

Pathway of Discipleship Part 1 of 3

A kick-off event occurred at the Elders' Breakfast on Saturday, January 26. A focus statement was introduced to the congregation. The statement

“Walking with God and His family in His ministry to His world”

summarizes a long term vision for our congregation, in which the congregation as a whole and members individually take a journey. This journey encompasses our lives and the lives of people we encounter each day.

To represent our focus statement a logo was developed:



The logo displays a pathway which we, as Christians, take. The pathway is one of discipleship to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. The way is winding and narrow, but leads us to more experiences, challenges and opportunities to grow in our faith, serve God and let others know of Christ, the Redeemer of the world.

In the February, March and May issues of this newsletter we will look at aspects of the Pathway of Discipleship. Each article in the 3-part series will provide some insights into the Pathway of Discipleship.

- Part 1 What is it?
- Part 2 What are the expectations for the congregation?
- Part 3 What should I do?

Our “Pathway of Discipleship” logo and “Walking with God and His family in His ministry to His world” focus statement will be visible to the congregation in the coming weeks. Both will be discussed via articles in the bulletin, displayed by banners in the hallways, presented on the visual screen in the auditorium and much more; including lessons and sermons.

Become familiar with the logo, the focus statement and what you can do at Germantown to be on the pathway which will influence other people’s lives by doing the will of God.

Pathway of Discipleship

What is it?

The pathway is the avenue we, as Christians within the Germantown congregation, focus our talents, time and energy to the Lord’s work and to the spiritual growth of our members. This pathway can lead each member to an increased recognition of the benefits of the Christian life, to a higher sense of urgency for our own spiritual maturity, to commit oneself to more ministry involvement and to act on sharing our faith with other people. The extended journey on this pathway can and will take many turns. The journey will: lead us in and out of the aspects of the worldly view, but we must persevere to the our goal; lead us to some failures along the way, but we must keep in mind our successes; and lead us into a long, extended road of different obstacles, but we must continue to live and learn as we mature in our faith.

Discipleship is the manner we view progress along the pathway. The Germantown congregation is made-up of distinct individuals with many outstanding God-given talents. As we each develop our talents we can become even more effective in the Lord’s work by aligning our efforts to a focused goal. The Germantown church of Christ is a loving, caring and unified body. We want to be focused on being more effective Christians. Our movement along the pathway, individually and collectively, demonstrates the movement of our life as a disciple of Christ.

Thus, the Pathway of Discipleship is how the members of our church unify in the Lord’s work at Germantown and how, as individual Christians, we contribute to that work. A focus statement has been developed to summarize this idea in a concise manner. The members of the congregation at Germantown will move along the Pathway of Discipleship by:

**“Walking with God and His family
in His ministry to His world”.**

As disciples we are to follow Jesus Christ, our Master. What pathway did Jesus take? While he was on earth Jesus ensured his relationship with God the Father was kept. Also, our Lord built human relationships; some were very close relationships; and Christ identified his followers as his family. Jesus not only went into people’s houses, including the houses of sinners; but, he went into their lives. Jesus lived a life of caring for people; he lived among them, taught them, touched them, healed them, and even died for them.

The Pathway of Discipleship is a road the members at Germantown are to take. Let us, as the Germantown family of God, live our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. Let us walk the pathway together; unified; growing spiritually; focused; and sharing our faith with others we meet.

Pathway of Discipleship Part 3 of 3

This is the 3rd article in a 3-part series on the Pathway of Discipleship. The topics include:

- Part 1 What is it?
- Part 2 What are the expectations for the congregation?
- Part 3 What should I do?

In the first two articles the Pathway of Discipleship was described as our focus as the community of faith to move forward together in the Lord's work at Germantown. The expectations are for each member of our congregation to know, explain and progress on the Pathway of Discipleship as we grow and work together.

Pathway of Discipleship

What should I do?

- Own my individual spiritual growth

God's word presents many faithful men and women who took the correct pathway in their life. God has allowed me to make choices, too - whether I choose right or wrong. Faithful followers of God, including disciples of Jesus Christ in past and present times, chose to be faithful. As I move forward on the Pathway of Discipleship I take the responsibility to realize the next step in my spiritual growth and to understand where I am on my journey in spiritual maturity and service to others.

- Set my markers

The ways I can grow spiritually are my markers. I can focus on one or more markers as a goal. Between the markers are steps of growth and service in my discipleship. As I walk the pathway I need to use my talents, to stretch myself and be willing to serve in certain areas of the Lord's work.

- Take my next step

I can start "Walking with God" by regular attendance in worship services and Bible study classes. Then I can choose a ministry in which to be involved. This ministry might be one which is visible to the congregation or I can add one as a step in my personal growth and service or even ask someone to help me identify the step. The key is to take the next step!

I should take the next step!

