

#winfmc

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# **Community Growth Track**

win**201**

committed & faithful

Explore how the ministries of winfmc achieve community through commitment to Jesus and faithfulness to His invitation and call.

## **We seek to be a community of committed and faithful followers of Jesus who live, love, and serve with passion and purpose.**

As we focus on our vision for what God has called us to be in Him, we believe that the core of this vision is

### **COMMUNITY**

We believe that God has invited us into **community with Himself** and He has called us into **community with other believers**.

### **GOD HAS INVITED US INTO COMMUNITY WITH HIMSELF**

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of His will.

*The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Romans 6:23

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5:8

*God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind.*

1 Timothy 2:5-6

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

## HOW TO RESTORE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. **Realize** that God has not been first place in our life, and ask Him to forgive your sins.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

1 John 1:9

2. **Believe** that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose from the dead and is alive today.

*If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.*

Romans 10:9-10

*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name [Jesus] under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*

Acts 4:12

*We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.*

1 Thessalonians 4:14

3. **Accept** God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.

*For it is by grace you are saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is God's gift — not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Ephesians 2:8-9

4. **Invite** Jesus to come into your life and be the Lord of your life

*To all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them. All those who believe this are reborn!—not a physical rebirth resulting from human passion or plan—but from the will of God.*

John 1:12-13

## **You can restore your relationship with God today by praying a simple prayer to Him.**

*Dear Jesus, thank you for creating me and for loving me even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life, and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. As much as I know how, I want to follow You from now on.*

*Please come into my life and make me a new person inside.*

*I accept your free gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian.*

*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

**Romans 10:13**

## CONFIRMING YOUR RELATIONSHIP THROUGH BAPTISM

We practice baptism by immersion in water, which is the way Jesus was baptized and the way the Bible describes.

*At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.*

Mark 1:9-10

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 28:19

*Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.*

Matthew 10:32-33

### BY BEING WATER BAPTIZED YOU ARE

1. Following the example set by Christ
2. Demonstrating your changed life
3. Declaring your commitment publicly

Water baptism declares publicly what has happened privately.

## GOD CALLS US INTO DEEPER COMMUNITY

### WORSHIP

1. Communion
2. Scripture
3. Prayer
4. Fasting

### GIVING

1. Treasure
2. Talent
3. Time

### SHARING

1. One Another
2. Others

## COMMUNITY THROUGH WINFMC

We follow a specific, guided process as we seek to be a community of committed and faithful followers of Jesus who live, love, and serve with passion and purpose.

### COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Purpose: to bring about a change in knowledge

*We gather together as a community every Sunday morning in worship and celebration through song, prayer, and Biblical message. The main goal of our worship is to point to Jesus and engage individuals and families in a transformational relationship with Him.*

*Community Worship leads to committed followers of Jesus.*

### COMMUNITY GROUPS

Purpose: to bring about a change in behavior

*Groups of 5-35 individuals who come together to share struggles and encouragement, pray for one another, serve together, and mature in their walk with Jesus.*

*Community Groups lead to faithful followers of Jesus.*

### COMMUNITY DISCIPLESHIP

Purpose: to bring about change in impact

*Discipleship happens among 3-4 individuals of the same gender, meeting together weekly for support, accountability, and direction.*

*Community Discipleship leads to committed and faithful followers of Jesus who lead committed and faithful followers of Jesus.*

# Next Steps

## Committed & Faithful

1. Commit to being a part of a Community Group

Community Groups (Discussion groups, Bible Study groups, Prayer groups, and Fellowship groups) meet at various times throughout the week in a variety of locations. Our Community Groups cover a variety of topics and cover a broad range of ages and stages of life.

2. Covenant

Read through our "Membership Covenant" and consider becoming a covenant member of WINFMC.

3. Complete all three steps of the Community Growth Track

win**101** – vision & values

win**201** – committed & faithful

win**301** – passion & purpose

## Washington Free Methodist Church Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior, having confirmed my relationship through baptism, and being in agreement with the vision and values of the Washington Free Methodist Church, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Washington Free Methodist Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

### 1. I will protect the unity of my church:

By acting in love toward other members.

By refusing to gossip.

By following the leaders.

*So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of one another's character.*

Romans 14:19

*Live in complete harmony with each other—each with the attitude of Christ toward the other.*

Romans 15:5

*Have a sincere love for other believers, love one another earnestly with all your heart.*

1 Peter 1:22

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs.*

Ephesians 4:29

*Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.*

Hebrews 13:17

### 2. I will share the responsibility of my church:

By praying for its growth and health.

By inviting the unchurched to attend.

By warmly welcoming those who visit.

*To the church...we always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:1-2



*Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.*

Luke 14:23

*So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.*

Romans 15:7

3. I will serve the ministry of my church:

By discovering my gifts and talents.  
By being equipped to serve by my pastors.  
By developing a servant's heart.

*Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you.*

1 Peter 4:10

*So Christ himself gave...pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.*

Ephesians 4:11-12

*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...taking the form of a bondservant.*

Philippians 2:4-5, 7

4. I will support the testimony of my church:

By attending church and small groups faithfully.  
By living a godly life.  
By giving regularly.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

Acts 2:42

*Let us not neglect our meeting together...but encourage one another.*

Hebrews 10:25

*But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the Gospel of Christ.*

Philippians 1:27