

# THE WELL of Swisher IA

The Well of Swisher, Iowa is an Evangelical, Independent and a completely Bible focused ministry having no attachments to any other church or denomination. Our mission is to 'give the water of life' (*i.e. the gospel of Jesus Christ*) to the dry and thirsty people of the world.

## **Vision Statement:**

The vision of The Well of Swisher, Iowa is to usher Spiritual Awakening, Renewal and Revival in the local community, State of Iowa, the USA and eventually the world by giving the 'Water of Life' – Jesus Christ.

## **Mission Statement:**

In order to fulfill our desire to see individuals, communities and nations restored to Jesus Christ we aim to:  
Passionately preach and teach the Word of God,  
Instill a lifestyle of worship,  
Reach out locally and overseas,  
Disciple people who expand His kingdom  
And ultimately foster community that glorifies and represents Jesus utilizing the power of prayer and the exercise of spiritual gifts.

## **Current Home Location:**

1610 Cou Falls Rd. Swisher IA 52338

## **Mailing Address:**

PO Box 552, North Liberty, IA 52317

## **Contact Information:**

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# How Do We Accomplish This Mission?

## **Preaching/Teaching**

Any disciple of Christ who desires greater faith must possess a thorough knowledge of Christ and His teachings. The Bible says that love and knowledge are to grow in proportion to one another as one continues on the journey of faith. As Christians we are to understand why we believe what we believe. We are challenged to be able to give an answer for the hope that is in us. Therefore, preaching and teaching is supremely important to The Well of Swisher, Iowa. The proclamation of the Gospel as well as understanding indisputable doctrinal matters are meant to edify the church and prepare an individual for living in the world as a Christian. We desire to teach the entire counsel of God through the Holy Bible with all of its complexity, beauty, tension, and power without regards to denominational stances on doctrine. Historical orthodoxy dictates that the 39 books of The Hebrew Bible and the 27 books of The New Testament are the canon by which God's message is measured. However, just as it is important for the teacher to understand the material in order to dispose of it properly, it is also important to know the audience who is listening. Every individual is, to some extent, a product of the culture and environment in which they have been born. The ability to address the moral, emotional, and intellectual issues of the culture in a thoughtful and challenging manner is key to facilitating the Holy Spirit's work in transforming minds by The Word of God. The preaching and teaching ministries of The Well of Swisher, Iowa take place during Sunday morning services as well as Bible studies during the week. For more ways you can be involved in these, please contact us with questions or concerns (1 Pet. 3:15, 2 Pet. 1:3, 5-8, Jude 1:3, Acts 17:16-34, 20:27).

## **Lifestyle of Worship**

The word of God calls the children of God to love God with all of their heart, mind, soul and strength. This should be an instinctive response to God's love and faithfulness through the work of Jesus Christ. Worship can take place corporately and personally – both have different characteristics and are equally important in the growth of a Christian life. Moreover, we are called to worship God in Spirit and truth. The Psalms talk about how God inhabits the praises of His people revealing to us that when His children choose to offer the sacrifice of praise through music, singing, praying, shouting or even dancing (there are many other expressions of worship mentioned in the psalms) they experience the majestic, transforming and glorious presence of God. When many come together and worship God corporately the power of God manifests in a way that edifies the body of Christ as whole. Personally, the practice of worship assists in righteous living and intimacy with God as well as provides strength during spiritual warfare. Furthermore, the apostle Paul exhorts fellow believers to encourage and love one another through hymns of praise and spiritual songs as these practices encourage unity and oneness in the body. Worship also facilitates the operation of Spiritual gifts, which further edifies the body of Christ. The end product of a life completely given over to God and the power of His Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Holy Spirit, which can be encompassed in one word- love (Col 3:16, Ps 22:3, Eph 5:14, Hebrews 13:15, John 4:23,24).

## **Evangelism**

The Gospel of Jesus Christ continues to spread throughout the world because of men and women convinced not only of the truth of the message, but the power it has to transform lives. The communication of the Gospel is one of the primary means by which the knowledge of Jesus Christ influences. The Bible says that faith comes by hearing God's message and that those who are willing to share that message are blessed. The Well of Swisher, Iowa understands that for the church to impact its local community, those who are part of the church must be willing to step out in faith with the message of Jesus. Just as a king who has planned a banquet and desires lots of people to attend, so the church must take the responsibility for inviting people to participate in the Kingdom of God. Evangelism can take many forms. It can be a project meant to serve the local community, an outreach concert for the youth and sending out of missionaries overseas. It can be sharing the message during a conversation with coworkers or a simple invitation to come to a church service on Sunday. The ability to communicate the gospel in a clear and thoughtful way while remaining relevant to the needs of the hearers, as well as the courage to reach out remains the challenge for those who follow Christ. As far as our local body is concerned, one of our formal evangelism ministries is The Elim Arrival music ministry. For more ways on how you can get connected with this, please contact us with questions and concerns (Rom. 1:16, 10:15, 10:17, Matt. 22:1-14).

## **Mentorship**

Everyone who has been born again into the faith of Jesus Christ has been given a new life with new desires and spiritual gifts. However, it takes time, discipline, and wisdom in order to understand how to most effectively work within the Body of Christ according to the gifts one has received. Mentorship facilitates the nurturing of these gifts so the individual can be empowered to live within the calling of God on their specific life. Mentorship is the process by which someone younger in the faith is nurtured and instructed by someone with a greater level of experience and wisdom of the Christian life. Every Christian has had one or two people strongly influence them to Christ. Therefore, mentorship is important for anyone seeking to go deeper into the faith and take on greater responsibility for the church. It can be a source of accountability as well as comfort for the younger disciple of Christ. For more information regarding mentorship and its intricacies please feel free to contact us. We would love for you to get plugged in to the extent of mentorship so you can tap into the gifts God has given you to glorify Him and expand His Kingdom (1 Cor. 12:7, 2 Cor. 5:17, Matt. 28:19-20, Philippians 3:17).

## **Community**

Jesus said the greatest testimony of His truth would be the unity of His Body. The Well of Swisher, Iowa believes that community is a reflection of the Trinitarian nature of the Godhead and the incarnation of The Lord Jesus Christ. Just as many meet together and form one body so God, in Himself, is a community of three Persons each distinct, yet eternally loving one another in complete unity. Therefore, unity of spirit and purpose is vital to building a robust community filled with the life of Christ. Corporate prayer, shared vision, and a vibrant love for Jesus and each other facilitates the collective experience of our local church as we journey through life and faith together. Community also creates a powerful structure of accountability that further facilitates righteous Christian living. Furthermore, a close knit community enables the exercising of Spiritual Gifts that spur on Christ-like love between members and edify the church as a whole. However, this can happen only when love is our foundation to build on. True, Christ-centered community is essential and intrinsically meaningful in and of itself because it glorifies God, however, it transcends the boundaries of human experience and becomes a dynamic force in the world when its mission to expand His Kingdom is pushed forward in unity through the means of evangelism, mentorship, and the preaching and teaching of the Gospel. Only then can community truly fulfill its role in Christ (John 17:20-23, 1 John 4:8, 1 Cor. 5:4, Matt. 28:19-20, Philippians 2:2).

# What We Believe:

## **The Scriptures**

We believe the Holy Bible is the written Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is infallible and trustworthy pertaining to all matters on which it teaches. It is unrivaled in its authority over life and faith and it is the sovereign director of our worldview (2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21).

## **The Nature of God**

We believe in the Triune God; in the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, and of all things visible and invisible; in Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God and Lord over all, through whom all things were made and to whom all things belong; in the Holy Spirit given by the Resurrected Christ for the sanctification of men, in order that God may be all-in-all. The substance of God is Spirit, His Word speaking, which is also the true cause and substance of all things visible. Each is personally distinct from another, yet one in being, power, nature, glory and goodness having existed eternally in the Godhead (John 1:1-3, 14, 18, 3:31, 4:24, 10:30, 15:26, 2 Cor. 3:17, Col. 1:15-19, 2 Thess. 2:13, Rev. 1:8, 22:13, 1 John 1:5).

## **The Nature of Humanity**

We believe that humanity was created in the image of God, and because of this, people are of great value to God. He created people for Himself that they would know Him and enjoy fellowship with one another. However, because of the sin of Adam, humanity alienated itself from God and inherited a sinful nature, making it impossible to restore the communion between them and God. Humanity is spiritually lost and now under the judgment of God for its rebellion. Without Jesus Christ, humanity has no hope (Gen. 1:27, 3:22-24, Rom. 1:18-31, 3:23, 5:19, Psalm 51:5, John 3:18, 1 John 1:7, Eph. 2:12).

## **The Person and Work of Jesus Christ**

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Triune God, born of the Virgin Mary as God Incarnate. Having lived a sinless life, He offered His body as propitiation to God on our behalf in order to atone for our sin. His death, by crucifixion, accomplished our redemption and reconciliation. His resurrection declared Him to be, most assuredly, the Son of God, and by it we have secured our justification before God. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father Almighty where, as our advocate and mediator, he lives to intercede for us. He will return one day in glory so as to bring all things to fruition and accomplish the fullness of the plan of God (Isa. 7:14, 53:5, Matt. 1:25, Heb. 4:15, 7:25, 2 Cor. 5:18, 21, 1 John 2:1-2, Col. 1:22, Rom. 1:4, 4:25, Acts 2:33, 1 Thess. 4:16-17).

## **The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Triune God, who indwells all those who have embraced Christ by faith, animating and empowering them to live worthy of God and in Christ-likeness. We believe the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin and leads people to knowledge of the righteousness of Christ. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the work whereby the Spirit of God places the believer into union with Christ and into union with other believers in the body of Christ at the moment of salvation thereby enabling him/her to exercise their Spiritual gifts. He is the regenerating agent sent to sanctify believers to God, and the One through whom spiritual gifts are imparted that God's Church would be a dynamic force in blessing the world (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 2 Cor. 3:17, Rom. 8:9-11, 1 John 5:12, John 16:8-11, 2 Cor. 3:18, 12:4-5).

## **Salvation and Judgment**

We believe salvation lies in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. It is a free gift, unable to be merited by any human achievement or personal goodness, but rather it is received by faith and expressed in the individual's repentance and recognition of Christ and His finished work on the cross. One is born again when they undergo a "spiritual rebirth" of the human soul or spirit, contrasted with the physical birth everyone experiences. Those who profess to be born again have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We believe in the ultimate judgment of God, whereby people, having been sealed by death, will stand before God to give an account for the life lived in the body. Those who have no faith in Christ will be eternally damned to Hell. Those who know Christ and have been faithful to Him will be ushered into an eternal existence in the worship and love of God (John 3:3, 18, 11:25, 14:6, Eph. 2:8, Mark 1:15, Heb. 9:27, 2 Cor. 5:10, Matt. 7:23, 1 John 3:2).

## **The Church**

We believe in the one, true Church universal, fashioned from all those born again into the Kingdom of God. We believe this holy Church to be the spiritual body and future bride of the resurrected Christ. This Church is not confined to a physical structure or by ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, national, generational, gender, or denominational lines, for its unity is testified to in the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. This body of Christ is a congregation of all those who believe in Christ and seek to foster a community nourished by God's Word, corporate prayer, mutual encouragement and accountability as well as godly instruction so as to become a sanctuary for a lost and dying world (Eph. 4:4, John 3:3,5, 1 Cor. 12:12-13, Luke 22:19, Acts 2:38, 2 Tim. 1:13-14, Heb. 3:13, 10:25, Col. 1:9).

## **Church Administration**

We believe in the reality of spiritual gifts as imparted by the Resurrected Christ through His Holy Spirit to all those who have taken faith in Christ. We believe it is the responsibility of the Church to provide opportunity for believers to grow in grace just as it is the responsibility of the believer to foster and exercise these gifts so as to minister to the Church. It is the assignment of every believer to serve according to the gifts he has been given in order to fulfill God's perfect will for the believer's life in the Church (1 Cor. 12:4-31).

# Membership Info:

## **Why Does The Well have Members?**

The Well of Swisher, Iowa believes that just as a body has many members, and those members form one body, so it is with Christ. Those who are of Christ are members of His spiritual body, of which He is the head. Each member serves a different function, yet all are necessary in order to maintain a healthy, living body. We believe that just as God has apportioned certain gifts to all those who make up His body, so each member will find the purpose for which he/she was called by participating in the Church according to the administration of his/her gifts (1 Cor. 12:12, Rom. 12: 4-5, Col. 1:18, Eph. 4:8).

## **Is There Any Difference between Members and Non-members?**

The Well of Swisher, Iowa makes a distinction between those who may not be Christians and those who actively participate in the Body of Christ as committed followers. The Body of Christ is a family and all those who have been adopted into the family are intimately connected to one another. Those who are not members remain, to a certain extent, separated from the mission of the Church and from a practical standpoint cannot engage in the main functionalities of the church (i.e. Volunteer Positions, Church Worship Team, Meet/Greet team). Those who are committed followers recognize the Church not as a commodity to be consumed but, rather, an organism, which needs to be nurtured, protected, maintained, and ordered so as to grow into the vital, life-giving object for which, it was created. Members realize the sacrifice this requires. Just as God gives us time, members expend their time to serve the Church. Just as God gives us talents, members utilize those talents to edify the Church. Just as God gives us treasure, members give of their treasure in order to further God's mission through the Church. Members hold each other accountable and spur one another onto maturity. They willingly submit to those whom God has established as leaders of their congregation. The formality of membership helps distinguish between those who are committed to the mission of the local church and those who are not (Rom. 8:14-16, Eph. 5:25, Heb. 10:24, Heb. 13:17).

## **Why Become a Member of The Well of Swisher, Iowa?**

The Well of Swisher, Iowa seeks to foster intimate community that glorifies Jesus and expands His Kingdom. As part of Jesus' adopted family, membership promotes unity of mind and purpose within the congregation. It solidifies mutual accountability between leadership and those who are members. We desire to be a transparent, authentic community where those who are committed know the vision and mindset of leadership and those who lead know the members intimately so as to pray, nurture, and provide opportunity for growth within the Church. Formal membership encourages commitment and steadfastness to the mission of the Church and assists in distinguishing those who want to move forward in their Christian walk and those pondering a commitment to the church (Eph. 4:3, 1 John 1:7, John 21:17, Matt. 25:31-46).

## **What if I Do Not See a Need for Formal Membership?**

The Well of Swisher, Iowa believes that those who line up with its mission will naturally desire to make a formal commitment to this congregation. Just as a man and woman can court each other and enjoy, to some extent, the intimacies that come from that relationship, without the covenant of marriage the fullness of that relationship will never be realized. Consequently, the relationship could become illegitimate if never taken to its logical next-step. As one can participate in sacrificial tithing and service to the Church, formal membership is the covenant one enters by which the full privileges of the Church such as leadership opportunities, volunteer opportunities, and deeper intimacy with the Body of Christ can be enjoyed. The Church of Jesus Christ is not a club, nor is it solely a business. It is a living organism imbued with the life of the Resurrected Christ through the Spirit of the living God. If one considers being part of this body, the question becomes, "Why not?" (1 Cor. 6:19-20, Joshua 24:15, 1 Cor. 12:12, Rom. 12: 4-5).

# How Do I Become a Member?

## 1. Check Eligibility

Candidates for membership must be 18 years or older. Those under 18 must provide a written consent from one of their parents and be over 14 years old (those under 18 will not be considered for any leadership positions). Membership will be executed on a case-by-case basis whereby the leadership will take each life's circumstances in account (i.e. the membership of an individual does not presuppose the membership of other family members or spouse). If there are any questions or concerns regarding this please contact us.

## 2. Attend Membership Class

The Well of Swisher, Iowa is a local church community who holds firmly to the teaching of the whole counsel of God through the Holy Bible alone. Because of this, it is necessary for those seeking deeper intimacy with Christ and a richer commitment to the Church to ensure proper biblical foundations concerning indisputable matters. Jesus calls us to not only worship Him with our hearts, but also with our minds. Therefore, understanding biblical worldview of Christianity is of the utmost importance to the growth of the disciple of Jesus. However, the class is not reserved solely for those who desire membership. It is also for those who simply thirst for a greater knowledge of the truth of Christianity. The class will cover topics listed in our statement of faith to a depth that is beyond the scope of this packet. The membership class will also elucidate the mission of The Well of Swisher, Iowa and highlight the distinctive DNA of the church. We desire transparency and unity of mind. We also desire to inspire future members to contemplate where their gifts will best suit the Church. Membership classes will be executed every three months (4 times a year) (2 Tim. 1:13-14, Gal. 1:8-9, Luke 10:27).

## 3. Sign Membership Covenant

This document outlines what the church leadership covenants to provide as well as outlines the expectation of a prospective member. It is an integral part of the membership process because it symbolizes adoption into The Well's church family. For more information on this please refer to the Membership Covenant form included in this packet.

## 4. Baptism

The Well of Swisher, Iowa believes all those who are committed to following Jesus Christ are to publicly display that allegiance by Baptism. Baptism is the pledge of repentance and a good conscience toward God. It is the symbol of the death and resurrection of our Lord as well as our association and act of participation with the Lord. As the disciples of Jesus preserved a ministry of Baptism and preached its necessity in order to determine the faithfulness of those who believe, we also believe that in order to be restored to God's covenantal community and secure one's salvation, volition plays an invaluable part in establishing baptismal authenticity. Therefore, we do not recognize infant baptism as a sufficient sign of regeneration. If, of course, one has already been baptized as a believer by a willful choice, we recognize the authority of that baptism and believe it to be authentic. There is no need for a second baptism (Acts 2:38, Acts 8:36, 1 Peter 3:21, Eph. 4:5).

## 5. Meet with the Leadership of the Church

The Well of Swisher, Iowa believes it to be supremely important that those who are in formal leadership positions are more than mere acquaintances with those who are part of the congregation. We are a family of brothers and sisters and families know each other. Therefore, we hold an informal meeting with those seeking membership. We would love to hear some of your life-story and how you came to faith in Jesus Christ as well as make sure your understanding of the meaning of church membership is solid. We also want you to know us! This can be a great opportunity to ask some of the questions on your heart as well as share some of the vision God has given for your life in Him. This will help us get you involved in some of our current ministries so that you can tap into the gifts He has given you and become the vibrant, life-giving vessel for which God intended (Heb. 13:17, 1 Cor. 3:6, 1 John 1:7, 3:1).

# The Membership Covenant

## What is a Covenant?

Covenant is a vitally important term in understanding the nature of God and His dealings with mankind. In its simplest form, a covenant is an agreement between two or more parties. It is a formal promise and binding contract intended to fulfill the purpose for which it was created. Covenants are made in everyday life between nations, businesses, families, as well as individuals. The Biblical God is a God who has a reputation for making covenants. He made a covenant with Adam while in the Garden wherein upon the case of Adam's disobedience, death would become his destiny (Gen. 2:16-17). There was the covenant with Noah and the rest of creation when God promised to never again flood the Earth and destroy all life. He showed His promise by giving us the rainbow as a reminder of what would never again take place (Gen 9:9-17). The Bible also records the Abrahamic covenant where God promised land and descendants to Abraham and gave him the sign of circumcision to seal the covenant (Gen 15: 8-18, 17:1-14). Just as God laid down the covenant at Sinai with the Israelites to obey His commandments that it might go well with them, so God also covenanted with King David when He promised that his lineage and throne endure forever (Ex. 24:4-8, Psalm 89:3-4, 2 Sam. 7:12-13). As believers in Christ, we have entered into the new covenant God established through the suffering and death of His son. In this covenant, God has promised us that if we have faith in the atoning work of Christ on the Cross, then we will be forgiven our sins and justified before God. The promise is an eternal life through the gift of the Holy Spirit, by whom we now have access to the throne of grace for the sanctification of our souls (Matt. 26:28, Heb. 4:16, Rom. 3:24, John 14:16). The Well of Swisher, Iowa invites those seeking membership to enter into a covenant in order that there is clarity with regards to the expectations of a disciple of Jesus. This should NOT be considered a legal document or a cultic ritual. It is simply an affirmation of mutual accountability in our movement towards Jesus. We desire committed and dedicated followers of Christ so that His mission of spreading the Gospel and building His Church can be accomplished. We hope the Membership Covenant will help facilitate this within our local congregation.

## Covenantal Obligations for The Well of Swisher, Iowa

1. The Well of Swisher, Iowa covenants to uphold the biblical standards of leadership as outlined in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1-13, Titus 5:17-22, 1 Peter 5:1-4).
2. The Well of Swisher, Iowa covenants to maintain sound doctrine by teaching the whole of counsel of God through the Holy Bible for the edification and protection of God's Church (Titus 1:9, Acts 20:27-29).
3. The Well of Swisher, Iowa covenants to continually hold you up in prayer and ready you for acts of service in order that you may be filled to the fullness of God and able to discern what His vision is for your life (2 Tim. 3:17, Philippians 1:4, 9-10, 3:16-19).
4. The Well of Swisher, Iowa covenants to seek your growth as a disciple of Christ by giving opportunity for you to discern your spiritual gifts and employ them for the benefit of the Kingdom of God (1 Cor. 12:7).
5. The Well of Swisher, Iowa covenants to enact church discipline for the sake of the purity of the Bride of Christ as well as to maintain the unity of the Spirit in God's Church (1 Cor. 5:1-5, Eph. 4:3, 5:3, Matt. 18:15-20, Gal. 6:1, James 5:20).
6. The Well of Swisher, Iowa covenants to guard the congregation against false teachers and those who have deserted the true Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28-31).
7. The Well of Swisher, Iowa covenants to serve and love you when you are sick or in need. We will do all that is in our power within the confines of God's will to be a resource and sanctuary for your spiritual and physical well being (1 John 3:17, James 1:27, 2:14-17, 5:14).
8. The Well of Swisher, Iowa covenants to provide sound biblical counseling on all areas of life to the best of its ability in order to facilitate a deeper relationship with Christ and help foster a stable life (Proverbs 1: 5, 25,30; 8: 14; 11:14; 12:15; 19:20).

**Covenantal Obligations for Members of The Well of Swisher, Iowa**

1. I, hereby, covenant myself to the articles of The Well of Swisher, Iowa’s Statement of Faith and align myself with its vision to glorify Jesus and expand His kingdom (Matt. 28:17-20, Eph. 4:3, Titus 1:9).
2. I, hereby, covenant myself exclusively to The Well of Swisher, Iowa and will not seek membership or leadership in another church body (Heb. 13:17).
3. I, hereby, covenant to maintain a lifestyle of repentance exhibited by the spiritual disciplines of prayer, confession, Bible reading, and fellowship with the saints which will be proved by my regular attendance of Sunday worship gatherings, participating in ministry opportunities, partaking of communion and taking up my cross daily in order to fulfill God’s perfect will for my life (Matt. 3:8, Luke 9:23, 22:19, Eph. 6:18, 1 John 1:9, 2 Peter 3:18, Heb. 10:25).
4. I, hereby, proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ by way of the one Baptism in His Name (1 Peter 3:21, Acts 2:38, Eph. 4:5).
5. I, hereby, covenant to faithfully tithe/give a portion of my finances to The Well of Swisher, Iowa believing that those whom God has entrusted to leadership will steward the finances in a God-honoring way by fulfilling the mission of the Church to glorify Jesus and expand His Kingdom. I will challenge myself to give in growing proportion to God’s blessing on my life. As I grow in holiness and trust in God so will my giving for I believe that where I place my treasure, there my life will be found (1 Cor. 16:2, Mal. 3:10, 2 Cor. 8:1-12, 21).
6. I, hereby, covenant to submit to the leadership God has entrusted to this church. If I have a problem or concern with a leader or fellow member, I will follow the model the Bible has laid out for resolving disputes (Matt. 18:15-17, Heb. 13:17).
7. I, hereby, covenant to not criticize or take part in any gossip surrounding a leader, fellow brother or sister who is a member of our church family (James 4:11).

# Closing Statement:

“I commit myself to the mission of The Well of Swisher IA by willingly offering my mind, heart and will to the service of Jesus Christ and the expansion of His kingdom. I promise to carry out the expectations laid out by this document with the help of my personal relationship with Jesus and newfound family in Christ.”

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The following applies if you are between the ages of 14-17:

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mother    Father    Stepmother    Stepfather    Guardian    (Circle One)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Termination of Membership

- Membership will be automatically terminated in the event of the death of a member.
- Membership will be terminated if a member moves to a location where distance deems attendance impractical.
- Members who display behavior out of harmony with the Bible and the stipulations laid down in the membership covenant are subject to dismissal by the church upon recommendation of the pastor after biblical procedures have failed in correcting the problem. Every effort will be made by the pastor to assist such persons in order to promote restoration to the Body of Christ. It is understood that this clause shall not be used as an excuse for unnecessary severity in minor matters, but that the pastor(s) shall always use kindness, consideration, and Christian love in determining the cause for discipline (Matt. 18:15-17, 2 Thess.3:6-15, Titus 3, Gal. 6:1-5).
- Membership will be terminated after continual non-attendance for a period of **2** months unless there is an acceptable notified reason for the absence.

# Contact Information:

Date \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Alternative Phone \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address \_\_\_\_\_

# A Little About You:

Married   Single   Separated   Divorced   Widow   Widower (Circle One)

If Married - Name of Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

No.	Son or Daughter's Name (if applicable)	DOB

Current Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ ('student' is acceptable)

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ (if student write the name of the educational institution you attend)

Reference 1

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference 2

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

# Interests / Skills

**What do you think are your greatest strengths as a person?**

**What do you think are your greatest weaknesses as a person?**

**Which of the following areas would you be interested in helping us out with?**

(Please check the ones in which you have some experience)

Administration		Nursery	
Arts / Crafts / Merchandise		Baby Sitting	
Interior Design		Theatre Arts	
Medical/Healthcare		Marketing / Networking / Social Media	
Retail		Teaching / Education	
Languages/Translation		Set up / Tare down	
Construction		Photography	
Children's Ministry		Sound Engineering / Recording	
Student Ministry		Music (sing and/or play an instrument)	
Women's Ministry		Please state what instrument(s) you play:	
Men's Ministry			
Parking / Transportation		Certifications / Degrees that you would like us to know:	
Hosting/Usher			
Hospitality/Catering			
IT / Web Design			
Video Editing / Production			
Security			

**Please list any skills / abilities that are not listed but you would still like us to know about:**

# Personal Testimony (If already a professing Christian)

**When did you receive Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Savior?**

**What changes in your attitudes, desires or behavior have you noticed since you became a Christian?**

**If you were to die right now where would you go, and why would do you believe you would go there?**

**Have you been baptized since your decision to receive Christ?    Yes    No    (Circle One)**

**What do you believe baptism is?**

**How do you demonstrate a desire to live a life separated from sinful habits of the flesh and worldliness?**

**What evidence would we find in your life that you have a burden to share the gospel with those who do not know Christ? Please be as specific as possible.**

**How are you currently demonstrating commitment to God and the other believers assembled at 'The Well of Swisher IA' in terms of time, talents, and financial support?**

**What benefits do you believe come out of being a faithful member to one church?**

**Do you presently hold any membership in another church?    YES    NO    (Circle One)**

**If YES please provide the following information:**

- Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_ Website (if available) \_\_\_\_\_
- Address \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_
- How long you attended \_\_\_\_\_
- When you were in last attendance \_\_\_\_\_

**If NO please provide the information the church you most recently attended.**

- Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_ Website (if available) \_\_\_\_\_
- Address \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_
- How long you attended \_\_\_\_\_
- When you were in last attendance \_\_\_\_\_

# The Well's Offices

## **LEAD/SENIOR PASTOR:**

Shall serve as head of all the church offices and shall be the general overseer of the entire church body. He shall be responsible to lead and oversee the general direction, spiritual welfare, and fiscal responsibilities, of the church body. He shall make decisions based on prayer, discernment of Scripture, and Godly counsel to produce a more effective church. He shall preach and teach the Scriptures at the church meetings and shall lovingly shepherd the people. With recommendation and counsel the Lead Pastor shall be responsible for the hiring and termination of all pastoral/staff members. He shall act as the moderator of the church offices and general church meetings unless he otherwise delegates.

## **ELDERS:**

We believe the Scripture teaches that the office of pastor, elder, shepherd, overseer, and bishop are interchangeable. They are one in the same office (Acts 20; Titus 1; Ephesians 4; 1 Peter 5, Philippians 1). Therefore, only full-time pastors can fill the office of elder. The elder shall serve under the direct supervision of the Lead Pastor who serves as the head-elder. The elders shall support the Lead Pastor in prayer and encouragement as well as each other. They shall carry out the responsibilities delegated by the Lead Pastor. They shall meet as often as he deems necessary and share counsel on various topics of importance.

## **DEACONS:**

Shall be appointed by the Lead Pastor and \*affirmed by the elders and membership under the requirements given in I Timothy 3:8-13. They shall serve under the direct supervision of the Lead Pastor. They shall support him and the elders in prayer and encouragement. They shall enact the decisions of the Lead Pastor as well as be responsible to lead in vital areas of church function as the he appoints. They shall take care of the physical welfare of the widows who are members and regular attendees of this church. They shall meet with the Lead Pastor and elders periodically, as deemed necessary, and share counsel on various topics of importance.

## **TRUSTEES:**

Shall be male or female and appointed by the Lead Pastor and \*affirmed by the elders and membership. They shall serve under the direct supervision of the Lead Pastor. They shall support the Lead Pastor and elders in prayer and encouragement. They shall be responsible for the welfare of the church facilities and its property. They shall meet with the Lead Pastor and elders periodically, as deemed necessary, and assist them in helping with the church budget and fiscal matters. They will also help in the decision process of benevolence.

## **TREASURER:**

Shall hold the office of Trustee. They shall be male or female and appointed by the Lead Pastor and \*affirmed by the elders and membership. They shall serve under the direct supervision of the Lead Pastor. They shall support the Lead Pastor and elders in prayer and encouragement. It is of utmost importance that they hold the character qualities of honesty, trustworthiness, and confidentiality. They shall have a degree in accounting. They shall be responsible for paying the church bills and the keeping of the church's financial records. They shall meet with the Lead Pastor, elders, and trustees periodically, as deemed necessary, and assist them in helping with the church budget and fiscal matters. If required, they shall sign legal documents for and on behalf of the church.

## **LEADERS OF THIS CHURCH:**

Shall be men who have been proven in the line of spiritual battle evidenced first in the leadership of their homes and then in their reputations in the community. They must be in full agreement with the doctrine, leadership structure, and procedures of this church and a member for at least six months before consideration of a leadership position.

## **ADVISORY BOARD:**

Shall consist of Godly men (such as pastors, missionaries, evangelists) from whom the Lead Pastor seeks advice and human accountability (Proverbs 15:22). More importantly, the Scripture states that the Pastor is accountable to God (1 Peter 5:4). The advisory board will examine the Pastor if charges are brought against him (1 Timothy 5:17-20). They shall have no authority to hire or fire. They shall advise the pulpit committee as deemed necessary.

## **LEAD PASTOR, ELDERS, DEACONS AND TRUSTEES:**

Shall be mindful of the needs and opinions of the congregation. They are to listen carefully to their expressions of concern to communicate these concerns with each other and prayerfully consider them in the light of the Scriptures.

## **TERM OF OFFICE:**

The Pastor(s) shall serve as an elder of this church with no term limits. The deacons and trustees shall serve a two-year term of two consecutive terms. At the expiration of the fourth year of service he shall not be eligible to serve for at least one year.

## **LEAD PASTOR AND ELDERS:**

Shall sign all legal documents for and on behalf of the church.

**LEAD PASTOR, ELDERS, DEACONS, AND TRUSTEES:**

Shall serve as the pulpit committee when the need arises. They shall seek help from the advisory board as deemed necessary.

\*affirmed means: confirmed, acknowledged, declared. This does not mean the person is "voted" in or out by the membership. Once this person is chosen by the Pastor their name will be submitted to the membership to allow anyone to come forward (to the Pastor) if they know of reason that this person may not be qualified to assume the church office he/she has been chosen to serve in.

# Church Business:

**CHURCH YEAR:**

- The church year and fiscal year shall commence on the first day of January and end on the last day of December.

**BUSINESS MEETINGS:**

- The Annual Business Meeting will be held in the month of October or November prior to the end of the fiscal year.
- The Lead pastor may call special Business Meetings at any time. When possible, a two-week notice will be announced along with the purpose before any special business meeting.

**VOTING PROCEDURES:**

- If a congregational vote is called for, it will be limited to the membership.
- Only those 18 years of age and older may vote.
- Those members in attendance will constitute a quorum for the vote. A simple majority vote will be accepted unless otherwise stated by the Lead Pastor.

**STRUCTURE OF MEETINGS:**

- The Lead Pastor or designee of the church offices shall lead the meetings and moderate the discussions.
- To handle our business in a manner pleasing to God all participants should maintain a spirit of unity and Christian behavior under the control of His Holy Spirit.