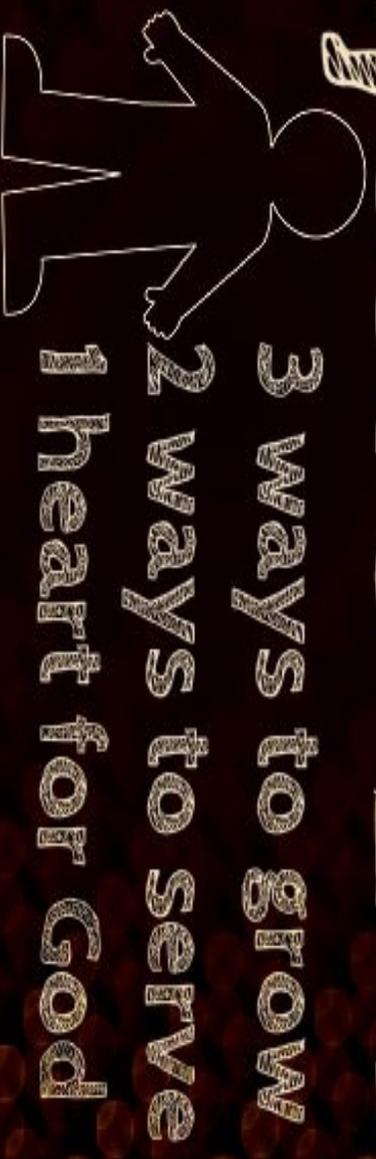


Project 3-2-1



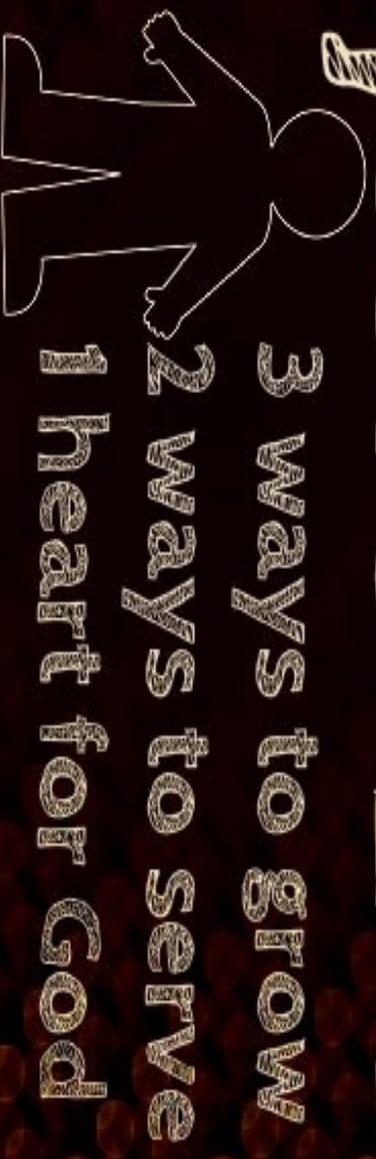
Arab First UMC November 2017

Project 3-2-1



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Our mission statement is “Connecting People with Christ through Worship, Growth, and Service.”

How do we do that? The scripture gives us an amazing understanding about what it means to be the Church. Draw the outline of a human body. First, let’s think about what helps that body to grow.

GROWTH

First, mark the head with the words “Growth through Study.” Christ is the head of the Church. Studying the mind of Christ is how we are transformed by the renewal of our minds. Second, mark one foot with the words “Growth through Fellowship.” There is something holy about relationships. In a large church, you can’t know everybody, but you can fellowship with somebody. Small groups are how we experience the mutual support of family. It’s important to be in at least one small group. At the other foot, write “Growth through Prayer.” Prayer is not just giving God information. It is the gift of God for connecting with the divine, bringing release and perspective to life. Study, fellowship, and prayer are three ways we *grow*. Now let us consider two ways we are called to *serve*.

SERVICE

First, mark one hand with the words “Service through Mission.” It is a vital part of Christian life to be involved in ministries of justice and mercy to make the world a better place. Second, mark the other hand with “Service through Evangelism.” We live as witnesses to the risen Christ, and it’s vital to personally share our faith. People need good news, but they don’t care how much you know unless they know how much you care.

WORSHIP

Finally, there must be something at the heart of the human figure. Write “Worship as the Heart of Christ.” It is our life-blood to be a people of worship. While this is a rather simple way to talk about it, the theological word for how we picture the Church is “ecclesiology.” As you consider your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, we invite you to take *one significant step* in each of these six areas. These areas directly relate to the vows we take when we become members of the Church.

In addition, we ask to prayerful consider tithing (giving 10% to the General Fund for regular ministries). If you are not able to tithe, please consider giving *10% more* to the General Fund than last year. All this is why we give. It is not to start projects, meet budgets, or accomplish goals. It’s because this is what it means to be the Church!

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