



Partnership Training Week 8 Worksheet Church-Loving (pt. 4)

[2.3] How do I _____ my local church? ANSWER: Like _____ loves the Church! (John 13:34)

1) Love _____

Seek to _____ and _____.

2) Love _____ – to _____ or to _____ yourself to another

Stop _____ the local church, _____ to her!

3) Love _____ – to be an _____ in the _____ of Christ-likeness
in another's life.

Strive to form Christ-likeness in three main areas...

A) _____ (theology – what you _____)

B) _____ (affections – what you _____)

C) _____ (mission – what you _____)

4) Love _____ – to _____ yourself to _____ to the _____ of others.

_____ yourself, _____ others as more _____, and tend to their _____.

5) Love _____ – to bring together as _____ with shared _____ for a shared _____.

Fight for _____, not _____.

6) Love _____

The most _____ thing you can do for someone is _____.

Pray for...

- the faithfulness of her leaders
- a culture of discipling
- unity amid diversity
- transparent, meaningful relationships
- a hunger to study the Word
- the accurate preaching of God's word
- our next generation's development in Christ
- areas of brokenness to be healed
- the generosity of the church and her people
- hopes for political change to be outstretched by the hope of heaven
- distinctiveness of our church from the world
- the gospel to advance through our people to the nations

7) Love _____

Give in three ways...

A) _____

B) _____ (spiritual and natural giftings)

C) _____ (Material and financial)

Assignment: Answer the questions and complete the tasks...

- Read through the brief history of BLFMC provided below. What did you learn about this church?
- Do you have apathetic, shallow relationships with others in this church family or committed, deep relationships? Why or why not?
- Read through BLFMC's *Statement of Faith* and *Vision Statement* provided in your partnership covenant. Are you united on these essentials?
- In what roles are you currently serving in this local church? If none, why not?
- Pray for your local church through the provided prayer list this week.
- Complete the provided Spiritual Gifts Assessment; when completed, bring your results to three different brothers or sisters in Christ who know you well and ask them to confirm the accuracy of the assessment having them sign your results.
- How are you spending your time, using your talents, and giving your resources for the benefit of your local church?
- Prayerfully read through the Covenants portion of your Partnership Covenant and if substantially agreeable, sign.

BLFMC's Historical Highlights

By: Cindy Sue Barnes

In October 1870, the Beach Lake (Beech Pond) Free Methodist Society was organized with an initial membership of seven. After meeting for a while in the local school house, it was decided to build a church. The building was dedicated in February 1873. It was built on the typical school-house plan -- a rectangular building with a central outside door which led to a hall extending the full width of the building. From this, two doors led into the main room - the one on the left to the men's side, and the one on the right to the women's side. A railing went down the center of room. The seating distinction was not stated or completely observed but was generally followed. Families seldom sat together. The foundation was a drywall, but no basement. Heat was provided by two wood stoves and light by kerosene lamps.

In 1923 the old central front entrance was closed up and a small vestibule and belfry were built at the left front corner. The bell for the belfry was offered by the Presbyterian Church of Mount Pleasant to any Protestant church which would come and get it. Of course, the bell was a much better one than the local church could have afforded to buy. Its fine tone is still enjoyed today -- housed in its own "tower" in front of the church. For the first forty years, few changes were made in the building, though some improvements were made with the passage of time (i.e. electricity, open floor concept, "factory glass" in the windows, and a furnace). Around 1944, the building was jacked up, the entire area underneath bulldozed out, and a full basement put in. An indoor toilet and a kitchen with water were installed.

In 1966, the congregation voted to build a new church and dismantle the old one. It took until 1970 before the concept was realized. During the demolition and construction period of the current facility, services were held in the "lodge" at Camp Timberledge. Sunday school classes for children met in a nearby home. The first meetings in the completed facility were a wedding on Saturday evening and worship services on Sunday morning and evening in December 1970. An addition to the facility was constructed in 1990, which included a large open area, a large kitchen and improved restrooms.

The society has never been large numerically, but it has been permitted to contribute missionaries, several pastors, and numerous Christian teachers to help in spreading the gospel. The building was never intended to be an end in itself, but to provide an incentive and an opportunity for greater devotion, deeper spiritual growth, and wider usefulness in the Kingdom of God.

