

*STEP**ONE***

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Take a Step

# THE ALL SHORES STORY

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In 1959 a lone couple launched out from Central Wesleyan Church in Holland, MI and went door to door trying to launch a church in Spring Lake, MI. Door after door closed, and about to give up the planting pastor knocked on one more door. That door belonged to a family who agreed to help launch the church that became known as All Shores Wesleyan Church.

Our name comes from a famous passage in John 21. Peter was down and out, having rejected his friend Jesus three times. He went back to the only thing he knew, fishing. But it was there, on the shore of his failure that Jesus met him and called Peter back to him.

Just like Peter, Jesus still offers to meet us on the shores of our failures. At All Shores, we believe God loves us unconditionally and relentlessly runs after us. It doesn't matter our current circumstance, God longs to meet us on the shore just like he met Peter almost 2,000 years ago. God invites us to commune with Him and to follow Him, giving us the grace we need to become more and more like Him every day. We say it this way: God meets us in his Radical Love on the shores of our failures and calls us to display that same love to others as we meet them on the shores of their failures, lock arms, and walk towards a new future as we Grow Together in Christ.

This belief and the story from John gave us our namesake, All Shores Wesleyan Church. We pray and believe that God will meet you on the shore of your life as well, and will transform you into a new creation in Him!

# GOD'S CALL FOR YOU

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*"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:35*

Our spiritual journey consists of two steps:

EXPERIENCING GOD'S RADICAL LOVE until we start to display that love to others as we GROW TOGETHER IN CHRIST

## 1. RADICALLY LOVING

We believe in Radically Loving all people. We seek to live out the words of Jesus – that people will know us by our love. This kind of love meets people where they are. As Christ followers we seek to remove the barriers people have to experiencing the grace of God. We desire to bring justice where there is suffering, hope where there is despair, truth where there are lies, and the Kingdom of Christ where people live in darkness.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."*

*John 3:16*

*"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."*

*John 13:34*

## 2. GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

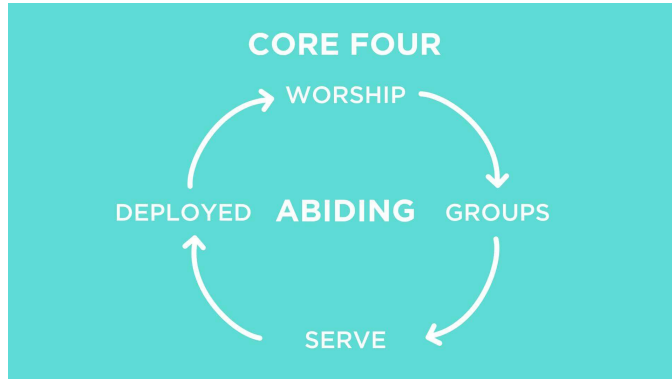
As the Church, we are called to grow together in Christ. We believe that grace is the catalyst to spiritual growth. The love of Jesus accepts people where they are and the Holy Spirit inspires them to become like Christ. We are all on a path towards maturity and devotion to Jesus and desire to grow as followers of Jesus in community with other believers, as He designed. We don't just "go to church"; we are the Church. We believe one of the key places to grow together in Christ is in a Group.

*"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."*

*Ephesians 4:15-16*

# CORE FOUR

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## 1. WORSHIP

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We want you to engage in the life of the church by regularly attending Sunday services. In the New Testament Church it tells us followers of Jesus gathered in the temple (in larger groups to worship, pray and learn) and in homes (in smaller groups to grow together) regularly.

We believe when you come on Sundays there is something sacred that happens. The Bible calls it the sacred assembly. And something incarnational happens when we are together – meaning Jesus reveals Himself in unique and profound ways.

We believe that people who are far from God, doubting, skeptical, searching and in need will be with us anytime we are together. We believe that God wants us to be people that recognize the barriers many have in being at a church service and part of a church community.

We believe that the Lord calls us to be welcoming and hospitable – so we roll out the red carpet for any who walk through our doors or join us online. We believe the Lord encourages us to recognize much of what we do can be unfamiliar, new and even confusing to new people. So we do everything we can to translate what we do and why.

When we sing, when we worship – God manifests His presence uniquely. We give thanks for what He has done in the week, our hearts are stirred, convicted, comforted, hope is given, and His love is poured out as we pour out our hearts to Him.

When we pray, we care for each other, for the church in our community and around the world. When we give, we do it as an act of worship – seeking to give back first in gratitude for all that God has given to us.

When we are taught – we grow as followers of Jesus, together. And the teaching helps us not only grow personally, but move ahead in the mission God has for us to accomplish together!

When we receive communion (bread (representing Jesus' body) and a cup (representing Jesus' blood)) we are reminded and centered on the saving work of Jesus through the participation in the sacraments (a church word for sacred activity that God does something mystical through). God uniquely gives grace – His kindness to us- as we celebrate this wonderful ritual the church has gathered around for all our over 2000-year history.

We believe that our role with anyone who has doubts, questions, pain or is simply searching is to help guide them in their journey. So we walk with people not just in the moment but over time, towards discovering Jesus.

## 2. GROUPS

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We gather in homes throughout the week – to connect personally, to share life, to walk with each other, to grow in the study of scripture, and to reach out to others outside of the church as well. Groups are the place we can know others and be known by others as well. We are the church when we gather in homes. This was the life blood of the early church and it is ours today as well.

As the Church, we are called to grow together in Christ. We believe that grace is the catalyst to spiritual growth. The love of Jesus accepts people where they are and the Holy Spirit inspires them to become like Christ. We are all on a path towards maturity and devotion to Jesus and desire to grow as followers of Jesus in community with other believers, as He designed. We don't just “go to church”; we are the Church. We believe one of the key places to grow together in Christ is in a group.

## Groups provide three things:

1. A place to CONNECT with others.

*"Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him."*

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22

We were not made to do life alone. God created us for community, and Small Groups provide a place for you to connect with others, share life, and grow in faith together.

2. A place to CARE FOR each other.

*"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters."*

1 JOHN 3:16 NLT

When we do life together, our problems become smaller as God uses others to bring support and encouragement to our lives. Small Groups become a place where others don't just know your name but care about what is happening in your life and want to support you in your spiritual journey.

3. A place to GROW together.

*"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."*

PROVERBS 27:17

We believe every person is created with God-given potential to make a difference in the world. Small Groups are a place you can grow with others to become more like Jesus and reach the potential God has put inside you.

## All Shores Groups Model

We base our Groups model on the early church as described in the Bible in the book of Acts. In Acts, you can read about how groups met in homes which helped lay the foundation for tremendous growth in the first church in Jerusalem.

*"Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah."*

ACTS 5:42

All Shores Church is a church *of* Groups, not a church *with* Groups.

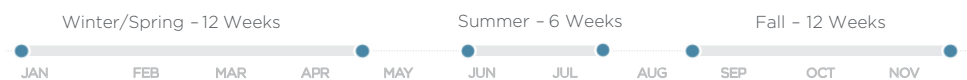
### Four things to know about All Shores Groups:

1. Our groups are "free market."

We want people to gather together based on things they enjoy and are important to them. Essentially, the things you are already doing in your life are the things that can make up your Group! From sports groups to lunch groups, parenting groups to student groups, Bible study groups to creative arts groups, our groups are as varied as we are.

2. There are three semesters every year.

Life flows in seasons, and we want to make it easy for you to be in the right Group for you in each season. This is why we have new groups that start and stop three times a year in what we refer to as "semesters."



3. Everyone can join a group.

Our hope is for every person at All Shores to be connected in meaningful community through a Group. With so many groups to choose from, we are confident there is a group that is a great fit for you. You can search groups by topic, location, day, and time in our online Groups directory at [allshores.org/groups](http://allshores.org/groups). Once you find a few groups that interest you, contact the leaders to learn more and make plans to check them out in person.

#### 4. Anyone can host a group.

We believe hosting a group is simple because we all have something to offer others. Whether it's something you are passionate about, an experience you've had that can help others, or an area in which you are looking to grow, hosting a group is a great way to bring people together in meaningful community. To learn more about becoming a Group Leader, attend Group Leadership Training at Step Four of the Growth Track. Even if you're not sure if you're ready to host a group, we invite you to come to a training session.

### 3. SERVING



We believe that God uniquely crafted every single person, and that he gives unique abilities, passions and experiences that will make sense as we respond to His invitation to serve others. We believe EVERY SINGLE CHRIST FOLLOWER has a primary call to serve others in the church. We know that it is in our differentness that God reveals His wholeness and that we grow and care for each other as we serve each other.

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

EPHESIANS 2:10

*"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me."*

ACTS 20:24

*"Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of service to God [ministry]...All of you together are the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it."*

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-5, 27

We believe there is no great divide between the "ministers" and the "congregation." Everyone has something they can do to impact the lives of others in the Kingdom of God. Every member of All Shores is a minister. Every person is gifted in some area, and every task is important. Discover what you do well, and take steps to use your gifts to make a difference.



## 4. THE CHURCH DEPLOYED

We believe that God made us to go places no one else can go, to reach people no one else can reach, in ways no one else can do. God takes your unique make up, and puts you in unique places to be His very presence to a world in need. We say “we are not a cruise ship, just trying to get more people on board, we are more like an aircraft carrier, so that as we are fueled up, we go out and bring His presence, His compassion and His kingdom to a world in need.”

This is our unique calling. Every single follower of Jesus has one. We want to dream with you, equip you and send you out, led by His Holy Spirit.

*“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

MATTHEW 26:18-20

### DISCOVER YOUR PERSONAL CALLING

*However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”— the things God has prepared for those who love him— these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.”*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9B-10 NIV

### LIVE MISSIONALLY

*“That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:19-20 NIV

One way we do that is by embracing our personal responsibility in what the Bible calls the Great Commission:

*“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

MATTHEW 26:18-20

# WESLEYAN CHURCH

## GOVERNMENT

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We believe that every denomination brings something to the overall Christian Church. One New Testament scholar describes THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH as a tree with our historical beginnings as our roots – the New Testament church. Over time the church has had varying branches and movements that have impacted the overall church.

1. Our roots
2. Our contribution to the Christian Church

*“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”*  
AMOS 5:24 NIV

As you consider investing your heart, time, family, and finances into the life of a church, it is important for you to feel confident in church leadership. Our goal in sharing the details of the Wesleyan Church government is that you will understand that our church is structured to support the values of integrity, accountability, and spiritual authority.

Our church government is made up of three groups of elders:

1. Guided by PASTORS

Peter Yoshonis leads the Pastoral Staff team. This team oversees the day-to-day ministry and operations of the church. These staff pastors serve the congregation and are responsible for the development of the spiritual life of the church.

2. Strengthened by THE LOCAL BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

The Local Board of Administration (LBA) support and protect the pastor and champion the mission of the church. They are a discerning body of elders, led by the Holy Spirit. LBA roles are selected by the members of All Shores.

3. Supported through THE GREAT LAKES REGION (GLR) OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

We practice an interdependent model of church governance. All Shores partners with the GLR to ensure accountability for our resources and ministries. For more information about The Wesleyan Church and our heritage, visit [Wesleyan.org/about](http://Wesleyan.org/about)

# CHURCH FINANCES

*"Every Sunday each of you make an offering and put it in safekeeping. Be as generous as you can. When I get there you'll have it ready, and I won't have to make a special appeal."*

1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-4

At All Shores, we practice tithing for the support of Christ's body as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard for giving.

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."*

MALACHI 3:10

Giving is a central theme in the Bible. "For God so loved the world, that he GAVE His one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:10

Because of God's great love for us, we give to All Shores of our finances, time, and talents for the work of the kingdom of God. It is out of a heart of generosity, overflowing from the realization we could never out-give God, that we give.

## 1. **Tithe**

A tithe is giving 10% of our income to support the work of the church. We also receive special offerings, such as our Christmas Eve offering which funds efforts outside of All Shores, allowing us to bless others. Some people also have the spiritual gift of giving (Romans 12:8) and have the material means to give far beyond a tithe to further the work of God.

## 2. **Offerings**

An offering is giving over and above the tithe. The Bible says that by giving generously, we are able to "take hold of the life that is truly life." You aren't really living unless you are freely giving (1 Timothy 6:18-19).

## 3. **The Gift of Giving**

The gift of giving is a spiritual gift that God gives to some people (Romans 12:8). It is a Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by giving of your material resources, far beyond the tithe, to further the work of God.

Many people love to give to God and as they do, they want to feel confident in the organization through which they give. At All Shores we want people to understand they are giving to God through the church, not to the church. As we openly share the honesty, integrity, and spiritual values that guide the financial practices of All Shores, we believe people can focus on what God is calling them to give and trust that He is leading our church to steward it well.

The giving of tithes and offerings is worship to Jesus and an expression of the relationship between the individual giver and the Lord. Funds are not "income only," they are worship and are not considered to be a business transaction but an expression of gratitude toward God.

## NEXT STEPS

### 1. Commit to the 'Core Four'

Being a part of the 'core' is not about adding your name to a roster; it's about connecting with the people and the vision of the church. We would love for you to be a part.

### 2. Join a Group

Browse our online Groups directory at [allshores.org/groups](http://allshores.org/groups). Once you find a few groups that interest you, contact the leaders to learn more and make plans to check them out in person.

### 3. Complete all four steps of the Journey

stepONE - Take a Step

stepTWO - Discover Your Design

stepTHREE - Abide with God

stepFOUR - Deploy and Serve