



# Church of the Living Water Member Guide

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## ‡ COLW OF AUSTIN BACKGROUND ‡

Church of the Living Water of Austin was founded by Pastor Forrest P Hill Jr. in April of 1988 with approximately nine members from a bible study in his home. After receiving his ministerial credentials, the Lord spoke to Pastor Hill's heart from 2 Chronicles 15:3; "for a long season my people have been without the true God and without a teaching priest and without law." Along with his wife, Alva Hill, Pastor Forrest Hill answered the call of God to be a teaching priest to the body of Christ at the Church of the Living Water of Austin. Church of the Living Water of Austin has a mandate from God to be Rivers of Living Water in a Dry Place. Forrest and Alva are sowing into the lives of people of all backgrounds and ethnicities the uncompromising word of God.

Their cutting-edge messages address every area of life. Whether the message is for family issues or walking by faith, in every service the challenge is given to all members to come out of mediocrity and to walk in the excellence that God has set before them. This will enable them to enjoy the overcoming life, which is richly provided for all of God's children.

## ‡ THE VISION ‡

Church of the Living Water of Austin is called to proclaim the life changing principles of God's holy word. One of the main foundational principles being taught is faith towards God. It is impossible to please God without faith. Faith is the doorway into God's grace. The bible teaches that it is by grace that you are saved through faith.

*(Ephesians 2:8)*

The goal is to raise a people who will trust in and rely upon the promises of God, who will without fear go forward into this world and proclaim boldly the gospel of Jesus Christ, establishing disciples in this present truth. We are to allow the living water of God's word to overflow the banks of our lives and flood the lives of our brothers who are in dry waste places. Through teaching and all other media advancements we will be able to reach our world with this life-changing message.

We must allow this world to see that God has the answer to all social issues of our time. We must be the Joseph to our communities, providing God's wisdom to people in troubled times. We can obtain this by the teaching of God's word and through prayer.

Our future is in establishing every area that is vital to the longevity of this local church.

We must also develop the youth for they are the church leadership of tomorrow. We must ensure that this message will continue long after this present leadership has been gathered to the Lord. Raising a generation of finishers is the most important act of any local church. We refuse to allow our children to be lost.

## ‡ HOW TO GET INVOLVED ‡

### Ministry of Helps

*“For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it: because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” Habakkuk 2:3*

The Ministry of Helps at Church of the Living Water of Austin is a place for those that are committed to this local church and committed to see the vision God gave to this Pastor come to fruition.

#### Requirements for Ministry of Helps

New Members Perfecting Class and Able Ministers of Covenant (AMC) Class are prerequisites to the Ministry of Helps. New Members Perfecting Class is a 13-week class that enables the new member to have foundational principles established in their lives. Following the New Members Perfecting Class, the member should obtain an application from the Office to enroll in the AMC class. The AMC class is established to prepare members desiring to be leaders in the Ministry.

All Ministry of Helps workers must be tithing members six months before being eligible to participate in the Ministry of Helps. They must have received Jesus as their Lord and Savior, baptized with the Holy Spirit (with the evidence of speaking in tongues), and be baptized in water.

**CARE MINISTRY:** The mission of the Care Ministry is to be the extended hand of our Pastor (Ex. 17:8-13) by showing the love and compassion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to members of our ministry by supporting our members in times of need, rejoicing in times of celebration, and welcoming our visitors with the love of Christ. (Matt. 25:34-40)

The Care Ministry provides a personal touch for members that are out due to special circumstances such as:

- Surgery
- Confined to home
- Loss of loved one
- Pregnancy

**OUTREACH MINISTRY:** The Outreach Ministry shares the gospel, encourages those that are without Christ to seek salvation and those without a church home to come to a ministry where the uncompromising word of God is taught.

**LIVE STREAM MINISTRY (YouTube, Facebook, SoundCloud):** The live stream ministry is another source that allows the Word to go forth into communities. Using this media allows COLW into the homes of people who are wavering in their Christian walk. These avenues of ministry allow the word of God to prick the heart of those feeling hopelessness and despair to realize there is a practical message being taught that can bring them to understanding God’s purpose for their lives. All messages can be found on the live streaming platforms to listen to again.

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH MINISTRY:** The purpose of the Children’s Church of Excellence ministry is to prepare children ages 2 to beginning of high school to hear the word in a manner they can understand. This ministry is here as an extension of the parent’s teaching of the word.

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** Known as Youth With Conviction, this ministry is intended to minister to those members that are in high school. Lessons are taught in an environment conducive to young people. YWC meets every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

**MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Respectively called Men of Integrity and Women of Covenant. These two fellowships show men how to be godly and women how to be virtuous in fulfilling the role God has designed for them. Men of Integrity meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month and Women of Covenant meets every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**USHERS:** The purpose of this Ministry of Helps is to demonstrate sincere compassionate love that the believers of Church of the Living Water of Austin have for all that enter to hear God's word. Seating people and instructing them on the flow of this ministry will be provided with friendliness and kindness.

**DEACONS:** The purpose of this Ministry of Helps is to provide leadership in a local church. Deacons should be apt to teach and give godly counsel. General church maintenance of the building and grounds is also the responsibility of the deacons.

## ‡ OUR MINISTRY TO YOUR CHILDREN ‡

### CHURCH OF THE LIVING WATER OF AUSTIN YOUTH DEPARTMENT

#### GENERATION OF FINISHERS

How will they become generations of finishers? Will they consider alcohol, drugs, and premarital sex thus conforming to the world's view on such life changing matters? Will God be relegated to a later time in their life? **NOT WHEN THE TRUTH CAN BE REVEALED TO THEM NOW!**

#### PURPOSE

The Youth Ministry of The Church of the Living Water of Austin is an outreach ministry designed for teenagers from the age of 13 through graduation from high school. The Youth Ministry, or Youth With Conviction (YWC), is based on 1 Timothy 4:12. Here, teenagers are taught to be examples in their generation while boldly proclaiming and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. YWC endeavors to follow the examples of men and women used by God in the Bible to initiate the journey of becoming reformers early in their walk with Christ.

There are elected officers that have the responsibility of coordinating teen activities, fund-raisers, and teen outings. YWC is on a mission to raise, establish and equip the next generation to become mighty men of valor and powerful women of covenant through teaching, being helpers of their joy, and developing their knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ!

#### CHILDREN'S CHURCH OF EXCELLENCE

The vision of the Children's Ministry of Excellence is to give the children a working knowledge of the word of God. Our goal is to make plain the message of salvation through teachings so they can understand the Word, build upon the foundation they receive, and take it and run with it for generations to come. This goal is

accomplished using the bible, puppetry, skits, storybooks, videos, games, role-play, and various activities. The activities and lessons are specific to each age group. Children are taught the foundational principles of the Word.

## **NURSERY DEPARTMENT**

### **PURPOSE**

Children, from birth to two years old experience Jesus through music, puppetry, arts and crafts. Nursery workers commit to meet both their spiritual and physical needs during this time of their care. The children are provided a safe and comfortable atmosphere with supervision while you are receiving the word of God.

### **NURSERY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

1. Parents or guardians please be patient with the nursery worker when receiving the number to sign your child in and out of the nursery.
2. Parents or guardians be sure to clearly specify in writing any special instructions for your child when you sign your child in.
3. Only the parent or guardian who has the number will be allowed to pick up his or her child. Please **only** send an authorized adult (*an adult with the assigned number will be considered authorized*) to pick up your child. This rule will be enforced.
4. Parents or guardians bring a change of clothing for your child, even if your child is already potty trained. This will help the nursery workers give our children the best care.
5. Parents or guardians are not allowed in the Children's Ministry area.
6. Mothers, if you are nursing your child, please bring pre-pumped milk in a bottle for your child.
7. Bottles must come prepared.
8. Children's diapers must be changed prior to arrival. We will not accept children with soiled diapers/clothing.
9. Parents must provide everything their child will use including diapers, wipes, sippy cups, etc. **DO NOT FORGET TO LABEL bags, bottles, cups and wipes.**
10. Please do not bring extra toys or any household items into the Children's Ministry unless requested. We are not responsible for keeping track of these items.

## ‡WORSHIP EXPERIENCE ‡

In our services, you will witness several things, and this section is provided to help you better understand what you are hearing and seeing as all that we do is rooted in God's word.

### **WHY DO WE STAND WHEN WE SING?**

2 Chronicles 20:-19

*“And the Levites, of the Children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korahites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high.”*

Psalm 135:2-3

*“Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God, Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant.*

### **WHY DO WE CLAP WHEN WE SING?**

Psalm 47:1

*“O clap your hands, all ye people: shout unto God with the voice of triumph.”*

### **WHY DO WE LIFT OUR HANDS?**

Psalm 134:2

*“Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord.”*

Psalm 63:4

*“Thus, will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.”*

1 Timothy 2:8

*“I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”*

### **WHY DO WE AUDIBLY PRAISE GOD?**

Psalm 103:1

*“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.”*

Psalm 34:1

*“I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”*

Psalm 100:1

*“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.”*

Revelation 19:1,6

*“And after these things, I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleuia; Salvation and glory and honor and power, unto the Lord our God. And I hear as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”*

### **WHY DO WE HAVE THIS TYPE OF WORSHIP?**

John 4:24

*“God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*

John 4:23,24

*“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in truth for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”*

Philippians 3:3

*“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh.”*

### **WHAT IS PROPHECY?**

1 Corinthians 12:7 & 10:

*“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”*

*“To another the working of miracles: to another prophecy: to another discerning of spirits: to another divers kinds of tongues: to another the interpretation of tongues.”*

1 Corinthians 14:3

*“But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.”*

Amos 3:8

*“...the Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?”*

### **WHY DO WE HAVE SPEAKING IN TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES?**

1 Corinthians 12:7-10:

**V. 7** *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”*

**V. 8** *“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.”*

**V. 9** *“To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit.”*

**V. 10** *“To another the working of miracles: to another prophesy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another other interpretation of tongues.”*

Acts 2:1-4

*“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

1 Corinthians 14:39

*“Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.”*

## **WHY ARE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS PART OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE?**

Psalm 150:1-6

*“Praise ye the Lord, Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of this power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.*

*Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise Him with the stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.”*

*Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord, Praise ye the Lord.”*

Psalm 150:3-5

*“Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.*

*Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise Him with the stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.”*

Revelation 14:2

*“And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps.”*

## **WHY DOES THE WHOLE CHURCH PRAY AT ONCE FOR SPECIFIC NEEDS?**

Acts 4:24

*“And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou are God which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is.”*

## **SCRIPTURAL TERMINOLOGY**

### **THE ANOINTING**

The presence and the work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life.

### **TO MINISTER**

To serve or help another by the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

*“...but our sufficiency is of God; who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament...”* (2 Corinthians 3:5,-6)



## THE GLORY

The manifestation of God's presence and splendor to the spiritual and physical faculties of man.

*“And it came to pass. . . that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister...for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord.”* (1 Kings 8:10,-11)

## REVELATION

The manifestation of God's will and truths to man.

*“Wherefore I also...making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him...”* (Ephesians 1:15-17)

## THE WORD

A term used when referring to scriptures written in the Bible.

## ‡ ORDINANCES ‡

What are ordinances? Laws, decrees, or commands given by God in His Word under which we govern this local body.

## WATER BAPTISM

One question that seems never to be answered is “What about baptism?” Baptism is the outward show of an inward conviction about a believer's faith in God and his commitment to God. There should never be any doubt in the believer's mind whether they should be baptized. Further discussion will address the importance Jesus places on baptism and the proper method with which to be baptized.

### Baptisms as viewed in the Bible:

Water Baptism is obedience to faith, and it is an act of obedience for every believer who has repented of his sins and confessed faith in Christ. Water baptism is taught in the bible by both example; *“When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized...”* (Luke 3:21) and by direct commandment: *“Then Peter said to them, Repent and let every one of you be baptized...”* (Acts 2:38) *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.....”*(Matthew 28:19,20).

Water baptism purposefully enables the believer to separate himself from the “old man” one who was dead in sin to one who walks in the newness of life. Baptism thus becomes a symbolic reference point of affirmation to our willingness to accept the new life given to us by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

## HOW DOES GOD EXPECT ME TO BE BAPTIZED?

All evidence given by the scriptures indicate immersion is what God expects the believer to follow. Baptism in the Greek is **baptizo**, which means to cover wholly with water or fully wet. Jesus, Himself, *“... when He was baptized went up straightway out of the water...”*(Matthew 3:16) *“...was baptized-in Jordan (River)...coming*

up out of the water... (Mark 1:9-10). Philip took the Ethiopian “*down into the water*”- (*Acts 8:39*) *after his baptism*. The Apostle Paul told the Colossians that baptism was a form of “*burial*” (Colossians 2:12) with Christ.

## HOW DO WE BAPTIZE?

We baptize as follows: having received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. This has caused many to be confused because of what Peter said in *Acts 2:38* and *Acts 10:47-48*. The statement be baptized in the name of Jesus would not contradict what the Lord said on the subject in *Matthew 28:19*, nor is it saying that Jesus Christ is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as some would think. Rather it is making a distinction between John’s baptism and Christian baptism. John the Baptist baptized Jews unto repentance and when Jesus gave a new baptism there had to be a way to distinguish between the two. The statement “be baptized in the name Jesus Christ” means that one has received the gospel of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist’s ministry and baptism came before men could hear the gospel and become Christians.

## THE LORD’S SUPPER

Communion is considered more than a ceremony at Church of the Living Water of Austin. It is a heartfelt, joyous time that the saints come together to remember all that Jesus has provided for us through His death, burial, and resurrection. This remembrance enlightens us in the fellowship we now have in God through Jesus’ sufferings.

We abide by what the Bible teaches about this memorial.

*“And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, blessed, and brake it, and gave it to them and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And He said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. Verily, I say to you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”* (Mark 14:22-25).

## ⚡ GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERSHIP ⚡

### HOW THIS LOCAL CHURCH IS GOVERNED

There are two passages of scripture in the New Testament that show hierarchy in the local church. (*1 Corinthians 12:28* and *1 Peter 5:1-4*). From these passages we can see that God has established order in the local church. The word governments in (*1 Corinthians 12:28*) is descriptive of the Pastor’s ministry. In (*1 Peter 5*) the ministry Pastor is identified as elder and is compared to Jesus as the Chief Shepherd. This would mean that Jesus is the Pastor or Shepherd of the entire body of Christ and He appoints men to be under shepherds to local churches. The Pastor of a local Church is the one responsible for feeding the flock of God and must take the oversight of that particular church. Each member of this local church is commanded by God to submit to the Pastor who is to watch for his or her souls, that is, he must care for them by the teaching of the word and prayer. (*Hebrews 13:17*)

The Pastor is one person and cannot be everywhere or speak with everyone at once. Authority is then delegated to other members of the church to function in the Ministry of Helps. The Ministry of Helps consists of other ministers, deacons, teachers, nursery workers, ushers, counselors, and other leaders. These people follow the line of authority laid out in the scriptures. The people in delegated authority do not function independent of the Pastor

but in harmony with the charge of God on his life. They aid the Pastor in watching for the souls of the congregation, enabling the congregation to grow to the place of freedom and victory in Christ Jesus our Lord. The way a local church is governed is in this like manner: Christ is the Head of the universal Church, and He gives Pastors to govern the Church locally.

## **THE PURPOSE AND BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership allows us an opportunity to be in obedience to God concerning coming together as believers. (*Hebrews 10:25*)

When we come together, we position ourselves to hear and receive the Word that will develop us in spiritual maturity. Believers should take advantage of fellowship opportunities to avail themselves so that they can be conducive to the Holy Spirit.

Through membership the local church can teach us the purpose we have in a ministry.

## **DISCIPLINE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

### **WORSHIP**

Worship is not defined or limited to when we gather together in the church building. It is a way of life for the born-again believer. Worship should be perceived as a joyous event we do willingly with reverence that is due to the only true and living God.

### **TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

The tithe is the ten percent of every legally earned and unearned increase that is rightfully brought to honor God. Tithing is an act of obedience and an act of worship. Offerings are freewill and purposefully given beyond the tithe. The tithe and offering should always be given with a pure, heartfelt motive of giving generously and joyously to the kingdom.

### **OUR CONFESSION OVER THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

The confession should be made with an earnest belief and expectation that you will receive what you confess.

### **PERSONAL MINISTRY/PERSONAL COUNSEL**

There may come a time in your life when you may experience challenges that you find life threatening or life changing. When you have these challenges, you may desire to seek personal ministry from the Pastor.

Consider the following when you find yourself seeking personal counseling:

- Do I have membership with Church of the Living Water of Austin?
- Have I consistently attended all services for six months: Family Life, Morning Service, Evening Service, Wednesday night bible study or any of the other bible studies that are available in this ministry?
- Have I made God's word my lifestyle?

Remember, Pastor is only one person; therefore, her time is limited. Through the church office staff, an attempt will be made to schedule a time that is mutually agreeable to meet with her.

## **CHURCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**

The Church office is authorized to coordinate all administrative tasks for this church. As a member of this church, you are required to contact the office for any of the following:

- Appointments with the Pastor
- Baptism
- Benevolent help
- Calendar events
- Dedications
- Member information forms – it is the responsibility of all members to assist the Church office in maintaining accurate records.
- Pastoral care
- Scheduling use of the church

All forms are acquired through the office by email request at [colw\\_1988@outlook.com](mailto:colw_1988@outlook.com).

## **CALENDAR EVENTS**

To schedule a church event on the church calendar, a written request should be submitted to the church office 30 days prior to your event.

## **HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

To make an appointment with Pastor, email the office staff stating your name, phone number, and the reason you are requesting an appointment. The office email address is [colw\\_1988@outlook.com](mailto:colw_1988@outlook.com). The staff will schedule an appointment for you with Pastor.

## **BENEVOLENT HELP**

What to do when you need some assistance? If you have a need of any kind, you should email the church office to make a request for assistance indicating what type of assistance you need. Based on our guidelines and in consultation with the Pastor, decisions are made, and the Care Ministry will contact you. *All requests for assistance must go through the church office and be made by the person requesting the assistance.*

## **WEDDINGS**

Weddings requested for Fridays should not occur before 8:00 p.m. Wedding arrangements should be outlined and provided to the office staff 30 days prior to the wedding date. You or your designated wedding coordinator should provide details of the wedding arrangements, and you will be connected with the church's service coordinator. Wedding invitations will not be posted, nor will the wedding be announced from the pulpit. There is no charge for officiating a wedding for members and their adult children.

## **FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES**

Concerning the death of immediate family members, if one of your immediate family members passes away, it is your responsibility to inform the church office staff. Do not tell another member of the church expecting them to communicate the death to us. Contact the church office staff or leave a detailed message with information about the services. The information you provide will be given to Pastoral Care who will minister to your spiritual needs. There is no charge for officiating funerals for church members and their children.

## **WHEN YOU ARE IN THE HOSPITAL**

When you are admitted to the hospital, it is your responsibility to inform us either directly or by having one of your loved ones communicate it to the church office staff.

Do not tell another member of the church expecting them to deliver the message. Contact the church office staff by email and leave a detailed message and the Pastoral Care will contact you and minister to your needs.

## **BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS**

Neither the Pastor nor any of the staff of Church of the Living Water of Austin is in any way responsible for business dealings among individuals within this ministry. Individual business deals between members are out of the scope of ministry. This means that if advice is requested concerning how to deal with situations stemming from these business relationships, you will receive an answer of "Seek the Lord" and nothing more. This includes any treaties to the Pastor for correcting how you feel you have been wronged in the relationship. Please take this message to heart. Likewise, the Pastor will not enter any business deals with people of this ministry.

## **TRADEMARK**

The Church of the Living Water of Austin trademark is **only** for church use on written communications, labels, and other transactions.