### Faithful Church Membership: What makes a good congregation (Various Texts; 10-25-20am)

Central Thought: Every-member engagement completes God's design for cooperative partnership.

# I. Pastor-Led (1 Pet 5; 1 Tim 3; Titus 1; Eph 4)

Oversight	spiritual and personal
Example	godly character
Partnership	leading the church with deacons who serve and members who are engaged

### II. Deacon-Served (Acts 6; 1 Tim 3)

Help Pastors	serve the congregation
Lead Ministries	with teams made up of gifted members
Godly Leaders	deacons (and women leaders) should demonstrate godly character

### **III.** Congregational-Governed

A. Congregation Defined	Gathered or Assembled people of God
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B. Bible Descriptions Body (1 Cor 12); Temple (Eph 2; 1 Cor 3); Household (Eph 2; 1 Tim 3); Bride (Jn 3)

C. Governing Functions

- 1. Decide on church membership (what Jesus called *keeping the keys*) (Matt 16, 18; John 20)
- 2. Keep an eye on church doctrine (Gal 1.6-9)

3. Affirm who serves in church leadership (Acts 6; Gal 1)

4. Steward church finances (1 Cor 16; 2 Cor 8-9)

#### **IV. Membership-Commitment**

- A. Responsibilities
  - 1. Be disciples (Jn 8.31; Jn 13.34-35; Eph 4.14-16; Col 3.12-17)
    - a. Be Educated (in the Scriptures)
    - b. Be Informed (of church practices)

c. Be Invested (in the lives of your fellow members) (cf. Acts 2.42-47)

d. Be Cooperative (with church leadership) (Heb 13.17)

2. Make disciples (Matt 28.19-20) The Great Commission is given to the church

3. Be actively engaged in the life of the churcha. Faithful attendance (Heb 10)Four indicators of active membership

b. Generous giving (1 Cor 16 & 2 Cor 8-9; esp. 2 Cor 9.6-8)

- c. Regular service (1 Cor 12) What is your spiritual gift? How are you using it?
- d. Consistent prayer (1 Tim 2) For each other; for the lost; for govt authorities; for the church

## B. Benefits

1. An active part of a powerful witness for the gospel – to help build the kingdom

2. An active part in a healthy gospel community – to help each of us grow in Christ

- 3. An active part in community of loving accountability to help each of us endure to the end
- 4. An active part of the "Bride" who honors her "Groom" to help each of us look forward to Heaven