



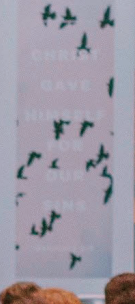
CHRIST  
CHURCH  
*of South Metro Atlanta*



# LIFE TOGETHER

Fulfilling the Vision *of* Christ Church

GALATIANS  
*Set Free in Christ*



All of Life in Light of the Gospel.

ChristSMA.org

# Welcome to Life Together

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Dear friend,

*Life Together*. What a beautiful and succinct phrase that captures God's heart for every local body of believers. Life is full of ups and downs, yet God by His grace gathers us together to help one another stay on the narrow way that leads to life. What a joy!

We are thankful that you are here at our *Life Together* Seminar. The hope of these seminars is to share our heart with you on what we believe is God's glorious design for His church and how we can fulfill the Bible's vision of our church family together.

It is our utmost desire to see every member of Christ Church faithfully fulfill God's call on their life by living all of life in light of the gospel. As a leadership team, we hope to lovingly guide you into this way of life for God's glory, for your good, and for the good of your family to the third and fourth generation.

We welcome you in the name of Jesus to Christ Church and we look forward to seeing God glorified in you and in our church family.

With love in Christ,  
the Elders of Christ Church

Zach Fallon, Steve Krogh, & David Meade

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*Proclaiming the Gospel to Display God's Glory*

Christ Church *aims*  
to be primarily  
known *for* the Gospel  
*of* Jesus Christ.

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Christ Church's  
*Ministry Aim*



# The Gospel of Jesus Christ

The gospel is the “good news” that proclaims that God saves sinners through the perfect life, substitutionary death, and powerful resurrection of Jesus Christ by the power of the Spirit. This message is helpfully summarized in the five “alone” statements that were the rally cry of the Protestant Reformation. Scripture alone is the **source of the gospel message** and the four other “alone statements” summarize the **content of the gospel**.

**Scripture Alone.** The Bible is God’s Word of divine authority that reveals Himself and the truth of reality. The Scriptures proclaim our need for salvation and Jesus as the only Savior. The Scriptures are clear, sufficient, and authoritative for our salvation and living a godly, fruitful life.

Luke 24:44-47 // Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

**Christ Alone.** In the New Testament the content of the message of the gospel is “Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” Since He alone is the way of salvation, He is central to the message of the Bible. The goal of all church ministry, therefore, is to have its message sourced in God’s Word and centered on the person and work of Jesus.

Titus 3:4-7 // But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Faith Alone.** Faith alone is how a sinner comes to receive the salvation that Jesus accomplished. On the cross Christ took our sin and its penalty in our place as a substitute and in exchange He has given us His perfect righteousness. When we receive Christ by faith alone God declares us as righteous in His sight because of Christ's righteousness and not anything that we have done.

Num 21:8-9 // And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

**Grace Alone.** Since salvation is accomplished by Christ alone and received by faith alone, then we joyfully acknowledge that our salvation is all of grace alone. Salvation was planned by the Father before creation, accomplished in history by the Son, and applied by the Spirit for all who hear and respond with repentance and faith.

Eph 2:8-9 // For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**To God's Glory Alone.** Since salvation is by grace through faith alone God alone receives all the glory. If there was anything we could claim as our own in our salvation then we would no longer boast in Christ alone. But since Jesus is the author, sustainer, and finisher of our salvation then He alone is to be magnified and treasured in our hearts.

2 Cor 4:5-6 // For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

To God be glory  
in the church and  
in *Christ Jesus*  
throughout all  
generations...

*forever and ever. Amen.*

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*Ephesians 3:21*



# Church Membership

## Why Join a Local Church?

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Becoming a Christian means we have joined the family of God and we desire to express our union with Christ by being committed to one another as a church family. Committing to a local church serves as a wonderful witness to the power of the gospel and challenges us to live out our faith with one another. Here are some reasons for why a believer should commit to **joining a local church family**:

### **1. It displays we are a member of Body of Christ.**

1 Cor 12:12 // For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

### **2. It is coming under the care of godly shepherds.**

1 Peter 5:2-3 // ...shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

### **3. It is a relational commitment to a family of believers.**

Eph 2:19-22 // So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

### **4. It is how we grow and build the body in loving discipleship.**

Eph 4:15-16 // Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

### **5. It makes the gospel brightly visible in our community.**

Matt 5:14-15 // "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house."

## **Experiencing Unity Together at Christ Church:**

1. Embracing Our Vision
2. Living Our Covenant
3. Affirming Our Faith
4. Holding Our Convictions
5. Moving Forward in Humble Love



For just as the body  
is *one* and has  
*many* members,  
and *all* the  
members of the  
body, though *many*,  
are *one* body, so it  
is with *Christ*.

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*1 Corinthians 12;12*



*The Vision & Hope for Christ Church is to become...*

*A maturing and  
growing community of  
Christians who  
together live all of life  
in light of the gospel.*

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Christ Church's  
*Ministry Vision & Hope*



# Embracing *Our* Vision

**Christ Church aims to become a maturing and growing community of Christians who together live all of life in light of the gospel.**

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## **All of Life *in* Light of the Gospel**

The good news of the gospel proclaims what God has already done for us in Christ for our salvation and knowing him transforms the way we view everything else. To live "all of life in light of the gospel" is our way of saying that since we have come to know the one true God through his Son we long to see Him glorified in every area of our life.

## **Life *Before* God // Treasuring Christ Over All Things**

The light of the gospel reveals the glory of Christ and radically changes our relationship with God. Jesus becomes the greatest Treasure of our hearts because he is the one that fuels every aspect of the Christian life. The unity of the Church is rooted in him.

## **Life *with* One Another // Maturing in Christ-like Love**

Believing the gospel radically changes our relationships with one another. Understanding the depths of God's grace frees us to be patiently and lovingly committed to each other's good as we follow the pattern of our Savior.

## **Life *in* the World // Spreading the Glory of Christ**

Believing the gospel gives us God's heart for this lost and broken world. We long to leverage every part of our lives to welcome others to know the love of Christ. We are intentional and strategic in spreading the glory of Christ everywhere God has placed us.

*In light of the gospel, we commit together to...*

*Treasure Christ over all things*

*Mature in Christ-like love  
for one another*

*Spread the glory of Christ  
in our lives and beyond*

---

Christ Church's  
*Member Covenant*



# Living *Our* Covenant

Our Church Covenant is a promise we make to one another to help each other fulfill the calling of our church family.

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Having heard the gospel and being drawn by the Father to see His glory in the face of His Son, and having turned from our sin and trusted in Christ alone for our salvation, we now joyfully enter into this covenant with one another to live all of life in light of the gospel:

**We commit together to treasure *Christ over all things*:**

- To joyfully gather together to worship the Lord Jesus Christ
- To prayerfully fill our minds and homes with His Word
- To continually respond to the gospel with repentance and faith
- To see by faith the supremacy of Jesus in all things to His glory

**We commit together to mature in *Christ-like love for one another*:**

- To hospitably share our lives together as a church family
- To build one another up with God's Word and the gospel
- To serve and be equipped for gospel ministry
- To diligently maintain our unity of faith in the Spirit

**We commit together to spread the glory of *Christ in our lives & beyond*:**

- To make our homes gospel havens for our children and neighbors
- To strategically work together to share the gospel with others
- To seek the good of our communities in Jesus' name
- To train and send gospel workers into the harvest near and far

# Life *Before* God

**We commit together to treasure Christ over all things** by joyfully gathering together for corporate worship, prayerfully filling our minds and homes with God's Word, continually responding to the gospel in repentance and faith, and seeing by faith the supremacy of Jesus in all things to His glory.

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## **1. Committed to Gathered Worship.**

*Gathering weekly for corporate worship and communion.*

## **2. Committed to Personal and Family Devotions.**

*Regularly setting aside time throughout the week for prayer and Bible study.*

## **3. Committed to Lifestyle Repentance and Faith.**

*Regularly responding to the gospel by turning from sin, trusting in Christ alone, and seeking reconciliation with one another when needed.*

# Life *with* One Another

**We commit together to mature in Christ-like love** for one another by hospitably sharing our lives together as a church family, building one another up with God's Word and the gospel, serving and being equipped for gospel ministry, and diligently maintaining our unity of faith in the Spirit.

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## **1. Committed to Fellowship and Relational Hospitality.**

*Gathering once a month in our Fellowship Dinners and relationally pursuing one another to share life together.*

## **2. Committed to Discipleship for Spiritual Growth.**

*Our main growth ministry is Discipleship Cohorts which are groups between 3-6 people and last for 3 months during the fall and spring semesters. Our hope is to have all members participate in this ministry for the building up of the body.*

## **3. Committed to Serving the Church through Time and Giving.**

*Participating as a member of one of our Sunday Service Team throughout the year and giving to financially support the needs and mission of the church.*

# Life *in* the World

**We commit together to spread the glory of Christ** in our lives and beyond by making our homes gospel havens for our children and neighbors, strategically working together to share the gospel with others, seeking the good of our communities in Jesus' name, training and sending gospel workers into the harvest near and far.

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## **1. Committed to Gospel Hospitality and Speaking the Gospel with Not-Yet Believers.**

*Regularly opening our homes and hearts to welcome our family and neighbors to know Christ and strategically working with our fellowship groups to spur one another on to intentionally sharing the gospel. We are a church that seeks to "make room" in our hearts and at our tables for those who don't yet know Christ.*

## **2. Committed to Blessing Our Local Community.**

*Regularly participating in some kind of community service to bless our local community.*

## **3. Committed to Being Trained and Sent for Gospel Ministry.**

*Engaging in various training and sending ministries to see the gospel make progress through us as a church family both near and far.*



For the earth will  
be *filled* with the  
knowledge of *the*  
*glory of the Lord*  
as the waters  
*cover* the sea.

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*Habakkuk 2:14*



*For the word of God is living and active,*

*sharper* than any two-  
edged sword, *piercing* to  
the division of soul and  
of spirit, of joints and of  
marrow, and *discerning*  
the thoughts and  
intentions of the heart.

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*Hebrews 4:12*



# Affirming *Our* Faith

Christ Church seeks to hold fast to the “faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.” (Jude 1:3) The affirmations below are what the church throughout history has held as orthodox and we are joyfully committed to these core teachings.

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**The Word of God.** We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. In matters not addressed by the Bible, what is true and right is assessed by criteria consistent with the teachings of Scripture.

*2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32*

**The Trinity.** We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

*Genesis 1:1,26; John 1:1,3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19,20; Ephesians 4:5,6*

**God the Father.** We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

*Luke 10:21,22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:1,2 & 2:5,6; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6*

**Jesus Christ.** We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

*Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:26–38; John 1:1, 20:28; Romans 9:5, 8:32; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21–23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6–8 & 6:9,10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Timothy 3:16*

**The Holy Spirit.** We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

*John 14:16,17,26 & 15:26,27; John 16:9–14; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; Galatians 5:22–26*

**Human Condition and Salvation.** We believe that humanity was created by God in his own image and for his glory; but that we sinned and fell short of God's glory, and thus incurred physical, spiritual, and eternal separation from God. We believe that all humans are born with a sinful nature, and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation. We reject justification based on any human effort, and we believe that only those who have been born again, and thus trust Jesus Christ as their Savior, by virtue of his atoning death on the cross, submitting to him as Lord, and embracing him as supreme Treasure of their lives, are adopted, delivered from condemnation, and receive eternal life. We believe that this faith leads to a heartfelt turning from sin. The Christian life involves growth in grace through persevering, Spirit-empowered resolve to reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive to Christ.

*Genesis 1:26–27; Genesis 3; Genesis 2:17; 3:19; Ecclesiastes 2:11; Matthew 13:44; John 1:13; John 3:14; 3:16; 5:24; John 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; 17:3; Psalm 51:7; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14; Romans 3:19; 5:19; Philippians 3:7–8; 1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:11; 8:1; 1 Corinthians 15:1–2; Hebrews 3:12–14; Hebrews 6:11–12; Hebrews 10:39; Romans 3:28*

**The Church, Baptism, & the Lord's Supper.** We believe in one holy, universal Church made up of all who trust Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord, and supreme Treasure of their lives. We believe that God calls us to unite with other believers in local churches to help each other to value Jesus above all else, to praise him together, to make disciples, to grow in our love and knowledge of him, and to stir each other up to good works. We believe that Christians should be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and regularly share in the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus until his return.

*Ephesians 1:22–23; Acts 15:36, 41; 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:1; Galatians 1:1–3; Matthew 28:18–20; Revelations 1:4, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:24–25; Romans 6:3–4; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26*

**The Last Things.** We believe in the personal, visible, and bodily return of Jesus to earth and the establishment of his kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment of all people, the eternal happiness of the righteous in God's presence, and the eternal misery of the wicked.

*Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:15–8; 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7–10; Revelation 20:11–15*

Now *faith* is  
the *assurance*  
of things hoped for,  
the *conviction*  
of things not seen.

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*Hebrews 11:1*



# **Holding *Our* Convictions**

Below are a few things that we hold dear in our hearts and hope will influence every aspect of our life together as a church family and our ministries.

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## **The Sovereignty of God in All Things**

The reality of God begins to be experienced when all of creation is seen as under His sovereign and gracious rule and care. We desire to let God be God in, through, and for all things.

## **The Gospel Displays the Glory of Christ**

Gospel proclamation is the engine of the church today, just as it was for the early church, because when the good news of God's salvation in Christ is preached, Jesus is shown to be the greatest, most beautiful, and true Treasure that ever was, is, or ever will be. Only when we come to Christ by grace through faith will we see His extravagant worth and live for His glory alone in all things.

## **The Spirit Works through the Word**

The Spirit desires to convict sinners of their sin in order to lead them to repentance and faith in Christ. The Spirit brings life to our deadened hearts by convincing us that what the Scriptures proclaim actually reveals true reality.

## **Dependency Expressed through Prayer**

One of the greatest expressions of our faith in Christ is through seeking God in prayer. Prayer is when we are "before God," pouring our hearts out before Him believing that He cares for us and desires to intervene in our lives.

## **Gospel Doctrine Creates Gospel Culture**

The truths of the gospel are eternal, beautiful, and unsearchable in their depths, and yet they are not merely meant for our minds only. We believe that knowledge of God in Christ is meant to bring about an ever-increasing transformation of the holiness of believers in the way they carry themselves and the way they interrelate with others, especially in their own family and local church.

## **Discipleship for All of Life**

To know God is to come and see Christ as King of kings, which means there is no segment of our life, cultures, or world of which He does not rule over and influence our engagement with. The journey of the Christian life is coming to see every facet of our life as belonging to the Lord and joyfully submitting to Him.

## **Everyone Equipped for Gospel Ministry**

God has called all believers to be “witnesses of Christ” and the power of the gospel to save sinners and to do their part in building and strengthening the church. Church leaders are tasked with equipping the saints so that they may fulfill their calling to play their part in seeing the church reach the full stature of maturity in Christ.

## **Passing on the Gospel to the Next Generation**

In God’s wisdom, He has created family units to be mini-hubs of discipleship and gospel proclamation and formation. It is a high calling and joy that God blesses His people with children and it is our honor to faithfully declare the mighty acts of our God and His salvation to each coming generation.



### **A Hospitable, Patient, and Growing Fellowship**

Remembering that we have been “saved by grace,” our posture towards the “church outsider” or the “not-yet believer” must be one that is marked by an awareness of our own testimonies. Since we want to see our fellowship grow, we want to be hospitable with those who are far from God and we want to be patient with new believers as they stumble with their first steps in their walks with Christ. We hope the Lord will mark our community with a hospitable and patient spirit with one another and with visitors and seekers, for “such were some of us.”

### **Public Faith for a Winsome Witness**

Every believer is called to a faithful testimony of Christ in their own modern times and generation. No one picks the place or time in which they are born, yet we believe God providentially plans those details of each of our lives. It is our desire, then, to think biblically how we can be a winsome witness of Christ in our cultural context. We believe that knowledge of God brings real life and vibrancy to every sector of society (be it arts, government, business, etc) and we desire to bless our community by being salt and light.

### **Training & Sending Gospel Workers**

Though every church is called to a “local” faithfulness, the Scriptures call us to consider how we might partner with like-minded ministries in the global Church to see the gospel make progress in our own day. We desire to see a constant “rotating door” of gospel goodbyes wherein faithful men and women are rooted in the faith and trained for gospel ministry to serve Christ wherever a door of faith may open.

# Moving Forward in Humble Love

Christ Church is a community of Christians who have covenanted together to treasure Christ, mature in Christ-like love, and spread his glory.

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## **Leadership**

*Elders who Shepherd.* At Christ Church, we believe the Church is to be led by a plurality of elders who shepherd the church family under Christ, who is the Head of the church. Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd of his sheep and he calls qualified men to serve as his undershepherds. These undershepherds are called to shepherd the flock of God in a way that brings glory to God and results in the spiritual good of the church and God's people. The ministry of the elders prioritizes knowing, leading, feeding, and protecting the flock that is among them through word ministry and prayer. They work for the unity of the church and the joy in Christ of each member. All Elders at Christ Church affirm the Treasuring Christ Together Affirmation of Faith ([tctnetwork.org/affirmation-of-faith](http://tctnetwork.org/affirmation-of-faith)).

*Deacons who Serve.* The ministry of the deacons/deaconesses is to meet the practical needs of the church family so that the work of the gospel flourishes under the shepherding ministry of the elders. This important office is to be filled by biblically-qualified leaders.

## **Members of the Church Family**

*Baptized Believers.* We believe that all who have professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their only hope for salvation have already been adopted by God into His eternal family. We gladly welcome into membership all who profess faith in Christ, have been baptized, and are joyfully willing to: (1) Embrace Our Vision, (2) Live Our Covenant, (3) Affirm Our Faith, (4) Hold Our Convictions, (5) Move Forward in Humble Love.

*Guided by Our Constitution.* Knowing that decisions must be made and business must be done within the church family, our church is guided by a constitution that lays out our processes and protocols on how we make key decisions. Our constitution also serves as a guiding framework for our practices as a church family. Christ Church is an **elder-led, congregationally-affirmed** church family.

To access our Constitution visit: [www.christsma.org/constitution](http://www.christsma.org/constitution)

## **A Warm Invitation to Join Us**

We are honored that you would consider the Lord's leading in your life to join us in living all of life in light of the gospel. If you choose to move forward in membership our Elders would like to meet with you and hear about the Lord's work in your life, how we can best care for you spiritually, and help you get engaged in the life of our church. Prior to that meeting, we ask that you fill out our "Testifying to Christ" form so that we can get to know you better!

Scan the QR Code to pick a time to Meet with the Elders:



Scan the QR Code below to access the Testifying to Christ Form:



You can also feel free to reach out to our elders with questions:

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Steve Krogh // 616-340-1379 // [stevekrogh@hotmail.com](mailto:stevekrogh@hotmail.com)

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**CHRIST  
CHURCH**  
*of South Metro Atlanta*

*All of Life in Light of the Gospel.*