

The Local Church and the Role of a Camp

We believe that God has instituted the church, with Christ as its head, to be the focus and center of His operation on earth until His return (1 Corinthians 15:51–52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18). Through the church, Christ will fulfill His redemptive mission by means of the Great Commission work of evangelism and discipleship (Matthew 16:18; 28:19–20; John 17:17–20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19). God instituted the church at Pentecost as believers were simultaneously indwelt by the Holy Spirit and baptized into the body of Christ (Acts 1:5; 20:28; 1 Corinthians 12:13). The invisible or universal church refers to all true believers everywhere—both geographically and chronologically—since Pentecost. The local church refers to a subset of the universal church that consists of a group of professing believers in one geographical area voluntarily gathered together in order to carry out the purposes of the church (Acts 14:23; 15:41; 16:5; 1 Corinthians 1:2). These purposes include corporate worship, evangelism, edification, and the observance of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 1:8; Ephesians 4:12; Acts 2:41–42).

As a Christian camp and conference center, we believe that our role is necessarily subsidiary to that of the church. Our goal is thus not to direct or instruct the church as to its beliefs or activity. Rather, we exist to serve the local church and support its God-given mission of evangelism and edification. We strive to do so by serving as a resource for counseling, spiritual refreshment, and enjoyment of life in Christ, and by providing a retreat away from the pressures and distraction of the world in an atmosphere conducive to spiritual growth. These ministries which strengthen the individual members and families of a local church thus contribute to the spiritual health of the body of Christ as a whole.