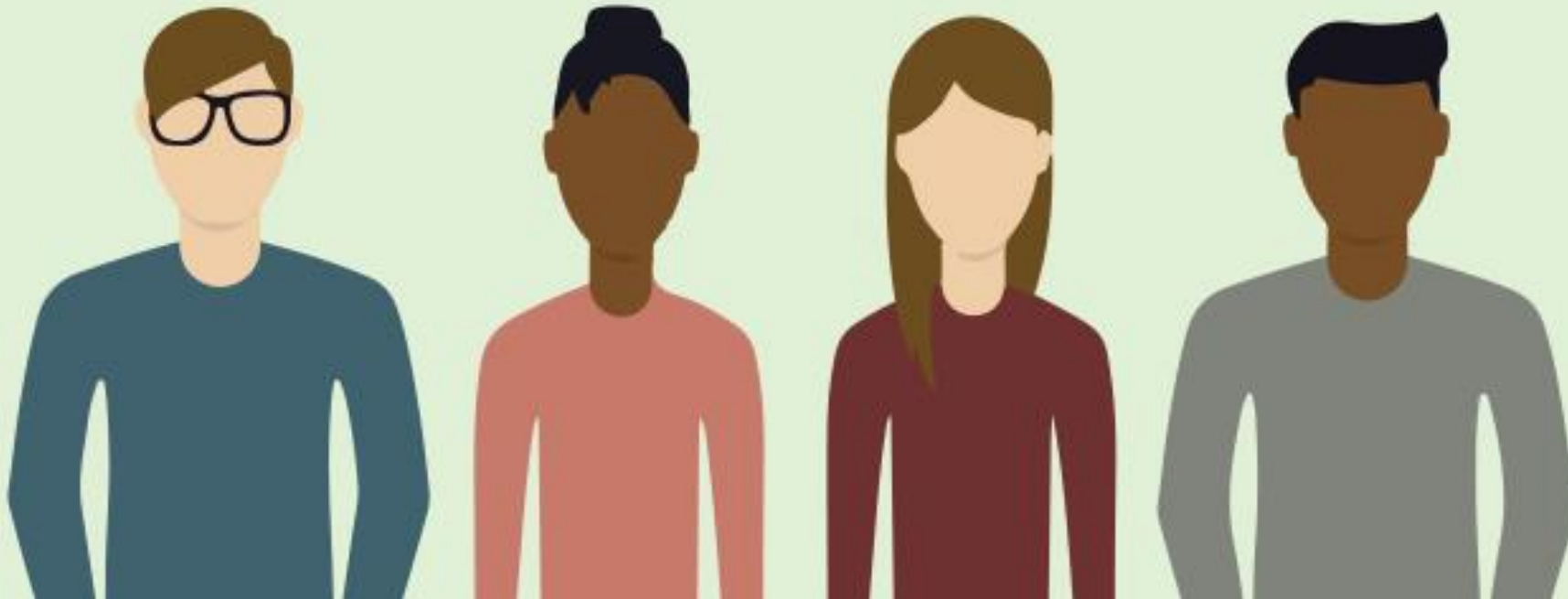


I BELONG...



# I Belong . . .

- to God
- to a relationship with God
- to a Church



# Matthew 16:18

<sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

# Foundational Truth

- We believe that the true Church is composed of all those who have been saved by God's grace through faith and regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and are thereby united together in the body of Christ of which He is the Head.

# Foundational Truth

- This universal Church is the pillar and ground of truth, manifest in the fellowship and ministry of local churches. The two biblically mandated ordinances of the Church—baptism and the Lord’s supper—visibly and tangibly express this gospel, strengthening our faith.



# Foundational Truth

- They are to be celebrated by the Church in obedience to Christ, but in themselves are not a means of salvation.

# What is Church?

Ekklesia: “called out ones”

The gathering of believers united under a common purpose and mission.



# What is Church?

## 1. The Universal Church (Spiritual)

The total body of believers around the world and in heaven.

# What is Church?

Ephesians 1:22-23

<sup>22</sup> God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church. <sup>23</sup> And the church is His body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with Himself.

# What is Church?

Ephesians 2:19-21

<sup>19</sup> So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. <sup>20</sup> Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself. <sup>21</sup> We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.



# What is Church?

**Nicene Creed:** . . . And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

# What is Church?

## 2. Local Church

Gatherings of visible self-governing communities that fulfill God's purpose and mission.

# What is Church?

“As I look around on Sunday morning at the people populating the pews, I see the risk that God has assumed. For whatever reason, God now reveals Himself in the world not through a pillar of smoke and fire, not even through the physical body of His Son in Galilee, but through the mongrel collection that comprises my local church and every other such gathering in God’s name.” *Philip Yancey*



# How Do You Know You Belong to the Church?

- Universal Church—Faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- Local Church—engaging in corporate worship with other believers and allowing yourself to be known.
- Church Organization—buying in and engaging the mission and the vision.



# What Does It Look Like to be Committed?

1. Committed to GROWING
2. Committed to SHARING
3. Committed to UNITY
4. Committed to ATTENDING
5. Committed to GIVING
6. Committed to SERVING



# What Can You Expect from a Church Organization?

1. To model Christ in action, attitude, leadership, and direction.
2. To faithfully teach the Word of God.
3. To equip you to share the gospel.
4. To empower you to lead and serve in ministry.