Connection Sunday

*Practical Church Membership*

***Eph 4:16 the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.***

I. It is vital for believers to connect to a local church, not just be members of universal Church.

***Heb. 10:25 – This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together, as some have formed the habit of doing, because we need each other! In fact, we should come together even more frequently, eager to encourage and urge each other onward as we anticipate that day dawning.*** *(The Passion Translation)*

***1 Pet 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.***

 II. One main value of this local church is ***servant leadership*** -- Acts 20:28, Mt. 20:28, Jn. 13

***Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.***

***Mt. 20:28 Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.***

III. Four things you can expect from the leadership team of River In The Hills

 1. To pray and hear from the Lord concerning wisdom and direction for RITH.

 ***Acts 6:1-4 ...we will give ourselves continually to prayer...***

 ***Jn 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.***

 2. To admonish – warn, urge, advise

***1 Thess 5:12 “And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you.***

***Mt. 19:4 Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female’?***

 3. To have integrity – 1Tim. 3:1-7

***1Tim 3:1-7 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a [***[***a***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3+&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29733a)***]bishop, he desires a good work. 2A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; 3not [***[***b***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3+&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29735b)***]given to wine, not violent, [***[***c***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3+&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29735c)***]not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not [***[***d***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3+&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29735d)***]covetous; 4one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence 5(for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6not a [***[***e***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3+&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29738e)***]novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. 7Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.***

 4. To be available

 ***James 5:14-15 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders...***

IV. Five things we can expect from you

 1. Attendance -- 2 Cor. 2:14, Psalm 22:3, 1 Cor. 14:26

 2. Serve the rest of the body -- See the handout with the Connect Tables listed.

 3. Giving – Prov. 3:9, Mt. 6:21

***Prov. 3:9 Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.***

 ***Mt. 6:21 Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

 4. Embrace the vision of River In The Hills

 5. Be receptive to the elders and pastors of River In The Hills

 ***Heb. 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.***

V. Guide to the Connection Tables in the lobby and middle room

LOBBY

 1. Kyle Hubbart – Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Lake Travis Prayer Room

 2. Nate Cashdan – RITH 101, Home Groups, Visitation Team, Ushers, Hosts

 3. Rachael Dorthe – Worship Teams, A/V Team, Sound Tech Team, Cooking Ministry

MIDDLE ROOM

1. Glenn Hubbart and Frank Parrott – Missions Table Volunteers, Mens Ministry, Altar Prayer Teams, Campus Renewal Ministries Vision Dinner

 2. Jeanne Douthitt – Communion Serving Ministry

 3. Emily Caveney – (ADRN) Austin Disaster Relief Network

4. Grace Hubbart – Childrens Ministry, Prophetic Company (Encouragement Teams), Ladies Ministry