



HIGH PRAISES CHURCH

*Join the*  
**JOURNEY**

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

2 STEP MAP

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## *Join the* **JOURNEY**

WHERE YOU MAKE HPC YOUR OFFICIAL HOME,  
BECOME KNOWN, + DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE



*step one*



# Our Story

In November of 1998, after much prayer + a candid conversation in our kitchen, I founded High Praises Church alongside my wife, LaDonna, with just 18 people + a clear, God-given vision. From the beginning, our heart was to create a place of worship where everyone was welcome—no matter their background, appearance, or story—because God’s presence brings people together, not apart.

Early on, a simple phrase became our foundation: Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing — the Main Thing is the love of Jesus Christ.

What began in the basement grew through several seasons + locations, each marked by faith, sacrifice, + obedience. In August of 2021, God led us into our current location, where we continue to serve the East Tennessee region + reach people locally + globally through future campuses + our online campus—teaching people to dream big because we serve a big God.

LaDonna + I shared 27 beautiful years of marriage. On June 4, 2016, she went to Heaven, leaving a legacy of love that continues to shape our family + church.

Today, I am grateful for the new chapter God has written alongside my wife, Heather, as we lead High Praises Church together with our blended family of 10 with unity, vision, + a continued passion to love people well.

From 18 people in 1998 to all that God is still building today, our story remains the same: keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing + letting the love of Jesus change lives.



# Our Beliefs

We believe that God is Love according to 1 John 4:16, and that we, as His children, should make it our goal to walk His love out in our everyday life. A personal relationship with Jesus is at the forefront of what is taught at High Praises Church. The death, burial + resurrection are the foundation and basis of why we believe that we can live by faith and be a victor, not a victim, of the circumstances around us. The Holy Spirit lives in us, guiding our path, giving us confidence so that we can Dream Big because we serve a Big God.

The purpose of High Praises Church is to carry out the great commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to provide a loving and happy environment for a hopeless world, and encourage everyone to receive His spirit as his or her source of personal strength.

# *Constitution* + *By-Laws*

## **NAME**

The church shall be known as High Praises Church.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of High Praises Church is to carry out the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to provide a loving and happy environment for a hopeless world, and encourage everyone to receive His Spirit as his or her source of personal strength.

## **INCORPORATION**

The church is incorporated according to the laws of the State of Tennessee.

## **DOCTRINE**

The church shall believe in the whole Bible rightly divided as the infallible and inspired word of God. The Bible shall be the basis for all doctrine of the church. We believe that our salvation is acquired and retained by Jesus Christ and that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth.

## **GOVERNMENT**

The Pastor and the Elders will conduct all church business as follows: There will be three votes cast on any given matter. The Pastor has one vote. The Senior Elder has one vote and the Junior Elder has one vote, which represents the vote of the remaining elders.

## **JOINING PROCESS**

If a person desires to be a member of High Praises Church, he or she must make his or her desire known to the Pastor. At that time, they become a prospective member. A prospective member will become an accepted member of the church upon completion of a Join the Journey Experience.

## **DUTIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS**

A member of High Praises Church is expected to live a life that is in complete accordance with the doctrine of the church and aligned with the word of God to reflect a Christ-centered life. A church member is expected to promote unity and must be willing to stop any conversation that tears down the vision of the church. A church member should support the church in prayer, regular church attendance and service. A church member will also be expected to tithe.

## **CONDUCT**

All church members will be expected to conduct their lives according to the principles of the Bible and in accordance with the by-laws of High Praises Church.

## **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership will be terminated upon the death of a member or if the member requests that their name be removed from the church membership list. If someone does not attend any services in six months, his or her name could be removed from the church membership list. If any member is found doing anything to tear down the vision of the church, or found in an act that is not in line with the Bible or church constitution, their name could be removed from the church membership list. The Pastor and Elders of the church will make any decisions concerning termination and membership.



THE  
MAIN THING  
IS THE  
LOVE OF  
JESUS  
DREAM TEAM

# HPG *culture* CODES

1

## **LOVE IS OUR FOUNDATION**

WE KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING—THAT’S THE LOVE OF JESUS. EVERYTHING WE DO STARTS AND ENDS WITH LOVE. WE LOVE GOD FIRST AND LOVE PEOPLE OUT OF THE OVERFLOW.

2

## **FAITH IS OUR FOCUS**

WE CHOOSE FAITH OVER FEELINGS. WE BELIEVE GOD’S WORD ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES AND WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT—TRUSTING HIS PROMISES IN EVERY SEASON.

3

## **PRAISE IS OUR POSTURE**

WE DON’T WAIT FOR A REASON TO PRAISE. WORSHIP ISN’T PERFORMANCE—IT’S PRESENCE. PRAISE IS HOW WE FIGHT OUR BATTLES AND STAY ANCHORED IN GRATITUDE.

4

## **GROWTH IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY**

WE DON’T STAY THE SAME. WE GROW IN FAITH, CHARACTER, AND PURPOSE—BECAUSE FOLLOWING JESUS MEANS BECOMING MORE LIKE HIM EVERY DAY.

5

## **WE SERVE WITH JOY**

WE BUILD BRIDGES, NOT WALLS. SERVING IS OUR PRIVILEGE, NOT OUR BURDEN. WE LEAD WITH HUMILITY, HONOR EVERYONE, AND CARRY JOY INTO EVERY MOMENT.

6

## **HOPE IS OUR HEARTBEAT**

WE CELEBRATE ALWAYS AS WE LEAD WITH HOPE AND EXPECTATION. WE LIVE GRATEFUL, STAY UNIFIED, LOOK FOR THE BEST, AND POINT PEOPLE TO JESUS—THE SOURCE OF UNSHAKABLE HOPE AND EVERLASTING JOY.

7

## **GENEROSITY IS OUR LIFESTYLE**

WE GIVE OUR BEST BECAUSE HE GAVE HIS BEST. WE TRUST GOD WITH EVERY AREA OF LIFE BECAUSE IT ALL FLOWS FROM HIM.

8

## **WE’RE BETTER TOGETHER**

WE CHOOSE CHARACTER OVER COMFORT AND FIGHT FOR EACH OTHER’S GROWTH. WE BUILD REAL RELATIONSHIPS AND BELIEVE WE’RE BETTER WHEN WE BUILD TOGETHER.

# HPC *overant*

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior, and embracing the culture and mission of High Praises Church, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with this church family. As I do, I commit myself to God, to the church leadership, and to my fellow members in the following ways:

## **1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH BY:**

- **Acting in love toward other members**
- **Refusing to gossip**
- **Following the leaders**

Romans 14:19

*“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”*

1 Peter 1:22

*“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.”*

Ephesians 4:29

*“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”*

Hebrews 13:17

*“Obey them that have rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief, for that is unprofitable for you.”*

## **2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH BY:**

- **Praying for its growth**
- **Inviting the unchurched to attend**
- **Warmly welcoming those who visit**

1 Thessalonians 1:1-2

*“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers.”*

Luke 14:23

*“And the Lord said unto the servant, Go out unto the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.”*

Romans 15:7

*“Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.”*

### 3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH BY:

- **Discovering my gifts and talents**
- **Being equipped to serve my pastor and support his vision for the church**
- **Developing a servant's heart**

1 Peter 4:10

*“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”*

Ephesians 4:11-12

*“And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*

Philippians 2:3-4, 7

*“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves... Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others... But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant.”*

### 4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH BY:

- **Attending faithfully**
- **Living a godly life**
- **Giving tithes and offerings regularly**

Hebrews 10:25

*“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another...”*

Philippians 1:27

*“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ... that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”*

1 Corinthians 16:2

*“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him...”*

Leviticus 27:30

*“And all the tithe of the land... is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord.”*

Malachi 3:10

*“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse... and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts...”*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

WELCOME HOME WELCOME HOME WELCOME HOME WELCOME HOME WELCOME HOME WELCOME HOME

# Welcome HOME

THANK YOU FOR JOINING THIS JOURNEY WITH US AS  
WE KEEP THE MAIN THING THE LOVE OF JESUS

YOUR KINGDOM COME,  
YOUR WILL BE DONE,  
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

*Matthew 6:10*

BETTER TOGETHER BETTER TOGETHER BETTER TOGETHER BETTER TOGETHER BETTER TOGETHER

IT DON'T COST A BIT MORE TO DREAM BIG THAN IT DOES LITTLE


TODAY I WILL HAVE MY FAITH BUILT BY THE WORD OF GOD

I WILL NOT ALLOW MY PAST TO CONTROL MY FUTURE

GOD HAS GIVEN ME MY DREAMS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

AND MY FAITH AS A MEANS BY WHICH I WILL ARRIVE

**I WILL DREAM BIG BECAUSE I SERVE A BIG GOD**



**THE MAIN THING IS  
TO KEEP THE *main thing*  
THE MAIN THING. THAT'S  
*the love of Jesus***

# HPG *connect* GROUPS

**Connect Groups are where church becomes family.**

They're a place to experience real life together — not just on Sunday mornings, but through every season. From kids to students to adults, we have Connect Groups for every age, all meeting Sunday nights from 5:45–7:00 PM.

The Bible reminds us that we were never meant to walk this journey alone. Scripture consistently points us back to community — people who pray together, grow together, + carry one another through both the highs + the hard moments of life. Faith grows best when it's shared.

Connect Groups are built around fun, meaningful conversations, + authentic relationships. They're a place to connect with other believers, build genuine friendships, + center our lives around the Word of God in a way that's practical + relevant for everyday life.

It's not about perfection — it's about presence. Showing up. Being known. Growing together.

*Hebrews 10:24–25 (AMP)*

*“And let us consider [thoughtfully] how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds, not forsaking our meeting together... but encouraging one another.”*

*Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 (AMP)*

*“Two are better than one... For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion.”*



# Ministries

## **USHERS**

Our Ushers are often the first friendly faces you see, helping create a welcoming, loving environment where everyone feels at home.

## **SECURITY**

Our Security Team helps ensure the safety + well-being of our community during Sunday Experiences + other events.

## **HPCARE TEAM**

Our Care Team helps ensure our church family is loved and supported in every season. We come alongside people during difficult moments—like loss, illness, or recovery— + we celebrate life’s joys, including birthdays, anniversaries, + new homes. Our goal is simple: to care well + love like Jesus.

## **PRAYER TEAM**

Our Prayer Team is here to walk with you, pray with you, + encourage your heart through the love of Jesus + the truth of God’s Word.

## **CONNECTION CAFÉ**

Connection Café serves up coffee, treats, + friendly faces—creating a welcoming place to connect, laugh, + feel right at home before + after Sunday Experiences. Because community is better with good coffee.

## **THE HPC STORE**

Our bookstore offers Bibles, faith-building resources, + encouraging reads to support your walk with Jesus— plus fun goodies like clothing + accessories. Open before + after Sunday Experiences, so you can grab something meaningful (or just fun) on your way in or out.

## **LIL DREAMERS**

Lil Dreamers provides a safe, loving, + nurturing environment for infants + toddlers ages 0–3 during Sunday Experiences + other events—so families can worship with peace of mind.

## **HPC KIDS**

HPC Kids Church creates a fun, safe, + interactive space for kids ages 4–12 to learn about God + His love for them. Through engaging lessons, games, + community, we help kids grow in faith + friendships every Sunday.

## **HPC YTH**

HPC YTH exists to empower, equip, + support students ages 13 through high school—helping them grow in their faith, build strong friendships, + know they’re never alone. We have a lot of fun along the way, of course!

## **CIRCLE OF HOPE**

Circle of Hope partners with the Pregnancy Resource Center to support + encourage young mothers in need. We provide practical resources, loving support, + meaningful community—including hosting baby showers—to help women feel celebrated, cared for, + never alone as they step into motherhood.

## **CONNECT GROUPS**

Connect Groups help make a big church feel small by creating meaningful, life-giving community. The Bible reminds us that we are better together, + we believe healthy relationships are essential for spiritual growth. Life is richer— + way more fun—when it’s shared with others.

## **PRODUCTION**

Our Production Team serves behind the scenes to help people connect with worship + the message—both in the room + globally online. Through sound, visuals, + technology, they help create an environment where distractions fade + hearts can focus on what matters most.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Our Social Media Team helps share the heart of our church online. Through creating + posting content across our platforms, they connect people to what God is doing at HPC + help others feel welcomed before they ever walk through the doors.

## **WORLD MISSIONS**

Our World Missions Ministry supports missionaries around the world through prayer, financial partnership, + short-term mission trips.

*1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)*

*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace.”*

*Galatians 5:13 (NLT)*

*“Serve one another in love.”*

*Love More*



*step two*

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*Love More*

HIGH PRAISES CHURCH

I WILL *dream big*

BECAUSE I SERVE



A *big God*

HIGH PRAISES CHURCH

HIGH PRAISES CHURCH

*Join the*

# JOURNEY

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

STEP 2



[GIFTSTEST.COM/TEST](https://giftstest.com/test)

# Gifts

## **ADMINISTRATION**

The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks.

Luke 14:28-30; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:28

## **APOSTLESHIP**

The gift of apostleship is the divine strength or ability to pioneer new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing, and training.

Acts 15:22-35; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 2:7-10; Ephesians 4:11-14

## **CRAFTSMANSHIP**

The gift of craftsmanship is the divine strength or ability to plan, build, and work with your hands in construction environments to accomplish multiple ministry applications.

Exodus 30:22, 31:3-11; 2 Chronicles 34:9-13; Acts 18:2-3

## **DISCERNMENT**

The gift of discernment is the divine strength or ability to spiritually identify falsehood, to distinguish between right and wrong motives and the spiritual forces at work in situations.

Matthew 16:21-23; Acts 5:1-11, 16:16-18; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 John 4:1-6

## **EVANGELISM**

The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help non-Christians take the necessary steps to becoming a born-again Christian.

Acts 8:5-6, 8:26-40, 14:21, 21:8; Ephesians 4:11-14

## **EXHORTATION**

The gift of exhortation is the divine strength or ability to strengthen, comfort or urge others to action through the written or spoken word and Biblical truth.

Acts 14:22; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:24-25

## **FAITH**

The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to believe in God for unseen supernatural results in every arena of life.

Acts 11:22-24; Romans 4:18-21; 1 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11

## **GIVING**

The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth.

Mark 12:41-44; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:2-7

## **HEALING**

The gift of healing is the divine strength or ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and by the laying-on of hands for the healing of physical, mental and spiritual sickness.

Acts 3:1-10, 9:32-35, 28:7-10; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28

## **HELPS**

The gift of helps is the divine strength or ability to work in a supportive role for the accomplishment of tasks in Christian ministry with the ability to often see the need before others do.

Mark 15:40-41; Acts 9:36; Romans 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28

## **HOSPITALITY**

The gift of hospitality is the divine strength or ability to create warm, welcoming environments for others in places such as your home, office, or church.

Acts 16:14-15; Romans 12:13, 16:23; Hebrews 13:1-2; 1 Peter 4:9

## **INTERCESSION**

The gift of intercession is the divine strength or ability to stand in the gap in prayer for someone, something, or someplace, believing for profound results.

Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 1:9-12, 4:12-13; James 5:14-16

## **WORD OF KNOWLEDGE**

The gift of knowledge is the divine strength or ability to bring truth to a situation by supernatural revelation. This is often accompanied by a word from God.

Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:8; Colossians 2:2-3

## **LEADERSHIP**

The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision, or idea.

Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17; Hebrews 13:17

## **MERCY**

The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy and to care for those who are hurting in any way.

Matthew 9:35-36; Mark 9:41; Romans 12:8; 1 Thess. 5:14

## **MIRACLES**

The gift of miracles is the divine strength or ability to alter the natural outcomes of life in a supernatural way through prayer, faith, and divine direction.

Acts 9:36-42, 19:11-12, 20:7-12; Romans 15:18-19; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28

## **PASTOR/SHEPHERD**

The gift of pastor/shepherd is the divine strength or ability to care for the personal needs of others by nurturing and mending life issues.

John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-3

## **PROPHECY**

The gift of prophecy is the divine strength or ability to communicate God's truth and heart in a way that calls people to a right relationship with God.

Acts 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29; 1 Corinthians 14:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5

## **SERVICE**

The gift of serving is the divine strength or ability to do small or great tasks in working for the overall good of the body of Christ.

Acts 6:1-7; Romans 12:7; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 1:16-18; Titus 3:14

## **TEACHING**

The gift of teaching is the divine strength or ability to study and learn from the Scriptures primarily to bring understanding and depth to other Christians.

Acts 18:24-28, 20:20-21; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-14

## **TONGUES (+ INTERPRETATION)**

The gift of tongues is the divine strength or ability to pray in a heavenly language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God. The gift of tongues is often accompanied by interpretation and should be used appropriately.

Acts 2:1-13; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-14

## **WORD OF WISDOM**

The gift of wisdom is the divine strength or ability to understand and to bring clarity to situations and circumstances often through applying the truths of Scripture in a practical way.

Acts 6:3,10; 1 Corinthians 2:6-13, 12:8



*Join the*  
**JOURNEY**  
**RESOURCES**

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**STAY CONNECTED**