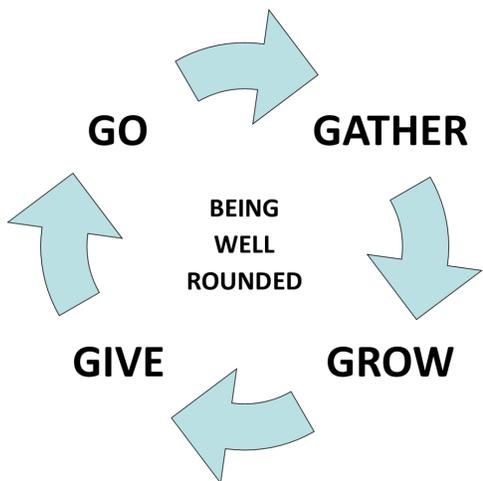
## BECOMING WELL ROUNDED

*IRPC seeks to help disciples of Christ grow in their faith and in their ability to express their love for Jesus with others. IRPC works to accomplish these goals by encouraging followers of Jesus to:*

- ◆ GATHER
- ◆ GROW
- ◆ GIVE
- ◆ GO

*Information about what it means to Gather-Grow-Give-Go and how each might be realized in a person's life can be found herein.*

*The NEXT STEP is to **determine what ways you will Gather, Grow, Give, and Go** as a means to becoming a more mature disciple of Jesus Christ.*



*"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."*

1 Peter 2:2-3 (NIV)

## Gather Through Meaningful Relationships

Here are ways to gather and make meaningful relationships at IRPC:

- Sunday Worship is a special time to honor and praise our Lord with other persons of faith.
- Sunday Morning Fellowship between our services is a way to get to know others . . . while enjoying a cup of coffee and a pastry (or two).
- On Sunday morning, some take the opportunity to invite others to attend Church and continue the fellowship by taking them out for lunch.
- Sunday mornings also include Sunday School and other discipleship opportunities.
- Small Groups (of 10-12 persons) are a way of developing deeper, richer relationships while encouraging each other's faith through worship, fellowship, Bible studies, and prayer.
- Serving together (on an IRPC supported project or small group initiative) is another way to get to know each other.

## Grow Through Intentional Discipleship

Here are ways to gain a better understanding of Scripture and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Personal Bible reading and studying, including time for reflection. IRPC provides devotionals and other study resources to help with personal growth.
- Bible studies, Sunday School, and small group studies are a way of gaining spiritual insight from others.
- Having a spiritual mentor or accountability partner can bring significant value to the application to biblical truths. They can encourage us during life's challenges and keep us focused on the application of God's promises in our daily lives.
- Putting into practice that which is learned adds to one's discipleship growth. Sharing one's love of Jesus with others, telling them what He has done for you is not only a response to His command to love others and make disciples, it is a way of internalizing His love for us.

## Give In All Aspects of Life

Here are ways to grow in discipleship through giving.

- Take time to make a difference in someone's life. Join a team and consistently spend time on mission with other followers of Christ, or volunteer for a local ministry.
- Use the talents God has given you to encourage others. Discover how God has shaped you for his service and pursue opportunities to use them for the benefit of Christ's Kingdom.
- Spend that which God has blessed you to help grow His Kingdom. Doing so is a statement of faith, that you trust God for His provision of all your needs. Such trust builds our relationship with Him.

## Go In Everyday Life

Here are ways to put your love for Jesus into practice. Every day and every situation in which He has placed you is an opportunity to share your love for Him and His love for others.

- Everyday, be an Ambassador for Christ including where you work, live, eat, play and go to school.
- Build relationships with others; doing so will give you opportunities to share God's love.
- Live sacrificially for others. Go out of your way to serve others at the point of their need. Doing so regularly will make service normative. Additionally, others will take notice and begin to ask "why" you are doing what you do and "why" you are different from others in the world. This is a perfect time to share the love of Christ.
- Be an enthusiastic recruiter for Christ and His Church at IRPC. As people get to know you and your love for Jesus, it is an opportunity to invite them to hear more about IRPC and the opportunities there to GATHER-GROW-GIVE-GO to develop a relationship with the only true God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## GROWTH THROUGH GROUPS

*An important tool to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ is the study of His Word. It is found that such study in "groups" can further enhance one's understanding of Scripture. Gathering in groups has other benefits such as meeting people and developing meaningful friendships. You'll find some or all of these common elements within IRPC's small group opportunities.*

**Fellowship** - getting to know one another better based on common bonds as followers of Christ.

**Growth/Study** - learning new insights and reviewing known truth, and applying those lessons to our lives and relationships.

**Sharing/Prayer** - encouraging and supporting one another makes hard times a bit softer and good times a lot better.

**Service/Projects** - serving is satisfying; serving with others is even better! Each group is encouraged to engage in a project or service.

The NEXT STEP is to **identify a small group** at IRPC with which you can share life and grow as a disciples of Jesus Christ.

## TAKE THE SMALL GROUP CHALLENGE!

a SMALL GROUP can make  
a BIG DIFFERENCE!



## DISCIPLESHIP GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Here are some of the groups available to you at IRPC to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

### Small Groups

If you can't find one that meets your schedule or needs, please consider:

1. **PRAY** about the desire/leading in your heart to help start/host/lead a small group.
2. **TALK** to a staff member to get info and guidance to help start/host/lead a small group.
3. **THINK** of six to twelve people who might enjoy and enrich one another in a small group.
4. **CONTACT** each person/couple to tell them about the small group vision and ask if they may be interested in joining.
5. **HOST** a planning dinner or dessert to talk about the place, day, time, topics, seasons for your meetings.

### Sunday School / Bible Studies

There are Bible Studies that occur on Sunday mornings, which are often know as "Adult Sunday School Classes". Contact a staff member to help determine which one is right for you.

### Mission Groups

Sometimes groups form to meet a need. Their focus or mission can be as simple as feeding the hungry or caring for the sick. "Kingdom Life On Wheels (KLOW)" is one such group. It formed to reach out to those who live sheltered lives in a nursing home or assisted living facility. If you know of a need and would like to work with others to address it, please contact a staff member.

### Women's Circles

The ladies of IRPC have the opportunity to take part in communal bible study, fellowship, and service by joining a Women's Circle. Women are invited to join one of five Circles. Each has its own service focus, but all have the same goal: deepening their members' understanding and appreciation of God's love and His will for their lives while supporting the mission of the church worldwide.

### Music Groups

Singing God's praise with other Christians serves to fill one's soul with His love. Whether joining the IRPC Chancel Choir or participating as a member of the Contemporary Praise Band, music groups can be an enriching discipleship experience.

## WHERE DO YOU FIT?

Scripture tells us that each member of God's universal church has a role to play. Discerning how one fits in to the big picture is important. To help, IRPC has resources and opportunities for its members (otherwise known in ECO as "covenant partners") to help answer that question.

*"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."*

*(1 Corinthians 12:4-8)*

## WOMEN'S CIRCLES

Deborah Circle meets on the 1st Saturday of the month at 10:00 am in IRPC Room 210.

Esther Circle meets on the 1st Tuesday at 10:30 am currently at Gator Trace Golf Club.

Rebekah Circle meets on the 1st Wednesday at 10:30 am in IRPC Room 201 or a circle member's home.

Ruth Circle meets on the 1st Tuesday at 10:00 am in IRPC Room 107.

New Circle (name TBD) meets on the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 pm at a circle member's home.

**HOW HAS GOD SHAPE'd YOU  
FOR HIS SERVICE?**

*God has uniquely crafted all Christians for His service. Each has a role and no role is more important than another. The Apostle Paul speaks to this in Chapter 12 in his first letter to the Corinthians. He cited in 1 Cor. 12:27 that "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."*

*So how has God crafted you? How has He designed you for His service? Indian River Presbyterian Church has resources to help you identify your SHAPE: Spiritual Gifts; Heart (or passion); Abilities; Personality; and Experiences. For more information about how you are SHAPE'd, for God's service, contact an IRPC Staff Member. The NEXT STEP is to **identify ways you can use your gifts for God's service** at Indian River Presbyterian Church and wherever He has called you to serve.*

**VOLUNTEER WITH AN  
IRPC MINISTRY PARTNER**

Being part of the Church Universal means God may have something for you to do outside of IRPC. IRPC has developed ministry partnerships with several local and international organizations, all in need of volunteers to serve. For more information about each, go to [www.irpcfamly.com](http://www.irpcfamly.com) and from the "Ministries" dropdown, click on "MISSIONS".

Here is the list of current ministry partners: CareNet Pregnancy Services -Treasure Coast; Christian Action & Relief for Haiti; GraceWay Village; InterVarsity Christian Fellowship; Love's Calling Int'l; Missionary Flights Int'l; Mustard Seed Ministries; Samaritan's Purse; and St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity.

**IRPC Service Opportunities**

The below is not an all-inclusive list, but here are some of the ways you can participate in the life of IRPC:

- ◆ Serve as a member of an IRPC Ministry Team.
- ◆ Become a Stephen Minister.
- ◆ Contact members of the Church while serving as a Deacon.
- ◆ Volunteer as a member of the Chancel Choir or Contemporary Praise Band.
- ◆ Help out in the sound/tech booth.
- ◆ Participate in worship as a Liturgist.
- ◆ Serve as a greeter or usher.
- ◆ Be part of the Security Team.
- ◆ Become active with the Women's Ministries including a Women's Circle.
- ◆ Lead a mission or small group, Bible study, or Sunday School Class.
- ◆ Be a nursery volunteer.
- ◆ Help the children's ministry with program and general staff support.
- ◆ Serve as a youth mentor.
- ◆ Be a "prayer warrior"; become part of the Prayer Team.
- ◆ Help set up Communion.
- ◆ Serve on the Bereavement Committee.
- ◆ Provide food for the Fellowship Hour and special events.
- ◆ Participate in the Quilters & Crafters community group.
- ◆ Volunteer to be part of the annual Outdoor Living Nativity.
- ◆ Go on an IRPC Mission Trip to Mexico.
- ◆ Be an IRPC representative to one of its ministry partners.
- ◆ Serve on the Construction Team to help maintain IRPC's facilities and help IRPC members with projects they are unable to tackle on their own.
- ◆ Participate in an "IRPC Community Work Day".
- ◆ Fundraise for the youth mission trip and other special projects.

## **How Can You Become a Covenant Partner?**

*Prospective members (or Covenant Partners) must have professed Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and received the Sacrament of Baptism. With these as prerequisites, those wishing to join the family of believers at IRPC may do so in one of two ways:*

- 1. Public profession of faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord, and the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit yields personal faith in Christ.*
- 2. Reaffirmation of faith, for those previously professing faith publicly and already baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. If they are members of another congregations, this transfer of membership shall be communicated to the former congregation.*

*Regardless of method of joining, all new covenant partners are publicly asked the questions below. Their affirmative answers are required to join IRPC as a covenant partner.*

- 1. Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Lord & Savior, trusting in His grace alone?  
-I do*
- 2. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?  
-I do*
- 3. Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying His word and showing His love together with other Covenant Partners here at IRPC seek to Love God, Love Others & make Disciples?  
-I will*

## **What Are The Expectations of a Covenant Partner?**

When you become a covenant partner with Indian River Presbyterian Church you are saying to God, yourself, and other covenant partners of the congregation:

- ♦ "I am a disciple of Jesus Christ who is called to Indian River Presbyterian Church to use my gifts and ministries to Love God, Love Others, and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ."
- ♦ "I will give of what I have and who I am to further God's work in and through Indian River Presbyterian Church for the furtherance of His Kingdom in our community and throughout the world."

There are several things that we unapologetically call all covenant partners of Indian River Presbyterian Church to be and to do:

1. Spend personal time growing in your relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, reading God's word, and other spiritual disciplines.
2. Be engaged with a group of believers that are committed to grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ.
3. Use your God-given spiritual gifts and abilities to serve within and through IRPC.
4. Give of your finances to the mission and ministry of the church, knowing that God's desire is at least 10% (a/k/a a tithe) of your gross income.  
*"All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the LORD'S; they are holy to the LORD."* (Leviticus 27-30)
5. Come to worship and be ready to meet with the Lord.
6. Live sacrificially for the cause of Christ in the world.  
*"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?'"*  
Matthew 16:24-26
7. Live in unity with other believers.
8. Allow the Lord to transform your character to become more like His.

