

# Vitally VINEYARD

An Introduction to the  
Vineyard Christian Church  
Brooksville, FL

Presented by  
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2016

# Vitally Vineyard

## Welcome

Welcome to Vitally Vineyard, we are here today to discuss what things distinguish us as a people at the Vineyard, and to tell you why we exist, what we are about, how we do what we do, and when we do it.

## So to begin that begins at the intersection of three stories:

1. God's Story: history
2. Your Story: reconciliation
3. Our Story: partnership

## God's Story

God's story begins with Genesis 1.1: In the beginning God . . .

That's not meant to be a scientific statement so much as a theological statement, and a reference point for how we view all of space and time. That everything has its origin in God.

He is the Creator and Author of all things; God is the Ruler of the Universe. And he is known to us through anthropomorphic terms, meaning we give God human like qualities to explain him to our simple minds, but these simple explanations do not limit him from being much more than any of those terms, or keep him from being more than one of those things at one time, but God is not limited by time or space.

From the very beginning God has revealed himself to us in mostly masculine terms, although some examples do speak of God in more feminine terms also like God giving birth (Isaiah 44.2; Psalm 139.13, et al), nursing his people (Isaiah 49.15), as a mother protecting her young (Deuteronomy 32. 10-11, Matthew 23.37) and other feminine attributes. God is also described as Father, and as a warrior and as a king. When he aids persons it often refers to his hand in it, or when people are seeking his audience it refers to the face of God. These figurative expressions give God human attributes to express his nature to us. In fact, we are told we are created in God's image, not as in his physical attributes but in having understanding of right and wrong, our ability to create, and role in oversight over the world (including our ability to either care for all of creation or to destroy it).

In the Bible God is one God, and the only true God, yet he is described in terms of three persons: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit.

About the creative role of God we read:

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. – John 1.3-5

Likewise in the opening chapter of Genesis we read:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be . . . – Genesis 1.1-3

The idea being that God’s work was creative, creating the heaven’s and the earth, giving them shape, and calling into existence that which was not.

The crowning of God’s creation is humankind. About which God said:

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have *dominion* over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. – Genesis 1.26-31

We were created in the image of God, and, like God, we are both spiritual and personal. God created us to share his life and enjoy a relationship with him, and to reign and rule over creation. Satan was eager to drive a wedge between God and this new race of beings, by suggesting that God could not be trusted and that humanity should rule not only over Creation but over themselves, so Satan enticed Adam and Eve to disobey God and the humans broke their relationship with God and came under the dominion of Satan.

### **God’s response to humanity’s sin:**

First to the serpent who deceived Eve God said, “Because you have done this, cursed are

you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” – Genesis 3.14-15

Second to the woman who was deceived God said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” – Genesis 3.16

Thirdly God said to Adam who willfully sinned and passively let his wife be deceived, “...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” – Genesis 3.17-19

Lastly God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever —” therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life. – Genesis 3.22-24

The result of sin was that the image of God in humankind was corrupted, and that humanities dominion was overthrown. Therefore strife entered into the relationship between humankind and the rest of creation (the earth and the fullness thereof), that strife entered into the relationship between man and woman, and that strife entered into the relationship between God and humanity. Also death came into creation.

**The two primary issues are dominion & relationship, otherwise known as rule and reign.** The solution of which is introduced even as God hands down his judgment on the serpent. That a son, the seed of woman (not man) would crush the head of the serpent, even as the serpent struck his heel. This first hint of the gospel thus points to the solution of one who is fully God, and fully man, who could restore the lost dominion and lost relationship, thus restoring the reign and rule that God had intended for humanity from the beginning.

Without going into lengthy detail here, the essence of the Bible’s story becomes one of demonstrating God’s faithfulness to fulfill this plan, while allowing humanity free will, and making use of history (his story) to instruct us. This is why the first five books of the Bible are called the Torah, or the instructions, also known as the Law. Which are meant not just to spell out right and wrong, but to illustrate the problem of sin, the nature of faithfulness, the deceit of evil, and the tendency of man. The story culminates in the Gospels as the human one, the Son of God, Jesus Christ emerges as the savior,

demonstrating God’s faithfulness to humanity and God’s willingness to restore relationship, and it is his triumph over death on the cross that establishes his dominion as Lord.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. – John 3.16

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. – Colossians 2.15 (NIV)

Through this triumph God then issued the invitation to us to be sons and rulers, thus restoring all that was lost. That brings us to your story.

## **Your Story**

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

–Romans 8.15-23

This is where we find ourselves today, in this chapter of history, waiting eagerly for the final day of our redemption, living in the tension of a kingdom that is already present but not yet fully realized. We call this the now and the not yet. It is here in the now and the not yet that we add in Your Story and then Our Story.

Each of us has a unique story. Our life's journey is a quest to discover our place in the universe, why God put us here, and which will ultimately decide where and how we will spend eternity. Just like those first people, Adam & Eve, we were created in the image of God which has bestowed upon us certain unalienable qualities, like moral consciousness, the need for companionship, creativity, and the will to survive. When anyone one of the qualities is suppressed within us, we become debased, and become a danger to self and to others. From the very beginning as image bearers of God it has always been our need to be in relationship and to have dominion. As evidenced in our creation of societies, as inventors, as explorers, and as beings that have sought to control our environment unlike any other being in creation. We build homes, vehicles, roads, and cities. We have built heating and cooling systems, and we have gone to the depths of the ocean as well as ventured into space. Yet despite all of our god-like creativity and relationship building, we have a fundamental need to be reconciled to God and his creation.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. – 2 Corinthians 5.17-21

In truth, God's story and your story are interwoven. We are all a part of history, it's just that most of us do not fully understand what that means, add to that sin, reigning in our mortal bodies, which continues to drive us, with its passions, away from God and his dominion (Romans 6:12-14). This is why we are under the false impression that our life is our own, to do with as we please. Yet all of us know internally that we have this need to reconcile what was lost in the Garden in Genesis 3 that is where your story and God's story intersect.

God has invited you into his kingdom, to restore what was lost to you, through his Son Jesus Christ, who has not only defeated and made a spectacle of his enemies, but who has reconciled all things to himself through his son Jesus Christ, putting to death enmity between himself and humanity (Romans 5.10). More than he put to death the hostility between male & female, between slave & free, between Jew & Gentile, making out of these one new humanity (Galatians 3.28) and likewise gave us this same ministry of reconciling people both to God and one another through Christ (Ephesians 2.15), and establishing his forever rule and reign (Revelation 11.5) where all those who belong to him will live and reign with him forever (2 Timothy 2.12).

These are the things that unite us:

1. Our common Creator (Genesis 1-2)
2. Our common sin condition (Genesis 3 & Romans 5)
3. King Jesus' solution (2 Corinthians 2.14-15)

The King Jesus solution is that we make recognize Jesus as the king of our lives, and we seek his mercy and forgiveness for our violations of his rule and reign. Then we commit ourselves to living according to his rule and to carry out his mission in the world, of extending the borders of his kingdom to every heart, to every person, to every tribe, and to every ethnicity under heaven.

If you have never done that, then that is the first step to identifying with God, his kingdom, and this church. If you have already done that, that's wonderful, but if you have never done that let me invite you to repeat after me that pray now:

Heavenly Father,  
I come to you in the name of King Jesus  
I know that I have broken your laws  
That I have sinned against you and against others  
I ask for your mercy & forgiveness  
I ask to made a child of the king,  
An heir of the promise  
Co-heir with Christ  
To live and reign with you forever  
In return,  
I pledge my life and my service to your mission & your kingdom  
In Jesus name, Amen

Now if you prayed that prayer for the first time, please raise your hand so that we can all celebrate your decision.

## **Our Story**

Well, as we said at the beginning, there are three parts to this:

1. God's Story: history
2. Your Story: reconciliation
3. Our Story: partnership

Which is the main focus of this course to introduce you to our story: the story of the Association of Vineyard Churches, and this congregation in particular. Then I will cover our statement of faith, our mission, vision & values statement, and explain our organizational structure.

### **The History of Association of Vineyard Churches**

The Vineyard Christian Church is a part of the *Association of Vineyard Churches: a community of churches*. The Vineyard is not a denomination per se, but we do share a common set of values, a statement of faith and a philosophy of ministry. Also every church in the Vineyard gives 3% of their income to church planting and missions within the Vineyard.

The Vineyard movement began in 1977 as a single Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Southern California under the leadership of Kenn Gulliksen within the Calvary Chapel denomination. As more Calvary Chapel churches adopted the Vineyard name a new leader emerged among the churches by the name of John Wimber. John was a musician, and a part of the Righteous Brothers before coming to Christ.

John's early Christian experience and ministry as a pastor was among the Friends Churches (Quaker). Later he served as part of the faculty of at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, and as the director of the Fuller Church Growth Institute.

That loose network developed into an association of over 600 churches in the USA and over 2,000 Vineyard Churches worldwide. The association has continued to maintain its loose affiliation of autonomous churches linked by a shared statement of faith, philosophy of ministry, values, and through cooperation, rather than a system of trans-local government and over-sight.

### **The History of the Vineyard Christian Church**

Dr. Hal Hester & his family have been in ministry for over 25 years. While planting a Vineyard church in Muskegon, Michigan they met Florida natives, Drs. Natalie and Karl Leibensperger. The Leibensperger family was convinced that a Vineyard Church would meet some unmet needs in Hernando County and invited the Hesters to come to Brooksville and start a Vineyard Church.

In the summer of 2011 Dr. Hal Hester and his family moved to Brooksville, FL to start the Vineyard Christian Church in the family room of Drs. Natalie and Karl Leibensperger. In January 2012, the Vineyard Christian Church moved from a home into rented storefront space. By 2013 the church had outgrown its storefront space but decided to keep the newly renovated space by adding a second worship service and beginning a building fund to help them obtain a new worship space of their own. In 2014 God gave a prophetic word to Dawn Hester about the building at 375 S. Broad Street, the church's current location, after months of negotiation, the property was



purchased on August 4, 2014, and the church moved into their new home on September 17, 2014.

As Vineyard Christian Church continues to grow Pastor Hal envisions more locations throughout the Nature Coast area, extending the message and ministry of the Kingdom of God, which will be elaborated on more in the mission, vision, and values portion of this class.

### **AVC Statement of Faith**

Our Statement of Faith is based on the Bible. The Bible is our final authority in all matters of faith and practice. However, since the Bible is a diverse collection of narrative stories, poetry, law, and letters, it is helpful to summarize its teaching in a concise form that can be comprehended by both those deeply rooted in the church and those who have little exposure to the Bible. This is the historical function that the ancient universal church creeds played in the first four hundred years of Christ-centered faith.

Our Statement of Faith is also based on the conviction that the kingdom of God is the central theological motif that gives definition to all that we believe. It is a kingdom of God centered theology. This statement is our best current understanding of the Bible from that kingdom perspective. Our prayer is that God will bless our sincere attempt to be humble ambassadors of His rule and reign and to be a people that practice the presence of God and proclaim His Gospel, so that His will may be done on Earth as it is in heaven.

WE BELIEVE that God is the Eternal King. He is an infinite, unchangeable Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, goodness, justice, power and love. From all eternity He exists as the One Living and True God in three persons of one substance, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory.

WE BELIEVE that God's kingdom is everlasting. From His throne, through His Son, His eternal Word, God created, upholds and governs all that exists: the heavenly places, the angelic hosts, the universe, the earth, every living thing and human beings. God created all things very good.

WE BELIEVE that Satan, originally a great, good angel, rebelled against God, taking a host of angels with him. He was cast out of God's presence and, as an usurper of God's rule established a counter-kingdom of darkness and evil on the earth.

WE BELIEVE that God created mankind in His image, male and female, for relationship with Himself and to govern the earth. Under the temptation of Satan, our original parents fell from grace, bringing sin, sickness and God's judgment of death to the earth. Through the fall, Satan and his demonic hosts gained access to God's good

creation. Creation now experiences the consequences and effects of Adam's original sin. Human beings are born in sin, subject to God's judgment of death and captive to Satan's kingdom of darkness.

WE BELIEVE that God did not abandon His rule over the earth which He continues to uphold by His providence. In order to bring redemption, God established covenants which revealed His grace to sinful people. In the covenant with Abraham, God bound Himself to His people Israel, promising to deliver them from bondage to sin and Satan and to bless all the nations through them.

WE BELIEVE that as King, God later redeemed His people by His mighty acts from bondage in Egypt and established His covenant through Moses, revealing His perfect will and our obligation to fulfill it. The law's purpose is to order our fallen race and to make us conscious of our moral responsibility. By the work of God's Spirit, it convicts us of our sin and God's righteous judgment against us and brings us to Christ alone for salvation.

WE BELIEVE that when Israel rejected God's rule over her as King, God established the monarchy in Israel and made an unconditional covenant with David, promising that his heir would restore God's kingdom reign over His people as Messiah forever.

WE BELIEVE that in the fullness of time, God honored His covenants with Israel and His prophetic promises of salvation by sending His only Son, Jesus, into the world. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, as fully God and fully human in one person, He is humanity as God intended us to be. Jesus was anointed as God's Messiah and empowered by the Holy Spirit, inaugurating God's kingdom reign on earth, overpowering the reign of Satan by resisting temptation, preaching the good news of salvation, healing the sick, casting out demons and raising the dead. Gathering His disciples, He reconstituted God's people as His Church to be the instrument of His kingdom. After dying for the sins of the world, Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day, fulfilling the covenant of blessing given to Abraham. In His sinless, perfect life Jesus met the demands of the law and in His atoning death on the cross He took God's judgment for sin which we deserve as law-breakers. By His death on the cross He also disarmed the demonic powers. The covenant with David was fulfilled in Jesus' birth from David's house, His Messianic ministry, His glorious resurrection from the dead, His ascent into heaven and His present rule at the right hand of the Father. As God's Son and David's heir, He is the eternal Messiah-King, advancing God's reign throughout every generation and throughout the whole earth today.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Church at Pentecost in power, baptizing believers into the Body of Christ and releasing the gifts of the Spirit to them. The Spirit brings the permanent indwelling presence of God to us for spiritual worship, personal sanctification, building up the Church, gifting us for ministry, and driving back

the kingdom of Satan by the evangelization of the world through proclaiming the word of Jesus and doing the works of Jesus.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and that He is our abiding Helper, Teacher, and Guide. We believe in the filling or empowering of the Holy Spirit, often a conscious experience, for ministry today. We believe in the present ministry of the Spirit and in the exercise of all of the biblical gifts of the Spirit. We practice the laying on of hands for the empowering of the Spirit, for healing, and for recognition and empowering of those whom God has ordained to lead and serve the Church

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of Holy Scripture so that the Bible is without error in the original manuscripts. We receive the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments as our final, absolute authority, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

WE BELIEVE that the whole world is under the domination of Satan and that all people are sinners by nature and choice. All people therefore are under God's just judgment. Through the preaching of the Good News of Jesus and the Kingdom of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, God regenerates, justifies, adopts and sanctifies through Jesus by the Spirit all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. By this they are released from Satan's domain and enter into God's kingdom reign.

WE BELIEVE in the one, holy, universal Church. All who repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and form the living Body of Christ, of which He is the head and of which we are all members.

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church: water baptism and the Lord's Supper. Both are available to all believers.

WE BELIEVE that God's kingdom has come in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, that it continues to come in the ministry of the Spirit through the Church, and that it will be consummated in the glorious, visible and triumphant appearing of Christ – His return to the earth as King. After Christ returns to reign, He will bring about the final defeat of Satan and all of his minions and works, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment and the eternal blessing of the righteous and eternal conscious punishment of the wicked. Finally, God will be all in all and His kingdom, His rule and reign, will be fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth, recreated by His mighty power, in which righteousness dwells and in which He will forever be worshipped.

### **Our Mission**

*Love God, Love People, Pass It On*

Yes, it really is that simple. We believe that was Jesus' own commission to his disciples

in Matthew 28:18-20. We are called to be a kingdom of God-centered church that equips/forms/disciples/teaches followers of Jesus to live the ordinary Christian life of being a disciple, and making disciples who make disciples.

### **Our Vision**

Our vision is to be a regional church; the spiritual and intellectual hub among Vineyard Churches in the Nature Coast and throughout Florida. Therefore we will:

- Be a missional church with community outreach and global missions
- Plant six additional daughter churches/satellites in the Nature Coast area.
- Unify the Christian churches of the Nature Coast around the kingdom of God through prayer and cooperation/collaboration.
- Establish the Joseph Project in three phases: Dream Center (education), Food Bank (storage & assistance), and Emergency Relief Center
- Commit significant resources and be a catalyst church for the 4-14 Project to reach youth ages 4-14 with the gospel of Jesus. The 4-14 Project includes quality children's Christian education, a youth & family center for the entire community, child care, and more.
- Become a training center to equip the saints & provide pastoral internships
- Build a Vineyard Pastors' Retirement Village.

### **Our Values**

All Vineyard churches share five core values that make them part of the Vineyard movement. These core values are central to our identity and define the way we do ministry, and how we understand the gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### *• The Theology and Practice of the Kingdom of God*

The primary message of Jesus in his earthly ministry was the kingdom of God (the kingdom of God is upon you, the kingdom of God is near you, you are not far from the kingdom, the kingdom of God is like . . .) and his teachings were accompanied by the works of the kingdom, both natural and supernatural. Because this was the focus of Jesus' earthly ministry, we also make his teaching and practice of the Kingdom our focus. We believe that the Kingdom is not just the future universal reign of God, or simply the Christian Church. We believe that the Kingdom of God is the rule and reign of God both in its present manifestation of salvation, deliverance, healing, etc. (Mark 12:34, Matthew 9:35, 12:28), and in its final manifestation of the new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21).

#### *• Experiencing God*

Experiencing God is not just our commitment to know about God, but to know him intimately, encounter him through worship, prayer, salvation and the present manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers, and in divine guidance (dreams, visions, prophecy, words of knowledge, words of wisdom, discernment and much more).

It also means to reveal the Father heart of God to those who do not know God, and to come into a full knowledge (heart, mind and soul) of his great love for humanity, and for the individual.

- *Reconciling Community*

By Jesus' reconciling us to himself, by taking on our sin and not counting our sins against us as we deserved, he gave to the church the ministry of reconciliation (2Corinthians 5:18-21). We share this gospel of reconciliation by pointing others to this same forgiveness and reconciliation with Christ, by demonstrating this same spirit of forgiveness, not harboring bitterness and resentment in our hearts toward others. Jesus put to death the enmity that exists between male and female, Jew and Greek, slave and free through his body so that we might be one (Ephesians 2:14-21). Therefore, wherever there is division, tribalism, racism, sexism, or any other division among people, we are called to be a people of peace and reconciliation, and not to contribute to the sectarianism of the world.

- *Compassionate Ministry*

We believe our actions must reflect Compassionate Ministry. The works of the church should be filled with compassion even as the Father heart of God is filled with compassion. Jesus did not come to the earth simply because he was duty bound, or it was the right thing to do. He was not compelled by the law or anything greater than himself, but by the love of the Father for the world, that no one should perish but through faith in Jesus Christ they should have everlasting life (John 3:16).

- *Culturally Relevant Mission*

Ministry should be contextual, treating every place the gospel is preached as an outpost of the kingdom of God; not as our homeland, translating the good news into the vernacular of the recipients. While cultivating a Culturally Relevant Mission mindset, we recognize that our values are different, our worldview is different, and our priorities are different from those who are of the world. As saved and set-apart people, our thinking is different. Therefore, we must be like missionaries, learning afresh how to speak the language of our city, the next generation, and the people of this world. This never means compromising the truth, lowering the standards of right and wrong, or messing with the message. We simply go afresh to the old, old story, and think through what is culture and what is the Word of God. That which is culture can be rethought, and repackaged. That which is Scripture must be held onto and fought for without change or compromise. We don't mess with the message, but we do adjust the medium by which we share the message.

- *We Value Beauty*

God is beautiful and His creation reflects His beauty: God created man and woman in His image and likeness who also create works of beauty. For this reason we value the arts, expression, and creativity.

From the beginning, Vineyard pastors and leaders have sought to hold in tension the biblical doctrines of the Christian faith with an ardent pursuit of the present day work of the Spirit of God. Maintaining that balance is never easy in the midst of rapid growth and renewal. With our Core Values at center, we are seeking to take our place in the Body of Christ, serving alongside those who truly desire to experience God in their every day life.

### **Our Structure**

We believe that form and function go hand-in-glove, so our structure is simple to avoid bureaucracy, and give us the ability to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. So as a church that means we do not vote but we pray. So while no one gets a vote, everyone gets a say. We encourage everyone who calls the Vineyard their home to pray and to share their convictions with those in leadership. Ultimately we know that if we do not follow the leading of the Holy Spirit he will not bless our work, and people will eventually vote with their feet and their money by taking them elsewhere if they feel the leaders are not listening to the Holy Spirit's leading.

Our church has a board that is fiduciary in purpose, to protect the church financially, and to oversee the church's finances. The current board members are:

1. President- Hal Hester
2. Treasurer- Sonja Palomino
3. Secretary- John Holzaepfel

To watch over the daily function of the congregation the church has a staff that includes the pastors who look after the spiritual wellbeing of the church.

Lead Pastor, Hal Hester  
Worship Leader, Kerryann McFarlane  
Connections Pastor, Linda Dix  
Youth Pastor, April Gordon  
Children's Pastor, Dawn Hester

The deacons of the Vineyard are called Team Leaders or Coordinators depending on their function. They are appointed for specific tasks and when their role is completed they no longer hold a title.

Christina Bailey – Nursery  
John Holzaepfel – Board Member  
Kenny Laughlin – Grounds Maintenance  
Rick & Sandee Lester - Marriage Ministry  
Jenn Lipidarov – Communications & Social Media Coordinator  
Nick Lipidarov – Prayer Ministry Coordinator  
Mac McClellan- Hospitality Team Leader  
Gary McMillan- Celebrate Recovery Leader  
Brain & Virginia Norman- Church Planting Team Leader

Al & Charlene Ortwein – Coffee Bar & Fellowship Lunch Coordinator  
Sonja Palomino- Board Member, Treasurer  
Susan Pidek- Communion Server Coordinator  
Debbie Saskowski – Administrator  
Henry Saskowski – Sound Engineer, Building Maintenance  
Danielle Skinner- Multimedia Media  
Carol Taylor - Outreach  
Joi White – Family Table Community Feeding Ministry  
Jill Yates – Women’s Ministry  
Jerry Zirk & Jay Yates– Ironmen: Men’s Ministry

### **Church Culture**

So we have shared with you our story and our goals, so let me say something about our culture. You may have noticed that we are fairly casual both in our dress and in our manner, and that we are not big on titles. Please do not confuse our casual approach as a lack of concern for truth, the ministry, or one another. Our culture is one of authenticity, to be who we are 24/7, not putting on a religious front. We dress like we always dress rather than dress up, and we call people by their names, rather than by a title, because we get our identity from Jesus Christ not from religious titles. We don’t do hype! We don’t believe in using manipulation to motivate people. We don’t think we experience more of God by getting emotionally worked-up. We are an empowered evangelical church, which means that we believe in the gifts of the spirit (sometimes called Charismatic Gifts) but we do not have a Charismatic or Pentecostal church culture. We call it naturally supernatural! So we raise our hands in worship, we pray for the sick, we share words of knowledge and prophecies, lay hands on those we pray for, cast out demons, and pray for, and expect, miracles. But we do not manufacture experiences, or push people down, or pressure people to speak in tongues. In fact, we believe that God has given every believer spiritual gifts, and that there *isn’t any single gift* that every believer must have (not even the gift of tongues). So how do you participate in our church culture?

- Be real, don’t put on a church face
- Worship Freely
- Be slow to judge and quick to forgive
- Encourage unity without demanding uniformity
- Be hospitable, assume everyone around you is angel to be entertained
- Avoid gossip (Just because it is true doesn’t mean its not gossip)

## **Wrapping Up**

Obviously there is more to this church than we can put into a few pages, or a class, that need to be caught through experience more than taught. But this should give you a basic idea of who we are, enough for you to ask questions, to decide if its worth hanging around to experience, or to confirm what you have already experienced.

If you think you would like to make the Vineyard your home church, we want to ask you to commit to five things. Here is what we ask of you:

## **Five Commitments**

### **Serve People**

God has designed each one of us with unique gifts and callings to serve the body of believers and the world at large. At the Vineyard we provide you with opportunities to use those talents to serve God by volunteering in the local church.

### **Give Back to God**

We consider it a privilege to give back to God what he has so freely given us. We celebrate generosity and the work God does through our consistent and sacrificial giving.

### **Extend the Kingdom**

This church exists to extend the invitation to the kingdom of God and to experience God's forgiveness and mercy through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Build Community through LifeGroups**

Participating in a small group is one of the best ways to build community and encourage spiritual growth. Through our LifeGroups you can connect with others as you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **Live a Godly Lifestyle**

To love God through a lifestyle of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, and to avoid the works of the flesh: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like that.



### What's Next?

If you like what you see and heard, and you are willing to commit to those five things than we want to invite you to bring us a small cross to add to our church wall; it is an informal way of saying, "I am in!"

We do not ask you to sign anything, or take an oath, because actions speak louder than words. Our goal is not a bloated roll of members, or a building full of religious consumers. Our goal *is Love God, Love People, and Pass it on!*



LOVE GOD  
*love people*  
PASS IT ON



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