

Pathway 101

Joining Our Church

Welcome to Pathway 101! Today our goal is to give you all the information you need to become a member of the church. You can follow along with Pastor Ryan's talk in these notes.

Welcome From Pastor Ryan

How Our Church Started

- Ryan and Jana called by God in 2014. Arrived in Marietta in May 2016.
- 4 major miracles were needed:
 - \$100,000 .
 - 40-50 people on a launch team.
 - Location for services.
 - Worship leader.
- God provided all of these miracles!
- Opened on October 23rd.
 - 187 people came to church.
 - Nine salvations.

Statement of Faith

- Before joining our church you should know what we believe.
- The Statement of Faith is included in this packet.

Mission Statement

- Connecting people to Jesus, each other, and their purpose.
- Connecting people to Jesus:
 - Major focus on people who are far from God but searching for Him.

- How this affects our Sunday mornings:

- Connecting people to each other:
 - Connect Groups - everyone should be known and cared for in a group.
 - Groups run in three semesters:
 - Fall (September - November)
 - Winter/Spring (late January - mid-April)
 - Summer (June - July)

- Connecting people to their purpose:
 - Your purpose is found at the intersection of your life experiences, your personality, and your spiritual gifts.
 - You can use our website to discover your personality and spiritual gifts.

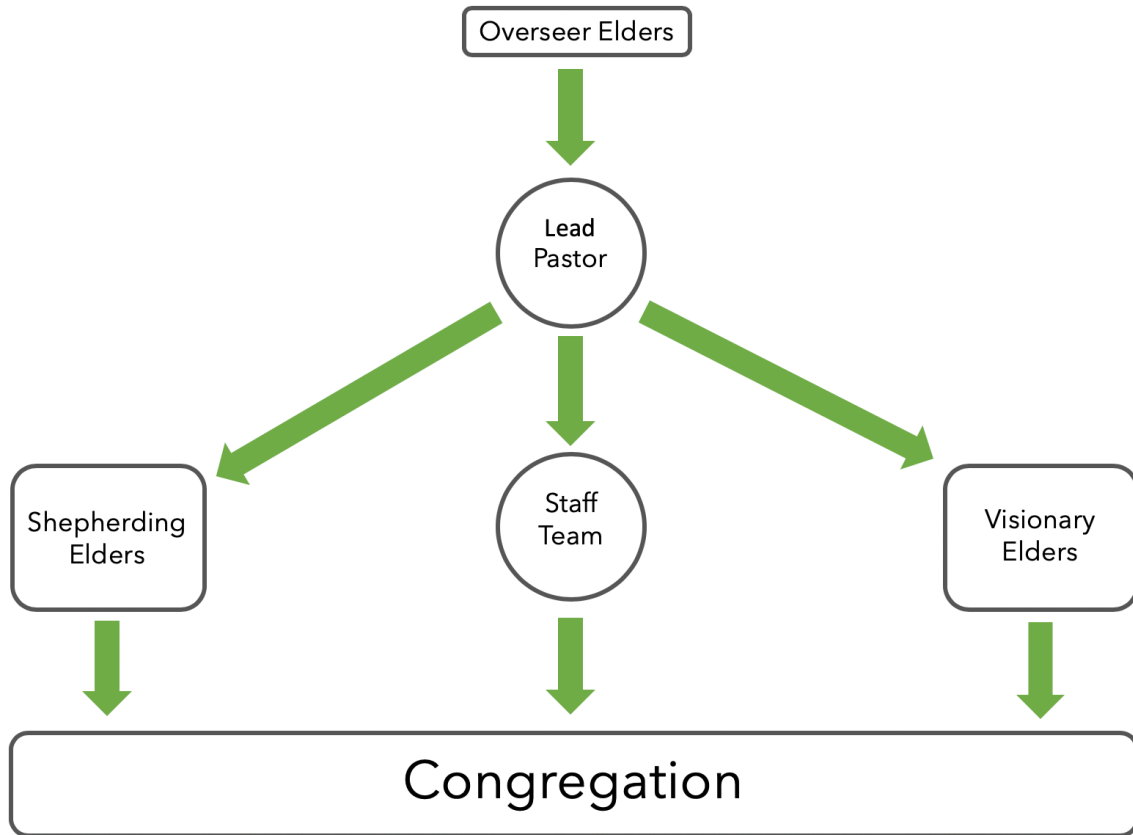
Our Vision

- Our vision is to start life-giving churches in small towns.
- Every small town deserves a church where people can easily find Jesus.
- We're becoming a multi-site church who starts campuses in small communities.

How We Handle Money

- Too many churches have lost trust over money.
- Tithing is central to our philosophy.
 - We teach YOU to tithe...
 - And WE tithe as a church!
- 10% of our resources go outward to other ministries.
- Pastor Ryan does not have access to the church checkbook.
- We budget off of 90% of the previous year's giving.

Our Governmental Structure



- We are a three-board system.
- Overseer Board:
 - Hold Lead Pastor accountable.
 - Act as a sounding board to the pastor.
 - Can assist in a pastoral crisis.
 - Set the Lead Pastor's salary.

- Visionary Elders:
 - Help Lead Pastor cast the best vision for the church moving forward.
 - Oversee budgets, contracts, facilities, and staff salaries.

- Shepherding Elders:
 - Ensure the pastor, staff, and congregation have healthy relationships with one another.
 - Help with relationships between pastors, staff, and the congregation.
 - Give help in situations that require pastoral care.

- The primary responsibilities of the Lead Pastor:
 - Preach biblical, applicable messages each week.
 - Set the vision for the church.
 - Oversee the staff team.

- The role of the congregation:
 - Taught to care for one another.
 - Primary way we provide pastoral care to people is through having everyone in a Connect Group.
 - This is why it's so important to join a group!

- The responsibilities of the church staff:
 - Make the day-to-day decisions for the church.
 - Select the leaders who will run various ministries of the church.
 - They organize and structure ministries of the church.

Pathway's Statement of Faith

HOLY BIBLE: The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant (2Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26).

TRINITY: There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal (1 John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7-11).

JESUS CHRIST: Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the cross for mankind and thus, atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory (John 1:1,14, 20:28; 1Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; 1Timothy 2:5).

VIRGIN BIRTH: Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in the virgin Mary's womb; therefore, He is the Son of God (Matthew 1:18, 25; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 23-25; Luke 1:27-35).

REDEMPTION: Man was created good and upright, but by voluntary transgression he fell; his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Gen.1:26-31, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21).

REGENERATION: For anyone to know God, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential (John 6:44, 65).

SALVATION: We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ; His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human efforts (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22).

REPENTANCE: Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation (Acts 2:21, 3:19; 1 John 1:9).

SANCTIFICATION: Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, Romans 8:29, 12:1-2, Hebrews 2:11).

Pathway's Statement of Faith (Cont.)

JESUS' BLOOD: The Blood that Jesus Christ shed on the cross was sinless and is 100% sufficient to cleanse mankind of all sin. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for both our sinfulness and our sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death (1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5, 5:9; Colossians 1:20; Romans 3:10-12, 23, 5:9; John 1:29).

JESUS CHRIST INDWELLS ALL BELIEVERS: Christians are people who have invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come and live inside them by His Holy Spirit. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to him thus making Jesus the Lord of their life as well as Savior. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried, and rose again from the dead (John 1:12; John 14:17, 23; John 15:4; Romans 8:11; Revelations 3:20).

THE HOLY SPIRIT: Given at Pentecost, it is the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus after His Ascension, to empower the church to preach the Gospel throughout the whole earth (Joel 2:28-29; Matthew 3:11; Mark 16:17; Acts 1:5, 2:1-4, 17, 38-39, 8:14-17, 10:38, 44-47, 11:15-17, 19:1-6).

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel. The Bible's lists of these gifts are not exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters (Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12 :4-8; Ephesians 4:16; 2 Timothy 1:5-16, 4:14; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; 1 Peter 4:10).

THE CHURCH: The church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of Jesus' great commission. Every person who is born of the Spirit is an integral part of the church as a member of the body of believers. There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:22, 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23; John 17:11, 20-23).

TWO SACRAMENTS:

Water Baptism: Following personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38).

The Lord's Supper: A unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 10:47-48; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-25).

Pathway's Statement of Faith (Cont.)

HEALING OF THE SICK: Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples. It is a part of Jesus' work on the cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit (Psalm 103:2-3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 8:6-7; James 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28; Romans 11:29).

GOD'S WILL FOR PROVISION: It is the Father's will for believers to become whole, healthy and successful in all areas of life. But because of the fall, many may not receive the full benefits of God's will while on Earth. That fact, though, should never prevent all believers from seeking the full benefits of Christ's provision in order to better serve others.

1. Spiritual (John 3:3-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10).
2. Mental and Emotional (2 Timothy 1:7, 2:11; Philippians 4:7-8; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3).
3. Physical (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24).
4. Financial (Joshua 1:8; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalm 34:10, 84:11; Philippians 4:19).

RESURRECTION: Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead three days after His death on the cross. In addition, both the saved and the lost will be resurrected; they that are saved to the resurrection of life and they that are lost eternally separated from God. (Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21, 20:26-28, 21:4; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 44; Philippians 1:21-23, 3:21).

HEAVEN: Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all who place their faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:3, 12, 20, 6:20, 19:21, 25:34; John 17:24; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Hebrews 11:16; 1 Peter 1:4).

HELL: After living one life on earth, the unbelievers will be judged by God and sent to Hell where they will be eternally separated from God with the devil and the fallen angels (Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 14:9-11, 20:12-15, 21:8).

SECOND COMING: Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to establish His Kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures (Matthew 24:30, 26:63-64; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation 1:7).

MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY: We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25), and any marriage outside of this definition will not be

Pathway's Statement of Faith (Cont.)

performed at Pathway Community Church. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.) We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Pathway Community Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to Pathway Community Church's members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Pathway Community Church in any capacity agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between one man, one woman, and Himself, Pathway Community Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the pastors and staff of Pathway Community Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of Pathway Community Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.) We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Pathway Community Church.

Membership Covenant

After having watched the Pathway 101 video you are now given the opportunity to join our church. Please read and affirm the following covenant:

As a new member of Pathway Community Church, I affirm the following:

- First and foremost, I will love Jesus and choose to serve Him daily.
- I will be a contributing member to this church with my time. I will serve on the Pathway Dream Team and invest my energy into making a difference in the lives of other people.
- I will love the people of our church. I will care for others, pray for others, and invite others to love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.
- I will prioritize the needs of people who are far from God. I will not allow my personal preferences to keep our church from leading people to Christ.
- I will follow the lead of my pastor. I will help him carry out the vision God provides for our church. When I have questions about the vision and direction of our church, I will have a peaceful conversation with my pastor, or a staff member or an elder. I will not choose gossip, slander, or angry words when I have vision questions.
- I will support the work of my church through the giving of my tithes and offerings. God will have access to my money and I will allow God to show me where, when, and how much I should give.
- I will not spread rumors or lies throughout the church. I will choose one-on-one conversations with others when I have a problem with them. I will not slander others.
- I will cooperate with the church staff as they lead the ministries of our church. I will trust their wisdom and decision making and do what I can to support their work.

Please check all that apply:

- I have watched the Pathway 101 (Membership) video.
- I have read my church's Statement of Faith.
- I have read and agree to the membership covenant.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Please tear this page off and turn it into a Pathway staff member. Or fill the form out and submit online.

