Damascus Road Community Church Orientation

An orientation for those who want to know more and a prerequisite for the membership class

Welcome to the About Us Orientation Session

Thanks for your interest in Damascus Road Community Church. This program will help you find out a little bit more about this church and is the orientation for those of you planning to attend our Membership class. The following pages contain who we are, what we believe, and an introduction to the staff and ministries in a self-paced format. You decide which order to view the modules and how much time and study you want to put in. Our Senior Pastor will be teaching from our basic beliefs in the membership class, and asks that you have already done your reflective homework on the questions in our Core Value section.

3 Mission Statement

Our goal is to be a genuine Christian fellowship where people from any or no religious background come together to worship the living God and find high application teaching which is culturally relevant and Biblically rooted. The Damascus Road community is much more than Sunday mornings and reaches far beyond our walls. As you go through this orientation you'll get a taste of the adventure, depth, and joy we share together by our commitment to be:

A Community of Light by the Power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 Organizational Structure History

In the autumn of 1997 Damascus Road Community Church formed as a nondenominational church influenced by the ministries of Willow Creek Community Church and Saddleback Community Church.

Our original identity and mission was shaped by five orienting goals:

- 1. Lift up the Cross of Christ (as the true central focus of our faith)
- 2. Open up the Church of Christ (to the religiously burned, bored or by-passed all around us).
- 3. Celebrate our Salvation *in Christ* (believing the bedrock of our hope is not any goodness [self-righteousness] we offer to God, but in the righteousness that comes from God as His gift to us in Jesus Christ).
- 4. Respect each Individual's Spiritual Gifts *in Christ* (being neither intimidated or irritated, but excited, by the wide variety of talents, strengths and leadership capacities of the people God sends into our midst).
- 5. Recognize every Member as a Minister *of Christ* (where we have a few teaching/equipping pastors, but every believer is called and gifted by God, and respected by us, as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ).

5 Organizational Structure History

Our first services were held at the Damascus High School. God blessed us with a

purchase/donation of approximately 225 acres in Laytonsville, Maryland, which we anticipated would be our permanent home. After meeting in the school for three years, we decided to lease space in the Damascus Shopping Center. In 2005, we sold the Laytonsville property because of the geographic shift of our congregation to the north and west of Damascus. We believe that God led us to our present home in Mt. Airy where we purchased land in May 2006. When our lease expired in the shopping center that same year, we moved our worship service back to Damascus High School. In 2009 our service moved to Oakdale High School and we began building our permanent home base. We opened the doors to this facility in April, 2012.

6 Organizational Structure Governance

Leadership of the church belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ and flows to us through the Holy Spirit. On a human level, three groups of people direct the ministries. Those three leadership teams are:

7 Organizational Structure Governance - The Elders

The Elders are composed of our pastors and prayerfully selected, Biblically mature members of our congregation who provide spiritual oversight for the church. They assure that the church remains on a true course biblically and that the body is being fed through sound biblical teaching. They encourage and support ministries, as they guard against heresy and destructive division. They carry out Biblical and redemptive correction and discipline.

8 Organizational Structure Governance - The Trustees

The Board of Trustees are members of the church who oversee the legal and financial aspects of the church and matters pertaining to facilities and staff employment. They have marketplace expertise which they use collectively to serve the congregation.

9 Organizational Structure Governance - The Staff

The Staff directs the day-to-day affairs of the church. All ministries and volunteers are coordinated by the staff. They are paid so that they can devote the best hours of their day to building ministries and ensuring that hundreds of volunteers are led well.

10 Organizational Structure Governance – Working Together

The way the three groups work together can best be stated as follows:

The Staff directs the ministries of the church; these ministries are supported by the policies and financial allocation determined by the Board of Trustees; and all the activities of the church are carried out under the watch care and supervision of the Elders.

What makes Damascus Road work smoothly is the humble, servant-like spirit of these three groups of people. Leaders at all levels do not see it as their role to "lord it over" those in their charge, but desire to serve the body with their gifts and to build the Kingdom rather than an "empire." This spirit of cooperation and appreciation is one of the remarkable features of the

ministry of Damascus Road and is one of God's greatest blessings to our body. It is <u>a fragile gift</u>, however, and any person desiring to become a participating member should value and protect it.

11 Core Values

Whether overt or implied, conscious or unconscious, hidden or clear, every organization has core values. These values guide and impact all decisions and naturally "bleed out" in the actions, attitudes and perspectives of all leaders. They are a genuine expression of what makes that place tick. The following ten statements are our Core Values. We believe they arise from Scripture, and therefore define not only how we function, but why Damascus Road Community Church even exists. After each Core Value statement, you will find a question designed to cause you to think about what that statement means to you. You will have an opportunity in the Participating Member class to share your thoughts with other participants.

12 Core Values: with Study Questions Core Value 1 of 10

The Gospel of salvation through the finished work of Christ is the true source for all Christian security, identity, community, maturity and evangelism.

See Romans 1:16-17; 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; Galatians 6:14.

Question #1: What does the term "salvation" mean to you? How does your understanding of salvation align with the Biblical teaching that a finished work, done by Jesus alone, is the sole basis of what saves you?

13 Core Values: with Study Questions Core Value 2 of 10

The Bible is the Word of God. It is the ultimate source of truth and authority, and defines the parameters and purposes of a genuine Christian community.

See Matthew 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12.

Question #2: How do you react if/when something you want or feel or believe is different or contrary to what the Bible declares to be God's will for your life?

14 Core Values: with Study Questions Core Value 3 of 10

Jesus is Lord! Full devotion to Christ in every area of our lives is the daily commitment of every authentic Christian.

See Matthew 16:24-25; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9, 12-13; 1 Peter 3:15.

Question #3: If you honestly evaluated your own use of time, energy, resources and talents, what would you conclude that you are really most devoted to?

15 Core Values: with Study Questions Core Value 4 of 10

Joyful worship celebrating who God is and what He has done for us in Christ is the heart of

our community.

See Philippians 4:4; Revelation19:5-8; Psalm 145:7; 146:1-2; 150:1-6

Question #4: The source of Biblical joy is the true worship of God, which transcends any circumstances or tragedy and goes deeper than momentary feeling of happiness. Identify two ways you create time and space for the worship of God in your life?

16 Core Values: with Study Questions Core Value 5 of 10

All people matter to God and to us. This compels us to be personally passionate in our witness to Jesus as Savior and Lord, and culturally relevant in our ministries as we draw people into a life of genuine community centered in His transforming power.

See Luke 19:10; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Question #5: If people outside your family circle really matter to you, how is that reflected in your life? To ask it another way: the ordering of the Ten Commandments puts God first, other people second and things last. What two illustrations in your life exhibit your ordering of priorities in terms of God first, people next and then things?

17 Core Values: with Study Questions Core Value 6 of 10

Every member is equally a minister of Jesus Christ. We are each called to serve others through our unique spiritual giftedness.

See 1 Peter 4:9-10-11; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11-16

Question #6: Do you see your calling to serve in some form of Christian ministry (serving others for Christ) as real as the pastors' callings? If so, what gifts and skills are you using now to build up in love the community of faith, in the way the verses in Ephesians 4:11-16 describe?

18 Core Values: with Study Questions Core Value 7 of 10

Authentic, caring relationships create genuine community. We are called to serve and support one another with a prayerful, grace-orientation that encourages honesty, openness and forgiveness

See John 13:35; Matthew 20:28; Romans15:7; Philippians 2:1-5; 1 John 3:16

Question #7: In the continuum between a life of relative isolation (1) and active participation (10) in your faith community, what number would you assign yourself? What are three things you do that illustrate this level of ranking? Does the power of God's grace allow you to practice honesty, openness and forgiveness in relationships, and to enjoy receiving those things from others?

19 Core Values: with Study Questions Core Value 8 of 10

Excellence honors God and inspires people. In every ministry we undertake we offer God our best

See Colossians 3:17, 23-24; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Samuel 24:24; Malachi 1:7-8, 13-14

Question #8: What are two or three tangible examples of ways you seek to give God your best in the major areas of your life (my family, career, friends, hobbies)?

20 Core Values: with Study Questions Core Value 9 of 10

The church should be led by servant-leaders who are team-builders and team-players, whose passion is to recruit, equip and encourage people for effective service and growing fellowship.

See Romans 12:8; Luke 22:25-27; Hebrews 13:7, 17

Question #9: Do you know two leaders at Damascus Road Community Church whose actions clearly demonstrate their desire to build teams of people and to encourage them? What do they do that makes you believe this about them?

21 Core Values: with Study Questions Core Value 10 of 10

All our time, treasure and talents belong to God. Our energy and resources should be offered joyfully, allocated effectively and used faithfully--with absolute integrity and high accountability.

See 2 Chronicles 16:9; Malachi 3:9-10; Proverbs 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Question #10: What would those who know you best say about you: that your life indicates a view my money, possessions and skills in which you are their owner—or that you understand you are a manager for God (His steward)? What are a couple of illustrations from your life of why those who know you best would choose one or the other?

22 Statement Of Beliefs What We Believe

Though we believe God allows for modifications in styles and methods of worship and outreach to meet different needs, Damascus Road Community Church is deeply committed to the eternal truth of the historic core beliefs of the Christian faith. Our seven basic beliefs are aligned with historic Protestant interpretations of key Christian doctrines. We are not dogmatic about matters on which honest Bible-based believers hold divergent views. All our basic beliefs center in Jesus Christ. He is the Savior and Lord, the ultimate revelation of God. His message as found in and supported by clear and repeated passages of Scripture forms the heart of our message. More obscure doctrinal views or teachings, where the Biblical support is interpreted in various ways, are seen by DRCC as areas of fruitful study, but we do not require uniformity to one view nor take an official position in these areas.

23 Our Statement of Beliefs Statement 1 of 7

The Bible (Old and New Testament) is the divinely inspired Word of God. It is perfect for its purpose and its purpose is to reunite us to God as His children through our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:15). Therefore we submit our reason and will to the authority of Scripture. All Scripture points to Jesus Christ (Luke 24:25-27; 44-49; John 5:39-40), who reveals the heart and character of God (John 10:30; 14:6-10). The revelation of Jesus Christ and His church in the New Testament is the inspired fulfillment and final interpretation of all God revealed to Israel in the Old Testament. The truth of Scripture is our basis for teaching,

correction and training in righteousness. It guides our relationship with God now and points us to the complete restoration of humanity and creation in eternity.

Matthew 4:4; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 3:2; Isaiah 55:8-11

Our Statement of Beliefs Statement 2 of 7

There is one eternal, holy God, infinite, personal and knowable, who has revealed Himself in the Trinity (tri-unity) of three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit—each of Whom possesses all the attributes of deity. Our God is worthy of our complete trust, worship and obedience.

Genesis 1:1-2, 26; John 1:1-4; Deuteronomy. 6:4-5; Hebrews 1:1-2; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians. 13:14; Ephesians 2:18, 22; Romans 8 portrays the interwoven work of the Trinity

25 Our Statement of Beliefs Statement 3 of 7

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, fully human and fully divine, was born of a virgin and was sinless in nature and life. He died on the Cross bearing the penalty for our sins, then rose victorious over death from the grave. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, plus nothing, is the Gospel: the one, all-sufficient basis of human salvation. Eternal life is God's gift of grace for all who trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Romans 6:23; 4:25-5:1; 3:20-26; Matthew 1:21-23; John 3:16-18, 36; 6:40; Isaiah 53:4-12; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:4-8; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Hebrews 9:26-28; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; 1 John 5:10-13; Revelation 1:5-6

26 Our Statement of Beliefs Statement 4 of 7

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and our need for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. He then unites the believer to the Body of Christ [His church], making real and effective all that Christ promised in the believer's life. The power of the indwelling Holy Spirit enables us to obey and share the Lord Jesus Christ; calling us to purity, faithfulness and integrity in every area of our lives. The Holy Spirit also imparts gifts to every believer for works of ministry, but no one spiritual gift is the necessary evidence of salvation or of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15-18; 16:7-15; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:18, 22; 4:30; Romans 8:5-16; Acts 1:4-8; 2:38-39; Luke 11:13: Zechariah 4:6: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

27 Our Statement of Beliefs Statement 5 of 7

Full devotion to Jesus as Lord is our joyful response to God's gift of salvation. Genuine discipleship to Christ flows from our security in Christ. It is the Spirit-led fruit of receiving Christ's salvation—never the root of salvation. Scripture teaches that our fruit (character and actions) is judged only to reveal the true root of our life (self or the Savior). The highest evidence of a life rooted in Christ is self-sacrificing love.

Matthew 7:16-24; 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; Ephesians 2:8-10; John 13:34-35; Romans 8:3-4; Galatians 5:16-25; Titus 2:11-14 and 3:4-8; Jude 3-4, 17-19; Revelation 22:12-17

28 Our Statement of Beliefs Statement 6 of 7

We are a part of the universal Body of Christ—all those who trust Jesus as Lord and Savior. Every congregation gathered around the risen Lord and empowered by His Spirit for mutual growth, encouragement, evangelism, service and worship is a local expression of Christ's universal church. In obedience to Christ we express our faith in Him through the signs of the New Covenant: Baptism by immersion in water and celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Matthew 16:16-19; Ephesians 3:10-12; 4:4-6, 15-16; Colossians 1:18-24; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 2-3; Matthew 26: 26-29; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-11

29 Our Statement of Beliefs Statement 7 of 7

The Kingdom of God, ushered in by Christ at His first Advent, will be fully realized (visibly and physically) at His Second Coming. Christ will appear in glory to end human suffering, to resurrect the dead, to receive all those who are His and to destroy those who refuse His salvation.

Hebrews 9:26-28; Matthew 13:39-43; 24:27-31; 25:31-34; John 5:24-29; 6:39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; 2 Peter 2:6

30 **Baptism**

We believe the Bible teaches that baptism is a new believer's first public profession of faith in Christ. Jesus established it in the last words he spoke to us before he ascended to heaven. It is a call to "step out of the shadows" and demonstrate what we say we believe. It also illustrates and points us to the central tenet of Christianity: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins.

Key scriptures on this topic include: Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Colossians 2:12, Romans 6:3-4, Acts 2:17-36, 8:29-38, 16:14-15, 22:15-16.

31 Baptism Cont...

There has been much confusion and controversy amongst Christians over the centuries about the correct way to baptize. Should believers be sprinkled with water or fully immersed? We don't feel the need to get caught up in that controversy. We practice baptism by immersion because we think it most closely represents the symbolism of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. However, if you've been baptized as a believer by any method other than immersion, that's fine. We recognize that and celebrate with you.

32 Baptism Cont...

The question of believer baptism versus infant baptism has been a controversial issue among sincere Christians for centuries. We respect Christian leaders who hold differing opinions on this issue and we are always interested in dialoging and learning from other believers. However it appears clear to us that Jesus intended baptism to be for those old enough to understand the meaning of accepting Him as Lord and Savior.

33 Baptism Cont...

This means that if you were baptized as an infant, it was a meaningful event for your parents.

We would encourage you, however, to study the key scriptures on this topic and offer *yourself* to Christ for baptism as an adult believer. It will be a very meaningful mark in *your* spiritual journey and God will use it as a witnessing tool for others who are watching. Nearly every time we have a baptismal service, someone watching will approach one of the pastors and say, "When can I be baptized?" Wouldn't it be awesome to be used by God to nudge someone else toward an eternity with Him?

34 Baptism Cont...

A child's relationship with Jesus is very important to us. This is why we place such emphasis on Children and Youth ministries and support parents in raising their children in the Christian faith. One of the public ways we celebrate this is our biannual Baby Dedication ceremonies. At these weekend services, parents who desire to dedicate themselves to being Christ-centered role models for their children are introduced with their children to the congregation from the platform by the pastor who then concludes the ceremony with a dedication prayer.

35 Why Membership

Why is membership in a local church important?

The Bible speaks of two commitments: Committing yourself to Christ for salvation and then committing yourself to other Christians through membership in a local church family. (2 Cor 8:5, Acts 2:42, Heb 10:24-25.) If you have not yet made the first commitment of receiving Christ as your Lord and Savior, we invite you to explore His life, His teachings, the power of His death and resurrection, and His gift to you of eternal life. For guidance on these matters, speak to the volunteers at the Welcome Center in the church lobby or call the church office. Once you have made that commitment, it is time for you to commit yourself to membership in a local church family.

36 Why Membership Cont...

Jesus said that our love for each other was to be the mark of discipleship (John 13:33-34). He wants us to experience connection, unity and strong relationships. We are commanded throughout Scripture to love each other, pray for each other, encourage, admonish, greet, serve, teach, accept, and honor one another; to bear each other's burdens, forgive, sing to, submit to and be devoted to each other. None of these can be done by a Christian alone or isolated from a body of believers. These "one another" commands are what membership in a local body of believers is all about and are the responsibilities of membership. Being part of a local church community where you can live these out is a crucial part of God's plan for your spiritual growth.

37 Why Membership Cont...

Luke 10: 27 summarizes Christ's call to the church this way:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself."

That means Enjoy God and Build His Kingdom!

How does a Damascus Road member (disciple) answer Christ's call?

38 Focus On Five

Damascus Road members take action: they Focus On Five.

All of us are busy - many of us on overload. Yet we want our life to make sense. We want to prioritize and simplify, focusing on what's really important, to be fully devoted followers of Christ. We desire healthier lives with more joy, purpose and impact for God. Below are five action steps from His Word that, if founded on God's grace in Jesus, build such a life.

39 Why Membership Cont... Focus On Five

40 Why Membership Cont...

Benefits Members Enjoy at DRCC

Leadership

To hold certain positions of leadership in our church (eg., such as trustees, elders, and small group leaders) you must be a member.

41 Why Membership Cont...

Benefits Members Enjoy at DRCC

Voting

To vote at business meetings of our church you must be a member. The 7 things that members are invited to vote on are:

- 1. The annual budget
- 2. The selection of trustees
- 3. Calling or removing the senior pastor
- 4. The acquisition of real property and related indebtedness
- 5. Amendments to the church By-laws or Articles of Incorporation
- 6. Merger or dissolution of the corporation
- 7. Disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the corporation in the event that DRCC ceases operations

42 Why Membership Cont... Benefits Members Enjoy at DRCC

Priority of Pastoral and Staff resources and time

Though we seek to serve all who reach out to Damascus Road for help, we have limited time & resources. Members receive first priority in resources and support from our staff and pastors.

Why Membership Cont... Path to Membership

The difference between an attendee and a member can be summed up in one word: commitment. Before signing a membership covenant at Damascus Road we expect that you will have done the following:

- Accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior
- · Been baptized as a believer
- Completed this orientation
- Attended the Participating Member class

44 Membership Covenant

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT - FOCUS ON 5

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I accept the seven Basic Biblical Beliefs of Damascus Road Community Church. I have been baptized into Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Knowing I will grow and mature as disciple of Christ, I commit to focusing on:

·Reading My Bible and Praying

This involves an intentional gathering of fresh Manna (spiritual nourishment) daily from the Bible: Such gathering creates a personal dialogue with God through reading the Bible as Christ's living word to you, then responding to Him in prayer

Building Community

Have friends and be a friend within this community. Help create connections. Prioritize time to develop relationships within the congregation. Only in community can you become the person God intends you to be

Serving

Help someone in the name of Jesus. Join a ministry team and project teams that commit time and energy to being the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in service...It changes your heart.

Investing and Inviting

Share your life in Christ with a seeker friend. People on the God-hunt aren't looking for perfect people, but for honest, vulnerable friends who have meaning in life. Listen, share, invite seekers to "come and see."

Doing the Next Right Thing

Availability to God's Spirit - that's the key here. Live with an open and obedient heart to God's leading. Daily say: "Speak, LORD, your servant is listening" 1 Samuel 3:9. Then follow Him into His greater story. You will never be bored; never alone.

45 Our Invitation to You

Regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey, we invite you to:

- 1. Make a decision to attend church regularly for Biblical teaching, worship, and community
- 2. Join a Small Group to get to know people and learn more about God (<u>click here to access</u> <u>our small group catalog</u>)
- 3. Volunteer in a service ministry to get involved in helping people (<u>click here to see the ways you can get involved</u>)

46 Participating Member class

The Participating Member class is an opportunity for you to consider being "all in" at DRCC, to meet and dialog with pastors, staff and ministry leaders. Some of the information found in this orientation will be explored in more detail and there will be time set aside for question and answer.

The class is offered several times a year on Saturday mornings. Sign-in begins at 8:45am, class from 9-1 including lunch.

View the <u>calendar of events</u> on our website, to see when the next class is being offered. Child care is available by registration.

47 Damascus Road Orientation Contact Information

Questions pertaining to registration can be directed to Marti Horne martih@damascus.com or the church office 301-829-DRCC (3722)