

FRIENDSHIP CHRISTIAN CHURCH

"Experiencing the Next Move of God"

Just as Jacob's name was changed to "Israel" to experience a greater purpose in God (Genesis 32:27-28), our name has changed to Friendship Christian Church to experience our greater purpose in reaching the world for Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

Friendship Christian Church is a Bible-based body of believer committed to glorifying God, winning souls for Christ and transforming lives through Spirit-filled ministries that demonstrate God's love.

Responses to Name Change

1. Why was the name changed?

- Building upon the history and heritage of the previous work of the church the Holy Spirit has led us to embrace a name that allows us to reach out to win the world without anyone having reservations about a specific denominational name. *Ephesians 2:19-22*
- While denominations have been a part of the universal church they can tend to bring about separations and God is calling us to unify in the body of Christ. *1 Corinthians 12:25*
- God is structuring and positioning us for tremendous growth and outreach. Our name identifies who we are and our name impacts our receptivity to those seeking new life. *Act 2:46-47*

2. What was the process for making the change?

- As operating under an Apostolic Government, the College of Elders and Deacons met with the Pastor concerning this inspirational move. The leaders were in agreement and the decision confirmed what the Holy Spirit had previously spoken into their spirits. *Acts 6:1-3, Ephesians 4:11-12*
- The New Testament church operates under a Theocratic Government which means that God gives the directions and the Pastor, Leadership Teams, and the Membership walk in obedience to the mandates of God. *Ephesians 4:5-6*

3. How does the name change affect our Gaston County Baptist Association?

- With a non-denominational status we are free to have affiliations with the association as well as other ministerial networks as the Spirit directs. There are no barriers, nor walls. *Mathew 28:19-20*

4. How does the name change affect our present ordinances?

- The ordinances of the Christian church are Baptism and Holy Communion. We will continue our same format and mode for both. *Acts 2:38, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

5. What is the process for marketing and legally changing the name?

- The transformation will be ongoing with the change to our 501c3 tax exempt status and with the State of NC.
- Signage, letterhead, website, bank accounts and other publications will undergo change as staff and leadership arranges.