

# Capitol City Christian Church

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## CANDIDATE INFORMATION BOOKLET



**Capitol City**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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# Our Story

## 1964

**CHARTER MEMBERS:** On April 19, 1964, the first meetings of Capitol City Christian Church took place in the home of Hub and Pat Hall. Desiring to see a new church, with a new vision for reaching the city of Lincoln, the Halls – along with a handful of other faithful people - stepped out in bold faith to begin the gospel work we are all a part of today.

**FIRST BUILDING:** In July of 1964, our growing congregation purchased the buildings at 2845 N 48th St from another church in Lincoln. This was Capitol City's home until 1971.



## 1965

Capitol City's first full-time senior minister was A. Dale Crain.



## 1968

Bob Chitwood, our second senior minister, came to Capitol City in 1968. He led and served our people until 1991.

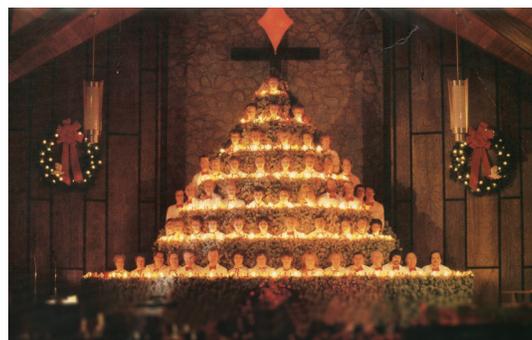
## 1971

Our growing fellowship moved to our present location in northeast Lincoln at 7800 Holdrege in 1971.



## 1980

**EDUCATION WING:** The first major expansion of our building occurred in 1980. As more and more people came to call Capitol City home, the church expanded into our education wing, providing additional classroom space for adults and children.



## 1982

**LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE:** One of the defining ministries of our church for a long season, the Living Christmas Tree, and eventually the Christmas Program, shepherded thousands of people each year in the celebration of the birth and life of Jesus Christ.

# 1991



Larry O. Sullivan was our church's third full-time senior minister, serving from 1991-1995.



# 1992

**WORSHIP CENTER CONSTRUCTION:** The worship gatherings of our church were full – too full – in the early 1990s. Our elders decided to embark upon a major expansion of our facility, building the present worship center and foyer, which opened in 1992.



# 1995

Having already served on our staff for fourteen years, in 1995 Bill Thornton became the fourth full-time senior minister of Capitol City Christian Church. He served in this role until 2012.



# 2001

**BUILDING FOR LIFE:** Sensing that housing our growing congregation would require more space, our elders cast a bold vision to acquire the vacant lots north and east of our building. Building for Life – the campaign through which God raised the funds that supported this vision – positioned us for many more decades of faithful ministry on Holdrege Street.



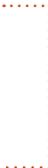
# 2005

**REACH ONE MORE:** As our congregation continued to grow numerically, our elders sensed that it was time to expand our facility once again. Our Reach One More campaign set the stage for our most-recent building expansion. The atrium, event center, and preschool wing opened in 2006 as a result. These efforts allowed for exciting new ministry opportunities for our students and children, as well as the continued growth of Fingerprints Child Development Center, one way our church continues to bless the families of northeast Lincoln.



# 2013

In 2013, James Sharp became the fifth full-time senior pastor of Capitol City Christian Church.



# 2018

**DEBT FREE:** Two estate gifts came to the church in the middle of the 2010's, changing our church's financial position. The gifts from the VanDeventer and Masih estates allowed us to accelerate our debt repayment schedule. In January 2018, our elders voted to use the necessary funds from these gifts to repay the remaining balance on our building debt. For the first time in several decades, Capitol City Christian Church was debt free!

# Our Mission

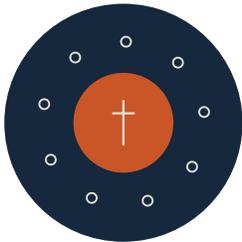
At Capitol City, we describe our mission through three core values: Truth, Life, and Love.



## **Truth**

Whenever we gather for corporate worship, we desire for our hearts to be formed around the truth of the gospel, so that it might “bear fruit and increase in us” just as it grows into the whole world.

*(Colossians 1:6)*



## **Life**

Through Community Groups, we are committed to living as people created and shaped by the gospel. Each week in Community Groups, diverse people from all generations gather in community to study the Word, pray together, and encourage one another, all for the glory of Christ.

*(1 Thessalonians 5:11)*



## **Love**

As a church, we are committed to sharing the love of Christ with others in our church body, as well as with our unbelieving family members, friends, and neighbors. Both in our church body, and in everyday life, we seek to live on mission, sent by the Lord to accomplish His work through us for the praise of His glorious grace.

*(John 13:34-35; Galatians 6:10)*

# Our Statement of Belief

The gospel is the good news that through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God saves sinners. It is the heart of the Christian faith, the central message of the Bible, and the only hope for humanity. At Capitol City Christian Church (CCCC), we believe Jesus is central. Everything in our church revolves around Him; He is the main focus.

The following statement of belief does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired Word of God, speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, and is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of CCCC's faith, doctrine, practice, and policy, our elders are CCCC's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

We do not require a believer to read, memorize, sign, recite, affirm, pledge, or in any way have anything to do with a written creed as a litmus test for fellowship, baptism, or communion, nor will a seeker or non-believer be expected to learn a creed in order to continue learning or attending. We proclaim that the original creed has but one article of faith in it, namely: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

We are not the only Christians, but we are Christians only. Therefore, we accept other believers who profess to believe in Jesus Christ as our brothers and sisters. *(Mark 9:40)*

## **ACKNOWLEDGING THAT:**

### **God**

We believe that there is one God – the Maker, Preserver, and Ruler of all things – having in and of Himself all perfection, and being infinite in them all; to Him all people owe their highest love, reverence, and obedience. God is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

*(Genesis 1:26; Exodus 3:14; Genesis 1:1; 1 Cor. 8:4-6)*

### **Jesus Christ**

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings.

We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for all believers, and ultimate return to earth.

*(Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:5-8)*

### **The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, empower, and gift all who believe in Jesus Christ.

We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells all who believe in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide.

*(John 14:16-17, 26; Galatians 5:22-26)*

# Our Statement of Belief (cont.)

## **The Trinity**

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious roles in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

*(Matthew 28:18-20; John 17:20-21)*

## **The Word of God**

We believe that the Bible (the Old and New Testament Scriptures) is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, with supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

*(2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12)*

## **The Church**

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all redeemed persons are members.

We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a confession of faith, and assembled together for worship, service, fellowship, and the partaking of the Lord's Supper.

We believe that God has laid upon her members the primary tasks of living a life of worship, nurturing the body of believers, and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

*(Ephesians 1:19-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 20:7)*

## **Humanity**

We believe that humanity was created in the image of God. However, because Adam and Eve sinned, all humanity fell into sin, and is, therefore, lost. Only through faith in Jesus Christ can sinners be justified, fully forgiven of their sin, and restored to right relationship with God the Father.

*(Genesis 3:17; Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:23)*

## **Salvation**

We believe that the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ provide the only basis for salvation for all who believe in Him. Those accepting Christ by faith should repent of sin, confess their faith that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God, and be baptized by immersion into Him, continually depending on His grace for salvation.

*(Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21)*

# Church Leadership

(Acts 20:28-32, 1 Peter 5:1-4)

Capitol City Christian Church (CCCC) is led by a plurality of elders. CCCC elders provide spiritual oversight, direction, and leadership for the church, entrusting the implementation of that direction to ministry leaders and staff, under the leadership of the Senior Minister. The Senior Minister and staff are supported, resourced, and encouraged by the eldership team to fulfill the mission of the church. The Senior Minister works with the elders to ensure the mission, witness, and testimony of Christ is accomplished with proper accountability.

Elders, as representatives of the church, are nominated by the congregation and undergo a prayerful screening, interview, and approval process. Approved candidates are then voted on by those church members present at the annual church meeting. Elders serve staggered three-year terms and can serve consecutive terms.

As stated in CCCC's By-Laws, the tasks and responsibilities of the elders vary greatly and require discernment as the board strives to keep the church on its biblical course. Responsibilities include:

- Determining the overall vision and future direction of the church
- Serving as the policy-making body of the church
- Ensuring the church's teaching and practices reflect accurate biblical theology
- Encouraging by example and word the missionary, evangelistic, education, and stewardship responsibilities of the church
- Providing vision, support, counsel, and accountability to the Senior Minister to ensure the vision and values defined by the leadership team are being fulfilled
- Holding each other accountable as fellow elders to the standards of the position as set forth in the Scriptures

# Ministry Programs

## ***Kids and Student Ministries***

Scripture is central to all of our efforts in Kids and Student Ministries. Through our programming in these ministry areas, we deeply desire to see the truth of the gospel clearly taught and applied to life.

In our Kids Ministry programming, we aim to communicate the story of the Bible in a creative and systematic way that is age-appropriate and engaging. As we teach through the entire Bible on a three-year rotation, we show how each story points to Jesus and applies to life. The average Sunday morning attendance in Kids Ministry was 124 in 2017 and 108 in 2018.

In our Student Ministry for grades 6-12, we strive to provide a biblical foundation for students, that they might understand the gospel and see it impact their daily lives. Student Ministry also fosters community through small groups that model fellowship, trust, and accountability. The average Sunday morning attendance in Student Ministry was 25 in 2017 and 18 in 2018.



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## ***Worship Services***

Capitol City presently has two worship services, one at 9 AM and one at 10:30 AM. Historically, the worship style at the 9 AM service has been traditional, and the 10:30 service has been contemporary. In recent years, an attempt has been made to bridge this gap out of a desire to foster greater unity in this area. Because of this, the difference in worship style between the two services is now less-pronounced, although still present to some degree.

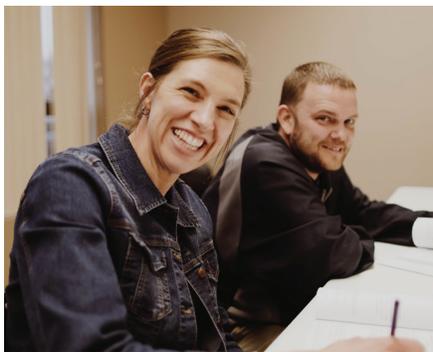
The average weekly attendance for the 9:00 AM service was 245 in 2017 and 204 in 2018. The average weekly attendance for the 10:30 AM service was 261 in 2017 and 248 in 2018.



# Ministry Programs (cont.)

## **Community Group Ministries**

In recent years, Community Group (CG) Ministry has been a major emphasis at Capitol City. While some groups existed before the start of CG Ministry five years ago, Community Groups have only formally existed at Capitol City since that point. From that time, significant progress has been made in connecting members and attenders to group life. Currently, there are 328 individuals engaged in 33 Community Groups, which are overseen by 30 group leaders.



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## **Mission Ministries**

Capitol City currently financially supports 24 local and global partners on a regular basis. Of these, 13 are ministries or individuals for whom we also provide additional oversight and support. We are committed to supporting the Lord's work locally (through ministries like the Pregnancy Center of Lincoln and Christian Student Fellowship) and globally (through individuals serving in areas such as Japan, Uganda, and Moldova).



# Senior Minister Profile

Capitol City Christian Church is seeking someone from the Independent Christian Church or Church of Christ with experience as a Senior Minister or with sufficient experience in other ministry roles.

The Senior Minister works with, and is responsible to, Capitol City Christian Church's Board of Elders.

## **Qualifications**

- Passionately embodies God's Word and lives out the gospel in his daily life
- Shows authentic relationship and commitment to Christ and has His heart for all people
- As a baptized (immersed) believer, fully understands and supports the Scripture-based doctrine of the Restoration Movement
- Consistent spiritual moral character and lifestyle
  - Shows a spiritual calling by focusing on serving and giving sacrificially to his church family under the chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ
- Competent in organization, administration, and interpersonal relationships
  - Comfortably relates with people of different personalities, genders, ages, and backgrounds
  - Shows clear evidence of an ability to motivate people
  - Shows clear evidence of an ability to develop a climate of respect, trust, and acceptance
  - Shows perseverance and endurance to criticism and backlash, especially in areas where tradition may need changing
  - Shows ability to paraphrase, summarize, and express feelings
  - In partnership with, shows respect for and adheres to the decisions of the Board of Elders and follows by-laws of the church
- Along with baptized members of his household will place his membership with Capitol City Christian Church
- Technologically proficient, able to relate to and participate in social media in a manner that promotes, engages, and encourages the congregation and others receiving the message
- Ordained in the Independent Christian Church (preferred)
- Bachelor's degree in relevant field of ministry (M Div. preferred)

## **Responsibilities**

### **LEADERSHIP**

- Create a church culture that increasingly embodies Christ's example of servant leadership.
- Provide leadership to the ministry staff and church body.
- Direct implementation of the strategic initiatives developed by the church leadership by building a culture of collaboration and teaming that empowers and promotes the discipleship process.

# Senior Minister Profile (cont.)

- Serve as head of staff. Supervise and coordinate all work of the ministry staff. Guide, encourage, and mentor the spiritual development of staff and lay leaders.
- Establish pulpit ministry priorities that will move the church closer to the identified vision and mission statement. Promote spiritual awareness and outreach to the larger community, supporting the mission work of the church.

## PREACHING AND TEACHING

- Preach in a scholarly and biblical manner that is acutely relevant to our lives. Communicate in a manner that is readily understandable and applicable to our collective life experiences, concerns, hopes, and dreams.
- Oversee discipleship program for people new to Capitol City.

## PASTORAL CARE

- Focus on discipleship development.
- Be available for, or delegate to appropriate staff:
  - Officiate at weddings and provide the couple with pre-marital counseling.
  - Officiate at funerals and coordinate visiting the sick in homes, hospitals, and care centers.
  - Respond appropriately and expediently to concerns and situations that arise in the congregation and make appropriate professional referrals when necessary.

## PERSONAL GROWTH AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- Be a lifelong learner and exhibit the capacity to engage critically in multiple disciplines.
- Attend relevant conferences and training.
- Foster fellowship with other ministers, especially with those associated with Independent Christian Churches.

## PREFERRED EXPERIENCE

- Knowledge and involvement in the process required to develop and implement strategic initiatives.

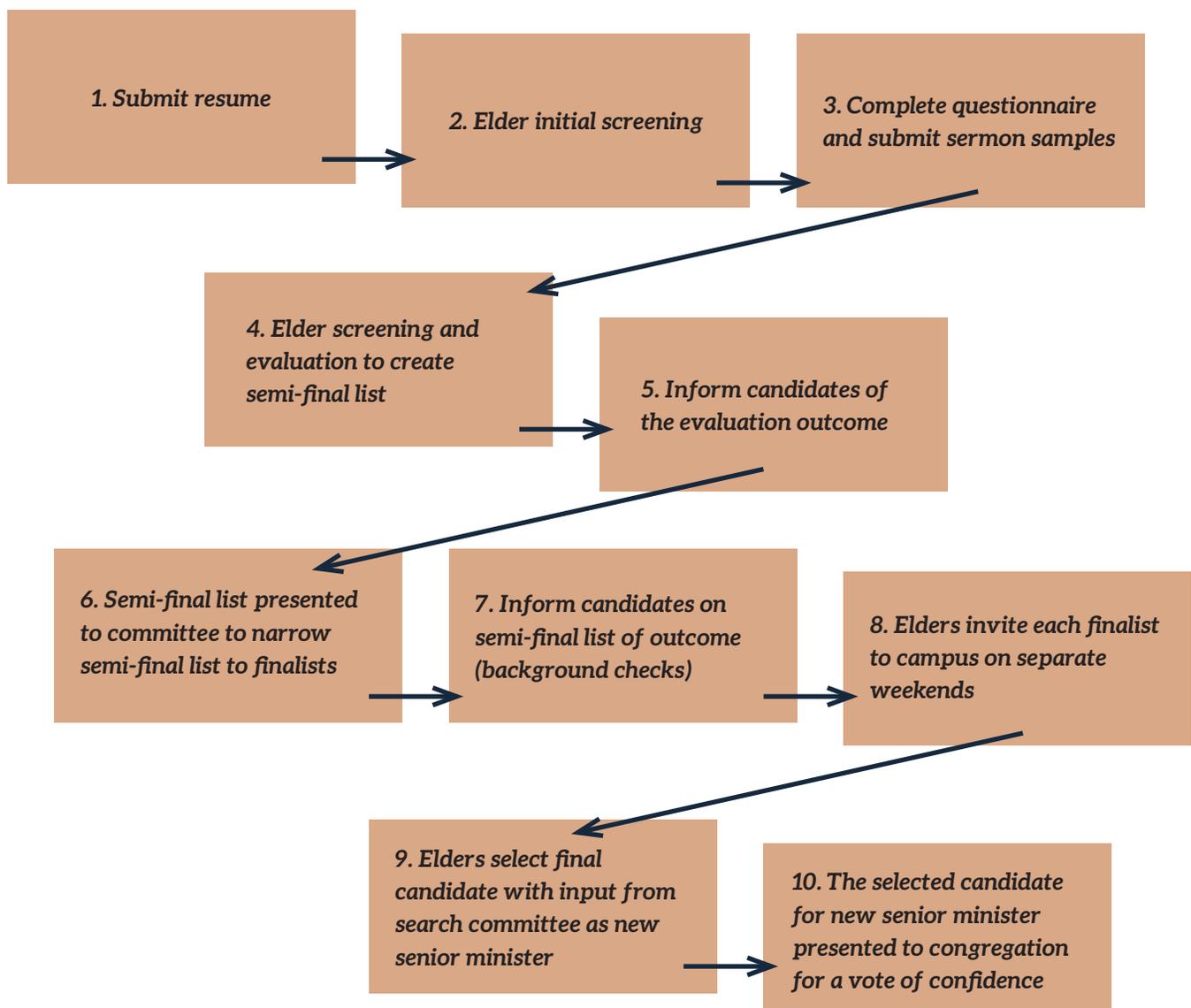
## ***Reports to***

- The eldership  
Perform other duties assigned by the eldership.

# Candidate Selection Process

Built into the candidate evaluation and screening process is absolute confidentiality plus the highest respect for the candidate's needs.

The evaluation and screening process involves two committees. The initial evaluation/screening of all candidates will be conducted by the Board of Elders to create a semi-final list of candidates for further follow-up and evaluation. Those candidates who are not on the semi-final list will be promptly notified in writing. The follow-up and more thorough evaluation of those candidates on the semi-final list will be handled by a search committee of Capitol City Christian Church members with an elder as chair. This committee will be composed of representative members of Capitol City. This committee will be responsible for narrowing the semi-final list to a final list of candidates. The names of candidates on the finalist list will be turned over to the elders for selecting the final candidate with input from the search committee. The final candidate will then be presented to the congregation at a special congregational meeting for a vote of confidence on the elders' selection of the new senior minister.



# The Lincoln Community

Named after the 16th president, Lincoln is the second-most populated town in Nebraska and home to the University of Nebraska. Other colleges and universities based in Lincoln include Bryan LGH College of Health Sciences, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Union College, and Southeast Community College. The state government and the University of Nebraska are both large contributors to the local economy, along with other prominent industries including health care, insurance, banking, and technology.

## **Demographics**

- o Lincoln metro has an estimated population of 285,000 (2017), which makes it the 72nd largest metro in the United States.
- o Lincoln was designated as a refugee-friendly city by the government in the 1970s because of its size, educational institutions, and stable economy. Many refugees have settled in the city, and it was recently named as one of the top 10 most-welcoming cities in America by Welcoming America.

## **Lincoln highlights**

**Parks & Trails:** Lincoln contains over 6,000 acres of parks and natural land, which include 131 parks, 6 recreation centers, 134 miles of trails, 9 public pools, 5 city golf courses, and one nature center.

**Lincoln Children’s Zoo:** The Lincoln Children’s Zoo is a recently renovated, 10-acre zoo located in central Lincoln. Home to over 350 animals, Lincoln Children’s Zoo was recently ranked among the top 25 zoos in the US by Parents magazine.

**Lincoln Children’s Museum:** The Lincoln Children’s Museum offers three floors and 23,300 square feet of hands-on exhibits for children and families to enjoy.

Lincoln contains an active arts, sports, and music community, offering frequent access to concerts and sporting events.

