

Q & A for Mt Zion as a nondenominational Church

Why has Mt Zion decided to change from a Missionary Baptist Church to a nondenominational Church?

For a long time now, our desire is that Mt. Zion would operate based on Biblical principles rather than denominational structures and traditions. Unlike some traditional Baptist churches, we are not part of the National Baptist Convention and we do not follow traditional practices such as a Deacon Board that rules over the pastor (we have Elders). Our vision is to reach all people and we do not want to be limited by denominational boundaries or biases. We serve God. .

What changes can I expect to see in Mt Zion as a result of being a nondenominational church? How will worship service be different?

The only direct change Mt Zion is making is a name change. Our worship service and our administrative practices will not change as a result of changing our name. The operation and culture of Mt Zion will continue to be the same, this change is just a name change. We will officially be called Mt Zion or Mt Zion Church. Our nonprofit organization will be called Mt Zion, Incorporated.

I am confused and know of many Non-Denominational churches which do not operate like Mt Zion. How can we be different from those?

There are several definitions to Non-Denominational or nondenominational. As a matter of fact, Non-Denominational is a denomination itself. Therefore, it is easier to explain what nondenominational means to Mt Zion and how you can embrace this change. Nondenominational in our use means, there is no affiliation, organization, preference etc that Mt Zion selects when it comes to Worshipping God and Spreading the Gospel. We are prepared to work and fellowship with any other body of believers that believe as we believe. We are also prepared to disciple to any that do not. We are becoming a more diverse Church, but this was happening before the name change. Being a diverse Church speaks to the members that make up our congregation. It does not change the fact that we still believe in and worship the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

What is the doctrine of Mt Zion?

A doctrine is a codification of beliefs or "a body of teachings" or instructions taught as principles or positions, Simply put... **WE BELIEVE** in Jesus Christ, the only Savior and Lord of all life. We believe He is the only begotten Son of God, and the eternal Word of God made flesh. We believe He was conceived in the womb of Mary by the powers of the Holy Ghost, and that He is truly God and truly man. (See John 1:1, 2, 14, 18; 3:16; Luke 1:30-35; Phil. 2:5-8). We believe that the Bible is God's holy and inspired word. It is our purpose to draw from the Scriptures the principles that determine our belief and practices. As the name implies, it is the Word of God rather than the word of men that ultimately directs our church. For more information on our beliefs, See the Articles of Faith in the Mt Zion Constitution.

Since we are not part of a caucus or convention, who has the power and authority over Mt Zion?

God has power and authority over Mt Zion and we are directed through His Holy Word and His Spirit. Second to that, the authority or government of this Church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical bodies, but it recognizes and sustains the obligation of mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Christian Churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will partner with and support other Christian based organizations in the greater Triangle region of North Carolina.

Are we weakened as a Church body since we are not affiliated to a larger organization or a governing body?

Here at Mt Zion we are not affiliated with any specific Denomination other than following the word God as spoken through Gospel of Jesus Christ. We as believers are united to each other as one body Romans 12:4-5 through Christ we are many. We are never the less accountable if we are being held accountable to the one and living God (2nd Timothy 3:16). Being accountable to a Denomination, I would think, can become less accountable if the Doctrine is not fully being followed and dictated by man. How would we become weakened if we are strictly following the Word of God?

Are we weakened as a Church body since we are not affiliated with a larger organization or a governing body?

The Bible teaches us we can do all things through God who strengthens us. The Bible also teaches us that we are all members of one body. Mt Zion will continue to follow God and work hand in hand with other Churches who believe as we believe and confess what we confess, Christ. We view this as a strength in that we are not limited by denomination to which Churches we can partner. We also believe we can depend on God our provider and sustainer to give us whatever we are in need of.

Well I grew up or attended a denomination church, does that mean I have done something wrong?

Quite the contrary, we embrace members from other denominations and churches. We do not believe the Mt Zion way of operating as a church is the only way a church can operate. We do believe there is only one way to the Father. Therefore if you have confessed with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead then you are as we are, Sons and Daughters of God, Joint Heirs with Christ and a Christian by faith. We would like to know if you have been baptized and are prepared to perform that service for you if you have not been baptized.

What is the difference between Nondenominational and Interdenominational Churches?

We performed a quick internet search for the difference between Nondenominational and Interdenominational churches. It is important to

understand that the doctrine and belief systems in both these types of Churches are primarily defined within the individual church, but as they relate to Christianity, they share the same primary beliefs. Resources state, there is little difference between a nondenominational and interdenominational Christian Church. Nondenominational churches do not have a formal relationship with a denomination or a formal over arching authority structure; it may belong to a group or "fellowship" of like-minded congregations, but said fellowship is not recognized as a denomination, and rarely does such a fellowship have anything but a rudimentary overseeing government. Interdenominational churches try to appeal to people from a variety of different denominational backgrounds. They stress primary elements of the Christian faith (such as the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ) and deemphasize secondary elements where denominations differ in opinion and perspective (such as baptism by full immersion). Interdenominational churches may be nondenominational as well and seldom have an over arching authority structure outside the Church leadership. Details of belief systems between different nondenominational churches, as well as interdenominational churches and organizations, will vary greatly, depending on the backgrounds and components of the individual congregations.

Where can I go to find out more information of nondenominational churches?

The library, the internet and other references are available if you would like to learn more about non-denominational churches. However to help make things more simple and efficient for you, I would offer you this approach. Review the Constitution and By-Laws of Mt Zion, they explain our beliefs, faith, covenants, ordinance, administration, operations, etc. This will help you understand what we do at our Church. But more importantly, read and study your Word. The Bible is what we will teach and practice at Mt Zion. You can measure us according to our desire and willingness to follow God's Holy Word and use that to determine whether Mt Zion is the right Church for you.