



**manoa**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

# *The Vision Tour*

A Four-Lesson Tour of our Values, Beliefs, Mission and Membership at Manoa





## *Welcome to the Vision Tour!*

The Vision Tour is a four-lesson journey through the values, beliefs, mission and membership at Manoa Community Church.

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# WEEK 1

*Grace Changes Everything.*

# The Sweet Sound of Grace

*“Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch; like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.” – John Newton*

*In Ephesians 2, we discover*

## FOUR NOTES IN THE HARMONY OF GRACE

### 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ for Grace (vv. 1-3)

*“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

### 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Grace (vv. 4-7)

*“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved – <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”*

### 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Grace (vv. 8-9)

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

### 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ from Grace (v. 10)

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*

# GRACE Values

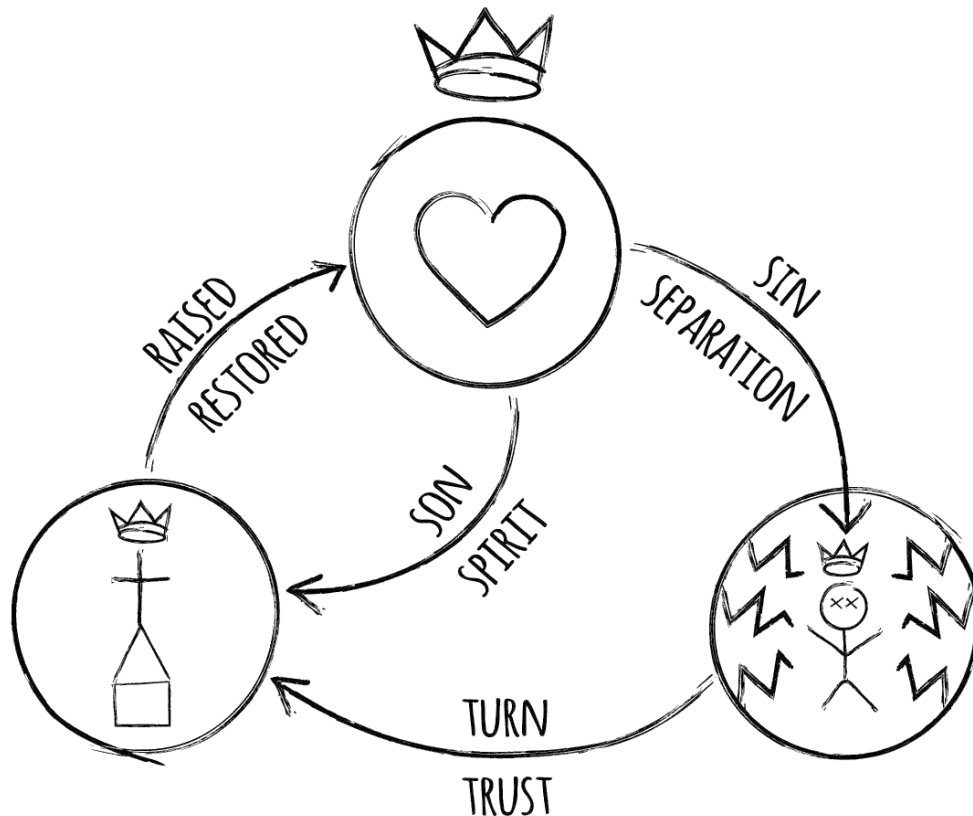
Values shape \_\_\_\_\_ we are.

Grace shapes our lives and forms an acrostic (GRACE) that shapes the five core values of our church family.

**G** \_\_\_\_\_

We are centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, keeping it the focus of who we are and all we do.

*“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you...<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,<sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day...” (1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4)*



See APPENDIX 1 for instruction how to learn and share 3 Crowns.

## R\_\_\_\_\_

We are a safe community for broken and weary people to find healing and rest for their souls.

*“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

*<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

*(Matthew 11:28-30)*

## A\_\_\_\_\_

We dream and pray big, believing God for supernatural results beyond our imagination.

*“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think,*

*according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Eph. 3:20-21)*

## C\_\_\_\_\_

We partner with Christians across denominational lines to see our region saturated with the Gospel.

*“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world... <sup>20</sup> “I do not ask for*

*these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17:18, 20-21)*

## E\_\_\_\_\_

We encourage one another to reach our fullest potential in Christ, both believing and expecting the best from each other.

*“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing...*

*<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*<sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11, 23-24)*

# Signs of Grace

\_\_\_\_\_ are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace.

*“Sacraments were instituted by God along with that covenant to represent Christ and his benefits, to confirm our position with and in him, to demonstrate a visible difference between those who belong to the church and the rest of the world... There are only two sacraments ordained by Christ our Lord in the gospel: baptism and the Lord’s Supper.” (WCF 27:1,4)*

## 1. Baptism

Baptism is how a person \_\_\_\_\_ the visible church.

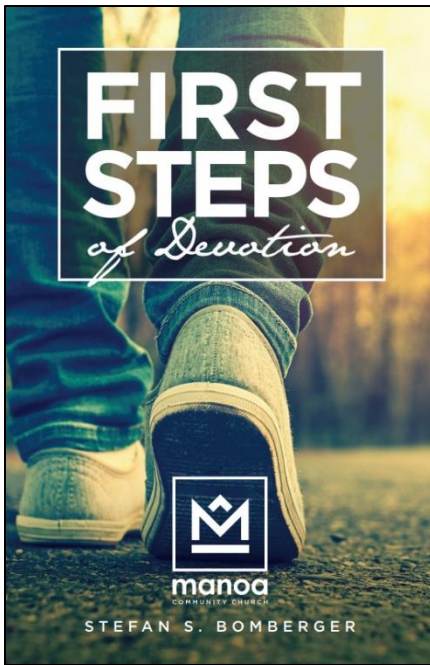
*“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
<sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children...” (Acts 2:38-39)*

We accept baptism from all other Christian churches, never requiring re-baptism to join Manoa. If you are a believer, and you or your children have never been baptized, we would be honored to baptize you. We practice baptism by pouring water in our Sunday morning service and immersion at our August baptisms at Ridley Creek State Park.

## 2. The Lord’s Supper

*“The night Jesus was betrayed he instituted the sacrament of his body and blood, called the Lord’s Supper, to be observed in his church until the end of the world as a perpetual remembrance of his sacrifice in death and as the seal of all the benefits of that sacrifice for true believers.” (WCF 29.1)*

At Manoa we serve the Lord’s Supper, also called \_\_\_\_\_, once a month. Jesus is spiritually present in this sacred meal of bread and wine. Like adults, children shouldn’t take communion until they first come to saving faith.



## Grow in Grace

To learn more about the Gospel, Scripture, prayer, the Church, baptism and the Lord's Supper, please complete our First Steps of Devotion Bible study. Through six lessons, you will examine key Bible passages related to these subjects and more!

*“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.” (2 Peter 3:18)*

## Building a Culture of Grace

Pastor Ray Orlund describe a “culture of grace” as, *“the shared experience of grace for the undeserving: the corporate incarnation of the biblical message in the relationships, vibe, feel, tone, values, priorities, aroma, honesty, freedom, gentleness, humility, cheerfulness – indeed, the total human reality of a church defined and sweetened by the gospel.”*

*“Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.”*

*- Amazing Grace*

### Answer Key (in order)

Need	Who	Ambition	Sacraments
Giver	Gospel	Collaboration	Enters
Receiver	Rest	Empowerment	Communion
Change			

## WEEK 2

# *The Greatest Cause*

## Our History

In April 1940 a group of pastors from the Presbytery of Philadelphia called a young evangelist, Rev. James Rohrbaugh, to reach a section of Haverford Township called "Manoa" for Christ. One year earlier they had purchased our parcel of wooded land on Eagle Road with a vision to build a new Gospel-centered church in Havertown. James had been a missionary to Ethiopia during the beginning of World War II and returned home when the violence erupted. His



new mission field became Delaware County as James went house-to-house, spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That September when Manoa opened its doors the first Sunday service was so full people actually had to be turned away!

By 1943 Manoa added our Nursery School as an outreach to the community, which continue to this day. Manoa also started a vibrant series of Christian classes and small groups on Sunday mornings, which was recognized during its early years as the fastest growing Sunday School in America.

In addition to evangelism, teaching and fellowship, Manoa has a rich history of caring for the poor. For over twenty years the congregation played a lead role in Green Street Community Mission caring for homeless in Philadelphia. Manoa continues to partner with various mercy ministries such as City Team, Connect by Night, and local recovery programs to serve those in need.

Fulfilling the Great Commission has always been at the heart of Manoa's vision. For decades Manoa has had the joy of investing millions of dollars in missions, investing twenty-five percent of our giving in spreading the Gospel and planting churches globally. From our strategic base in the Greater Philadelphia area, we continue with the same missionary zeal of our founders. Our vision: to fill Havertown, Delaware County, Philadelphia, and the ends of the earth with the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

# The Cause of Christ

## Our PURPOSE is \_\_\_\_\_ we exist.

“We exist to passionately worship God, deeply grow in his grace, and sacrificially fulfill his Great Commission together.”

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)*

## Our VISION is \_\_\_\_\_ we are going.

“To fill Havertown, Delaware County, Philadelphia, and the ends of the earth with the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*

*“We strictly charged you not to teach in this name (Jesus Christ), yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching...” (Acts 5:28)*

## Our MISSION is \_\_\_\_\_ we do.

“Multiplying missional Christians and churches throughout Greater Philadelphia and the unreached world.”

*“[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. <sup>32</sup> It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’ <sup>33</sup> He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.” (Matthew 13:31-33)*

Our STRATEGY is \_\_\_\_\_ we do it.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ a healthy church:

a loving and vibrant, and healthy congregation that abides richly in God and his Word.

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:16-17)*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ disciple-makers,

mobilizing every member to share Christ and his mercy, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and make disciples that go and do likewise.

*“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ trained laborers,

locally and globally, to revitalize and plant churches committed to repeating these three steps.

*“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’” (John 20:21)*

*“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.<sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few<sup>38</sup> therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’” (Matthew 9:35-38)*

## Why Serve in the Cause?

True \_\_\_\_\_ in God's Kingdom is measured by our service.

*"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,<sup>44</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.<sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:43-45)*

Serving reflects our grasp and appreciation of the \_\_\_\_\_.

*"...the Son of Man came... to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)*

Serving imitates Christ-like \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.<sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:5-8)*

Serving follows the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Teacher, Lord, and Master.

*"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.<sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.<sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.<sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master..." (John 13:13-16)*

Serving, in the Church, is an expression of \_\_\_\_\_ for one another.

*"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13)*

## Why Give to the Cause?

Giving is \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

*"I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God." (Philippians 4:18)*

Giving is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel.

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son..." (John 3:16)*

*"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich... (9:15) Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!" (2 Corinthians 8:9, 9:15)*

Giving is \_\_\_\_\_ in the Gospel.

*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel... in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only." (Philippians 1:3-5, 4:15)*

Giving \_\_\_\_\_ God's Blessing.

*"[God] who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." (2 Corinthians 9:10-11)*

*"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." (Malachi 3:10)*

"Nowhere does the Bible mention less than a tithe (10%) as a proper stewardship for the Christian. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church believes in the tithe and teaches it as the minimum requirement for the believer. Gifts to the Lord are those contributions made over and above the tithe." (EPC Book of Worship 7-4B)

## Giving \_\_\_\_\_ in Eternity.

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,<sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal...”*  
(Matthew 6:19-20)

## Giving \_\_\_\_\_ our hearts in Heaven’s Cause.

*“...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21)*

# How to Give to the Cause?

*“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.<sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*  
(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

**Give** \_\_\_\_\_ *“...whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”*

**Give** \_\_\_\_\_ *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart...”*

In an increasingly cashless society, many prefer digital ways to give. On your phone, you can easily text any amount to 84321. Also, once you get an emailed receipt of your gift, there are instructions how to setup recurring ACH or bank card donations online. Or, simply login to your bank’s website and setup a recurring payment, which automatically mails checks to the church treasurer, avoiding all bank fees.

**Give** \_\_\_\_\_ *“...not reluctantly or under compulsion...”*

**Give** \_\_\_\_\_ *“...for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

*“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”*

*- Jim Elliot, Missionary to Ecuador*

## Preparing a 2-Minute Testimony



APPENDIX 2 has a guide that will help you write out your story of salvation. Spend the next two weeks crafting your story, with the goal of sharing it at the end of class.

### Answer Key (in order)

Why	Send	Worship	Anchors
Where	Greatness	Picture	Generously
What	Gospel	Partnership	Decisively
How	Humility	Invites	Willingly
Grow	Example	Invests	Cheerfully
Equip	Love		

## WEEK 3

*Unity, Liberty  
and Charity*

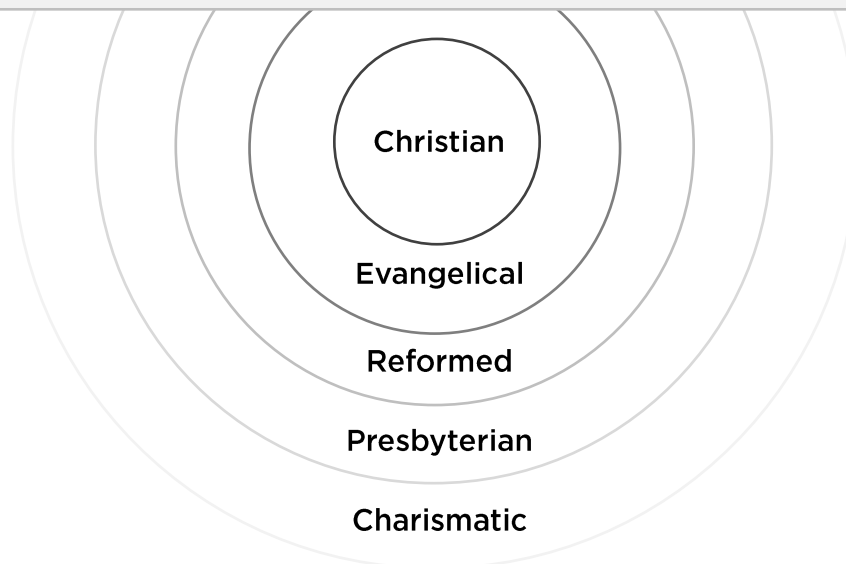
## Our Beliefs

When it comes to beliefs, the \_\_\_\_\_ of our denomination is:

*In essentials unity,  
in non-essentials liberty,  
in all things charity.*

### CONCENTRIC CIRCLES

In this lesson we will tour five sets of beliefs that define Manoa Community Church. Using the concentric circles below, we will start with the center essentials, and move out towards more non-essential issues that shape our church. Regardless of the position, we aim to hold all our beliefs in a gracious spirit of charity and love.





## Christian (1 of 5)

The \_\_\_\_\_ Creed is a summary of what all Christians affirm.

*“I believe in God, the FATHER almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only SON, our Lord, who was conceived by the HOLY SPIRIT, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into Heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.”*

Additionally, we affirm the ancient Christian creeds, including the **NICENE CREED** (325 AD) and the **CREED OF CHALCEDON** (451 AD). The former defends Trinitarian theology in general and the Deity of Christ in particular. The latter defends the two natures of Christ as fully God and fully man. In our moral convictions, we stand with the Church throughout the ages on the **SANCTITY OF LIFE, MARRIAGE, AND HUMAN SEXUALITY** (see Appendix 3). We share all these unchanging beliefs and convictions with the global and historic Church, including Roman Catholic (Western) and Orthodox (Eastern) Christians.

## Evangelical (2 of 5)

In today's highly politicized environment, the name "evangelical" has become a four-letter word for many. But, contrary to what you hear on the news, this name is not about political affiliation or how one votes. There are evangelical Christians all over the world, many who do not live in democratic societies at all! So what is an evangelical exactly? The title comes from the Greek word "euangelion" meaning the "Good News" or the "Gospel." Evangelicals are Gospel-centered Christians by conviction.

### Evangelical Christianity is \_\_\_\_\_.

It includes Christians from many nations, churches, denominations – including Reformed, Presbyterian, Holiness, Anabaptist, Pentecostal, Charismatic – and many other traditions. Though theologically diverse, historian David Bebbington notes these four characteristics:

**CONVERSIONISM** is our belief that lives need to be transformed through a born-again experience and a life-long process of following Jesus.

**ACTIVISM** is our imperative to promote, proclaim and demonstrate the centrality of the gospel through missionary and social reform efforts.

**BIBLICISM** is our obedience to the Holy Bible as the revealed Word of God and our highest authority.

**CRUCICENTRISM** is our conviction that the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross is the only means of human salvation.

### \_\_\_\_\_ of our Faith

"*Essentials of our Faith*" is an irenic statement of historic evangelicalism that we, and every congregation in our denomination, affirm without exception or reservation.

*"All Scripture is self-attesting and being Truth, requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life. The infallible Word of God, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is a complete and unified witness to God's redemptive acts culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority on all matters on which it speaks. On this sure foundation we affirm these additional essentials of our faith."*

1. We believe in **ONE GOD**, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in **THREE PERSONS**: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To Him be all honor, glory, and praise forever!
2. **JESUS CHRIST**, the living Word, became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. He who is true God became true man united in one Person forever. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Mediator.
3. **THE HOLY SPIRIT** has come to glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to our hearts. He convicts us of sin and draws us to the Savior, indwelling our hearts. He gives new life to us, empowers and imparts gifts to us for service. He instructs and guides us into all truth, and seals us for the day of redemption.
4. Being estranged from God and condemned by our sinfulness, **OUR SALVATION** is wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight. Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life.
5. **THE TRUE CHURCH** is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit are united together in the body of Christ. The Church finds her visible, yet imperfect, expression in local congregations where the Word of God is preached in its purity and the sacraments are administered in their integrity, where scriptural discipline is practiced, and where loving fellowship is maintained. For her perfecting she awaits the return of her Lord.
6. **JESUS CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN** to the earth personally, visibly, and bodily—to judge the living and the dead, and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” (Revelation 22:20)
7. The Lord Jesus Christ commands all believers to proclaim the gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of all nations. Obedience to **THE GREAT COMMISSION** requires total commitment to “Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.” He calls us to a life of self-denying love and service. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

## Reformed (3 of 5)

To be “reformed” is to be vigorously God-centered and grace-centered, emphasizing the sovereignty of God in all things, especially our salvation. It is sometimes referred to as **CALVINISM** after John Calvin, though it is much broader than one theologian. In the 16th century, across various continents, clergymen like Martin Luther (Germany), Huldreich Zwingli (Switzerland), John Calvin (France), and John Knox (Scotland), began to reform many of the unbiblical beliefs and practices within the western Church. To re-center God’s people on the saving work of Christ, **FIVE SOLAS** emerged.

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Alone (Sola Fide)

Justification is by faith alone; not our works. In justification all our sins – past, present and future – are pardoned, and Christ’s righteousness is counted (i.e. credited, imputed) to us.

*“And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness...”(Romans 4:5)*

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Alone (Sola Scriptura)

Scripture sufficiently teaches all that is necessary for salvation. Scripture alone binds our consciences.

*“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable... <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Alone (Solus Christus)

Salvation is accomplished by the finished work of Christ alone. He is our only mediator.

*“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” (John 14:6)*

### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ Alone (Sola Gratia)

Salvation is by grace alone; not by our works. Even the repentance and faith God requires are granted as gifts of his grace (see Acts 13:48, 2 Timothy 2:25).

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

## 5. \_\_\_\_\_ Alone (Soli Deo Gloria)

Salvation is of God, by God, and for God. We are called to live our lives before the face of God, under his authority, and for his glory alone.

*“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”  
(1 Corinthians 10:31)*

*“Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory...” (Psalm 115:1)*

## The Westminster Standards

The Westminster Standards are a robust overview of our reformed beliefs. Three reformed documents were drawn up in the 17<sup>th</sup> century at the request of England’s Parliament by a council of 132 theologians at Westminster Abbey: The **WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH** and **SHORTER** and **LONGER CATECHISMS**. We hold to an updated version of these confessional documents. In particular, the Westminster Confession of Faith does an excellent job of summarizing the Bible’s teaching on the following 35 topics:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Holy Scripture                                   | 13. Sanctification                              | 26. The Fellowship of the Saints                                      |
| 2. God and the Holy Trinity                         | 14. Saving Faith                                | 27. The Sacraments  |
| 3. God’s Eternal Decrees                            | 15. Repentance Leading to Life                  | 28. Baptism   |
| 4. Creation   | 16. Good Works                                  | 29. The Lord’s Supper   |
| 5. Providence                                       | 17. The Perseverance of the Saints              | 30. Condemnation by the Church  |
| 6. The Fall of Man, Sin, and the Punishment for Sin | 18. The Assurance of Grace and Salvation        | 31. Synods and Councils   |
| 7. God’s Covenant with Man                          | 19. The Law of God                              | 32. The Condition of Man after Death and the Resurrection of the Dead |
| 8. Christ the Mediator                              | 20. Christian Freedom and Freedom of Conscience | 33. The Last Judgment   |
| 9. Free Will  | 21. Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day       | 34. The Holy Spirit (1903)  |
| 10. Effectual Calling                               | 22. Lawful Oaths and Vows                       | 35. The Gospel of the Love of God and Missions (1903)                 |
| 11. Justification                                   | 23. Civil Authorities                           |   |
| 12. Adoption  | 24. Marriage and Divorce                        |   |
|   | 25. The Church                                  |   |

You can download a PDF of the Westminster Standards in their entirety on our website at [www.manoa.org/beliefs](http://www.manoa.org/beliefs).

## **Presbyterian (4 of 5)**

Manoa is a part of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). As the name implies, our church is both evangelical and Presbyterian.

**“Presbyterian” refers to how our church is \_\_\_\_\_ by elders.**

*“Let the elders (presbyters) who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.” (1 Timothy 5:17)*

**RULING ELDERS** are spiritually mature members of our congregation who provide oversight and assist the Pastor in shepherding the church. They meet together as a Session once-a-month, in the evening, to seek the mind of Christ for the vision, direction and care of our church family. While ordination is for life, Ruling Elders typically serve on Session one or two 3-year terms and then take a break. They also can be commissioned to vote on regional and national decisions in the EPC. Characteristics of qualified elders are found in Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3.

**For \_\_\_\_\_, we have regional and national gatherings.**

- Elders meet regionally as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Elders meet nationally as the \_\_\_\_\_.

*“But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.’<sup>2</sup> And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.” (Acts 15:1-2)*

**As Presbyterians, we use and modify our Book of \_\_\_\_\_,**  
unifying our congregations in Government, Discipline, and Worship.

*“But all things should be done decently and in order.” (1 Corinthians 14:40)*

## Charismatic (5 of 5)

**Charismatic refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gifts, filling, and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, inaugurated after Pentecost.**

*“...in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams...” (Acts 2:17)*

“The EPC affirms the gifts of God’s Spirit are biblically valid for today... ‘Is the EPC charismatic?’ ...the answer is yes.” (The Holy Spirit, EPC Position Paper)

**The gifts are Spirit-empowered \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit... <sup>6</sup> it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:4, 6-7)*

“The Holy Spirit calls and anoints ministers for their holy office, qualifies all other officers in the church for their special work, and imparts various gifts and graces to its members.” (WCF 34.4)

**The Holy Spirit’s activity and gifts should be earnestly \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“...earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.” (1 Cor. 14:1)*

*“Do not quench the Spirit.” (1 Thessalonians 5:19)*

*“...be filled with the Spirit...” (Ephesian 5:18)*

“The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, proceeding from the Father and the Son, of the same substance and equal in power and glory, is, together with the Father and the Son, to be believed in, loved, obeyed, and worshiped throughout all ages.” (WCF 34.1)

“Sir, I understand that you (John Wesley) are called an Arminian; and I have been sometimes called a Calvinist; and therefore I suppose we are to draw daggers. But before I consent to begin the combat, with your permission I will ask you a few questions.... Pray, Sir, do you feel yourself a depraved creature, so depraved that you would never have thought of turning to God, if God had not first put it into your heart?” “Yes,” says the veteran, “I do indeed.” “And do you utterly despair of recommending yourself to God by anything you can do; and look for salvation solely through the blood and righteousness of Christ?” “Yes, solely through Christ.” “But, Sir, supposing you were at first saved by Christ, are you not somehow or other to save yourself afterwards by your own works?” “No, I must be saved by Christ from first to last.” “Allowing, then, that you were first turned by the grace of God, are you not in some way or other to keep yourself by your own power?” “No.” “What, then, are you to be upheld every hour and every moment by God, as much as an infant in its mother’s arms?” “Yes, altogether.” “And is all your hope in the grace and mercy of God to preserve you unto his heavenly kingdom?” “Yes, I have no hope but in him.” “Then, Sir, with your leave I will put up my dagger again; for this is all my Calvinism; this is my election, my justification by faith, my final perseverance: it is in substance all that I hold, and as I hold it; and therefore, if you please, instead of searching out terms and phrases to be a ground of contention between us, we will cordially unite in those things wherein we agree.”

- Charles Simeon (1784)

*In essentials unity,  
in non-essentials liberty,  
in all things charity.*

### Answer Key (in order)

Motto	Scripture	Led	Order
Apostles	Christ	Cooperation	Continuity
Broad	Grace	Presbytery	Abilities
Essentials	Glory to God	General Assembly	Desired
Faith			

## WEEK 4

*Members of One Another*

## Four Truths about Membership

*“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. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)*

**As a Spirit-Born Member of the Body of Christ at** Corinth *Manoa...*

### 1. You are Uniquely \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

*“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says ‘Jesus is accursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good <sup>8</sup> For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”*

### 2. Your Differences \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 12:12-16)

*“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. <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one **member** but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body.”*

### 3. You are Indispensably \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 12:17-24a)

*“If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the **members** in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single **member**, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup> which our more presentable parts do not require.”*

### 4. You Personally \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 12:24a-27)

*“But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no division in the body, but that the **members** may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one **member** suffers, all suffer together; if one **member** is honored, all rejoice together. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually **members** of it.”*

## Membership Matters

When you join Manoa, this truly becomes your church. For example, our members have the right and responsibility to call all our future leaders. This means members...

1. Choose your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Call your \_\_\_\_\_ and Associate \_\_\_\_\_(s).
3. Approve your Nominating & Search Committee \_\_\_\_\_ and their choice(s).

## Life Together

*“Let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.” (Ephesians 4:25)*

### Small Groups have one \_\_\_\_\_ . To bring us together.

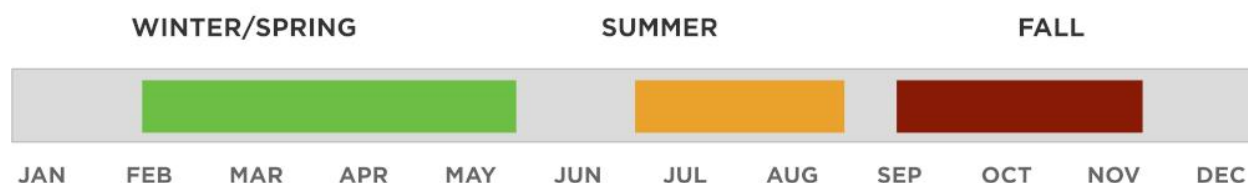
We believe God created us to live in community with others and only then can we experience the full life He intends for us. Meaningful relationships can be hard to find, and that’s why small groups exist – to make life-changing relationships relevant and accessible to you.

### What is a Small Group?

A small group is made up of members who share similar interests, are in the same stage of life, or want to learn from each other. People gather for all sorts of reasons whether it is playing a sport, spending time at the park, having lunch during the work day, or studying the Bible together. The point is not what you meet about, it’s that you are regularly meeting with people and living in community as God designed you to do.

### When & Where Do Groups Meet?

Groups meet throughout the year in three semesters. New groups start each semester making it easy for you to get involved at any time.



The Winter/Spring Semester is a standard 15 weeks (Feb-Memorial Day), while the Summer Semester (Jul-Aug) and Fall Semester (Labor Day to Thanksgiving) are shorter 8 and 12-week semesters respectively.

Groups meet in a variety of places like homes, parks, restaurants, coffee shops and office buildings throughout Delaware County. We also have many on-campus groups that meet on Sunday’s before or after our worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Extended childcare is provided for post-service groups in the Fall and Winter/Spring semesters.

## Welcome Home

Congratulations - you have completed the Vision Tour at Manoa! To join Manoa Community Church, simply complete the Membership Application (see **APPENDIX 4**) and meet with two of our elders to share your testimony. You can do that today, at the luncheon, or any other time in the future. The end of the Membership Application contains these five questions from the EPC Book of Order:

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God and without hope for your salvation except in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon Him alone for your salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now promise and resolve, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to serve Christ in His Church by supporting and participating in this Congregation, in its service of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and to the spiritual oversight of the Church Session and do you promise to further the unity, purity and peace of the Church?

If you are a Christian who has faith to say “yes” to these five questions, we would be honored to receive you as a member, even today!

*“To all who are weary and need rest,  
 To all who mourn and long for comfort,  
 To all who feel worthless and wonder if God cares,  
 To all who fail and desire strength,  
 To all who sin and need a Savior,  
 This church opens wide her doors with a welcome from Jesus Christ,  
 The Ally of his enemies, the Defender of the guilty,  
 The Justifier of the inexcusable, the Friend of sinners. Welcome.”*

- Call to Worship

**Answer Key (in order)**

Gifted

Matter

Deacons

Members

Belong

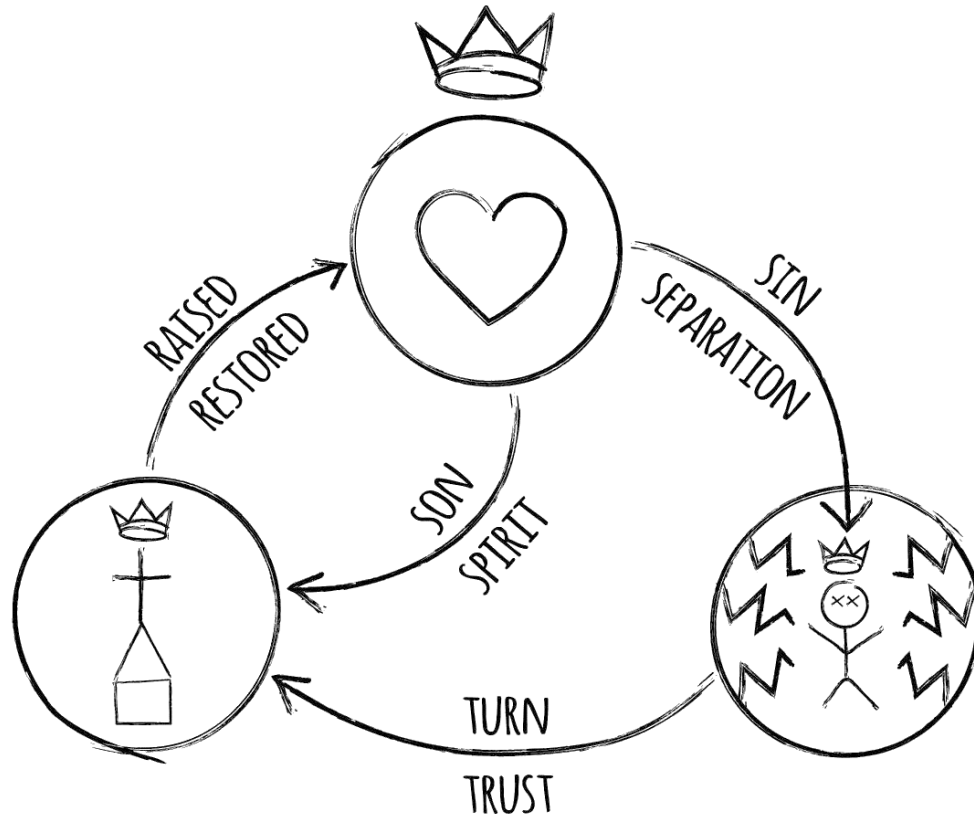
Elders

Pastor

Purpose

Needed

# Appendix 1: Sharing 3 Crowns



## Introduction

“Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going?” These are three important questions everyone thinks about, eventually. The answers can be found in a story called, ‘The 3 Crowns.’ It is the main story of the Bible, which reveals the true and perfect record of mankind’s origin, purpose and destiny.

## Crown 1: God

The story of 3 Crowns begins with God, because the first four words in the Bible are, ‘**In the beginning God**’. The first **CROWN** represents God; He is king over all creation! Before anything existed, God was there. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and present everywhere. God spoke and, out of nothing, he **CREATED** the heavens and the earth. He created everything everywhere! Because of this He is in authority of all things. God is **LOVE**...and He **MADE MANKIND** in his image so that we could love, worship, and glorify Him forever.

## Crown 2: Man

The problem is that we have chosen to turn and go our own way. In our pride we rejected God's plan for our lives, we rebelled against the authority of **HIS CROWN**, and we **CROWNED OURSELVES**. This is the second crown. We have made ourselves king. The Bible calls this **SIN**. Sin **SEPARATES** us from God. The ultimate penalty for our sin is **DEATH**, both physical and spiritual in Hell. Our sin has brought a curse on creation and **BROKENNESS** into the world. Sadness, sickness, suffering, and pain now touch all our lives.

## Crown 3: Christ

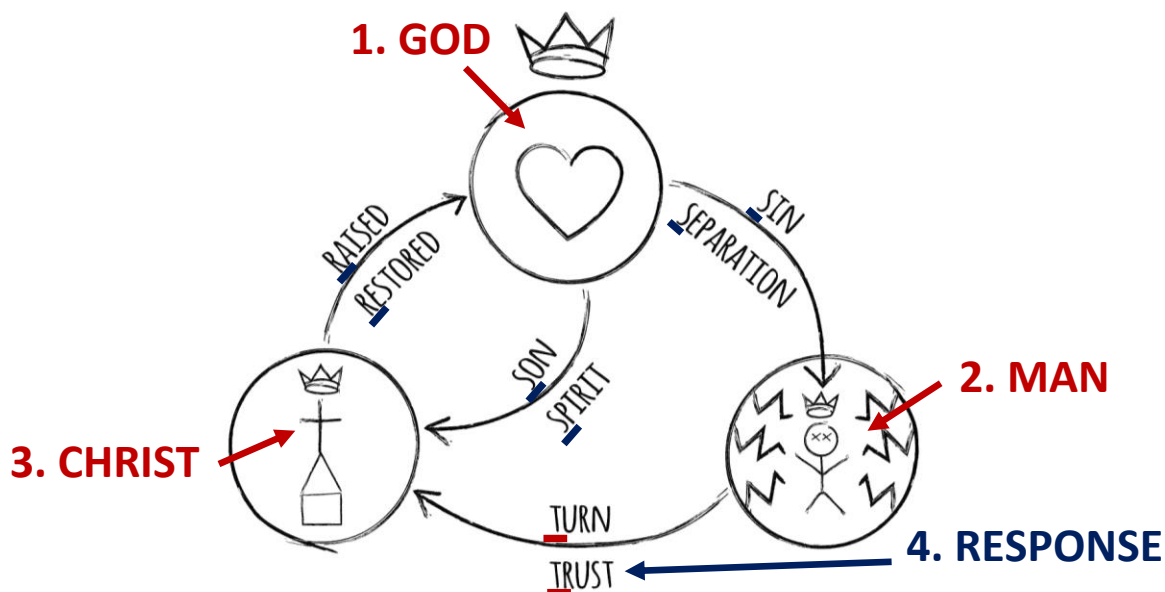
The good news is that God so loved the world that he sent his **SON**, Jesus, into the **WORLD**. He came from heaven to save our broken world and to shine his light into our darkened hearts. Jesus taught us that by following Him as King we could have a relationship with God and one day, live in his kingdom forever. He challenged us to love God and others first. He used his great power to heal our sadness, sickness, suffering, and pain. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life and then he died on a **CROSS**, offering His life as payment for the debt of our rebellion against God. His sacrifice not only demonstrates His absolute love for us but it also pays the price of **SIN** and removes the curse of **SEPARATION** from God for all who believe.

Miraculously, three days after Jesus died and was buried in a tomb, He was **RAISED** to life again; defeating sin, death, and the powers of darkness! Then He ascended back to heaven and was **RESTORED** to his former glory at the right hand of God the Father. Jesus now **RULES** and reigns over God's kingdom as Lord of all. This is the third crown. Christ is King. God has sent His **SPIRIT** to open hearts and minds to this Good News. His Spirit also empowers and encourages those who follow Jesus as King to fulfill His mission to love the world and spread this story through His **CHURCH**.

## Response

So which circle reflects your spiritual condition today? Are you wearing the crown? Or is Christ the King and Savior of your life. To **MOVE** from the right circle to the left, you must first **TURN** from depending upon yourself to be good enough to earn God's favor or as the way to find purpose and value in your life. Then you **TRUST** in Jesus Christ, what He accomplished on the cross and through His resurrection, as the only way you can have a restored relationship with God. You remove the crown from your head and come to Jesus for forgiveness. Which circle would you like to be in now?

The goal of 3 Crowns is NOT to show the video. The goal of 3 Crowns is to equip you to sketch out the presentation on a scrap of paper, like a napkin, and leave it with a friend. As you sketch it, you want to be able to verbalize, while you are drawing, what each element in the drawing means. Seem overwhelming? It's easier than you think. Here are four quick tips to help you memorize and share Crowns.



### 1. GOD-MAN-CHRIST-RESPONSE

First, remember that the 3 Crowns stand for 3 different actors in the drama of redemption: **GOD** (top), **MAN** (right), and **CHRIST** (left). Say that out loud and point at each circle: “God, Man, Christ” (repeat that a few times). Then, notice the presentation ends with a **RESPONSE** (bottom-arrow). This is a very common way to share the Gospel. Remember: God, Man, Christ, Response. Got it?

### 2. EIGHT-WORDS, SAME-LETTERS

Second, realize that you only need to memorize 8 words total. That’s it! Notice each of the words, at each arrow, start with the same letter (e.g. Sin/Separation, Turn/Trust, etc.). So if you can remember one of the words (e.g. “Raised”), the other word will likely be triggered by the first letter (e.g. “Restored”).

### 3. THREE-CROWNS, THREE-CONCEPTS

Third, remember that each crown represents a different concept: God as **King**, Man as **Rebel**, and Christ as **Lord**. Take a mental picture of each crown-circle, noticing the imagery that details these truths.

### 4. PRACTICE, USING YOUR OWN WORDS

Finally, practice sketching the pictures and explaining the truth in your own words. Don’t try to memorize the video word-for-word. Rather, seek to understand the concepts and explain them in your own way. When you understand the theology behind the presentation, the pictures and words simply function as memory-triggers to make sure you share a robust, yet simple, Gospel-presentation.

# Appendix 2: Testimony Guide

There are three components to a personal testimony of salvation. What your life was like before you were saved (**BC**). How you came to trust in Christ for salvation (**†**). Finally, what difference Jesus has made in your life (**AD**). In Acts 26, we get an example of a personal testimony from the Apostle Paul.

## SAMPLE 1: THE TESTIMONY OF PAUL (READ ACTS 26)

**BC** How does Paul describe his life before he was saved?

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**†** How does Paul describe his encounter with Christ?

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**AD** How does Paul describe the difference Jesus has made in his life?

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## SAMPLE 2: THE TESTIMONY OF PASTOR STEFAN

**BC** I wasn't always this spiritual. Throughout my teen years I lived like everyone else. My values, ideas, passions, and language were all shaped by the world. Though I grew up attending church, Christianity was mainly a one-day thing for me. Sunday was about worship. Monday through Saturday were about me. I'm an identical twin, and in high school my brother and I started a rock band. The music we wrote was dark and twisted. Selfish ambition fueled my life. I would walk the hallways, selling our CD's, shirts, and pushing our flyers. Anything to promote me.

† Fast-forward to eleventh grade. Our band booked a gig at a church. Honestly, the main reason I wanted to play the show was to get our band's name promoted on the radio. Since none of our music was about God, we resorted to covering songs from other Christian bands. Though we were told not to distribute our CD, we secretly smuggled a bunch in anyway and sold them behind the pastor's back. That night one of the girls in the youth group, a born-again Christian, took a special interest in my twin brother.

When she took our CD home and listened to it, she was appalled by what she heard. She challenged, "This doesn't add up. You guys claim to be Christians, but your music has an evil message. You need to give this up for Jesus." My brother objected, "Why would God want us to give this up? Why would God want us to lay this down?" She didn't back down. "Jesus gave up everything for you on the cross. Jesus laid down his life for you. The least you can do is give this up and follow him." I grew up hearing about the death of Jesus, but for the first time it clicked. I finally saw my hypocrisy and sin against God. I also saw the love and mercy of Christ. For the first time, it was real. It wasn't religion anymore, it was reality.

**AD** Jesus says, "If anyone would come after me, he must pick up his cross and follow me." I knew what I had to do. I gave up the band and gave my life to Christ. It may sound like a silly thing, but for me, this was my idol. It had to be dethroned from my heart, so Jesus could have his proper place at the center of my life. Once I did this, I experienced his forgiveness and grace. I experienced joy and freedom. I was truly excited to live for Christ. I didn't want to promote me anymore - I wanted to promote Jesus. The flyers I pushed in the school hallways were now invitations to church. Instead of stuffing my backpack with my band's merch, I stuffed it with my Bible, reading it every chance I got. Jesus moved from a Sunday-thing, to my 24-7 reality. Does that make sense?

## SHARING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

**BC** What was your life like before you were saved? (Acts 26:1-11)

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**†** How did you get saved? Describe the circumstances of your conversion. (Acts 26:12-18)

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**AD** How has your life changed since your conversion? (Acts 26:19-23)

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## Appendix 3: EPC Position Papers

Manoa Community Church is a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). The EPC denomination exists to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus as Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical and Missional congregations. To the glory of God, our EPC family aspires to embody and proclaim Jesus' love as a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication and effective biblical leadership.

The EPC consists of more than 600 churches with approximately 145,000 members. We have a world missions program with a priority on sending missionaries to unreached people groups. We're eager to plant churches across the United States and especially in urban communities and college towns. Our desire is that every one of our congregations will be an outpost of the Kingdom, with every member viewing himself or herself as a missionary on a mission.

The EPC Constitution consists of the "Essentials of Our Faith," the Westminster Confession of Faith (including the Larger and Shorter Catechisms), and the Book of Order (comprised of The Book of Government, The Book of Discipline, and The Book of Worship). All these documents are subordinate to Scripture, which is "the supreme and final authority on all matters on which it speaks."

The EPC is about the gospel, not politics, and therefore does not believe in taking political positions. However, we do believe the Church has an obligation to speak clearly on important ethical and theological issues from a biblical worldview. To do this, the EPC develops Position Papers.

A Position Paper is approved through several steps. It is first introduced in a preliminary form and approved by the General Assembly. Next, it is circulated among the presbyteries for comment for a minimum of one year. Finally, it requires approval by a second General Assembly. Position Papers do not represent the "Essentials of Our Faith," but they are still important matters on which the Church must speak with clarity and biblical compassion. EPC Position Papers are available in PDF download on our website at [www.manoa.org/epc](http://www.manoa.org/epc). Below is one of our Position Papers on Human Sexuality.

## Human Sexuality

In a time when views of human sexuality and marriage are rapidly changing, we believe it is necessary and helpful to state clearly and compassionately to the church and the world our beliefs about God's design for human sexuality. We wish to do so with love toward all as we attempt to imitate God's love for us.<sup>1</sup> We long for the Church as well as society to conform to biblical standards of sexuality; but our ultimate desire is that, through the gospel, all may come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of their lives and receive His gift of eternal life. We also know that, having come to believe in Him, we enjoy His blessing by walking with Him according to His Word. We believe the Bible to be God's Word and that to understand and obey His will leads to the greatest human flourishing.<sup>2</sup> What follows is what we believe the Scriptures teach and the Christian Church has held to be true since the time of the apostles, and what therefore holds the greatest prospects for human happiness and well-being, even as we strive and long for a time when God will make all things new.<sup>3</sup>

## The Divine Origin and Purpose of Human Sexuality

Human sexuality is a gift from God. Being made in the likeness of God<sup>4</sup> as male and female, we reflect the loving complementarity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Scriptures present a grand vision of husband and wife mirroring the intimate fellowship of the Trinity through union with a covenant partner who is both similar (human) and different (opposite gender), leading to fruitful procreation of humanity. In this profound mystery, we discover God's purposes for our sexuality and His will for how we are to express our sexuality.<sup>5</sup>

At the fall of humankind, recorded in Genesis 3, we began to distort and misuse the gifts of God to our own demise, but through His gracious redemptive work in Jesus Christ, God is leading us from brokenness and rebellion to a full and beautiful restoration of our relationship with Him and of our human dignity and purpose.<sup>6</sup>

Because God made us and redeems us, He alone has sovereign authority to define us and to regulate our sexual practice. We, therefore, must resist every temptation and renounce every attempt to subvert God's purposes and His commandments concerning our sexuality. At the same time, we, as evangelical Presbyterians, readily and sorrowfully confess our manifold violations of His Word: as a people, we have

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<sup>1</sup> 1 John 4:10; John 15:12; 1 John 3:10; Ephesians 5:1-2

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 1; Matthew 4:4

<sup>3</sup> Revelation 21:5

<sup>4</sup> Genesis 1:27

<sup>5</sup> Genesis 2:18-25; Song of Songs, Matthew 5:27-30; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

<sup>6</sup> John 10:10; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-8

engaged in premarital sex, adultery, ungodly divorce, and sexual lusts of every sort, not only before coming to faith in Christ, but also afterward. As churches, we have at times sanctioned unbiblical marriages, violating the expressed will of God revealed in the Scriptures; and we sometimes have self-righteously condemned others for their sexual sins while committing our own. We stand in need of God's forgiveness and of His power to live holy lives. Our churches desperately need revival and a humble return to godly sexual practice. And so, with humble and repentant hearts, we return to the Lord, and we invite those both inside and outside the Church to join us in seeking God's blessing in our sexual lives.<sup>7</sup>

We believe that the fundamental problems with most contemporary views of sexuality are, first, that the focus is limited to individual pleasure, relational intimacy, and self-fulfillment; and, second, that biblical marriage is rejected as the exclusive context for sexual intimacy. While the Scriptures teach that human sexuality is indeed a gift for our enjoyment, its primary purpose is to glorify God.<sup>8</sup> Whether young or old, male or female, single or married, whether attracted to the same, the opposite, or both sexes, all humans are obligated to glorify our Creator in our sexuality through faithful conformity to God's design, revealed in the Scriptures.

We desire to adhere fully to biblical sexuality. Out of love we share with others the message of God's judgment upon all forms of sexual immorality.<sup>9</sup> We also believe that there is no place for any form of cruelty, hate or denigration of those who either disagree with these positions or hold to other positions. We unequivocally condemn all injustices, sinful intimidation, and physical violence perpetrated against anyone because of sexual attraction or practice.

## The Single Life

The New Testament commends the single life.<sup>10</sup> As followers of Jesus, we are bound in spiritual union with Him as Bridegroom, in Whom we are to be complete and content.<sup>11</sup> By expressing our maleness or femaleness, even apart from romantic relationships, we enrich human community and contribute to the well-being of society. Single men and women are also given the opportunity to serve the Lord with undivided devotion. They are free, in a particular way, to dedicate their entire lives to the Lord and find their greatest fulfillment in pleasing Him. This was true for our Lord Jesus and for the Apostle Paul, who exemplified and elevated the godly single life. God intends both married and single men and women to live in vibrant community

<sup>7</sup> Psalm 85:4-7; Matthew 7:4-5; Acts 3:19-20

<sup>8</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:20; 10:31; Philippians 1:20

<sup>9</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 4:17; Revelation 21:8; 22:15

<sup>10</sup> 1 Corinthians 7:8, 32-35

<sup>11</sup> John 15:5; Ephesians 5:25, 32; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

together, rather than isolation and loneliness. In this sacred community of deep and committed friendships, we encourage single persons to live out loving, holy, celibate lives. We, in the EPC, encourage all of our churches to nurture holy and missional community among and with single members.

## The Married Life

When God created us male and female, He also instituted the ordinance of marriage in which one man and one woman are bound together for life in a solemn covenant, which beautifully illustrates God's covenantal relationship with His chosen people.<sup>12</sup> God directs His people who marry to wed only fellow believers—those who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation and have joined His Church.<sup>13</sup> It is within the covenant of marriage alone that God—for His own glory, the mutual encouragement of the spouses, procreation, the strengthening of the family, and the welfare of humankind—has instructed husbands and wives to engage in regular, intimate sexual love.<sup>14</sup> In this uniquely sexual relationship, the married couple seeks to remember, celebrate, and model Christ's love for His Church and His Church's devotion to her Lord and to serve one another with godly affection.<sup>15</sup>

## A Call to Holiness

We believe God has called us to live holy lives.<sup>16</sup> The Christian believer's body is a temple of God's Spirit;<sup>17</sup> therefore rather than stealing sexual privileges from one another outside of marriage, we are called to edify one another in multiple ways that we may all become more like Christ. Those who are married must avoid every temptation that would diminish the loving faithfulness they vowed in their marriage covenant. Those who are unmarried, regardless of sexual attraction, must seek to honor God through diligently avoiding temptation, restraining ungodly sexual impulses, focusing their energies on serving Christ and neighbor, and eagerly anticipating the new heavens and the new earth, when all things will be restored and every godly human longing beautifully fulfilled.<sup>18</sup> Those who find themselves desiring to be a person of the opposite gender face painful emotions and weighty consequences. With heartfelt sympathy and a deep desire to love and encourage them in their circumstances, we believe they must find their contentment in Christ alone, accepting His wise and gracious providence, and looking to Him for strength

<sup>12</sup> Genesis 2:23-25; Isaiah 61:10-62:5; Matthew 19:3-12

<sup>13</sup> Malachi 2:10-12; 1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Corinthians 6:14

<sup>14</sup> Proverbs 5:18-21; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5

<sup>15</sup> Ephesians 5:25-33

<sup>16</sup> Hebrews 12:14; Ephesians 5:3-5

<sup>17</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

<sup>18</sup> Psalm 16:11; Revelation 19:6-9

to glorify Him and to serve his or her neighbor through the gender given at conception.<sup>19</sup>

It is encouraging to remember that our Lord Jesus suffered every human temptation without sinning<sup>20</sup> and that God always provides His people a way of escape from every sin.<sup>21</sup> Unrepentant sinful behavior is incompatible with the confession of Jesus as Lord required of all members of the EPC. Additionally, it is required of ordained officers in the EPC that they believe, practice, and teach the moral standards contained in the Scriptures and Constitution of the EPC and reflected in this position paper.

## Recovering from Sexual Brokenness

Because of universal human corruption emanating from the fall of Adam and Eve, we are all broken sexually in one or more ways and to varying degrees.<sup>22</sup> We have all sinned. While we call upon fellow sinners everywhere to repent of their sins,<sup>23</sup> as followers of Christ we are also committed not to condemn others for their brokenness—their sexual attractions, sexual dysfunctions, or sexual addictions.<sup>24</sup> Since we all are disoriented by sin in one form or another, it is right and good for us to live in continual personal and corporate repentance, humbly seeking God’s help for ourselves and for our neighbor.<sup>25</sup> Through repentance and faith in the crucified and resurrected Jesus, we are forgiven all our sexual sins, washed from their impurity, and given the power of the Holy Spirit to live lives worthy of the gospel, setting an example for the watching world and inviting them to join us in walking with Jesus.<sup>26</sup>

Those in and out of the Church struggling with various forms of sexual disorientation or gender dysphoria should experience from God’s people a deep desire to identify with them in their struggles, to walk lovingly with them, and to invite them to join us in following the Lord. Together as a people, we must all seek healing for our own lives and for each other’s lives, discovering what it means to be godly men and women in the circumstances decreed by His providence. Glorifying God in our sexual lives will at times entail suffering or persecution of various sorts, but, by God’s empowering grace, we aspire to obey Him with joy.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> We understand that in rare cases, physiological gender ambiguity at birth calls for special care and wisdom.

<sup>20</sup> Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:15-16

<sup>21</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:13

<sup>22</sup> Romans 3:22b-23

<sup>23</sup> Acts 17:30

<sup>24</sup> Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 2:1

<sup>25</sup> 2 Corinthians 7:10

<sup>26</sup> Romans 8:1ff.; 1 Peter 2:9-12

<sup>27</sup> Romans 5:3-5; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; James 1:2-4

## The Ministry of the Church

The Church belongs to God.<sup>28</sup> He called us out of the dominion of darkness with its sin and degradation into the glorious light of His love.<sup>29</sup> He has called us to reflect His glory by displaying His character and proclaiming His Word to ourselves and the world. As repentant and forgiven sinners, we in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church resolve to teach the biblical truths of godly sexuality to our members and to all who will listen, with compassion and with courage, regardless of the cost to ourselves. To do otherwise would be a failure of love. We will strive by God's grace to discipline our personal lives and our local churches in accordance with God's Word. God helping us, we shall continue, within our churches and in the public arena, to teach against and to refuse to condone or participate in any sinful form of sexual practice<sup>30</sup>—including sexual abuse,<sup>31</sup> pornography,<sup>32</sup> sexual lust,<sup>33</sup> extra-marital sex,<sup>34</sup> adultery,<sup>35</sup> polygamy,<sup>36</sup> unbiblical divorce and remarriage,<sup>37</sup> homosexual conduct,<sup>38</sup> same-sex union and marriage,<sup>39</sup> and gender reassignment.<sup>40</sup> At the same time, we resolve to continue to love those who have committed these sins and/or suffered from them. And we shall wait with eager longing for the day of our Savior's return, when all shall be made right with us and the world. In the name of Jesus, our compassionate Savior, we tenderly welcome all—regardless of their beliefs or lifestyles—to attend our churches. Further, we invite into the membership of our churches all those who—bruised and broken by the fall—seek now, through sincere faith and genuine repentance, to live in obedience to the Scriptures and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

To God's Name be glory forever.

*Adopted by the 37th General Assembly  
June 2017*

<sup>28</sup> 1 Peter 1:18-19; Ephesians 5:25; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

<sup>29</sup> Colossians 1:13; John 12:46; 1 Peter 2:9-10

<sup>30</sup> Romans 13:13, 14; Ephesians 5:3

<sup>31</sup> Deuteronomy 22:25-27; Ephesians 5:28-31

<sup>32</sup> Matthew 5:27-30; Romans 8:5-13; Ephesians 2:3

<sup>33</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:4-5; Colossians 3:5

<sup>34</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:6

<sup>35</sup> Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:20; Deuteronomy 22:22; Proverbs 6:32; Matthew 5:31-32; 19:9

<sup>36</sup> Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4, 5; 1 Timothy 3:2

<sup>37</sup> Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Corinthians 6:14. For more, see the EPC "Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage."

<sup>38</sup> Genesis 19:1-29; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:10; Jude 7

<sup>39</sup> Matthew 5:13-16; Romans 1:32; 12:3-4; 1 Peter 2:14

<sup>40</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Galatians 5:19-23; Philippians 4:11-13



### APPENDIX 4: MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. Rev. Dr. (Circle one) Sex:  Male  Female

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Maiden Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Name for Nametag: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status:  Married  Single  Widowed  Divorced

Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Is spouse also joining?  Yes  No Wedding Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names	Birth Date	Age	Grade	Baptism Date (if applicable)
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Children's Allergies (these will print on their children's ministry name-badge)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**I WISH TO JOIN BY:**

If joining by transfer, please give the name  
and complete address of former church:

Profession of Faith

Reaffirmation of Faith

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Transfer of Membership

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**BAPTISM**

Have you been baptized by a Christian Church (e.g. Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, etc.) in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?  Yes  No

If NO, are you now ready to receive the Sacrament of Baptism?  Yes  No  DNA

If YES, please provide the following information for your Baptismal Certificate below:

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**HISTORY & INVOLVEMENT**

- List roles (volunteer or staff) that you have played in the past through a church:

Church/Location	Position(s) of Service	Years involved

2. Have you been ordained?  Deacon  Elder (Ruling)  Teaching Elder (Minister)

If so, where and when? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you serve or volunteer at Manoa already?  Yes  No If yes, please describe:

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Would you like someone to contact you to get involved in a specific ministry at Manoa?  Yes  No

What ministry are you interested in? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you presently involved in a class or small group at Manoa?  Yes  No

If so, please indicate here: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Would you like more information about joining a class or small group?  Yes  No

7. Do you have any questions or reservation about joining Manoa?  Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP AFFIRMATIONS

These questions will be asked of you publicly at membership induction. Please read and sign at below acknowledging your agreement.

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God and without hope for your salvation except in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon Him alone for your salvation as He is offered in The Gospel?
3. Do you now promise and resolve, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to serve Christ in His Church by supporting and participating in this Congregation, in its service of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and to the spiritual oversight of the Church Session and do you promise to further the unity, purity and peace of the Church?

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

