



Launch Team Commitment

Though the New Testament does not formally describe church membership, many passages show a clear distinction between people considered to be “part of” a local church assembly and those who are not.

We hold the idea of membership in high esteem. It reflects the responsibility and commitment of people who have been joined by faith into a Christian community or family to bear each other’s burdens (Galatians 6), to spur one another on to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10), and to formally join together in such a way that each “family member” benefits from the gifts of others (1 Corinthians 12).

Furthermore, membership provides a structure by which elders, men called by God for the protection and nurture of Christian life, to effectively oversee the spiritual health of the community (Acts 20).

At this stage of the church, however, people committed to Mercy Hill will be called our *Launch Team*. This packet explains what that commitment means.

Once leadership is in place to properly shepherd the congregation, and biblical standards for membership are established, the Launch Team will have the opportunity to begin the process of joining our church family as a “member” if they so choose.

As leadership establishes the membership process in the future, new people will have the opportunity to go through a series of experiences and class(es) which will clearly lay out the mission, core identities, theology, and distinctives of our church family.

Meanwhile, identifying and securing commitments from individuals for our “launch team” is very important. While the vision and mission of Mercy Hill are clearly articulated, these come into real “expression” through the members of the Launch Team. In fact, the Launch Team will be the primary crafters of the culture of the church. As the Launch Team goes, so goes this church.

In three, ten, twenty years from now, the health of our movement will be directly traced back to how we functioned together. Did we live our identities? Did we make any impact on south Jersey for the sake of the gospel? Did our relationships reflect a spirit of unity and love for one another? Were we intentional in our relationships with the lost?

The following pages represent BASICS of LAUNCH TEAM COMMITMENT which include:

- Read and familiarize yourself with our church’s basic doctrine and theology.
- Memorize our church’s mission statement and “core values” and familiarize yourself with their meaning.
- Review and agree with the essay, “Understandings of Church Planting.”
- Write out your personal *story of grace*...your testimony of how God changed your life. Send it to pastphil@gmail.com
- Complete the PLACE survey to understand how God has designed each of us and the ways we can serve this new church community. Send the summary to pastphil@gmail.com
- Sign and return the “Launch Team Agreement.”

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phillip Henry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phillip Henry