



HOUSE OF LIGHT CHURCH

NEW MEMBER

Orientation  
**BOOKLET**

COME FOR THE LIGHT, STAY FOR THE LOVE

# Introduction

## W E L C O M E T O T H E **House of Light Church Family!!!**

This course is designed to prepare you to walk in your God-given purpose and in the Light of Christ as members of God's church plant.

We believe accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is the greatest and wisest decision you will ever make. Upon doing so, you activate God's perfect will for your life, thereby actively participating in the plan He has for you.

This course consists of lessons designed to help you understand the mission, purpose, and focus of the House of Light Church. It will also help you understand how to provide a positive contribution to your church family and your community, through your association and participation with the House of Light Church.

We pray the blessings of God over your life!  
God bless you and thank you for entrusting us  
with your spiritual well-being!

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## New Member Orientation

- I History of The House of Light Church
- II Standards & Purpose
- III Affirmation
- IV Ordinances / Prayer & Fasting / Organization
- V Tithes & Offering
- VI Tithes & Offertory Confession
- VII The 5 Cs
- VIII Ministries
- IX Statement of Faith
- X Scriptures to Encourage
- XI HOLA Play List
- XII Weekly Service Schedule

# HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF LIGHT CHURCH

The House of Light Church was founded in March 2016 by Ken J. Gordon, Jr. and Leslie A. Gordon in Burlington, NJ.

During a 21-day fast in January 2016 God spoke to Pastor Ken and Sis. Leslie, prompting them to plant a church in Burlington, NJ, which would promote salvation and sanctification and resist judging, intolerance, and religious tradition.

God revealed to the divine couple that the church would be a light for those in darkness and a place where the good works of its members would lead people to Christ. Matthew 5:16 – ***“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father, which is in heaven”*** was the divinely inspired foundational scripture for God’s new church plant. It was then that the name was revealed as – The House of Light.

Shortly after establishing the church in Burlington, NJ, Pastor Ken’s career in Corporate America moved the couple to Birmingham, AL. After relocating to Birmingham, and during a 21-day fast in January 2018, God again impressed upon the couple to plant a House of Light church in Alabama. On May 6, 2018, Pastor Ken and Sis. Leslie opened the doors of their second House of Light Church. This one in downtown Birmingham, AL.

In 2021 the couple relocated from Birmingham, after seeking God for their next assignment. God led the couple to Charlotte, NC and on May 1, 2022, a third House of Light church opened its doors. This one was on the campus of an HBCU – Johnson C. Smith University.

And thus, God continues to inspire, lead, and touch lives through this House that sits upon a hill.

## MISSION | VISION | STANDARDS | PURPOSE

### Mission

House of Light Church is founded upon Matthew 5:16: **“Let your light shine before others, so they see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”.**

Our fellowship strives to minister in a non-judgmental, non-traditional, non-segregated manner that leads others out of darkness to the beautiful Light of Christ. We do this through actively reaching out and guiding our members to achieve their best life by making positive changes in body, mind, and spirit.

### Vision

We envision our members living joyful, spiritually enlightened lives, brought to Christ through good works, gentle guidance, and ongoing teaching and support.

### Standards

- We allow the light of Christ to shine through our lives, according to **Matthew 11:29.**
- We resist judgment and intolerance, according to Matthew 7:1 and **Ephesians 4:2.**
- We teach salvation and sanctification, according to John 3:16 and **2 Chronicles 7:14.**
- We do good works in our communities and at home, according to **Matthew 5:16; Colossians 3:23-24; Ephesians 2:10.**
- We love the Lord with our whole heart, according to **Matthew 22:37.**

### Purpose

- To accomplish the Great Commandment according to **Matthew 22:37-39**
- To accomplish the Great Commission according to **Matthew 28:18-20**

# AFFIRMATION

\* We are a House of Light; We are the light of the world! **Matthew 5:14-15**

\* People will come to God through seeing our good works. **Matthew 5:16**

\* We do not judge, instead we love. **I Peter 4:8**

\* We are not intolerant, instead we extend grace. **Luke 6:6; Colossians 4:6**

\* We are not about religion, instead we are about relationship. **Ephesians 3:14-19**

\* We are blessed and not cursed. **Galatians 3:6-13; Deuteronomy 28:1,2,13,15**

\* We are the chosen of God, but we walk in humility. **I Peter 2:9; John 15:16; Colossians 3:12**

\* We believe God in our lives makes us better people each day. **Philippians 4:6-8; II Chronicles 7:14**

\* We seek wisdom, and we seek to grow in grace. **Proverbs 4:5-7; James 1:5; I Peter 3:18**

\* We choose to believe in the Bible. **I Thessalonians 2:13**

\* We walk by faith and not by sight or feel. **II Corinthians 5:7; Philippians 4:6-8**

\* We believe in the power of music ministry to lift us as we worship God through praise. **Colossians 3:16; Psalm 40:3; Psalms 5:11**

\* We believe in the healing power of God. **James 5:14-15; Isaiah 53:4-5**

\* We praise God through the good and bad, knowing he is with us in both. **Psalms 34:1-8**

\* We do these things in the name of Jesus. Amen. **John 14:13**

## Ordinances

We believe, according to Scripture, that Jesus Christ commanded the observance of three ordinances before He ascended unto His Father in Heaven; namely the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-30), Feet Washing (John 13:3-9) and Water Baptism (Matt. 28:19). Only believers in Christ, those who give credible evidence of faith in Him, with works that follow, and those who believe in, and strive for sanctification and holiness, are entitled to participate in the Ordinances of the Church.

## Prayer and Fasting

We believe in the power of prayer and fasting, according to Matthew 17:21. We fast on Wednesdays, from the time we rise until 5 pm. We start our Fast Day by anointing our head with blessed oil and washing our face, according to Matthew 6:17. While fasting, we consume water and pure juices. We also remain prayerful, praying at noon, and singing songs and hymns that keep us focused on Christ.

## Organization

The House of Light Church subscribes to the Episcopal polity. As Christ is head of the Spiritual Church, the Pastor is head of the Natural Church. The Pastor is led by God, justified by Christ, and informed by the Holy Spirit, in the leadership of the church. All issues, natural and spiritual, are brought before the Pastor, who has determinative authority, as the overseer and spiritual leader of God's church plant.

Within the church corporation, the Pastor is the President and Chief Executive Officer. The church organization consists of a Board of Directors, which is responsible for fiduciary and corporate decisions, but does not oversee spiritual issues, of any kind.

# TITHES & OFFERING

## Tithes

- 10% of one's earnings, is the generally accepted amount, but is the minimum, not the maximum.

Members may give more, as led by God, for one can never lose their reward by giving to God's work.

## Offering

- a monetary gift given in addition to tithes, which activates the overflow of God's blessings.

According to the Word of God, we are instructed to give tithes and offering, therefore, to do so is an act of obedience, not sacrifice. We believe when you do so, you are blessed and are obedient to God's word, according to:

- **Malachi 3 : 10** - Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," says the Lord of hosts. "And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land," says the Lord of hosts.
- **Genesis 28 : 30 - 22** - Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."
- **Matthew 23 : 23** - "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.
- **I Timothy 5 : 17 - 18** - Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."



# TITHES & OFFERTORY CONFESSION

**Lord, I present my tithes and offering to your storehouse as a gift of obedience, praise, and love. *Malachi 3:8-12; I Chronicles 29***

**Because of my obedience, I challenge you, according to your Word, to throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out blessings I will not have room enough to receive. *Malachi 3:10***

**I have confidence you will bless the giving of my tithes and offering and rebuke the devourer, for my sake. *Malachi 3:11***

**According to your Word, my household will be filled with plenty, and my cupboards will overflow. *Proverbs 3:9-10***

**According to your Word, by giving my tithes, I make you my provider and my protector. *Malachi 3:11; Deuteronomy 2:7; Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:31,33; Acts 14:17; Psalm 146:7-9***

**According to your Word, by giving my tithes, I become a participant in the building of your Kingdom and a recipient of the promises and divine blessings reserved for those who give their first fruits. *Proverbs 3:9***

**This confession is rooted in the Word of God and is my faith at work, through my giving. In Jesus' Name, Amen. *Proverbs 18:21; Mark 11:23***

# THE 5 CS

1. Commitment.
2. Consistency.
3. Contrition.
4. Community.
5. Concern.

## We believe membership in HOLA, requires the 5 Cs:

1. **Commitment** – Adherence to church standards and expectations, as well as regular attendance at church services and events (Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 2:22)
2. **Consistency** – Continually walking in Christian character (Ephesians 4:1).
3. **Contrition** – The state of feeling remorseful and penitent, which allows humility and appreciation of God's abounding grace (2 Corinthians 7:10)
4. **Community** – We were created to be relational, and this extends outside our church walls to those around us. (Genesis 2:18; Hebrews 10:24-25; Galatians 6:2; Matthew 18:20; Acts 2:46-47)
5. **Concern** – true ministry is selfless and intercessional, moving us from thinking only of our situation to caring for those God places in our lives. (Philippians 2:4; Ephesians 4:32; John 13:34-35)

# MINISTRIES

## Children's Ministry

CAMP 1914 - Provides an opportunity for children to develop and celebrate their love for God. It is a worship experience focused totally on children and building their understanding of the Word of God and promoting a meaningful relationship with the Lord.

## Relationship Ministry

COMMITMENTS 101 - Provides hope, healing, and help for our relationships with God, significant others, children, family and friends. Catch up on previous shows via podcast (download the SoundCloud App and search for Commitments with Ken+Leslie).

## Men's Ministry

Dads of Faith (a Pastor Ken ministry) - Focused on improving relationships with fathers and their families.

## Clothing

Angel's Closet - provides clothing and toiletries to those in need.

## Community Outreach

TEAM 1423 - spreads the Gospel of Jesus Christ through street ministry. Based on Luke 14:23.

## Divorce Ministry

DIVORCECARE - Helps people face, and heal from, the challenges of divorce or separation and move towards rebuilding their lives.

## FAITH (Feed and Inspire The Hurting)

Provides food and encouragement to those in need. Jazz's Stepping Stones (Los Angeles, CA) - [jazzsteppingstones.org/](http://jazzsteppingstones.org/) - transitional housing program for women and their children; Gracious Hands (Charlotte, NC) - ([www.gracioushandshousing.org/](http://www.gracioushandshousing.org/)) - transitional housing program for women and children.

## Health

Tri T (Tip Top Temple) - focused on improving and maintaining healthy lifestyles. This ministry includes sessions on nutrition, stress management, physical conditioning, and yoga.

## International Outreach

Save More Kids (Monrovia, Liberia) - [www.savemorekids.org/](http://www.savemorekids.org/) - provides aid to Christ's Children's Home Orphanage in Liberia; Crestmount International (Johannesburg, South Africa) - provides aid to church planting organization in Africa.

## Women's Ministry

Women of Light - focused on providing support and fellowship for women.

## Young Adult Ministry

Millennials in Ministry (MnMs) - focused on providing ministry opportunities for teens, 20 and 30-somethings.

## Youth Ministry

Operation S.T.E.P. - focused on building personal character, improving education and understanding one's purpose, through service to the community.

## Youth Mentoring

Educating, empowering, & providing opportunities & resources to young people in need of support, as well as equips and trains on skills needed for business and life success. A GorElle Consulting Ministry.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in the Bible as the inspired and infallible written Word of God.

We believe there is one Supreme God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through sincere repentance and contrition and faith in the cleansing power of the precious Blood of Christ Jesus.

We believe baptism by the Holy Ghost is essential for personal salvation, and according to Acts 2:4 is given to believers upon their confession to salvation.

We believe the fullness of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit occurs as one sanctifies themselves, according to 2 Timothy 2:21; Ephesians 3:16-19.

We believe the redemptive work of Christ on the Cross provides spiritual, physical, and mental healing in answer to believing prayer.

We believe in the power and spiritual necessity of sanctification.

We believe the indwelling of the Holy Spirit enables us to live a holy and separated life.

# Scriptures to Encourage

Matthew 5:14–16

Romans 5: 3–5

Jeremiah 29:11

Romans 8:28

Genesis 50:20

Deuteronomy 28:1–7, 13

Joshua 1:7–8

Joshua 24:15

Exodus 14:13–14

Leviticus 10:10

Numbers 23:19

1 Samuel 15:22–23, 29

1 Samuel 16:7

1 Samuel 30:1–8

2 Kings 6:16–17

2 Chronicles 20:12,15,17

2 Chronicles 26:5

Ester 4:13–14

Job 42:10

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Isaiah 12:3

Isaiah 45:11

Isaiah 54:17

Isaiah 55:11

Daniel 10:12–13

Hosea 4:6

Joel 2:25, 28, 32

Micah 6:8

Habakkuk 2:1–4

Zechariah 4:6,10

Matthew 5:2–12

Matthew 6:33

Matthew 11:12

Matthew 15:11

Matthew 16:19

Matthew 17:20

Matthew 18:18–20

Acts 1:8

Acts 4:12

Romans 6:12–14

Romans 10:14–15

2 Corinthians 1:20

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

Philippians 3:13–14

Philippians 4:6–8, 13, 19

2 Timothy 1:7

2 Timothy 2:15

Hebrews 4:12, 16

James 1:2–6

James 3:10

1 John 4:1,4

3 John 1:2

Revelation 12:14

# HOLA PLAYLIST

You Are Good -----	Israel & New Breed
Every Praise -----	Hezekiah Walker
You're All I Need -----	Hezekiah Walker
Amazing -----	Hezekiah Walker
Jesus Loves Me -----	Chris Tomlin
Mercy Said No -----	CeCe Winan
This Is Amazing Grace -----	Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro
Holy Spirit -----	Bryan and Katie Torwalt
How Great Is Our God -----	Jonathan Nelson
Here I Am To Worship -----	William McDowell
Draw Me Close To You -----	Various Artist (HeartCry & others)
Because of Who You Are -----	Vicki Yohe
I Give Myself Away -----	William McDowell
Falling In Love With Jesus -----	Jonathan Butler
The Anthem -----	Todd Dulaney
Worth -----	Anthony Brown
Our God -----	Chris Tomlin
When I Think About The Lord -----	Christ for the Nations Music
Spirit Break Out -----	Kim Walker
Break Every Chain -----	Tasha Cobbs or Will Reagan
How Much -----	Mandissa
Lose My Soul -----	Toby Mac/Kirk Franklin/Mandissa
I Am Not Forgotten -----	Israel
Turn It Around -----	Israel & New Breed
Courageous -----	Casting Crowns
Freedom -----	Eddie James
I Choose to Worship -----	Wess Morgan
Goodness of God -----	CeCe Winans
More Than Able -----	Elevation Worship
You Are My Strength -----	William Murphy
Jireh -----	Elevation Worship
Psalm 23 (I Am Not Alone) -----	People & Songs
Victory Belongs to Jesus -----	Todd Dulaney
Made A Way -----	Travis Greene
Rain On Us -----	Earnest Pugh
Yes & Amen -----	Maverick City Music
Holy Spirit Fill This Room -----	Martha Munizzi
Make me new -----	Together We Stand
Yes -----	Shekinah Glory Ministries
Way Maker -----	Christ Church Choir
I Never Lost My Praise -----	Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

## SUNDAYS

10:00AM

**Praise & Worship**

10:30AM

**Morning Service**

Also available via LiveStream on the HOLA  
YouTube Channel & HOLA Church Facebook Page

## WEDNESDAYS

5AM-5PM

**Fast Day**  
(Water & pure Juices)

7:00PM

**Bible Study**  
(via Zoom or direct connect  
on our website –  
[www.hoflchurch.org](http://www.hoflchurch.org)  
or via our App)

## **COME FOR THE LIGHT;** *Stay for the Love!*

It is our desire to serve those who are looking for the light of Christ, here on earth. We hope to inspire you to join our fellowship and help us bring light to a dark world and hope to the hopeless.

We strive to have a church that looks the way we envision heaven – with all ethnicities, ages, races, colors, and backgrounds, worshipping together, in a judgment free zone.

We invite you to be a part of that heaven on earth.

However, please know, though we are not perfect, we are living on purpose. Join us and walk in your purpose and help us build a church that makes a difference in our small part of the world.

***Pastor Ken & Sis. Leslie***

### **House of Light Church**

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