

## Strategy

*So, here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.*

Romans 12:1 (The Message)

## Our History:

### 1985

- Terry Hill preached revival in AK
- August – the Hills moved to AK and started home Bible Study
- November 1985 – Rented YMCA
- December 1985 – Started meeting at current Hillside location on Sunday nights with Inlet View Baptist Church

### 1986

- January 3 – Merged with Inlet View Baptist Church

### 1989

- Rabbit Creek Community Church (name)

### 1996

- Dedicated the new building

### 2008

- June – Dr. Mark T. Goodman began serving as Senior Pastor

### 2014

- April – Opened *12100 Coffee & Communitas*

### 2015

- September- Name changed to Rabbit Creek Church.

### 2016

- December – Adopted our new statement of purpose.  
Our Purpose:  
Equipping people to live their everyday life for Christ.

### 2017

- January – Opened Rabbit Creek Church -Huffman Campus

## Our Worship Style:

An Experience of **Celebration** (Hillside)

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."* Psalm 122:1 (NIV)

An Experience of **Contemplation** (Huffman)

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.* Colossians 3:3 (NIV)

An Experience of **Inspiration**

*. . . but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.* Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

An Experience of **Preparation**

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up . . .* Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

*Therefore, let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God . . .* Hebrews 6:1 (NIV)

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.* 2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.* Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

*I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. 1 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV)*

## **Our Structure:**

### **The Nature of the Church Determines its Structure**

#### **1. The church is a **fellowship**.**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

#### **Top priorities in a fellowship are **participation** and **unity**.**

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)

*Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*

Romans 14:19 (NIV)

Jesus prayed for the unity of the church.

*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

John 17:20-23 (NIV)

Because of this, we don't want to have quarrels, bitter differences, strife and division.

Colossians 3:15

1 Peter 3:8

1 Corinthians 1:10

1 Corinthians 14:33

2 Timothy 2:14

John 13:34-35

Proverbs 17:14

2 Timothy 2:23

2 Corinthians 13:11

Romans 15:5-6; 12:16-18

Philippians 1:27; 2:1-3

Colossians 3:13-14

Colossians 2:2

Psalms 133:1

Philippians 4:2

**Implication: A good structure promotes unity and downplays differences.**

*In the following directives, I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. 1 Corinthians 11:17-18 (NIV)*

"Voting" tends to Divide.

At Rabbit Creek Church, we vote on only the following matters:

- Annual budget
- Purchase of land or buildings
- Calling the senior pastor
- Changes in the church constitution

General daily administration is entrusted to the senior pastor and staff.

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leaders:

|                     |                  |                 |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Poimen:</b>      | <b>Pastor</b>    | <b>Shepherd</b> |
| <b>Presbuteros:</b> | <b>Elders</b>    |                 |
| <b>Episcopos:</b>   | <b>Overseers</b> |                 |

*To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;*

1 Peter 5:1-2 (NIV)

*Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.*

Acts 20:28 (NIV)



2. **The church is a family.**

*Finally, all of you, be like minded, be sympathetic, one another, be compassionate and humble.*

1 Peter 3:8 (NIV)

Galatians 6:10

Hebrews 2:12-12

1 Peter 4:17

**So, we operate on the basis of relationships not rules.**

*Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.*

1 Timothy 5:1-2

3. **The church is a body.**

1 Corinthians 12:27

Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23

Colossians 1:18; 2:19

**Within Rabbit Creek Church, we function with an emphasis on spiritual gifts rather than elected offices. All members are encouraged to use their gifts to serve the Body.**

*Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith.*

Romans 12:4-6 (NIV)

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. . .*

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

**All the People are the Ministers.**

## The Importance of Church Community

The “one another’s” of fellowship – partial list:

- Serve one another Galatians 5:13
- Accept one another Romans 15:7
- Forgive one another Colossians 3:13
- Greet one another Romans 16:16
- Carry one another’s burdens Galatians 6:2
- Be devoted to one another Romans 12:10
- Honor one another Romans 12:10
- Instruct one another Romans 15:14
- Submit to one another Ephesians 5:21
- Encourage one another 1 Thessalonians 5:11

How can a growing church maintain close friendships?

Every member needs to be a part of a **small group**.

*Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.* Acts 5:42 (NIV)

What is the purpose of our small groups? (Acts 2:42-47)

A vital ministry of Rabbit Creek Church is our Small Groups. Every member needs to be a part of one.

## **Community Campuses**

Community Campuses – One body living our everyday lives for Christ, together, across our city.

Beginning in 2017 Rabbit Creek Church began an exciting expansion of ministry methods and locations. The purpose of this expansion was to allow the vision and passion of Rabbit Creek Church to reach new areas and people groups with the Anchorage area. This growth happens in ways that are appropriate to the areas and people it affects without sacrificing any of the core principles that have made Rabbit Creek Church the vibrant, Christ centered fellowship that it is.

Rabbit Creek Church's principles of multisite ministry:

As a multisite Body of Christ, we have equality.

1. All members are equal in standing.
2. All members have equal access to all church resources.
3. All members have equal opportunity to step into leadership roles as the Holy Spirit leads.
4. All members and community campuses share equal accountability to one another through transparency and truth.

As a multisite Body of Christ, we share together.

1. All community campuses share the mission and purpose of Rabbit Creek Church as a whole.
2. All community campuses share in the overarching church themes that nurture healthy church community and establish priorities.
3. All community campuses share prayer requests, financial needs and counseling support.
4. All community campuses share the leadership of Senior Rabbit Creek Church staff.

As a multisite Body of Christ, we have dynamic and effective uniquenesses.

1. Our community campuses are made up of unique individuals. While any member is welcome to worship at any given campus all members are encouraged to find a home campus and connect deeply.
2. All community campuses have unique worship styles. All styles of worship will observe the biblical principles of celebration, contemplation, inspiration and preparation.
3. Rabbit Creek Church Campuses have unique settings and locations.

4. Each community campus site will have unique local staff and volunteer leadership

## **RABBIT CREEK CHURCH**

### **Pastoral Team**



Dr. Mark T. Goodman (Vonda Kay)  
Senior Pastor



Henry Couser (Jane)  
Executive and Outreach Pastor



Cory Pepiton (Lori)  
Student Ministries and Huffman Campus Pastor



Lori Pepiton (Cory)  
Children's Pastor

## Support Staff



Suzanna Faagau (Steve)  
Executive Ministry Assistant



Alex Ferraro  
Technical Director



Kathy Haberman (John)  
Administrative Assistant



Patti Buist  
Communications & Creative Director



Katie Adams  
Student Ministries Assistant



Graham Bowron  
Huffman Community Campus & Student Ministry Worship  
Leader

## **Our Membership:**

**At Rabbit Creek Church, we recognize the value of membership. We ask you to commit to membership for 3 reasons:**

- 1. A **Biblical** Reason: Christ is committed to the church.**  
*Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . .*  
Ephesians 5:25b (NIV)
- 2. A **Cultural** Reason: It defines those on whom we can count.**  
Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.
- 3. A **Personal** Reason: It produces spiritual growth.**  
The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family. Church membership is a step of spiritual growth, not an institutional ritual.

**Membership is required for all individuals who wish to serve in a role of leadership (groups, missions, etc.) and/or teaching at Rabbit Creek Church.**

## **Our Membership Covenant:**

At Rabbit Creek Church, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We expect our members to do only what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant.

### **The Rabbit Creek Church Membership Covenant**

**Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Rabbit Creek Church's statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:**

- 1. I will protect the unity of my church**
  - **by acting in love toward other members**
  - **by refusing to gossip**
  - **by following the leaders**

*So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.* Romans 14:19 (NLT)

*God is the one who makes us patient and cheerful. I pray that he will help you live at peace with each other, as you follow Christ.* Romans 15:5 (CEV)

*Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.* 1 Peter 1:22 (NIV)

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.* Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

*Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)

**2. I will share the responsibility of my church**

- **by praying for its growth**
- **by inviting the unchurched to attend**
- **by warmly welcoming those who visit**

*We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.*

1Thessalonians 1:2 (NIV)

*Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. . .*

Luke 14:23 (NIV)

*So, reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it!*

Romans 15:7 (Message)

**3. I will serve the ministry of my church**

- **by discovering my gifts and talents**
- **by being equipped by my pastor(s) to serve**
- **by developing a servant's heart**

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

*Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.*

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NLT)

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

Philippians 2:3-7 (NIV)

Also, see: 1 Corinthians 13

**4. I will support the testimony of my church**

- **by attending faithfully**
- **by living a Godly life – morally, sexually, financially, etc.**
- **by giving regularly**

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.*

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)

*One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to him.*

Leviticus 27:30 (NLT)

