



Ezion Fair 101

Our Story, Vision, and Values

+

Tenets of the Faith

New Membership Materials



Ezion Fair Baptist Church, located at 1400 B Street, is unique in that there has only been four Pastors in 99-years. The church was organized as a mission in 1919, and met at 313 South Heald Street (Southbridge), under the auspices of the late Reverend Jessie G. Givens, founding Pastor. The church flourished and in 1920 the Sunday School was organized. On March 27, 1927, a council of Baptist Churches was convened and Ezion Fair Church was ordained as a Baptist Church. The church immediately ran into its first hardship, which was rapid growth. The saints responded to the call of worship and the French Street location was purchased through and by the favor of God.

In **1930**, the Reverend Jessie G. Givens was the recognized founder and First Pastor. Growth continued to spread, so the organizing of auxiliaries, such as the Pastors Aid Club, Missionary Circle, and Choirs were in demand. Reverend Givens served from 1919 to 1950.

In **1951**, God sent another great leader in the name of Reverend Jimmie L. Henry. Visionary and Humble are but a few words to describe this awesome man of God. It was under his leadership in 1974, when God blessed Ezion Fair to tear-down and erect a complete new building. Seven years later, on August 23, 1981, Ezion Fair Church Family not only paid the full \$225,000.00 mortgage off, but it was accomplished five years earlier than planned.

In **1982**, once again God responded to the prayers of His people and sent the Ezion Fair Church Family Reverend Rufus R. Johnson. Powerful and passionate are the adjectives that describe Reverend Johnson. The church continued to grow and move forward under his leadership. Reverend Johnson showed Ezion Fair Church Family what a miracle looked like, as he continued to spread the gospel against incredible odds.

In **2005**, the current Pastor, Reverend Dr. Christopher T. Curry arrived as God's Joshua to Ezion Fair & the community. Currently Ezion Fair Church is experiencing rapid growth. Over 45 new ministries and activities are going on to support an "Urban Agenda" that addresses the total person. Our Vision is simple, "Saving ALL Souls for the Savior! In July of 2009, Ezion Fair Baptist Church purchased a new campus at 1400 B Street (Southbridge section of the City of Wilmington), and have completed: the Worship Center, Classrooms, Conference Space, the Art's Center and A 300+ Multi-purpose space, with a "Performance Arts" stage. The church operates/owns a 5-Star Daycare center, with 15+ professional employees. In June 2019, Ezion Fair Baptist Church opened its 28,000 sq. ft. Wholeness Center. Since 2005, the congregation has grown to over 3,000 members. The success is contributed to preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the "Total Person."

Ezion's Vision and Values

We exist to empower people to GROW into the persons that God created them to be by celebrating God's goodness in worship, connecting with each other in ministries, caring for each other and the world, and contributing to the transformation of the world through gifts based out of ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our vision is to touch the world with love, communicate the positive power of Jesus Christ to our generation by: finding needs and meeting them; finding hurts and healing them, and finding problems and solving them.

GATHER

Worship Is A Lifestyle
(Worship)

RELATE

We Do Life Better Together
(Fellowship)

OFFER

Saved People, Serve People
(Ministry)

WITNESS

Found People, Find People
(Evangelism)

Ultimate Reality

GROWING PEOPLE

CHANGE

(Discipleship)

The Core of Our Existence

1. Jesus first! We trust His Word, follow His lead, and honor Him above all.
2. We start small and think big. We go all in with a risk-taking faith.
3. We are driven by purpose, not by programs, personalities, buildings, or budgets. The mind and heart of Jesus is our focus!!!
4. We keep it real and fight against fake. We live and lead with authenticity.
5. We are broken people discovering healing together, recognizing who our ultimate healer is.
6. Everybody belongs. We care about the heart, not the skin, the clothes, or the money.
7. We keep it simple, yet use our spiritual creative skills to reach more people.
8. We discover our gifts and grow from consumers into contributors. We refuse to use people.
9. We grow larger and smaller at the same time. Each one reach one is our goal.
10. We plant seeds, partner with the community, and go to the ends of the earth to show the light of Jesus.

Ezion's Statement of Faith

God is real. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and totally in charge of the direction history is moving. He is Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He created everything and everyone and every person matters deeply to Him. Everyone has sinned, so everyone needs Jesus, who died for our sins, rose again from the dead, and is coming back. Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, and once you're saved, you're always saved.

Heaven and hell are real, as are angels and demons, including Satan. The Holy Spirit lives in every believer and empowers and gifts us to live and serve. The Bible, which is God's Word, is both true and powerful. Baptism is when believers are immersed in water, not for salvation but to tell the world we follow Jesus.

Communion is a memorial to Jesus' death. Jesus started the church before His death, protects it through every age, and commissioned the church to tell the world about Him.

How Ezion Works

1. We are a family, so we operate on the basis of relationships, not rules.

2. We are a fellowship, so we focus on what unifies us.

3. We are a body, not a business, so we serve each other according to our needs.

4. We are a flock, so we are cared for and led by a shepherd, called pastor.

Answers to common questions:

- Our Pastor casts the vision for where Ezion is headed and leads the staff.
- Our Pastor oversees the administration and operations of the church.
- We don't have committees. We have directors that oversee ministries.
- We empower people to lead according to their gifts.
- We have formal Deacons, who maintain the spiritual care of the church.
- We have Associate Ministers who support the Pastor with preaching, visitation, and the exaltation of Jesus.
- We have formal Trustees to handle the ministry of finance for our church.
- We only vote on a few huge issues (calling a pastor, buying land, appointing trustees etc.).
- We love people and really want to see them GROW in God's Grace!
- We are not affiliated with any national or regional religious denominations or associations.

Commitment #1:
**I will follow Jesus as the Way,
the Truth, and the Life.**

Most people live their whole lives without every knowing **why**.

We believe God has made it clear what his **purpose** for our lives is.

1. God made you to **love** you! (Jeremiah 31:3, Ephesians 1:4-5)
2. God wants to have a personal **relationship** with you. (John 10:10)
3. You have **sinned** and lived your life apart from God's rule. (Isaiah 53:6)
4. Jesus has paid for your sins with his **death** and resurrection. (Romans 5:8)

1 Timothy 2:5 (TLB)

That God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind.

What does God expect me to do in response to what He has done for me?

1. **Admit** that God has not been first place in your life.
2. **Believe** that Jesus died to pay for your sins and rose again. (Romans 10:9)
3. **Accept** God's free gift of salvation. (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

We take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment.

Dear God, thank you for loving me even when I've ignored you and have gone my own way. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, into the world to die on the cross for me. I am sorry for my sins and I ask you to forgive me. Please help me to understand you more. I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life. I accept your free gift of salvation. – Amen!

Commitment #2:

I will/have been baptized by immersion in water as a believer.

Taught by Min. Richard Clear

The first big step of obedience every new believer in Jesus should take is being baptized by immersion in water.

What is immersion?

Immersion is complete submersion of a person in water.

Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example set by Jesus. (Mark 1:9)
2. Because Jesus commands it. (Matthew 28:19-20)
3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer. (Acts 18:8, 1 John 2:3)

What does baptism mean?

1. It illustrates Christ's death and resurrection. (Colossians 2:12)
2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian. (Romans 6:4)

Why baptism by immersion?

1. Jesus was baptized that way. (Matthew 3:16)
2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion. (Acts 8:38-39)
3. The Greek word *baptizo* means to dip under water.
4. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

We believe that everyone who has personally received Christ should be baptized after receiving Him.

We speak honorably of the commitment parents make when they have their children baptized, but we see it as similar to child dedication. So we ask that those who were baptized only as infants to be baptized as believers.

We baptize quarterly, or as often as we can.

We also believe in the value of inviting loved ones. We provide the baptismal outer garments for those who will be baptized.

People who are baptized at Ezion are not required to share their faith story.

We would love to capture your story in writing during our new member's class

Our next baptism date is _____.

Special Topic: Communion (aka, The Lord's Supper)

Taught by Minister Cassidy

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: Baptism and The Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

According to 1 Corinthians 11:23-26...

How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?

1. Self-examination. (v. 27)
2. Recommitment. (Romans 12:1)
3. Confession of sin. (1 John 1:9)
4. Restoring relationships.

(Matthew 5:23-24)

What is the Lord's Supper?

1. It is a simple act. (v. 23)
2. It is a reminder. (v. 24)
3. It is a symbol. (v. 25)
4. It is a statement of faith. (v. 26)

When and how often should we observe the Lord's Supper?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord's Supper.

At Ezion, our desire is that the Lord's Supper be a teaching and learning moment in addition to being a worship moment. So, we observe communion once per month on the 3rd Sunday.

Who should take the Lord's Supper?

All believers. (v. 29)

Commitment #3

I will join a Ministry

Our primary way of helping people find freedom and grow spiritually is through joining various ministry.

Andy Stanley says, "Life change happens in circles, not in rows." Real life change happens in the context of relationships – ministries. In the Bible, they worshipped in the temple but ministry happened house to house.

"You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house." Acts 20:20

Ezion's Ministries Provide Three Things...

1. A place to **connect**.
(1 Corinthians 9:22)
2. A place to **protect**.
(1 John 3:16)
3. A place to **grow**.
(Proverbs 27:17)

How Ezion's Ministries Work

We meet to discuss and plan growth & developmental events and activities. It also provides a place for us to connect, grow, and discuss the issues and challenges of life.

Ezion Ministries are also where we pray, care for one another, and are missed if we don't show up!

How to Join a Group

Visit www.myezionfair.org/ministries

You can START a Ministry!

We believe that everyone has areas of strength and gifting that could benefit others. You'll discover that it's easier than you think.

To talk about starting a ministry, start a conversation with Pastor Curry,
Pastor@ezionfairchurch.org

Commitment #4

**I will grow in grace (by being Spirit-filled)
and knowledge (by having quiet time).**

Attending worship services and being part of a small group are a great start, but there are at least two personal habits you need to develop in your daily life.

1. Developing a quiet time for prayer and Bible reading.

- Hearing God's Word.
(Romans 10:17)
- Reading God's Word.
(Revelation 1:3)
- Studying God's Word.
(Acts 17:11)
- Memorizing God's Word.
(Proverbs 7:2-3)
- Meditating on God's Word.
(Psalm 1:2-3)

In my daily prayer time, I am:

- Giving devotion to God.
(2 Chronicles 31:21)
- Getting direction from God.
(Psalm 25:4-5)

2. Living under the influence of the Holy Spirit continually.

The Holy Spirit isn't a substance or a mystical, cosmic force. The Holy Spirit is God – our personal God. He's the third member of the Trinity.

The New Testament talks about believers being "filled with" the Holy Spirit, which has to do with being under His influence.

How do we live under the Spirit's influence?

- Remove all the barriers.
(Acts 2:38)
- Relate to Him daily.
(2 Corinthians 13:14)
- Remain under his influence.
(Ephesians 5:18)

Commitment #5

I will develop my gifts and serve alongside a ministry.

Taught by Rev. Patricia Benton

Did you know that God **SHAPED** you for significance? He has gifted you and made you uniquely *you* so that you can serve him according to his purposes.

In fact, we say that
saved people serve people.

And the greatest way to serve God on earth is to serve *people*, whom God loves.

SHAPE stands for...

- Spiritual Gifts.
- Hearth
- Abilities
- Personality
- Experiences

God has given you a unique mix of these characteristics. When you decided to follow Jesus, you were given **spiritual gifts** to use to serve others within the body of Christ. Your **heart** is passionate about certain things. You have some natural **abilities** – areas you're just good at. You have a unique **personality** that was given to you by God. And you've been through a unique set of **experiences**.

God wants us to use a mix of all of these characteristics to help you know how and where to serve Him within the body of Christ.

For now, we hope you'll **try out** one of these ministry outlets: (There's more too!)

- Greeters
- Security
- Ushers
- Holy Soldiers
- TG SWAP
- Sound/Audio
- Music, instrumental, vocal, etc.
- Social media, communications
- Special Events
- Physical Plant
- Scholarship & Mentoring
- Outreach
- Daughters of Zion
- WOW Women's Ministry
- Men's Fellowship

Commitment #6
**I will practice generosity
and give regularly.**

Taught by Sis. Cynthia Shareef

The Bible says in Matthew 6:24 that the top competitor for our commitment to Jesus is money. Giving allows us to demonstrate that He is more important to us than material things. Not having cash or check on hand doesn't have to hold you back from giving, you can be obedient today by giving online or through "Cash-App." There is no organization with more potential to change the world than the local church!

GENEROSITY changes lives – ours and the people to whom we give. At Ezion, taking action on your generosity is simple.

The Bible teaches us about a baseline standard for giving: the **tithe** (a word that literally means a "tenth"). When we give the first 10% of our income through the local church, we put God first in our lives. Tithing is an act of worship that expresses our gratitude, faith, and love for others.

God also encourages us to give offerings beyond our tithe to specific projects at our local church and to other organizations and causes that we personally believe in.

Whether you'd like to give a single gift, schedule recurring donations, or view your giving history, you can do it by calling the church at 302.652.9114 ext. 113 and speak directly with our Business Office. You can also set it up through your "Cash-App" system directly.

What happens with your gift?

We honor your gifts with faithful stewardship, ethical business practices, and full accountability so that the financial integrity of Ezion Fair Baptist Church remains beyond reproach.

Commitment #7

I will own the mission, living out the Great Commission and Great Commandment.

Taught by Rev. Sherri Clear

Every one of us can be part of the mission by following these four principles:

1. Accept personal responsibility.
2. Build personal relationships.
3. Share your personal story.
4. Give a personal invitation.

POINTS OF PASSION (Local, National, and Global Outreach)

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

LOCAL: Our Church

- Active participation in Ministry
- Feed the Homeless
- Utility Assistance
- Random acts of helping

Re: Our Community

- Boys & Girls Scouts
- Emmanuel's Dining Hall
- MANY more to come!

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Pray. (Matthew 9:37-38)
- Go. (Isaiah 6:8-9)
- Give. (Matthew 6:19-21)

Commitment #8

I will sign the membership covenant and commit to the vision, values, and beliefs.

Taught by Min. Cassidy



The Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Ezion Fair's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Ezion Fair Baptist Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. **I will protect the unity of my church** by acting in love toward other members, refusing to gossip, and following those who lead me. (Romans 15:5, 19; 1 Peter 1:22, Hebrews 13:17)
2. **I will share the responsibility of my church** by praying for its growth, inviting the unchurched to attend, and warmly welcoming those who visit. (1 Thessalonians 1:2, Luke 14:23, Romans 15:7)
3. **I will serve the ministry of my church** by discovering my gifts and talents and developing a servant's heart. (1 Peter 4:10, Ephesians 4:11-12, Philippians 2:3-4, 7)
4. **I will support the testimony of my church** by attending faithfully, living according to the teachings of my church, and giving regularly. (Hebrews 10:25, Philippians 1:27, 1 Corinthians 16:2)

If you have a relationship with Jesus, have been baptized, and are ready to commit to full membership at Ezion Fair Baptist Church, please sign below.

Print Your Full Name _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Ezion Fair's New Members'
Ministry Affair

All EFBC ministries will be have a representative(s) to highlight their ministry and offer new members the opportunity to sign up.

CHURCH MINISTRIES CONTACT LIST (UPDATED)

Ministry Name	Ministry Leader	Telephone	Email
<i>Daughters of Zion (Dance)</i>	Sis Teneysa Henry and Sis Ebony Jervey	302-252-5789 302-287-1619	Daughtersofzion1400@gmail.com
<i>Cheerleaders Ministry</i>	Sis Aaliyah Jenkins Sis Brielle Braxton-Young	267-506-2677	Aaliyahjenkins97@yahoo.com
<i>Holy Soldiers</i>	Sis Ebony Jervey Min Kyree Edwards Deacon Tillery	302-287-1619 443-567-9127	kyreee@hotmail.com
<i>Jr Ushers</i>	Deacon Elijah Jones	302-897-7335	TBD
<i>Scholarship Ministry</i>	Marissah Temple	302-983-5639	marissahtemple@gmail.com scholarship@ezionfairchurch.org
<i>TG SWAP</i>	Rev. Patricia Benton and Min. Stephanie Cassidy	267-581-70272 302-740-9811	Pbenton1953@gamil.com mommabcass@yahoo.com
<i>Rocking w/Jesus</i>	Sis Jazmine Jones-Parsons	302-377-2883	TBD
<i>Boy Scouts</i>	Min. Kyree Edwards	443-567-9127	kyreee@hotmail.com
<i>Girl Scouts</i>	Trustee Mardie Murray-Williams	302-588-7407	Mardie54@comcast.net
<i>Music Ministry</i>	Mike McKenzie	302-652-9114	music@ezionfairchurch.org
<i>Youth Praise Team (Judah)</i>	Sis. Jazmine Jones	302-377-2883	TBD
<i>JL Henry Choir</i>	Min. Kandi	302-723-8651	Kandeeboone@ymail.com
<i>Male Chorus</i>	Deacon Burke	302-438-8353	TBD
<i>Dodd Consecrated Choir</i>	Rev. Linda Wilson	302-521-5107	Lindawilson16@comcast.net
<i>Men's Fellowship</i>	Deacon Tyrone Brooks	302-685-9738	TBD
<i>Wells of Wisdom</i>	First Lady Rosa Curry	302-652-9114	rosacurry@aol.com ladycurry@ezionfairchurch.org
<i>Missionaries Ministry</i>	Pres. Terri Huff and Vice Pres. JoAnne Hayman	302-494-9800 302-353-2802	Designs310@yahoo.com
<i>Ushers Ministry</i>	Sis. Dee Moon	302-345-8572	Deemoon78@verizon.ent
<i>Sunday School</i>	Rev. Joyce Cephas	302-650-7551	jcephas@comcast.net

CHURCH MINISTRIES CONTACT LIST (UPDATED)

Marriage Ministry	Rev. Shysheika Edwards and Min. Kyree Edwards	443-866-0925/ 443-567-9127	Schampion20@hotmail.com / kyreee@hotmail.com
Singles Ministry	Min. Andre Hinds	302-333-4117	andrelhinds@icloud.com
New Members Ministry	Deacon Troy Harris	302-824-2893	troylendell@verizon.net
Nurses Ministry	Sis Brenda Hemingway	TBD	TBD
Greeters Ministry	Trustee Denna Tillery	302-438-8598	Tiller.deena@gmail.com
Transportation Ministry	Deacon Joe Johnson	302-438-1717	TBD
Outreach Ministry	Rev. Linda Wilson Sis Melva Jackson	302-521-5107	Lindawilson16@comcast.net
Evangelism	Rev. George Flowers	302-464-9840	Revflowers14@gmail.com
CDC Volunteerism	Sis Tenesha Henry	302-652-9114	officemanager@ezionfairchurch.org
Community Outreach	Sis. Danesha	302-652-9114	community@ezionfairchurch.org
Prayer Ministry	Min. Joann Coward	347-651-3404	Joann.coward@yahoo.com
Ministers	Dr. Thelma Hinds	302-652-9114 ext. 102	clergy@ezionfairchurch.org
Overcomers Ministry	Min. Arthur Cleckley	302-607-3115	cleckleyarthur@yahoo.com
Angel Tree Ministry	Sis. Carmella	302-275-6309	TBD
Multimedia Ministry (Sunday Service)	Bro. Vincent Sis. Brielle Bro. Carlos Min. Andre Hinds	302-652-9114 ext. 114	media@ezionfairchurch.org / communication@ezionfairchurch.org
New Members Ministry	Deacon Troy Harris	302-824-2893	tharris@kcsd.org
Golden Angels (Dance Ministry)	Trustee Donna Cleckley	302-438-4509	Tydart58@gmail.com
Performing Arts Ministry	First Lady Curry	302-652-9114	music@ezionfairchurch.org
Piercing the Darkness Ministry	First Lady Curry Min. Kandi Boone Min. Andre Hinds	302-652-9114 ext. 112	rosacurry@aol.com kandeeboone@ymail.com andrelhind@icloud.com