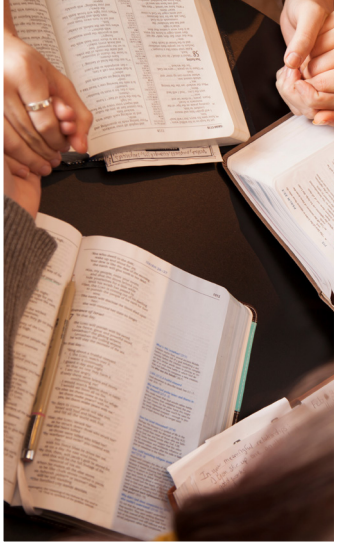
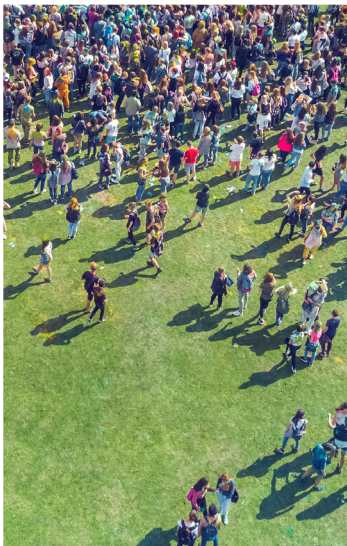


Starting Line

Learn practical ways you can connect, get involved and even become a member at Walnut Hill Community Church!



WELCOME!

We are so grateful that you want to discover more about Walnut Hill Community Church and how you can better connect with our church family. Thank you for your investment of time with us. Together, we are discovering what it means to be the family of God and pursuing God's design for our lives.

Our vision is to ignite a passion for Jesus in Connecticut, New England and around the world. The hope and prayer are simple — to see every person who is connected to Walnut Hill increasingly transformed by the love and power of Jesus Christ!

As you begin to understand who we are and what God is doing in and through us, it is our desire that you will see yourself becoming part of this church family. We believe that as you do, you will discover encouragement, support, accountability and all the blessings that God has for you.

It is our sincere hope that our time together is well spent and will answer questions that you may have. Whether you checking us out or choosing to become a member, we are excited that you are taking the next step.

Thank you for joining the journey at Walnut Hill.

REV. ADAM DEPASQUALE
Lead Pastor, Executive

REV. DR. SHAWN WINTERS
Lead Pastor, Teaching

Igniting a passion FOR JESUS IN CONNECTICUT, NEW ENGLAND and around THE WORLD

OUR HISTORY

PEOPLE WITH
a passion for God's work

Walnut Hill Community Church was born out of a passion for doing God's work in Connecticut and around the world. Our history is a story of men and women **willing to follow God's leading into unchartered territory and willing to trust Him** to do extraordinary things in and through them.

A VISION BORN FROM A
home Bible study

Birthed out of a home Bible study in 1981, seven couples dreamed of a church that would commit to preach the Word of God, **welcome people of all backgrounds,** raise up the next generation and share the Good news of Jesus in their community and around world.

SERVICES MOVE FROM
home to hotel

From the day the church's doors opened in 1982, the grace of God could be felt as 80 people began gathering in a local hotel. Within 18 months, the church nearly doubled in size and **a family was called to the mission field.**

MINISTRIES BEGIN TO
overflow with growth

With children's and youth ministries in full force, adult classes and more, the church began outgrowing rented facilities. By 1988, 350 people called the church home. Ministry flourished as members were led to begin a camp, **an inner city mentoring program and missions sending organizations.**

BUILDING THE
foundations in Bethel

By 1995, construction on the church's first building was completed and **services began being held at 156 Walnut Hill Road in Bethel.** With room to expand, the church began programs to promote healthy homes, be an irresistible influence in the community and first articulated a calling to become a **regional resource in New England.**

GOD'S CONTINUES TO BLESS
a growing congregation

God's blessing continued and by 2004, the church had completed its **first expansion project** and was now 1,200 people strong.

THE CHURCH IGNITES with 24/7 prayer

In 2005, **a fresh emphasis on prayer was birthed** and within seven months hundreds of people committed to pray an hour a week so that the church could cover **24 hours a day, 7 days a week** in prayer.

A CHURCH-WIDE focus on evangelism

Ministry again flourished with new ministries: women began serving in the local prison, church partnerships were initiated around the world and **evangelism became the heart cry** of the church.

THE TIME FOR expansion arrives

By 2010, Walnut Hill had grown to 2,000 people, the building had been renovated again and there was no longer room to grow. With a commitment to seeing people meet Jesus, **a unified elder board led the church into launching satellite campuses.**

THE BIRTH OF satellite campuses

Over the next two years, **four campuses opened their doors,** bringing Walnut Hill deeper into Connecticut. Campuses were launched in **Waterbury** in 2010, **Seymour** in 2011, **Derby** and **New Milford** in 2012. With a desire to see an even greater impact in the Valley, in November of 2017, the Seymour and Derby campuses came together to form a unified Valley Campus in Derby. In March 2020, we launched our **Online** Campus.

OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS, MORE THAN 1,200 PEOPLE HAVE SURRENDERED TO JESUS THROUGH THE MINISTRIES AT WALNUT HILL.

CONTINUING TO serve God's people by the millions

Millions of people are impacted through Walnut Hill's global partnerships, children in communities participated in summer camps, youth are sent and serve across New England. The homeless are being cared for, prisoners are being visited, at risk boys and girls are being mentored, schools are being supported, marriages are being restored, families are being comforted, **freedom is found in Christ.**

God is not finished with Walnut Hill yet.

We are a unique family of every age, stage, diverse backgrounds and walk of life called to ignite a passion for Jesus in Connecticut, New England and around the world.

OUR VALUES

family

noun \ fam-le\ a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation not defined by age and background.

Ex: God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure. Eph. 1:5

We envision a family of every age, stage, diverse background and walk of life seeking God, reaching out, caring for one another and serving together for the glory of God and the expansion of His Kingdom.

We believe that it is time for the family of God to take its place and shine so brightly that millions of people will come to know the love, hope, healing and security found in Jesus Christ.

We believe God is calling Walnut Hill to be a family that is:

SEEKING GOD

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

SERVING TOGETHER

REACHING OUT

OUR VISION

Every year, our Lead Pastors pray and choose an annual theme to set the course for the year. This theme dictates the focus for ministry planning across the church.

For 2025-26, our theme is ABIDE

The heartbeat of this ministry year is to abide in Christ by knowing Him more deeply, following Him more wholeheartedly, serving Him more joyfully and proclaiming Him more boldly.

FIRST 20
Spending the first best 20 minutes of the day in prayer (first-20.org.)

MY CREW
Forming a group of 3-5 people to challenge and encourage us in our faith, seeking mentors in our lives and investing in the lives of others (mycrewkit.org.)

Seeking God

Every person engaging in the transformative power and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

THIS HAPPENS THROUGH:

- TRANSFORMATIVE BIBLICAL PREACHING
- WHOLEHEARTED WORSHIP
- SACRIFICIAL PRAYER
- INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Caring for One Another

Committed to equipping and revitalizing our families for Kingdom impact and growth.

THIS HAPPENS THROUGH:

RELEVANT MARRIAGE AND FAMILY RESOURCES

COMPASSION-DRIVEN CARE MINISTRIES

CHAMPIONING A MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY

Serving Together

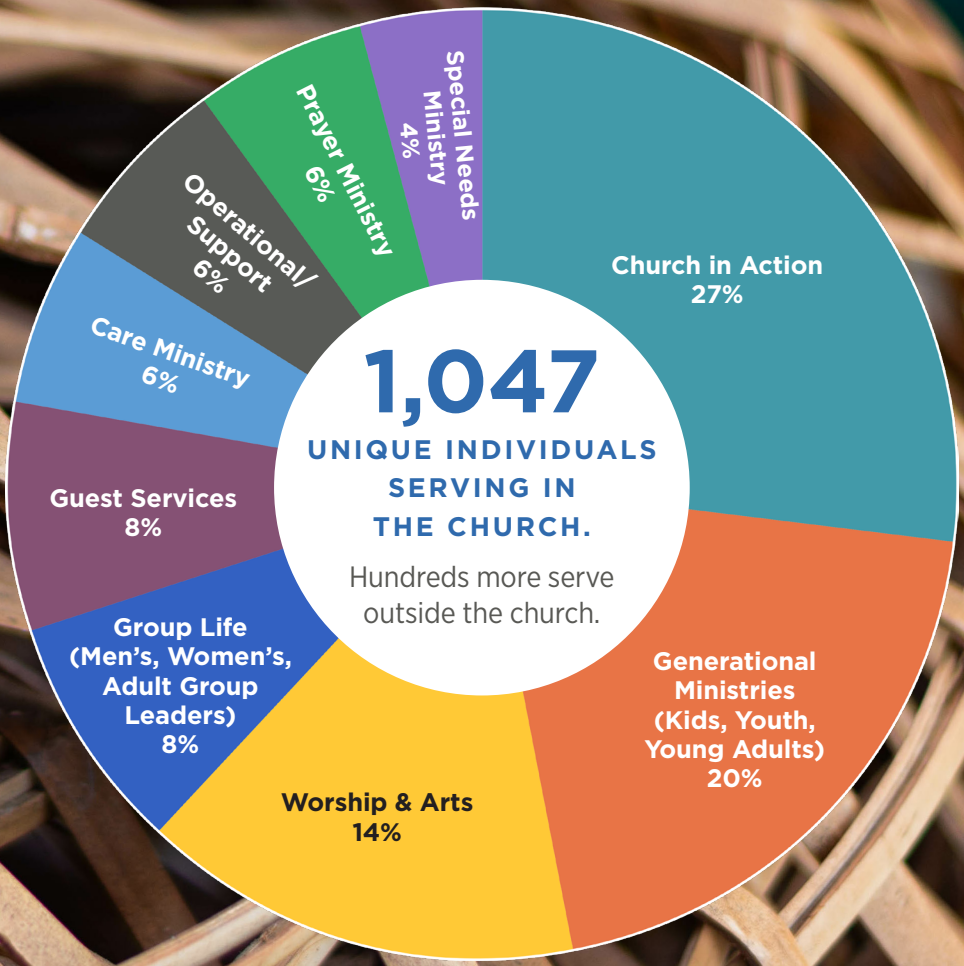
A thriving lay leadership empowering every generation for ministry and mission.

THIS HAPPENS THROUGH:

VIBRANT CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC MOBILIZATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE



Reaching Out

Three million people around the world encountering Jesus through a growing number of local campuses and partnerships.

THIS HAPPENS THROUGH:

AUTHENTIC EVANGELISM

EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

STRATEGIC CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

MISSIONAL COLLABORATION

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
He existed before anything was created
and is supreme over all creation,
for through Him God created everything
in the heavenly realms and on earth.
He made the things we can see
and the things we can't see —
such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers,
and authorities in the unseen world.
Everything was created through Him and for Him.
He existed before anything else,
and He holds all creation together.
Christ is also the head of the church,
which is His body.
He is the beginning,
supreme over all who rise from the dead.
So He is first in everything.
For God in all His fullness
was pleased to live in Christ,
and through Him God reconciled
everything to Himself.
He made peace with everything in Heaven and on earth
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

This includes you who were once far away from God.
You were His enemies,
separated from Him by your evil thoughts and actions.
Yet now He has reconciled you to Himself
through the death of Christ in his physical body.
As a result, He has brought you into His own presence,
and you are holy and blameless
as you stand before Him without a single fault.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-22

Walnut Hill Community Church is all about Jesus. We believe that the person of Jesus Christ is at the heart of the Gospel message. In Jesus, God is revealed, forgiveness and freedom are offered, transformation is realized, and an everlasting relationship is built.

In essential beliefs* — we have

unity

noun \ yü-nə-tē \ the state of being in full agreement.

In nonessential beliefs — we have

liberty

noun \ li-bər-tē \ the quality or state of being free.

In all our beliefs — we show

charity

noun \ cher-ə-tē \ benevolent goodwill toward or love of humanity.

STOP

What are the essentials?

*Please refer to pages 3 and 4 in the Additional Reading Materials.

WHAT WE PRACTICE

koinonia

noun \' kȯinə'nēə \:
Christian fellowship or communion with God or other Christians.

Ex: All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. Acts 2:42

1 Prayer

"Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart." COLOSSIANS 4:2

At Walnut Hill, we seek intimate fellowship with the triune God — listening to His voice and His Word, and interacting with Him in the everyday experiences of life. We believe that one encounter with the living God can transform a life.

2 Discipleship

"And Jesus said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.'" MARK 1:17

By following Jesus, we have the fullest life. We actively look for opportunities to grow in the knowledge of who He is, to challenge one another to follow Him, to be transformed by His love and to make a difference by serving with the gifts He provides.

3 Spirit-Led Life

"...I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing..." JOHN 15:5

We believe that the only possible way to live the Christian life is by the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us. We seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit leading and enabling us to follow Him.

4 Giving

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse..." MALACHI 3:10

We practice tithing as an act of worship to our Savior and Lord. We recognize that tithing 10% of our income is the starting point and that giving above and beyond our tithing responsibility is our privilege.

5 Sharing the Gospel

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." 1 PETER 3:15

We practice sharing Christ by our actions and our words at home, work and in our community. It is the responsibility of every Christian to demonstrate and share the Good News of the Gospel with those whom God brings across our path.

6 Priesthood of the Believer

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 PETER 2:9

We practice the truth that every believer is a minister. We encourage every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer, worship and Bible reading.

7 Baptism

"...buried with Him in baptism, and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God..." COLOSSIANS 2:12

We practice baptism by immersion under water — the way Jesus was baptized. As a church ordinance, baptism is strongly encouraged upon entrance into church membership as well as to participating in the Lord's Supper.

8 The Lord's Supper

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-29

We practice the Lord's Supper on a regular basis. It is a symbolic act of obedience through which Christ-followers remember the death of Jesus and anticipate His second coming.

OUR LEADERSHIP

We are governed by a **Board of Elders**, elected by our members, who are responsible for providing spiritual leadership and oversight. The Elders serve for a term of four years. In any given week, our Elders can be found praying with individuals, serving alongside the congregation or supporting our pastoral team as they lead daily ministry.

LEAD PASTOR TEAM

Walnut Hill operates in a Team Leadership Model where more than one pastor takes on the responsibilities of a traditional Senior Pastor role to oversee key areas of the church. Our Lead Pastor Team is Adam DePasquale (Lead Pastor, Executive) and Shawn Winters (Lead Pastor, Teaching.)

REV. ADAM DEPASQUALE
Lead Pastor, Executive

ROLE:

The enablement of ministry and activation of Walnut Hill's vision and strategy.

Adam is responsible for the accomplishment of the church's mission through the strategic oversight of ministry, operations and staff. He oversees Walnut Hill's operations (finance, communications, facilities, administration, IT and HR), as well as ministries such as worship and arts and our family ministries.

REV. DR. SHAWN WINTERS
Lead Pastor, Teaching

ROLE:

The teaching and preaching of God's Word and discipling of His people.

Shawn is passionate about preaching, teaching and helping people connect Scripture to their daily lives. He is responsible for overseeing preaching, discipleship, outreach and care, and serves as Campus Pastor in Bethel, the largest Walnut Hill campus.

CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

Bethel Campus

156 Walnut Hill Road, Bethel, CT 06801
Service Times: Sunday
8:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Shawn Winters
Lead Pastor, Teaching
& Bethel Campus Pastor
leadpastors@walnuthillcc.org

Waterbury Campus

274 Bunker Hill Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06708
Service Time: Sunday 9 a.m.

Clarence Haynes
Interim Waterbury Campus Pastor
chaynes@walnuthillcc.org

New Milford Campus

19 Dorwin Hill Road
New Milford, CT 06776
Service Times: Sunday 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Brian Bergen
New Milford Campus Pastor
bbergen@walnuthillcc.org

The Valley in Derby

27 9th Street, Derby, CT 06418
Service Time: Sunday 10 a.m.

Joshua Multunas
Valley Campus Pastor
jmultunas@walnuthillcc.org

Online Campus

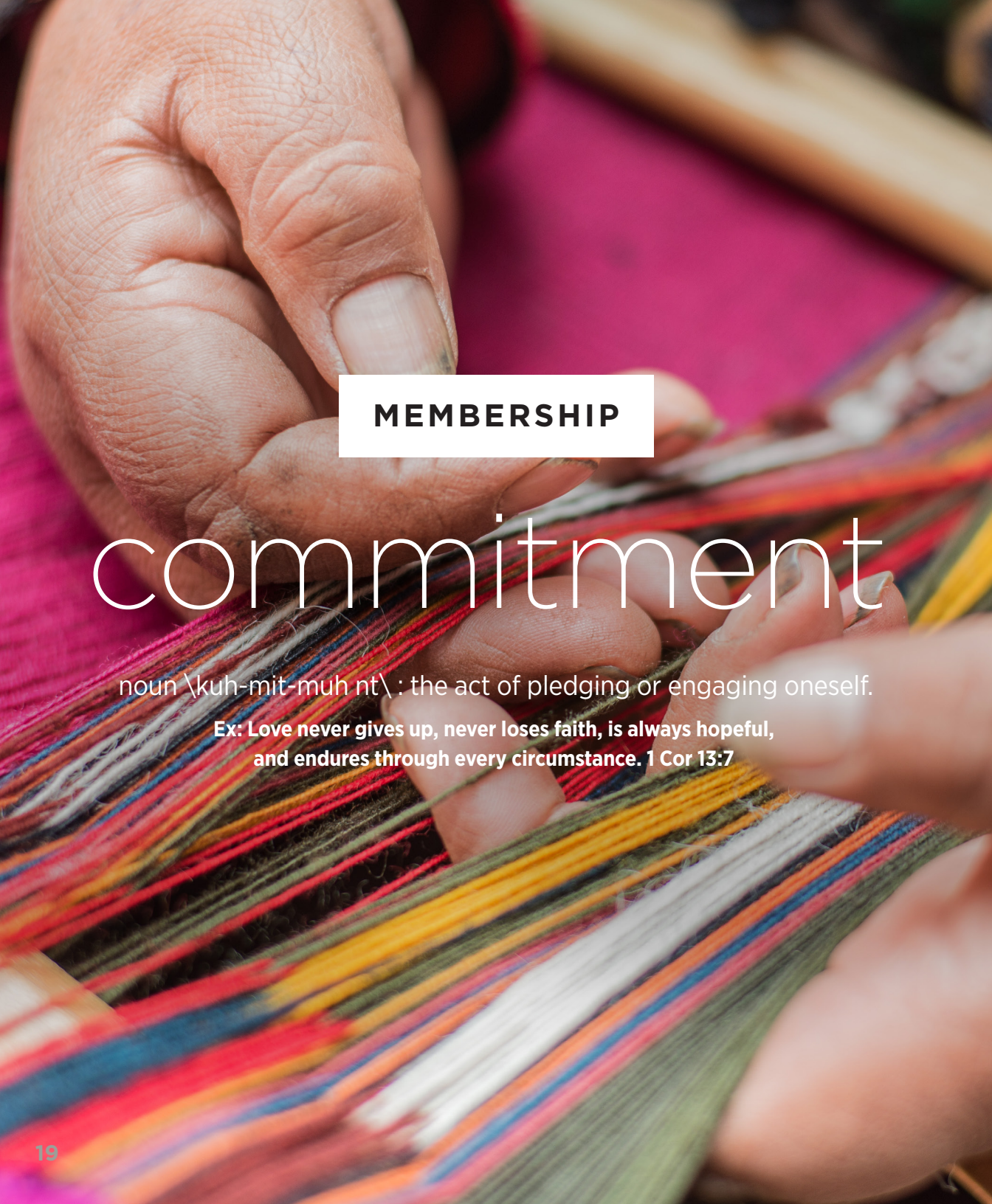
walnuthillonline.org
Service Times: Sunday 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Crystal Ellington
Pastor of Spiritual Formation
& the Online Campus
crystal@walnuthillcc.org

MINISTRY PASTORS & DIRECTORS

In addition to our campus pastors, we have a team of pastors who are directly responsible for specific areas of ministry, from kids, youth and adults, to care, worship & the arts, prayer and evangelism. Additionally, directors provide support and guidance to the staff to keep the mission forefront and the infrastructure healthy and running smoothly.

For a current listing of our pastors, directors and staff, visit walnuthillcc.org/our-leadership.



MEMBERSHIP

commitment

noun \kuh-mit-muh nt\ : the act of pledging or engaging oneself.

Ex: Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 1 Cor 13:7

While some people choose to sporadically visit or even regularly attend Walnut Hill, we encourage those who have surrendered their lives to Jesus to commit themselves to the church family and the mission for which we exist. We call this membership.

MEMBERS COMMIT TO:

protect unity

I will **protect** the unity of my church family.

share responsibilities

I will **share** the responsibilities of my church family.

serve ministries

I will **serve** the ministries of my church family.

support vision + testimony

I will **support** the vision and testimony of my church family.

Please refer to pages 5 and 6 in the
Additional Reading Materials for more information.

BECOMING A MEMBER

Membership is required for leadership positions within the church as well as some volunteer positions. It is also required to vote at Congregational Meetings on significant decisions, including the confirmation of new Elders, approval of our annual budget, affirmation of changes in bylaws, etc.

How do I become a member?

1. Attend a Starting Line Class.

2. Complete the Additional Reading Materials.
   - **Our Faith Statement**
   - **Our Membership Commitment**
   - **The Meaning of Baptism**
   - **The Meaning of the Lord's Supper**
   - **Constitution and Bylaws**

3. Fill out the membership forms.

4. Share your faith story with an Elder.
   (Check out the next page for a helpful outline.)

5. Be affirmed by the Elder Board and
   receive new member letter.

YOUR STORY

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY

1. What did your life look like before you met Jesus?

2. What were the circumstances surrounding your surrender?

3. How have you seen your life changed?

A PRAYER OF BLESSING

As we reflect on the past year,
We are humbled and thankful
for all God chose to accomplish through Walnut Hill.

Thank you to each and every volunteer and staff member
Who has invested their time, energy and finances,
Who has prayed and sought the Lord's guidance
On how to be a family.

We are a family.
A family that seeks God,
Reaches out,
Serves together and
Cares for one another.

With great expectation and anticipation,
We offer ourselves anew,
With arms spread wide
Ready to receive all that God has in store
For the year to come.

May we hear His voice loudly and clearly
Guiding us through the days ahead,
Confident in His promise that
The best is yet to come.

WALNUT HILL
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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