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God has provided our church with an amazing gift of property and I know God wants to fill it with people, grace, and transformation. Our name is "Connection Point Church" because we want to intentionally connect with our community in the hopes that through relationships people will experience God. If you are looking for a place to connect, [friendships, family, grace] then perhaps you have found the right place.

Everything we do is measured by whether or not we make authentic connections with people that lead to transformed lives through God's grace. If we make connections, then we acknowledge God's hand in it and continue participating in the area ministry. If it doesn't accomplish the great commission and fulfill the great commandment, then we evaluate whether it is God's will. Thy will be done is often our prayer.

God has been at work in this church for a long time. We believe He is not finished connecting with our world through the Church and so here we are, to be used by God as a connection point for people, to experience all God has in store for them.

Contained in this packet:

About Connection Point Church	2
CPCN Leadership? [Leadership Structure]	3
Why we do Church? [Purpose and Function]	4
Church of the Nazarene [Purpose and Function]	8
Beliefs/Spiritual Disciplines [Specific Questions]	10
A Way To Live the Christian Life [Spiritual Disciplines]	13
CPCN Covenant [Signature Required]	15



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Our Mission Statement

Loving God - Loving His Word - Loving People

Our Purpose

Connection Point exists to connect people with the good news of Jesus through the methods of Christ.

Our Culture Values as a Church

Our Approach:

We will combine authentic Christianity with servant evangelism as well as intentional and intelligent discipleship and relationships.

WE'RE STRIVING TO BECOME A PLACE WHERE:

- Love is felt
- Needs are met
- God is experienced
- Lives are changed
- People serve and share
- Christ-like character is embraced and encouraged
- Disconnected people become connected

CPCN LEADERSHIP

The head of CPCN is Jesus Christ. It is our goal to reflect His priorities in all we do and the way we do it. No decision should ever be made that would be in contradiction to Jesus' teachings or Scriptures.

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

CPCN is led by the Lead Pastor, ministry directors, and the Church Advisory Board.

ROLE OF THE LEAD PASTOR

In addition to his pasturing role as an elder, the Lead Pastor is primarily responsible to be a teacher of the Word of God and to provide strategic leadership and vision to the church body. His goal is to help mature believers with insightful and accurate presentations of Biblical truth and equipping them to be true "ministers" in the body. He must strive to teach and lead by word and example, and he must stress both understanding and the application of God's truth.

ROLE OF THE MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Ministry directors are to oversee the day-to-day operations of their ministry area, under the direction of the Lead Pastor or paid leadership team member. They also provide vision and future for direction in the area they direct, keeping it in harmony with the overall direction of the church.

ROLE OF THE CHURCH ADVISORY BOARD

The role of the advisory team is to care for the interest of the church and its work. They provide accountability on the local level to the Lead Pastor. They review policies, finances, procedures, and strategic expenditures. They also set and approve operating budgets, including paid team member compensation packages.

WHY WE DO CHURCH?

Why does the Church exist? If someone asked you, "Why do you attend church?" What would your response be?

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Jesus replied, "Love The Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments." [Matthew 22:37-40]

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age." [Matthew 28:18-20]

The Great Commandment Summary:

You can summarize the Great Commandment in two simple statements:

- Love God with all your life.
- Love others like you love yourself.

The Great Commission Summary:

You can summarize the Great Commission in three simple statements:

- Make disciples.
- Baptize those who are converted.
- Teach them obedience to what Jesus taught.

How do these passages of scripture speak to "why we do church"?

- To love God with all your heart [Worship]
- To love others like yourself [Ministry]
- To make disciples [Evangelism]
- Baptizing them [Fellowship]
- Teaching them to obey Jesus [Spiritual education/maturity]

Everything the church involves itself in should be directly or indirectly related to one of these areas.

Our Culture:

George Gallup states that “over 40 million Americans claim to have faith without fellowship.” The culture we’re apart of is highly skeptical of organized religion. In the surrounding communities of Paradise Park, Orchidland Estates, Ainaloa, Leilani, Kea’au town, Pahoā, and other Puna areas, there are projected to be 35,000 people by the year 2016. There will be approximately 21,000 of them who claim to have no church affiliation.

What we believe about the Church...God’s Solution.

Is there such a thing as a perfect church? No! Neither was the first church that was started by Jesus in Jerusalem. Take a glance at some of the issues with His disciples:

- One of them betrayed Him. [Luke 22:47-48]
- All of them deserted Him and fled. [Matthew 26:55-56]
- His key leader disowned Him. [Matthew 26:74-75]
- Many disciples turned their backs and no longer followed. [John 6:60-66]

If this happened under the watchful eye of the perfect church leader, we can expect that we’ll have some problems and bumps along the way in our imperfect church.

Ephesians 5:25 says, “Just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her...” Jesus chose to make the ultimate sacrifice for this group of imperfect people, even though they hurt Him.

“The local church is a tangible and visible real world expression of the body of Christ.”
-Josh Harris

“Every believer is a part of the church universal, but for any Christian who has a choice in the matter, failure to cleave to a particular church is failure to obey Christ.”
-Chuck Colson

Christ's Love in Sacrifice, as it relates to the Church:

1. Jesus became the sacrifice for the benefit of our individual salvation, but the Bible teaches that the sacrifice He became was far more than just the atonement of my individual sin.

2. Jesus' sacrifice was also for the collective body of believers that would become known as the Church. "Just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing of water through the Word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." [Ephesians 5:25-27]

3. When I make the conscious decision to align myself with the local church, I'm choosing to align myself with the vehicle God has chosen to bring salvation to the world – the vehicle God has chosen to use to encourage spiritual maturity and vitality in our lives and to prepare us to meet Him.

"His intent was that now, through the Church, the manifold wisdom should be made known." [Ephesians 3:10]

Contradiction in Terms... A Christ-follower without a local church connection...

Contradiction seems to be a very common part of life in our culture. Contradictions are often acknowledged but rarely endorsed. Saying you're a Christ-follower without a connection to a local church is much like a person saying, "I want to play professional basketball, but I don't want to be on a team."

Two characteristics that stand in contradiction to the family of God are to be unattached and uncommitted. There are many commands and instructions in the New Testament. It would be very difficult for a person to live in obedience to them without being partnership with a local church family.

Three benefits to partnering with a local church

- It lends **support** to my spiritual growth.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 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 10:24-25]

Difficult times are a reality in life for every person. When you're a part of CPCN, I covenant with you that when the tough times hit your life, there will be people here that will care for you and support you. Problems arise when relationships haven't been built first. That's one of the reasons that it is vital to get involved and build friendships, connect, participate in a connection group, and be a part of a ministry.

- It grants **spiritual** protection in my life.

The Biblical command to pastors and teachers is to be on our guard and to guard the flock (congregation). It's our spiritual admonition and duty to oversee the well-being of the congregation. In doing so, we are able to keep the truth from being distorted. [Acts 20:28-29]

- It presents **opportunities** for the use of my spiritual gifts.

The Bible clearly teaches that every human being has been spiritually gifted in one capacity or another. In the context of the local church, individual ministry is always encouraged as long as said gifts are in alignment with the purpose and process of disciple making.

Church of the Nazarene

Ministry Organization: Connection Point Church of the Nazarene

- Accountability and Integrity
 - I am accountable as the Lead Pastor to my District Superintendent
 - We are accountable in our finances to a District Advisory Board
 - District involvement for fellowship and accountability
- Support
 - Spiritually - District Superintendent is my Pastor
 - Training - training and development for leaders
 - Financial - This church was started with Alabaster funds and we support the global church through education and missions.
- Partners in Ministry
 - We accomplish more together than we can by ourselves
 - Compassionate ministries around Puna.
 - Globally, the Church of the Nazarene currently resides in 151 world areas.

Church of the Nazarene Core Values:

Christian People

As members of the Church (universal), we join with all true believers in proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We value our Wesleyan-Holiness heritage and believe it to be a way of understanding the faith that is true to scripture, reason, tradition, and experience.

Holiness People

God, who is holy, calls us to a life of holiness. We believe that the Holy Spirit seeks to do in us a second work of grace, referred to by various terms such as "entire sanctification" and "baptism with the Holy Spirit" –cleansing us from all sin, renewing us

in the image of God, empowering us to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbors as ourselves, and producing in us the character of Christ. Holiness in the life of believers is most clearly understood as Christ-likeness.

Missional People

We are a sent people, responding to the call of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to go into all the world, witnessing to the Lordship of Christ and participating with God in the building of the Church and the extension of His Kingdom (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 6:1). Our mission (a) begins in worship, (b) ministers to the world in compassion and evangelism, and (c) encourages believers towards Christian maturity through discipleship.

Some affiliated statistics regarding to the Church of the Nazarene and missions:

- 460 fully compensated missionaries around the globe
- 600 volunteer long-term missionaries in various world areas
- Missionaries in more than 140 different world areas
- 57 institutions of higher education and learning, including universities, seminaries, and Bible colleges, with over 26,000 students enrolled at any given time.

Brief History of the Church of the Nazarene

The foundation of the present day Church of the Nazarene was formed through the union of roughly a half dozen independent holiness groups. These unions occurred periodically from the middle of 1890s through the 1920s, the most two significant taking place in 1907 and 1908. Other additions to the church by merger have occurred as recently as the 1980s. Also, the Church has spread throughout the world by means of a vigorous missionary program. The result of the early foundation and global mission approach has resulted in a Church that ministers in more world areas than McDonalds serves hamburgers!

The “founder” of the Church of the Nazarene (or at least who has been credited with founding the movement) is Phineas F. Breese, who had been a leader in the Methodist Church. He left because in his view, the Methodist Church had become increasingly less evangelistic. He was known as a participant in the “come outers” movement. This term refers to former leaders in main-line denominations (Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, etc.) that left those denominations in pursuit of a more “biblically accurate understanding and application). Breese was among those leaders and that movement.

Beliefs and Spiritual Disciplines

Agreed Statements of Beliefs

- We believe in one God—the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures contain all truth necessary to faith and Christian living.
- We believe that man is born with a fallen nature, and is continually inclined to evil.
- We believe that those who never repent are hopelessly and eternally lost.
- We believe that the atonement through Jesus Christ is for the whole human race, and that whoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is justified, regenerated, and saved from the domination of sin.
- We believe that believers are to be sanctified wholly, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- We believe that the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth, and also to the sanctification of believers.
- We believe that our Lord will return, the dead will be raised, and the final judgment will take place.

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS STATEMENT IS AN ACCURATE SUMMARY OF WHAT THE SCRIPTURE TEACHES. WHILE SOME MAY HOLD A DIFFERENT THEOLOGICAL VIEW OR PERSUASION, IT IS OUR REQUEST THAT ALL PARTNERS REFRAIN FROM ADVOCATING DOCTRINES THAT AREN'T INCLUDED IN THIS STATEMENT OF FAITH IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CAUSE DISSENTIONS.

What is Baptism?

Baptism has been a Christian symbol since the time of Jesus [Matthew 3:1-7]. It involves applying water to Christians to symbolize their death to the old way of life [Romans 6:2-3] and their new life God provides [Galatians 3:26-28]. Baptism, a sacramental “means of grace,” seals intention to follow God [Acts 2:37-41, 8:35-39, 10:44-48]. We prefer that people be immersed; however, there are other acceptable methods.

We also understand baptism to be a symbol of the new relationship God has established with His people. Because of this, some people choose to have their young children baptized as a symbol of their intention to raise their children in God’s church and their hope to see that the children choose God’s ways when they are older.

- If I've been baptized since I accepted Jesus, do I need to be re-baptized in order to be a part of CPCN or a member of the Church of the Nazarene?
- If you have been baptized since receiving Christ into your life, then there is no requirement for you to be re-baptized here. However, if you were baptized as an infant, and have not been baptized since, you may want to re-evaluate and be baptized again.

Do we take official positions on social or political issues?

We understand that Christians are expected to oppose evil and promote good. In our complex world, we also understand that few issues are completely evil or completely good. Rather than taking official stands, we encourage our members to apply God's principles and act accordingly.

The Lord's Supper/Communion:

The last night Jesus spent with his disciples, He shared bread and wine with them as a part of the Passover meal [1 Corinthians 11:23-26]. This sharing of the bread and wine is known as Holy "Communion" or "The Lord's Supper."

When Jesus shared the bread and wine with His disciples, He told them that the bread symbolized his body and the wine symbolized his blood [Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20]. The disciples understand this to mean that He was giving up His life (body and blood) for their benefit. The earliest records of the church show that His followers regularly shared bread and wine together, reminding themselves that Jesus had died for them (1 Corinthians 10:14-16)

When we offer the Lord's Supper, all believers are invited to share in it, whether or not they are officially members of the church. The Lord's Supper is not appropriate for those who have not yet accepted Christ and the new life He offers. We do not administer real wine with the communion elements. We don't want it to be a temptation to anyone in our church that may have struggled with inappropriate alcohol use in the past. We encourage abstinence from the consumption of alcohol.

Principle of Conflict Management

If you have a conflict with someone, the way to approach the issue is to go directly to that person. It is not appropriate to talk about people behind their backs. We practice the principles outlined in Matthew 18:15-20.

What is tithing?

Tithing is a principle that was first instituted in the Bible by Abraham in the book of Genesis and was implied and discussed throughout the Old Testament, culminating with the book of Malachi. Jesus spoke consistently about money, and in the book of Acts, the church was effective due to their sharing of needs and selfless obedience to God with what they had. Money is an indicator of our motives, intentions, and heart...much like your calendar. [We spend time on things that are important to us] The word "tithe" indicates a "tenth" of one's income. The bottom line is that God doesn't need your money, but he desires your heart. Consequently, if he has your heart, he'll have your money, and if he has your money, he has your heart.

We desire to be a simple church in a complicated world

At CPCN, we realize that the world we live in is complicated and often cluttered. We want to be a simple church that is effective in connecting people with disciplines that result in spiritual formation and growth. Participating in these three things consistently will encourage these goals.

- Attend the weekend worship service
- Participate in a Connection Group with peers where you connect with Scripture, hold each other accountable, create meaningful relationships, and care for each other.
- Participate in a ministry in the context of the church.

A Way to Live the Christian Life

Beliefs aren't of much value unless they are translated into application and actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel strongly about the following seven practices:

Nourishing Your Soul: [Hebrews 10:25]

Pursue a deeper walk with Christ by consistent worship, gathering with other Christ-followers, personal study of the Word, personal prayer and meditation, journaling, Bible memorization, etc.

Authority of the Bible: [2 Timothy 3:16]

Recognize God's Word as having authority and being the "manual" for living. When faced with a question or decision, ask "What does the Bible say?"

Spirit Empowered Living: [Galatians 5]

The only way possible to live the Christian life, as described in the Bible, is through God's power at work within us. Learn to daily depend on God's Spirit to enable you to do what is right. In living a life according to the Holy Spirit, the fruit will be witnessed by others through your life.

Avoidance of Evil: [1 Thessalonians 5:19]

It's Connection Point's admonition to its partners that everyone who claims to be a Christ-follower should seek to take on the character attributes of Christ in their daily lives. Through the power of the Holy Spirit working in us we should seek to avoid evil at all costs (using the Lord's name inappropriately, immorality, perversion of any form, habits/practices that are known to be destructive of spiritual, physical, mental well-being, arguing/gossip/slander/dishonesty/sinful pride/ entertainments that dishonor God).

Real/Genuine Relationships: [Matthew 22:36-40]

Embracing God with our entire lives and loving, caring for, and serving our neighbor.

Giving: [Leviticus 27:32; Malachi 3:10-12]

We practice tithing/giving for the support of Christ's body, the church, as God has directed through His Word. We recognize that tithing 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving set forth in the Word of God. {Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 9:14, 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Phillipians 4:15-19}

Evangelism: [1 Peter 3:15]

It is the privilege and responsibility of Christ-followers to share the “Good News” or “Gospel” with those that God brings us in contact with throughout our lives. We believe sharing our faith should be a natural part of the life we live in relationship with Jesus Christ. There are many ways to see this accomplished.

- Servant Evangelism is an important part of our church. Servant Evangelism is designed to accomplish a couple of things within the context of our church. First, I’m convinced that if you love God with your life, you’ll serve the people He wants to save! So, our serving other people is an indicator of our love and devotion to God. Secondly, servant evangelism is a unique low risk, high grace marketing concept. However, it is primarily a discipleship engine in our church...coming back to the fact that loving God leads to serving Him by helping others!
- Personal Friendship Evangelism: sharing over the course of life with friends about your relationship with Christ and its meaning to you.
- Planned Evangelism: Participation in structured opportunities like mission trips and events that are meant to promote the spreading of the gospel.

Partnership Covenant

Count Me In!

BY SIGNING THIS COVENANT, YOU ARE OFFICIALLY INDICATING YOUR DESIRE TO BE AN ACTIVE "MEMBER" OF CONNECTION POINT CHURCH AND AGREEING TO THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS.

- I understand and agree with the direction of Connection Point Church and its affiliation with "The Church of the Nazarene."
- I have been baptized since I invited Jesus into my life.
- I will seek to pray for, support, and encourage the leadership of the church.
- I understand that conflict will be handled biblically and intentionally, and as much as it depends on my behavior, I will practice the principles of confrontation and as laid out in Matthew 18:15-20.
- I am willing to be involved in a ministry area at CPCN, and will seek involvement in a ministry beginning within a month from the date that I sign this "count me in" commitment sheet.
- Understanding that the church is funded by the "tithe" of those who live in faith and operate in obedience to the biblical example set before us, I will commit to begin tithing if I do not do so already.
- I will faithfully support Connection Point with my attendance.
- If it ever becomes necessary due to moral issues, I will voluntarily withdraw myself from the "count me in" membership of Connection Point Church, and if I do not voluntarily do so, I give permission to the Lead Pastor to withdraw me after having met with me personally.

(Signature and date)

(Please print your name here)

List any area(s) of a ministry you'd like to be involved in:

- 1.
- 2.