**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

**What is the Mission of The Fellowship at Bend?**

Our mission is to make disciples that glorify God, edify the body, and testify of Him.

**Core Values**

WE ARE THEOLOGICAL (2 Tim. 3:16): We are truth centered. God is truth and has revealed Himself to us through the Bible. It is only through the truth that we can know, love, and serve Him. This is why we preach the Bible every Sunday verse-by-verse, and pursue biblical discipleship. If we do not know the truth then we do not know God and we do not know how to follow Jesus.

WE ARE CHRISTOLOGICAL (Col. 1:18): We are Christ-centered. As Savior, Lord, King, and Head of the church, Jesus is supreme over all we do. Every study we teach, every Community Group we form, and every gathering that assembles must be about Jesus. He is pre-eminent, the Chief Shepherd of the church, and so the church must follow His leading and seek to glorify Him in all that we do.

WE ARE MISSIONAL (Matt. 28:19-20): We are on mission to make disciples of Jesus. He is calling us as a church to be the church in reaching people on his mission. We do not believe the church is to hide from the culture in an enclave or exclude the destitute like a country club. Instead, the church is to act as the body of Christ becoming all things to all men that we might win some for Christ. We actively reach out to our community as missionaries individually and as family in our Community Groups.

WE ARE RELATIONAL (1 Cor. 12:27): We are a family of Jesus followers united by the Gospel. We have been adopted by God making us Brothers and Sisters in Christ. As the Body of Christ, we seek to love one another, serve one another, encourage one another, and pursue God with one another. A Christian cannot thrive on their own apart from God’s people. In a reflection of the image of God, we were created for relationships and community. In the fellowship of believers, we are encouraged, exhorted, uplifted, edified, and held accountable as we together learn to walk with Christ. This is mainly accomplished through our Community Groups, which act as close-knit families, caring for one another.

WE ARE INTERNATIONAL (Mathew 28): The great commission calls us to go to all the world and preach the Gospel. We take seriously the call to minister outside of our own community and context by making disciples of other nations and planting Churches in those communities. We have strategically chosen Burkina Faso that sits in the 10/40 belt and has a listed 28 unreached people groups. We have built a bible school, we plant churches, we provide pastoral training, and we aide the people of Burkina with practical needs.

**What we believe?**

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (John 1, I John 5:7, John 14:8-9)

We believe that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried and that He rose again on the third day according to the scriptures. (I Corinthians 15:3-4)

We believe that it is by grace through faith that man is saved. (Ephesians 2:8)

We believe that regeneration is a work of the Holy Spirit, and in order to be regenerated we must confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that He rose from the dead to pay for our sins. (Romans 10:9)

We believe the Bible to be the inspired and authoritative Word of God. (II Timothy 3:16)

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (John 14:16, John 20:22, Galatians 5:25)

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. (Revelation 20)

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:4-6)

**What is the history of The Fellowship at Bend?**

The Fellowship was started on April 4, 2004 when Lead Pastor Loren Anderson was called by the Lord to move to Bend with his family to plant a church. Loren first began pastoral ministry at Applegate Christian Fellowship where he attended the ACF School of Ministry and was involved with Youth Ministry for 8 years. The Fellowship at Bend has grown from a small family to several hundred people, gathering weekly. The Fellowship planted their first Church in Redmond, Oregon, and became a part of the Acts 29 Network of Churches that plant other churches.

**What does the Fellowship believe concerning salvation?**

We affirm that God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, not on the basis of foreseen faith, but unconditionally, according to his sovereign good pleasure and will.

We believe that through the work of the Holy Spirit, God will draw the elect to faith in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, graciously and effectually overcoming their stubborn resistance to the gospel so that they will most assuredly and willingly believe.

We also believe that these, the elect of God whom he gave to the Son, will persevere in belief and godly behavior and be kept secure in their salvation by grace through faith.

We believe that God’s sovereignty in this salvation neither diminishes the responsibility of people to believe in Christ nor marginalizes the necessity and power of prayer and evangelism, but rather reinforces and establishes them as the ordained means by which God accomplishes his ordained ends. (John 1:12-13; 6:37-44; 10:25-30; Acts 13:48; 16:30-31; Romans 3-4; 8:1-17,31-39; 9:1-23; 10:8-10; Ephesians 1:4-5; 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Titus 3:3-7; 1 John 1:7,9)

**Does The Fellowship teach that a believer can lose salvation?**

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, once sealed, are kept by God’s power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5). We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God’s Word. (Romans 13:13, 14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

**How does the fellowship view the Holy Spirit?**

We recognize and rest upon the necessity of the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit for all of life and ministry.

The Holy Spirit is fully God, equal with the Father and Son, whose primary ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ; he also convicts unbelievers of their need for Christ and imparts spiritual life through regeneration (the new birth).

The Spirit permanently indwells, graciously sanctifies, lovingly leads, and empowers all who are brought to faith in Christ so that they might live in obedience to the inerrant Scriptures.

The model for our reliance upon the Spirit and our experience of his indwelling and empowering presence is the Lord Jesus Christ himself who was filled with the Spirit and entirely dependent upon his power for the performance of miracles, the preaching of the kingdom of God, and all other dimensions of his earthly ministry.

The Holy Spirit who in dwelt and empowered Christ in like manner indwells and empowers us through spiritual gifts he has bestowed for the work of ministry and the building up of the body of Christ. We recognize that the gifts of the Spirit are divine provisions central to spiritual growth and effective ministry and are to be eagerly desired, faithfully developed, and lovingly exercised according to biblical guidelines. (Matthew 3:11; 12:28; Luke 4:1, 14; 5:17; 10:21; John 1:12-13; 3:1-15, 34; 14:12; 15:26-27; 16:7-15; Acts 2:14-21; 4:29-30; 10:38; Romans 8:9; 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-13; 12:28-31; 14:1-33; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Galatians 3:1-5; Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18)

**What does The Fellowship believe about eschatology?**

We believe in the [victorious], personal, glorious, and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 23:31-33) with His holy angels, when He will exercise His role as final judge and His kingdom will be consummated.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust: the unjust to judgment and eternal conscious punishment in hell (I Corinthians 15:23; Revelation 20:11-15), as our Lord Himself taught, and the just to eternal blessedness in the presence of Jesus, in the new heaven and new earth, the home of the righteous. On that day, the church will be presented faultless before God, based on the obedience, suffering, and triumph of Christ. All sin will be purged and its wretched effects forever banished. God will be all in all, and everything will be to the praise of His glorious grace.

TFAB will not be divisive nor dogmatic surrounding areas of eschatology, believing this would be unprofitable speculation because the times and exact details of our Lord’s return are unclear and known only by the Father. (Matthew 24:36)

**Can women be elders or pastors at The Fellowship?**

We are deeply committed both to the fundamental spiritual and moral equality of male and female as well as the principle of male headship in the church and home. Both men and women are together created in the divine image and are therefore equal before God as persons, possessing the same moral dignity and value, and have equal access to God through faith in Christ.

Men and women are together the recipients of spiritual gifts designed to empower them for ministry in the local church and beyond. Therefore, women are to be encouraged, equipped, and empowered to utilize their gifting in ministry, in service to the body of Christ, and through teaching in ways that are consistent with the Word of God.

Both husbands and wives are responsible to God for spiritual nurture and vitality in the home, but God has given to the man primary responsibility to lead his wife and family in accordance with the servant leadership and sacrificial love modeled by Jesus Christ.

The Elders/Pastors of each local church have been granted authority under the headship of Jesus Christ to provide oversight and to teach/preach the Word of God in corporate assembly for the building up of the body. The office of Elder/Pastor is restricted to men. (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:18; Acts 18:24-26; 1 Corinthians 11:2-16; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Timothy 2:11-15; 3:1-7; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Peter 3:1-7)

**How is The Fellowship governed and how are decisions made?**

The Elders of The Fellowship at Bend have the primary role of Prayer, Teaching, and Oversight of the entire ministry of The Fellowship at Bend.

Currently, there are five elders (Loren Anderson, Jordan Smith, Alan Hanson, Chris Parish, and Scott Beaird)

It must be stated that Jesus is, and always will be, the senior pastor, having all authority over His bride, the church.

The Fellowship is elder-ruled, with Pastor Loren being the lead teaching elder. He is the first among equals and has one vote, just as each elder. Decisions are only moved forward by unanimous vote.

We believe an elder to be a man qualified according to I Timothy 3:3-7 and Titus 1:5-9, who has been effectively serving as a shepherd and leader of individuals in some capacity at TFAB for a minimum of 1 year, and who desires to be an elder. (I Timothy 3:1)

Candidates for new elders are either approached by the elders or individuals may initiate consideration by the elders. The elders then proceed with prayerful consideration and biblical evaluation before coming to a unanimous decision. There is also a Board of Elders for state legal purposes of incorporation.

The Fellowship also has a group of deacons to help with the day to day operations of the church. The biblical definition of a Deacon (Diakonos) is found in the meaning of the word itself. A Deacon is a minister, a servant, an attendant, that executes the command of others. At The Fellowship, we have many deacons. They are amazing men and women that serve as worship leaders, minister to our children, and assist with the day-to-day operations of the Church. Therefore, we ask anyone who desires to serve to adhere to the qualities mentioned in I Timothy 3 and to be in agreement with the TFAB Servant Leader Agreement.

For the sake of keeping things in order, we have a few deacons that are lead deacons. Lead Deacons are chosen unanimously by the elders based on consistent, faithful service to the body and biblical character as described in Acts 6:1-6 and I Timothy 3:8-13.

**Why does The Fellowship emphasize community groups?**

Community has its ultimate origin in the Godhead, which is in community – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are made in the image of God and are intended to live in community with God and with one another. From the earliest days of the church (Acts 2:42), the Body of Christ devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, fellowship, prayer, and the breaking of bread. When a church is 25-30 people in size, there need be no division into groups, but when the church size increases, it has to divide into smaller groups for practical shepherding (Exodus 18:17).

It is in the context of community that we are to incite one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24-25). Our desire is that every person at The Fellowship is cared for, and we follow through with this via small group ministry. Colossians 2:2-3 describes this well, “That their hearts may be encouraged having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

We gather as Community Groups, in homes, for the purpose of exercising faith, hope, and love through teaching, fellowship, prayer, the breaking of bread, and discipleship. It is a place for accountability, friendship, spiritual gifts, mission, joy, and tears. It is also a great place to go for help, discipleship, and direction.

It is our desire to see that every believer of The Fellowship is loved, cared for, and challenged within a thriving community. And it is our desire that our neighbors within our town are blessed and touched by the love of Jesus through these Community Groups. Community Groups are simply an extension of the vision and ministry of The Fellowship to help us live out our mission to glorify God, edify the body, and testify to the community.

We embrace a missionary understanding of the local church and its role as the primary means by which God chooses to establish His kingdom on earth. The church has a clear biblical mandate to look beyond its own community to the neighborhood, the nation, and the world as a whole; thus, mission is not an optional program in the church, but rather is an essential element in the identity of the church.

We are called to make Christ known through the gospel and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring his lordship to bear on every dimension of life. The primary way we fulfill this mission is through discipleship, the planting of churches, and the training of their leaders.

We also believe we are responsible neither to retreat from our culture nor to conform to it, but with humility, through the Spirit and the truth of the gospel, to engage it boldly as we seek its transformation and submission to the lordship of Christ. (Isaiah 52:7; Matthew 10:5-25; 28:18-20; Luke 4:18-19, 24:46-47; Acts 28:31; Romans 10:14-15; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Galatians 2:10; Ephesians 3:10, 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 Peter 2:4-5,9-10)

**What is The Fellowship**’**s position on alcohol?**

We believe all drunkenness is sin (Deuteronomy 21:20; Matthew 24:48-49; Luke 21:34; Romans 13:13; I Corinthians 5:11; Ephesians 5:15; I Peter 4:3).

We believe that many horrendous sins are affiliated with drunkenness. Therefore, getting drunk is a sin that can lead to other sins, such as incest (Genesis 19:32-35), violence (Proverbs 4:17), adultery (Revelation 17:2), mockery and brawling (Proverbs 20:1), poverty (Proverbs 21:17), foolish behavior (Isaiah 5:22; Jeremiah 51:39), murder (II Samuel 11:13), shameful nakedness (Habakkuk 2:15; Lamentations 4:21), slothfulness (Joel 1:5), escapism (Hosea 4:11), and depression (Luke 21:34). In summary, sin leads to death, and the sin of drunkenness produces only death and misery.

We do believe that all Christians must, at varying times and in varying ways, give up some of their Christian liberties in order to love people of weaker conscience. Christians must make every effort to not lead them into sin by exercising freedoms in their presence (Romans 14:21; I Corinthians 10:31-32).

Having affirmed the above regarding alcohol; the Bible does not condemn alcohol use, and so neither do we. Jesus made and gave wine to be served at the wedding feast (John 2:6-11). The Pharisees wrongly condemned Jesus because he drank wine (Luke 7:31-35). Jesus drank wine with His disciples and will drink wine again with them in the kingdom (I Corinthians 11:25; Matthew 26:29). God brings forth food and wine for man (Psalm 104:14-15). God serves wine at the wedding feast of the Lamb (Revelations 19:9; Isaiah 25:6). Colossians 2:16-17 says to let no man pass judgment in questions of food and drink, things which are a mere shadow of what is to come.

**Does The Fellowship have church membership?**

At this time, TFAB does not have church membership; however, we will ask all those that call The Fellowship their home church and serve the body at The Fellowship in some form to agree to the essential doctrines located in our “What We Believe” section and overall mission of The Fellowship presented in the Servant Leader Agreement. This provides protection and unity for the body knowing that everyone that is serving and leading on mission is in agreement with the essentials of scripture.

**What does The Fellowship believe about marriage?**

The bible teaches us that marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman who are joined together as one by GOD with distinct, yet equally important, roles as defined by God’s Word, fulfilling a unified purpose. (Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:3-6; Ephesians 5:31)

Therefore, we believe that believers should practice complete chastity unless married, and if married, complete fidelity within heterosexual and monogamous marriage. Complete chastity and fidelity means, among other things, that regardless of our marital status, we will pursue purity and abstain from sexually immoral practices such as adultery, premarital sex, and pornography. (Rom. 13:11-14; I Cor. 6:15-20; Eph. 5:3; I Thes. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

We also ask believers in the body to seek to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to walk through the steps of marriage reconciliation at The Fellowship before pursuing divorce from their spouse. (Matt. 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12: Luke 16:18; I Cor. 7:10-11)

For the role of the church in the process of divorce, see Paul’s concern for the resolution of legal matters within the body of the church in I Corinthians 6 and the description Jesus gives for offenses in Matthew 18.

Concerning divorce/remarriage, The Fellowship will only remarry divorced couples that align with the biblical exceptions for remarriage. (Matthew 19, 1 Corinthians 7)

Our heart for all couples is that Jesus and reconciliation will always be at the center of all decisions regarding this very difficult subject.

**What Bible Translation does The Fellowship use?**

The Fellowship teaches from the English standard version (ESV). We believe that there are many good translations of the bible, and we have chosen the ESV as a good, understandable, literal translation.

**How do I get involved at TFAB?**

Attending church gatherings and events or visiting a Community Group is a great way to begin making meaningful relationships. You can always find a current calendar of events and our current list of Community Groups at the Info Table or on our website at tfab.com.

Our Basics class, held quarterly, is the first step to serving at TFAB. Once you have learned about who we are as a body through attending this class, you are encouraged to read and sign our Servant Leader Agreement and become a part of the church family. (See the attached pipeline document, How *We Multiply* for more information regarding serving and leading.)

There are practical ways to get involved at TFAB, such as volunteering to clean, bring baked goods, set up for events, make coffee, set up the communion, or pray for the body. You can also speak with a ministry leader to get involved in ministries like Worship or Children’s.

to this fund by marking donations for “2020 Vision”. For further information on what the 20/20 Vision entails, please visit www.tfab.com/2020-vision.

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