

The Church of The Apostles

Membership Class

Core Values



Editorial Comments are in Italics

Absolute authority of the scripture – We fully embrace the bible as the infallible, inerrant, and inspired word of God. II Tim 3:16, 17.

The infallibility of scripture refers to the authority of scripture, The Inerrancy refers to the content of scripture, and The Inspiration refers to the authorship of scripture.

“Declaring the Whole Counsel of God” Acts 20:27. *We preach not just the parts of the bible that are easy to understand but all parts of the bible, Old and New Testaments, prophets and poets, gospels and epistles. All of the bible is brought to bear upon all of the life of the church.*

Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church – no earthly head. Col 1:18 *The Roman Catholic Church has the Pope as it’s head and the Church of England has the King or Queen as her head, we have Jesus Christ as the spiritual, not physical, Head of the church.*

Sovereignty of God – in creation, redemption, and everyday providence. Ephesians 1:11. *Within the word “sovereignty”, there are two defining words, ‘reign’ and ‘over’. Therefore the word means to “reign over” over all aspects of life, which is to say that God is “sovereign in the affairs of men.”*

Leadership/Style – Listen and Obey, not Design and Build – The Master’s Plan vs A Master Plan. *Whereas most churches choose to operate from a long-term comprehensive plan for ministry, we do not. There is a “holy spontaneity” here that flows directly out of the Lord’s leading to the rector and the staff on an ongoing basis.*

Joyful, celebrative worship – Psalm 100:1 *While some churches prefer a reflective, reverent tone or a structured, ritualistic approach in worship, we are defined by more of a free and spontaneous expression of worship.*

Fellowship – cell-driven church. Acts 20:20 – *We affirm that ‘believing’ is enhanced by ‘belonging’, or in other words ‘faith’ is enhanced by ‘fellowship’, hence our emphasis here on small groups.*

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Strategic focus: Evangelism – the bedrock of the church. *On Sunday morning we are the church 'gathered' and throughout the week we are the church 'scattered'. We emphasize to our people that as they are leaving church, they are entering the mission field.* Matt 28:18-20

Simple infrastructure - Not program driven. – II Cor 11:3. *In order to stay focused on the bedrock ministry of evangelism, we are careful not to become too diversely involved in too much ministry activity. We do not subscribe to the 'shopping mall' view of church trying to become all things to all people.*

Family-priority – encouraged to put family first – no expectation to be at church all the time, neglecting family. I Tim 3:4,5 *Church participation at the expense of family investment is discouraged here at Apostles. Our members are not obligated to be here every time the church door opens.*

Male headship – I Cor 11:3 – *The Creator's divinely ordained order is "God, Christ, man, woman and children" with man being appointed by God as the head of the family and the spiritual leaders of the church.*

Spiritual community – melting pot – tend not to segregated by life stage – Gal 3:28 *We prefer a 'blended' rather than 'segregated' approach to the age and stage people groups in the fellowship of the church.*

No debt approach to ministry. All completed construction is paid for – Prov 22:7 *Our church ministry is currently operating debt-free and we are not 'hustling' to get new members into the church to help pay off a big mortgage.*

Financial Integrity – *Church staff gets no honorariums from wedding/ funerals done here at the church, there is an annual audit of the church finances, and the rector gets no financial remuneration from the sale of media ministry materials.* – I Tim 3:3

Accountability and Submission – Church Authority - *Because of the independent status of the church denominationally, there is a healthy interplay of submission and accountability between the rector and the Vestry as well as a group of longstanding accountability partners.*

Church Discipline – members are required to have a walk of faith consistent with their profession of faith. Matt 18:15-18 *Church members are disciplined for unrepentant, ongoing participation in grievous, heinous sins.*

Missions – *Every year, a double tithe (20%) or better of church income goes to missions or evangelistic ministry outside of COTA church operations.* – Luke 6:38, Acts 20:35