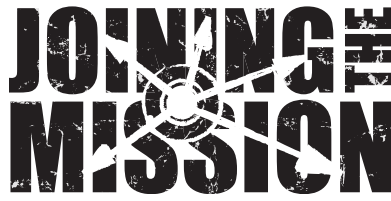


JOINING THE MISSION

Student Application

The Bridge Church
3438 East Ashlan Ave, Fresno, CA 93726
559-226-4100 • theBridgeFresno.com



Volunteer Staff (Membership) Homework

Welcome to The Bridge! We consider it a privilege that you are exploring the idea of becoming a part of our mission, which is **“helping people discover and follow Jesus.”** As we journey together to encounter our unique calling as a church, we believe that you will find ultimate satisfaction in life when you become a part of a movement of God which is bigger than yourself.

JOINING THE MISSION is about discovering that we are all designed for community (with God and others) and to have a positive impact on the world we live in. JOINING THE MISSION is also a chance for you to see where God is leading us as a church and making you aware of how you can become an even greater part of The Bridge family. We want you to move from being an attendee to becoming an advocate and volunteer staff member of The Bridge!

To help you prepare for the JOINING THE MISSION afternoon together, please complete the following assignments before coming to the class. We appreciate you taking the time to tackle the following forms and requirements as a part of your journey with us. Please bring all the documents with you to the class.

1. Write down your Faith Story. We sometimes refer to this as “My Story” or “Testimony”. If you would like help with yours, contact the church office (226-4100).
2. Complete the Network Spiritual Gifts Assessment. This will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. Please answer the questions as true to who you are, not necessarily how you want to be or how you think you should be.
3. Complete the Ministry Volunteer Application. Included in this packet is a list of service opportunities at The Bridge.
4. Read and be willing to agree to the EFCA Statement of Faith.
5. Read and be willing to agree to the Every Member a Minister Covenant.

Again, we are thrilled that you are considering JOINING THE MISSION that God has called us to both individually and collectively as a church family. I’m looking forward to our time together!

God’s richest blessings,

The Bridge Staff

If you have any questions about this process, please contact the church office (226-4100).



Sharing Your Faith Story

Name: _____

Date: _____

This worksheet is designed to walk you through a simple process for sharing your story of faith. The purpose of this is for us to get to know you better and to allow you to reflect on what God has done in your life and is still doing. Our hope is that this will be a tool for reflection so that when someone else asks you about your Christian faith, you will be able to tell your story about how Jesus Christ entered into your life. About 1-2 paragraphs for each section below. Use the space below to write out your story. If you prefer, you may type out your story and attach it.

BEFORE + HOW + NOW = my faith journey story

BEFORE (your story prior to giving Jesus the leadership of your life)

Ideas: Tell how you thought, acted, felt; describe what you put your faith in other than God [work, money, dating, possessions, accomplishments, etc.]; tell about what you thought of Christians and church; or anything else that gives us a glimpse into your story prior to coming to know Jesus Christ.

HOW (the process of how/when Jesus entered your story)

Ideas: Describe how you got to the place where you recognized your need for Jesus; who told you about a personal relationship with Jesus and how long it took you to surrender the leadership of your life over to Jesus Christ; share what you did in order to become a Christian; what was your experience like immediately after accepting Jesus?

NOW (how God is at work in your life today)

Ideas: Explain how Jesus began to work in your story in the weeks and months or years after giving him your life; talk about the difficulties this commitment has made for your life; talk about whether or not you have shared your faith with others who are not Christians; what is different about your life now that you're a Christian's - Joys? Challenges? Fears? Passions?

Below are questions to help guide you:

Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God? Yes No I don't know

Have you committed your life to Christ? Yes No I don't know

If Yes, when? _____

If no, do you want to? Yes No I don't know

Have you been baptized as a believer? Yes No I don't know

If yes, when and where _____

If no, do you want to be baptized at The Bridge? Yes No I don't know



Ministry Volunteer Application

Name		Date
Mailing Address	City	Zip
Home Phone	Work Phone	Date of Birth
Sex	Marital Status	Email

Family Member Information

Spouse's Name	Date of Birth
Does your spouse attend The Bridge?	Anniversary

Children

First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth	Live With You?	Attend The Bridge?

Are you a member of The Bridge? Yes No

How long have you been attending The Bridge? _____

Which service do you normally attend? _____

Are you a regular part of LifeGroup? Yes No

If yes, which on (leader's name)? _____

If no, would you like to be a part of a LifeGroup this year? Yes No

Based on your understanding of how God has made you, what special skills, abilities, experiences, or passions do you have that God might put to use at The Bridge? _____

Base upon the Network Spiritual Gifts Assessment, what were your top three gifts?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

**If you do not know what your spiritual gifts are, please contact Susan in the church office to take the Spiritual Gift Assessment*

Which ministry team(s) are you or have you been part of here at The Bridge? (i.e. regular and ongoing commitments and responsibilities)

None

Ministry Team _____

Your role in this ministry _____

Ministry/ Team leader: _____

Ministry Team _____

Your role in this ministry _____

Ministry/ Team leader: _____

Are you or have you been involved in service outside the church? Yes No

Ministry or Organization _____ Current Past

Role (board, staff, volunteer, etc.) _____

Ministry or Organization _____ Current Past

Role (board, staff, volunteer, etc.) _____

Are there any new or additional areas of ministry you have an interest in exploring? _____

How did you find out about The Bridge Church?

Invited by a friend _____

Twitter

Invited by a relative _____

Facebook

I live in the area, I dropped in

Newspaper

Mailing/ Flyer

Other _____

Previous Church Involvement

If you have been active in a church before you attended The Bridge, please complete the following:

Church Name _____ City/ State _____

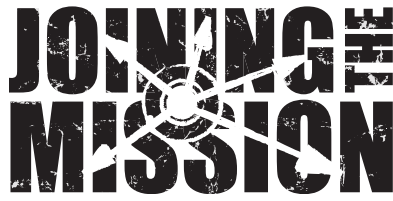
Attended from _____ Where you a member? Yes No

If you served in any paid or volunteer positions, what were they? _____

Church Name _____ City/ State _____

Attended from _____ Where you a member? Yes No

If you served in any paid or volunteer positions, what were they? _____



EFCA Statement of Faith

The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:

God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

The Church

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

I have read and agreed with the EFCA Statement of Faith

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____





OBJECTIVE: Determining if you are ready to join The Bridge as a minister of the gospel by becoming volunteer staff.

I am committing myself to “Helping People Find Jesus Christ and Follow Him” by...

1. INVESTING MY LIFE

I have surrendered my life to the Lord Jesus Christ and reaffirm that I am trusting solely in His merits for my salvation from sin. I will live with the goal of consistently exalting and honoring Christ in my life according to the Word of God. I will seek to live in harmony with The Bridge church family and in Christ, submit to the authority of the leadership of this church. I will faithfully participate in worship and fellowship with this church, as well as faithfully refrain from propagating any scriptural interpretations that differ from those set forth in this church’s Statement of Faith.

– Proverbs 3:5-6; John 3:3; 14:6; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1; Hebrews 10:25 & 13:17

2. INVESTING MY PASSIONS

I will live a life that is passionate about what God is passionate about by loving and serving my Lord with my heart, soul, mind and strength. I will be honest when I am struggling in order to get the help I need to maintain a strong, spiritual walk with God. I will live to honor the Lord and represent The Bridge Evangelical Free Church with full integrity.

– Mark 12:30; Romans 12:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-28 & Galatians 5:24-25

3. INVESTING MY SERVICE

I will seek to identify and utilize my God-given gifts, talents, passions and experiences to serve God by serving others. I pledge to regularly participate in one or more ministries of The Bridge. I will also endeavor to serve the people in our city and world through participation in outreach and mission activities.

– John 20:21; Acts 4:32-37; Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:11-13 & Micah 6:8

4. INVESTING MY RESOURCES

I will surrender all of my resources to God and His ownership as an act of worshipful dependence on him. I will faithfully participate in the financial support of The Bridge giving a consistent portion (or percentage) of my income towards God’s work being done through this church (the consistent Biblical starting guideline for giving is 10%).

– Malachi 3:10; 1 Corinthians 9:13-14; 16:2 & 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

5. INVESTING MY RELATIONSHIPS

I will invest in the lives of people who are part of The Bridge by committing to be significantly connected to other believers. Our primary way to do this is through LifeGroups. I will also invest in the lives of people who are disconnected from God and disconnected from an authentic community of believers.

– Acts 2:42-47; Luke 10:25-37 & Matthew 28:18-20

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Commitment Summary:

1) To Jesus and baptism (date when I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ/date I experienced believer’s baptism)

_____ / _____

2) To regularly participate in public worship. Service I attend: _____

3) To be significantly connected in relationships (LifeGroup/Bible Study leaders name) _____

4) To serve: Ministry area of interest _____

5) To Financially support the church through faithful and generous giving.



Name _____

God uniquely designed us with gifts and passions to serve this world!
Below are some of the many ways you can serve at The Bridge

If you are not currently serving, please circle a few areas you may be interested in.
Turn this in with your volunteer application.

Your Interests & Passions:

Available Service at The Bridge

Hospitality Hospitality (for funerals) Teaching Hospital Visitation Counseling Connecting People Fellowship	<h2>Community Life</h2>	LifeGroups (Leaders, hosts, & participants) LifeSkills University
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Sound/Video Instrumental /Vocal music Multimedia Stage decoration/construction Stage lighting Prayer	<h2>Worship Arts</h2>	Choir/Orchestra Worship bands Technical Team Prayer Team
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Community Outreach Global Outreach Urban Missions & Discipleship Serving “the least of these” Evangelism Loving our Neighbors	<h2>Missional Life</h2>	Casa Shalom Saturday Sports Care Connections Short Term Mission Trips Missionary Buddy Women’s Missionary Service Neighborhood Pantry Celebrate Recovery Zumba Good News Clubs
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Loving Greeting Hospitality Event set up/tear down Welcoming Guests	<h2>Connect Team</h2>	Greeters Ushers Connection Center Coffee Service Connection Card Team
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Your Interests & Passions:

Available Service at The Bridge

Leading Small Groups Setup Training/Teaching Special Events	Students	College High School Junior High
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Teaching Classroom Help Cleaning Toys Crafts Preparing Materials Special Needs Kids Leading Small Groups	Family Life	Nursery (newborn-2 years) Preschool (2-5 years) K - 4th grade KV56 Tuesday AM Children's Programming
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Computers and IT Phone Support Data Entry Administrative Support	Technical & Skilled Labor	Administrative Services Information Technology
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Physical Labor Gardening/landscaping Project work Maintenance Interior Decorating	Campus Support	Bus Drivers Facilities Maintenance Grounds Care Campus Work Days Event set up/tear down Security
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Graphic design Photography Copywriting Videography Web Development Advertising/Marketing Social Media	Communication Arts	Communications
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1. Spiritual gifts I believe I have (from list on the next page):

-
-
-

1. I feel I may have these gifts because:

-
-
-

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31, and Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 4:9-11 but there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists.

Communication gifts

Preaching: The ability to publicly and effectively communicate God's word.

Evangelism: The ability to positively communicate the good news of Jesus.

Mission: The ability to adapt and connect to new cultures in order to reach them for Jesus.

Apostle: The ability to start and oversee new churches.

Education gifts

Teaching: The ability to clearly explain and apply the Bible in a way that causes them to learn..

Encouragement: The ability to encourage God's people to apply and act on biblical principles, especially when discouraged or wavering in their faith.

Wisdom: The ability to effectively explain and apply God's perspective to life situations.

Discernment: The ability to distinguish right and wrong, truth and error, based on God's word.

Knowledge: The ability to comprehend a large amount of information and provide it when needed for effective decision-making.

Gifts that demonstrate God's love

Service: The ability to recognize unmet needs and assist without need for recognition.

Mercy: The ability to detect hurt and empathize with suffering in the church family.

Hospitality: The ability to make anyone feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable.

Pastoring: The ability to care for the spiritual needs of believers and equip them for ministry.

Giving: The ability to generously contribute material resources beyond a 10% tithe.

Gifts that celebrate God's presence

Music: The ability to celebrate god's presence through music, either vocal or instrumental, and to led the church family in worship.

Arts & crafts: The ability to build, maintain, or beautify the place of worship for god's glory. The ability to express worship through a variety of art forms.

Prayer-related gifts

Intercession: The ability to pray for the needs of others over long periods of time on a regular basis.

Healing: The ability to pray in faith specifically for those who need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and see God answer.

Miracles: The ability to pray in faith specifically for God's supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer.

1. **What I have a heart for, or what motivates me most** (from list below):
 - I love to:
 - I love to:
 - I love to:
2. **Who I love to work with most, and the age or type of people:**
3. **Church issues, ministries, or possible needs that excite or concern me most:**
4. **If I knew I couldn't fail, this is what I would attempt to do for God with my life:**

Remember these are all God-given motivations. They are only sinful when used selfishly. Every one of these can be used in effective ministry. Don't be embarrassed to identify a basic heartbeat that doesn't seem spiritual! Almost every one of these can be identified in the ministry of one of the twelve Apostles!

Design and develop ~ You enjoy making something beautiful out of nothing.

Pioneer ~ You enjoy testing and trying new concepts.

Organize ~ I love to bring order out of chaos.

Operate / maintain ~ You love to efficiently maintain some things that is already organized.

Serve or help ~ You enjoy assisting others in their responsibility.

Acquire and possess ~ You enjoy getting the highest quality for the best price.

Excel ~ You enjoy setting and attaining the highest standard.

Influence ~ You enjoy shaping the attitudes and behaviors of others.

Perform ~ You enjoy being on stage and receiving the attention of others.

Improve ~ You enjoy making things better.

Repair ~ You enjoy fixing what is broken or change what is out of date.

Lead and be in charge ~ You enjoy leading the way, oversee and supervise.

Persevere ~ You enjoy seeing things to completion.

Follow the rules ~ You enjoy operating by policies and procedures.

Prevail ~ You enjoy fighting to overcome injustice.

ABILITIES

1. My current vocation is:
2. Other jobs or skills I have experience in:
3. I feel I have these specialized abilities (from list on the next page):
4. I have taught a class or a seminar on:
5. I feel my most valuable personal asset is:

LIST OF ABILITIES

Remember these are all God-given motivations. They are only sinful when used selfishly. Every one of these can be used in effective ministry. Don't be embarrassed to identify a basic heartbeat that doesn't seem spiritual! Almost every one of these can be identified in the ministry of one of the twelve Apostles!

1. **Entertaining ability:** to perform, act, dance, speak, magic
2. **Recruiting ability:** to enlist and motive people to get involved
3. **Interview ability:** to discover what others are really like
4. **Researching ability:** to read, gather information, collect data
5. **Artistic ability:** to conceptualize, picture, draw, paint, photograph, or make renderings
6. **Graphic ability:** to lay out, design, create visual displays or banners
7. **Evaluating ability:** to analyze data and draw conclusions
8. **Planning ability:** to strategize, design and organize programs and events
9. **Managing ability:** to supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details involved
10. **Counseling ability:** to listen, encourage and guide with sensitivity
11. **Teaching ability:** to explain, train, demonstrate, tutor
12. **Writing ability:** to write articles, letters, books
13. **Editing ability:** to proofread or rewrite
14. **Promoting ability:** to advertise or promote events and activities
15. **Repairing ability:** to fix, restore, maintain
16. **Feeding ability:** to create meals for large or small groups
17. **Recall ability:** to remember or recall names and faces
18. **Mechanical operating ability:** to operate equipment, tools or machinery
19. **Resourceful ability:** to search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed
20. **Counting ability:** to work with numbers, data or money
21. **Classifying ability:** to systematize and file books, data, records and materials so they can be retrieved easily
22. **Public Relations ability:** to handle complaints and unhappy customers with care and courtesy
23. **Welcoming ability:** to convey warmth, develop rapport, making others feel comfortable
24. **Composing ability:** to write music or lyrics
25. **Landscaping ability:** to do gardening and work with plants
26. **Decorating ability:** to beautify a setting for a special event

PERSONALITY

1. This is how I see myself (circle one for each):

Strong Mild Strong

Introverted ———|———|———|———|———|——— Extroverted

Self-Controlled ———|———|———|———|———|——— Self-Expressive

Routine ———|———|———|———|———|——— Variety

Cooperative ———|———|———|———|———|——— Competitive

MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY:

This is how and when I became a Christian, and what it has meant to me since then:

Times when I have felt closet to God, and meaningful spiritual experiences that stand out in my mind:

These are the kind of trials or problems I could relate to and encourage a fellow Christian that is going through:

MY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Where I attended school, and my favorite subjects:

Seminars or training that has been meaningful to me:

MY MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Where I have served in the past (if applicable):