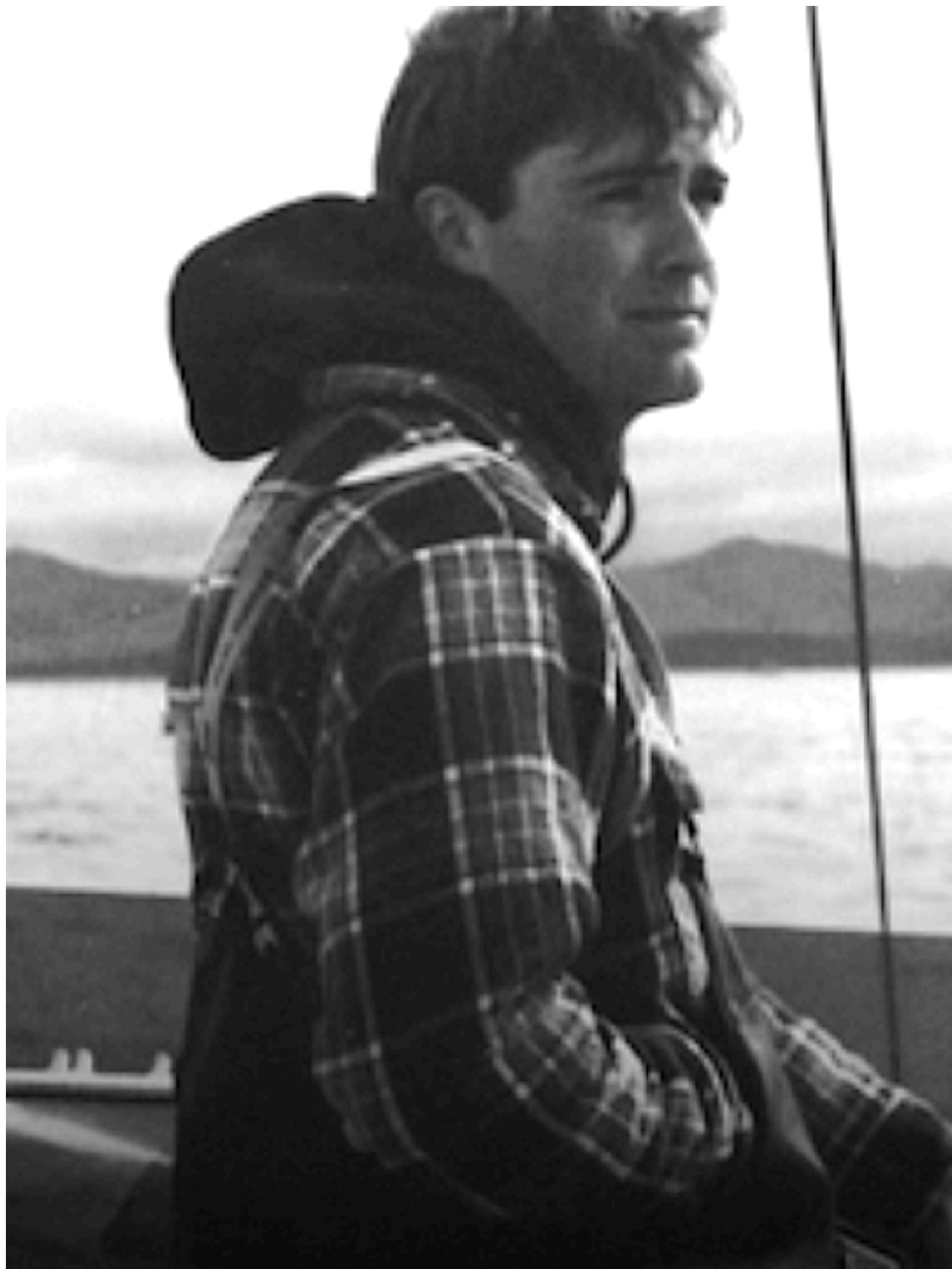




ASCENT



**PATHWAY TO PARTNERSHIP
STEP ONE**



Origin Story

In 1999 David and LaRae Pepper clearly sensed that God was leading them to a specific mission. David, who was born and raised on the mission fields of Peru, had developed a strong desire to bring a life-giving church to the Meadow Lakes area and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley in Alaska.

The humble beginnings of Church on the Rock started in the home of Dave and Rebecca Dargis, but quickly grew to take up first one, then two spaces at a local strip mall, growing from one service to three. Wasilla Campus was built and opened Easter of 2005 where it was evident that even in the larger facility, two services would still be needed. During this time of growth, we sent out staff to plant a new church in Battleground, Washington.

As the church continued to grow, a second campus was launched in Palmer at Sherrod Elementary School with Pastor Chris and Laurie Miller. Pastor Jonathan and Kitri Walker also headed out to plant a COTR in Homer, Alaska. After five years of partnering with Aaron Weisser to establish COTR Homer, Pastor Jonathan and Kitri were invited to return in 2013, to take the helm as Lead Pastor of COTR here in the Mat-Su Valley.

Church on the Rock has continued to expand its borders, as one church community in multiple locations, now in Palmer, Wasilla, Willow, and Talkeetna/Sunshine. Our Administrative Programs, Thrifter's Rock Palmer and Wasilla, and Band of Brothers, serve the mission beyond the walls of the church to impact our community.

Vision

We desire to join God in the establishment of gospel-centered gatherings in every Alaskan community by joining, developing, and empowering others with like-minded desire.

Gospel-centered gatherings in every Alaskan community.



Purpose

Church on the Rock exists to develop people who:

- Love God and others
- Live with freedom in Christ
- Lead through disciple-making

LOVE : LIVE : LEAD

Core Values

We believe these values are central to fulfilling our purpose at COTR:

- Worship (Love God)
- Relationship (Love others)
- Growth (Live in freedom)
- Participation (Lead through disciple-making)

Connecting Our Purpose and Values

We desire to see you developed, empowered, and strengthened in your spiritual journey in Christ. Our prayer for you is that you will discover opportunities to grow and express your love for God and others, learn to live in increasing levels of freedom in Christ, and become confident in your ability to lead others to that same experience.

- **Love God : Engage in Worship**

We pray that you would truly know God's heart for you, spend time with Him, and show your love for Him through expressions of worship.

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. - [John 4:23](#)

- **Love Others: Connect in Relationship :**

We pray that you would connect in relationship with the church body, bringing your gifts to share in meaningful, healthy relationship with others.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. - [Acts 2:42-47](#)

- **Live in Freedom: Grow Spiritually**

We pray that you would experience the ongoing empowerment of, and partnership with, the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's purposes in your life.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. - [1 Corinthians 12:7-13](#)

- **Lead others to Christ : Join through Participation**

We pray that you will grow in your understanding of your unique calling and your ability to live out Jesus's command to go into all the world and make disciples.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - [Matt 28:18-20](#)



Leadership Model

As you consider investing your energy, time, and finances to partner with our COTR family, we know that it is important for you to feel confident and comfortable with our particular leadership model. Our goal in describing COTR's leadership structure is so you can better understand how our church intentionally contends for an environment that values integrity, accountability, and spiritual authority.

Shepherding Elders and Board of Directors

Shepherding Elders - Seek God's direction for the mission of COTR and provide Godly counsel in the pursuit of accomplishing that mission. They also provide shepherding care for the local campus they represent. Lastly, they provide to the Board of Directors an annual assessment of the Lead Pastor's spiritual health and leadership effectiveness.

Board of Directors - Ensures that COTR functions in an ethical manner at a responsible cost as we seek to fulfill our purpose. They do so by providing the framework for how we function through written policies and routine assessments.

Central Leadership

This core team is responsible for managing the operations of COTR in the accomplishment of our vision and purpose. This team is typically comprised of three roles:

- Lead Pastor
- Director/Pastor of Ministries
- Director/Pastor of Operations

Campus Pastors

They provide oversight and leadership at their local campus within the established vision, purpose, and structure of COTR. They are the first line of shepherding and managerial authority for their local staff and congregation.

Central Services

This team supports all COTR campuses as well as our Administrated Programs by providing:

- Budgeting and accounting services and oversight
- Data management, systems, and communications
- Local and global missions outreach and direction
- Graphic design, website management, and social media support

Statement of Faith

Simply speaking...

- God is more powerful, more loving, and much closer than we can imagine.
- The Bible is God's perfect communication to humanity.
- Jesus is God expressing Himself to us.
- Through His Holy Spirit, God can dwell in and work through us here & now.
- Nothing in the natural world "just happened." God made it all.
- Experiencing God's grace by faith is the only way to have a relationship with Him.
- Evil exists because of sin. God can bring good, even out of evil events.
- God promises victory over sin and death to those who choose to trust in Jesus.
- Heaven & hell are real & eternal places.
- The Church is to serve and love people like Jesus served and loved people.
- Jesus is coming again to rule and reign.

In other words...

We believe in the eternal God, maker of heaven and earth. We believe He is expressed in the distinct personages of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe that God the Son lived a sinless life, willingly offered Himself as a sinless sacrifice, and was supernaturally resurrected from the dead eternally. We believe in the present and active work of God the Holy Spirit in both the regeneration of the soul and the operation of the gifts. We believe in the accuracy and infallibility of the written Scriptures in regards to life, godliness, and the knowledge of God. We believe in the bodily resurrection from the dead as well as the eternal-state existence for all humanity (past and present), some to eternal life and others to eternal destruction.



Complete Doctrinal Statement

ABOUT GOD

God is the creator and ruler of the universe and all created things. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are distinct in personage yet co-equal in power, authority, and eternal existence and yet are one God. ([Genesis 1:1,26, 27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14](#))

ABOUT THE FATHER

The distinct role of God the Father is eternal, transcendent, and spirit. His distinct characteristics are visible in the New Testament description of His relationship to God the Son. While co-equal in their eternal relationship, Jesus in His earthly ministry and humanity lived in perfect submission to the will of the Father. The role of God the Father is described in some of the following ways; eternal, giver of every good and perfect gift, chastening those He loves, compassionate and tender. ([James 1:17, Psalm 103 3:13, Hebrews 12:6](#))

ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is eternally begotten of God the Father, born of a virgin, and is equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all humanity by dying on a cross. He rose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. ([Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13](#))

ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make humanity aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also resides in every christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The christian seeks to live under the Holy Spirit's control daily. ([2 Cor 3:17; John 14:16-17; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 2:12; 3:16; Eph 1:13; Gal 5:25](#))

ABOUT MANKIND

Mankind is made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. We are the supreme object of God's creation. Although humanity has tremendous potential for good, we are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called sinful desire. Sin separates humanity from God. ([Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2](#))

ABOUT ETERNITY

Humanity was created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or in union with God through salvation. To be eternally separated from God is to be in hell. To be

eternally in union with Him is eternal life in Heaven. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence. ([John 3:16](#); [John 2:25](#); [1 John 5:11-13](#); [Romans 6:23](#); [Revelation 20:11-15](#))

ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is a gift from God to humanity. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can we be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into their life by faith.

([Romans 6:23](#); [Ephesians 2:8, 9](#); [John 1:12](#); [14:6](#); [Titus 3:5](#); [Galatians 3:26](#); [Romans 5:1](#))

ABOUT BAPTISM

Water: the believer publicly confesses their faith in Jesus Christ by obedience through water baptism. - [Matthew 3:11](#); [Luke 3:16](#); [John 1:26](#); [Matthew 28:20](#))

Holy Spirit: the “baptism” in the Holy Spirit, according to [Acts 2:4](#), is available to all who ask for it.

ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to all humanity, written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of our understanding of God, truth for life, purpose, and eternity. Inspired by God, the Bible is truth without any mixture of error in its intention or message.

([2 Tim 1:13](#); [3:16](#); [2 Peter 1:20, 21](#); [Psalm 12:6](#); [Psalm 119:105,160](#); [Prov 30:5](#))

ABOUT THE CHURCH

The Bible tells us that the Church is the “body of Christ” in the world today. The New Testament tells us that the local church is comprised of baptized Christ followers who gather together. The head of the Church is Jesus Christ. The biblical purposes of the Church are worship, evangelism, fellowship, discipleship, and care for others. Support of the ministry and local church is to be accomplished through tithing and the giving of offerings. God’s design is that these funds be brought into the local church for the work of the ministry and for distribution to places of need.

([Matt 16:15-19](#); [18:15-20](#); [Acts 2:41, 42, 47](#); [5:11-14](#); [Rom 1:7](#); [1 Cor 1:2](#); [3:16](#); [Eph 1:22, 23](#); [Phil 1:1](#); [Col 1:18](#); [1 Tim 3:1-15](#); [4:14](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#); [Neh 13:10-14](#); [Malachi 3:8-10](#); [Matt 23:23](#))



Statement on Human Sexuality

We believe the Christian Bible is the foundational source for all moral and ethical issues and we form our understanding based on its authority.

While we believe that these things are made obvious in the Scriptures, we also refuse to withhold love and compassion from those who would disagree.

We believe:

God is the author of human sexuality and as such, offers the wisest, healthiest, and most satisfying guidelines for sexual activity.

Men and women are beings created by God in His image and designed to display His glory.

The only Biblically legitimate marriage union is the joining of one man and one woman in a binding covenant relationship.

But at the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one.

[Mark 10:6-8 \[NIV\]](#)

God has commanded, for our good, that there should be no sexual deviation from God's perfect design for sexual intimacy as outlined by Scripture.

Marriage should be honored by all and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

[Hebrews 13:4 \[NIV\]](#)

You shall not commit adultery.

[Exodus 20:14 \[NIV\]](#)

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen who do not know God.

[I Thessalonians 4:3-5 \[NIV\]](#)

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality.

[I Corinthians 6:9 \[ESV\]](#)

[See also: Genesis 2:24; 19:5,13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; 20:13; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 6:9; 7:2-3; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4; Romans 1:26-32; I Timothy 1:8-11](#)

Covenant Partnership

Being a Christ follower also includes living in a manner pleasing to God. This covenant agreement outlines the Biblical behavioral expectations for the members of our covenant community. Please take the time to read:

- Our Statement on Human Sexuality; this expresses what we believe about sex and gender.
- Our Statement of Faith; this declares explicitly what our church believes about God, the Bible, Jesus, salvation, etc.

By checking the boxes below and submitting this form, I choose to join in covenant partnership with the Church on the Rock body of believers. In doing so, I commit to:

Protect the Unity of the Church by:

- Acting in a loving manner towards one another ([Rom. 14:19](#), [I Pet. 1:22](#))
- Refusing to gossip and slander ([Eph. 4:29](#), [I Pet. 2:1](#))
- Joyful & biblically appropriate submission to my church leadership ([Heb. 13:17](#))

Share and Serve in the Work of the Ministry by:

- Inviting others into our faith community ([Acts 2:46-47](#))
- Praying for our Church and its health and growth ([I Thes. 1:1-2](#))
- Warmly welcoming those who visit our services or ministries ([Rom. 15:7](#))

Support the Mission and Testimony of My Church by:

- Faithful participation in celebration services and other gatherings ([Heb. 10:25](#))
- Living a Gospel-centered life in our community ([Phil. 1:27](#))
- Faithfully & joyfully giving of my resources ([II Cor. 9:6-8](#))



Please scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to submit the digital version of this form.

I have read and understood the Statement on Human Sexuality and the Statement of Faith. I agree to being teachable in these areas with the intent to uphold these beliefs.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____