

WHAT ABOUT SERVING at Discovery?

By Pastor Mark Suko & DBC Elders
Discovery Baptist Church



One of the most powerful lessons Jesus gave His disciples was during his last week while they were observing the Passover. The disciples previously had struggled to know what would happen. They were also at times clamoring for positions. Then Jesus got down, took a towel and basin and began to wash their feet. Astounding! When done He said, "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you." (John 13:14, 15). He was giving them an enduring picture of humble servanthood. Then He exemplified it in even a greater way when He went to the cross.

Each believer today is also to be a servant of the Lord and follow His example. Some of Christ's last words before He ascended to heaven were to His disciples, where He said, "...You shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:8b). The disciples had already come to repentance and faith in

Jesus as Savior. In a few days, they would also receive the Holy Spirit to indwell them. But these words, called the Great Commission, would be their marching orders until Christ would return someday. Within a few weeks, the church was to grow to 3,000 and then shortly after that 5,000 men, plus women and youth. They were all busy serving one another and the cause of Christ through the church from then on. This is the record of the book of Acts.

They were "Saved to serve" as the saying goes. Those who have come to have genuine faith in Christ as Lord and Savior today are also saved to serve Him. It should be out of eternal gratitude for His forgiveness and promise of the resurrection that we desire to give back. This is foreign in our culture of narcissism, entitlement thinking and self-focus. We are to be more than pew warmers who sit and take it in and enjoy the music but never give back through the talents and gifts God has given. The Apostle Paul said in Rom. 12:1, "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship."

Because of Christ's sacrifice for our sin, we as believers ought to desire to sacrifice our lives in service to Him. This can happen in many ways, but ultimately it is up to us to seek how we would use the life and abilities He has given us to serve Him.

At Discovery, we encourage every believer to actively be serving the Lord in some way either within or outside the context of the church. There are many ways to be involved in ministry. Some may be gifted to do teaching, leading, music, youth ministry, Awana, building, cleaning or a host of other things.

We ask those seeking to serve to consider the following things: our vision, covenant, membership and other matters.

Our Vision

"Our church vision is to disciple individuals towards Christ-likeness through clear Bible

teaching, personal Bible study, warm fellowship, fervent prayer and effective outreach."

Our Church Covenant

Those becoming members of Discovery are asked to agree to the covenant. The covenant is a basic statement of how we covenant to live as a body of believers so we may reflect the glory of Christ. Even if you are not a member but would like to serve, we ask you to read and be in agreement with the following covenant:

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the public confession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ (*Ac. 16:31-33, Col. 2:12; 1 Cor. 6:17; 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23*).

We purpose, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to attend its services regularly; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry and expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations (*Heb. 10:23-25; 1 Cor. 16:2; Ac. 2:45*).

We also purpose to maintain family and private devotions; to train our children according to the Word of God; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk discreetly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct; to abstain from all forms of activity and practice which dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ our Savior; and to give Him preeminence in all things (*Eph. 5:18; 6:4; 1 Cor. 6:18-20; Mat. 28:19, 20*).

We further purpose to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation, and, mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay (*Eph. 6:18; Rom. 12:16-19*).

We moreover purpose that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other church of like faith and order where we can carry out the spirit of the covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Membership

Not all places of service in the church require membership. You may serve in various ways such as assisting teachers, helping with facilities, cleaning, cooking, outreach, visiting the sick, singing in the choir, etc. without needing to be a member. However, those taking significant roles in teaching or leadership in any ministry must be members. We also like them to have been members for a minimum of 6 months before taking some positions. Exceptions are considered by the entire board on an individual basis depending on the circumstance and ministry. If you have questions on which areas apply, please check with the office or one of the leaders.

To become a member, see our *What About Church Membership* brochure for the basic teachings of the church on this often-misunderstood topic. Then attend our class for new members called *The Discovery Class*. This short class is taught on an as-needed basis. Please join the "Church Membership" group on our Community or speak with any church leader to make us aware of your interest in this class.

Other matters

In addition to the above, we ask the following:

1. Be willing to submit to the leadership of the department head and Elders of the church in regard to matters of this ministry.
2. Attend meetings scheduled from time to time by leaders for preparation and training.

3. Be diligent in getting to your ministry area on time and to make sure things are put back or cleaned up before leaving.
4. Submit to a Washington State Patrol basic background check for those involved in teaching. The church office has a basic form to fill out that will be mailed in. You must not have been convicted of any sex crime to be considered for a role in teaching.
5. Be committed to work hard in whatever ministry you are involved in as Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord." The word "abounding" actually means to do more than is expected or to "super abound."

The Little Red Hen

When I was a child on the farm I was taught an old Russian folk tale that became popular at the time. It was called *The Little Red Hen*.

In the tale a red hen finds a grain of wheat, and asks for help from the other farmyard animals to plant it. But the cat, dog, horse and pig all say, "I won't, I won't, I won't." She asks for help again at harvest time, milling to flour and baking of bread, but gets the same chorus of "I won't" answers.

So the industrious red hen does it herself. When the bread is finally done, she asks for help eating it. Now, all the animals eagerly volunteer. But she declines since no one aided her.

In the end the bread is eaten just by her and her little brood of chicks.

While the tale is not inspired and may have some debated points, it certainly does teach the needed principle of a good work ethic and service to others. I have often thought of this tale when it comes to service in the church.

Many would agree that every believer ought to be serving the Lord since He has bought our salvation with the price of His own blood. But too often people make all kinds of excuses why they can't

serve. This is often discouraging to church leaders and certainly to the Lord.

It is true that we must balance our schedules and use our talents as the Lord has blessed. There are times when we need to rest and pull back. But we should also remember Christ's example of being willing to humbly serve and Paul's exhortation in I Cor. 15:58 to be diligent to stretch ourselves because of the truth of the resurrection. Our time on earth is short so we should happily use it to His glory while we are able.

Want to serve? Pray about what areas have need, in what way the Lord may have gifted you, what areas are need and then talk to one of our leaders or department heads. If you are considering membership for a specific level of service, we would encourage you in that step. By becoming a member, you show submission to spiritual leadership, you grow, you help the Elders do their work better, and you encourage other believers.



Discovery Baptist Church

4902 Gustafson Dr. NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
(253) 858-8990

Em: secretary@discoverybaptist.org

Web: www.DiscoveryBaptist.org

"Seeking first His kingdom"

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