

# **Volunteer Packet**

Welcome to the Portal 2:20 Teen Center. We are very excited that you have committed to being the hands and feet of Jesus by being the light of Christ to the teens in our community!

We understand that teenagers do not always exercise the best judgement, so please understand that your presence here at the Portal is critical to their safety and well-being. We need committed volunteers to protect, encourage, support and guide these teenagers to help make wise decisions and more importantly, lead them to Christ.

Throughout your committed time of service, we ask that you continually be in prayer for the teens, the facility, the leadership and the community. Also, be in prayer that your own heart will reflect the heart of Christ and let His light shine through you as you interact with these teenagers.

As we begin training, we want to acknowledge that times have changed drastically over the last decade. With the increase in social media, false "truths" and a decrease in parental involvement, this generation is much more susceptible to attacks by Satan, and has changed every aspect of growing up. Many have hurts and humiliations that go much deeper than friendships and peer pressures. We don't know everyone's story, but please understand that many teens cope by putting up barriers. These barriers come in many forms, such as a hard heart, provocative clothing and gestures, shocking and "strange" clothing and hair, experimenting with sexuality, saying things to get a rise out of adults, and many other ways. We MUST look past these illusions and see them for who they are in Christ's eyes because ultimately the only way to change their behavior is to first change the heart, and the ONLY one who can change the heart is Jesus Christ!

Let us all emulate Christ by letting them know that they are loved, worthy, valuable, and that they are enough.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to speak with us. Open communication is vital to a cohesive atmosphere and relationship.

We look forward to serving together with you,

Portal 2:20 Teen Center Board

## **Volunteering Positions:**

<u>Welcome Desk</u>- Welcomes students & visitors, Signs students in & out, Organizes and distributes membership paperwork, Files paperwork, reports and inputs student information into spreadsheet database when needed. Makes sure students are following facility rules upon entering the facility. (No outside food or drinks, follows dress code, no weapons, etc.)

<u>Snack Bar Host</u>- Manages the snack bar and prize counter. Refills hot water for Ramen, Pops Popcorn, makes sure napkins, cups & cutlery are stocked. Keeps tabs on food/drink inventory, keeps counters clean, and makes sure teens clean up after themselves.

<u>Engagement/ Supervisor (Socializer)</u>- Outgoing and willing to initiate games and conversations with teens. Supervises the room, helps reinforce facility rules, and makes a concerted effort to engage teens who appear to be lonely, sad/upset, or otherwise not sociable.

<u>Connections Coordinator</u>- Supplies a healthy snack for all teens attending Connections. Puts together a group game/ activity to help bring teens together in a fun & interactive way. (10-20 min) Helps supervise teens attending Connections.

<u>Devotions/ Connection Lessons Leader</u>- Able to deliver a faith-based lesson, testimony or story that relates Jesus to everyday life. No Politics. Devotions typically run 30 min, Lessons run 45-60 min.

#### Future Facility Personnel:

<u>Facility Manager</u>- Keeps an overall eye on Portal facility, furniture, etc. Makes sure teens do not abuse equipment, or take items out of designated areas. Also reinforces portal rules involving personal space, personal devices and cleaning up after yourself.

<u>Gaming Coordinator</u>- In charge of knowing and maintaining all gaming equipment, board/card games, reinforcing gaming rules, and making sure all game related items are put away when not in use. Gaming coordinator is also the keeper of the batteries and switches out video games if asked.

<u>Performance Manager</u>- In charge of the stage, lighting & sound equipment. Makes sure Portal equipment is being used properly, and in charge of care and maintenance of said equipment. (Make sure all equipment has been turned off at the end of the night, etc.)

**Event Coordinator**- Activity and event coordinator is in charge of planning and execution of special Portal events such as gaming tournaments, performances, activities, etc.

<u>Social Media Manager</u>- Manages social media accounts, posts frequent updates and engages audiences.

## **Volunteering Do's and Don'ts: At a Glance**

What it means to be a Volunteer at Portal 2:20 Teen Center-

- -Support the mission and vision of the Organization
- -Care about the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of teens.
- -Commit to living a life that is pleasing to God
- -Be an example of Christs love
- -Be willing to serve in the capacity that is needed.

#### What should volunteers ALWAYS do?

- -Must have reliable transportation to/from portal
- -Arrive at least 15 minutes early to pray together before opening.
- -Understand their role for the evening
- -Actively engage with students while fulfilling their role at the center
- -Be a model of Christ in how you talk and with how you act.
- -Develop healthy relationships with students (learn names, favorite activities, etc.)
- -Stay after closing and help clean up for the night.
- -Wear appropriate clothing and maintain good personal hygiene.
- -Be willing to assist fellow volunteers when needed
- -Always supervise teens
- -Maintain a positive attitude, avoid gossiping or complaining
- -Be kind

#### What should Portal Volunteers NEVER do?

- -Leave before all teens are gone
- -Miss Prayer time
- -Spend time on your phone while at Portal
- -Sit around chatting with other volunteers
- -Call a teen names or harass anyone.
- -Have a negative attitude, gossip or complain
- -Be alone with a teen.
- -Leave another volunteer in a bad position (alone with students)
- -Offer rides to teens.
- -Allow any student to use your cell phone for any reason
- -Show favoritism
- -Be judgmental

\*It is expected and encouraged that all volunteers uphold the mission and values of Portal 2:20 Teen Center both in the facility we serve and in the community.

### **Volunteer Information:**

<u>Arrival & Departure</u>: We believe it is important to unite in prayer to start off the evening in ministry, so we stress the importance of volunteers arriving early (preferably at least 15 minutes prior to opening) so we can all pray together. Volunteers also can expect to stay at least 15 minutes past closing to help with cleanup and shut down procedures.

Shift Work: Due to the nature of our center, we are unable to accommodate multiple volunteering "shifts" during our open activity time (which typically requires 3 hours of consecutive interaction). We have other areas for volunteering if you are unable to commit to a 3-hour block of time. We also schedule volunteers ahead of time so that we can plan ahead and accommodate all activities and persons. If for any reason you are unable to volunteer on your scheduled date, please get ahold of the Director as soon as possible so that they may find someone else to replace you. Please note that we have a minimum volunteer requirement in order for the facility to open. If we fall below that requirement, the facility may have to close for the evening. We ask that you take this into consideration when asking to take previously scheduled time off.

<u>First Impressions:</u> Our volunteers are here to assist with encouraging, uplifting and mentoring our teens. It is expected that you are well rested, calm and willing to engage each time you are at the Portal. Be present in the moment. Leaving your personal life at the door is important. You must also refrain from gossiping, this includes sharing negative opinions of other ministries, leaders or organizations. If you are having an issue with another volunteer or teen, please ask to speak with the Director at a more appropriate time and place, out of earshot of teens.

Volunteers are expected to wear appropriate clothing and are expected to present themselves in a clean manner by paying attention to their physical hygiene. Be aware of strong perfumes and tobacco odors as there may be person's sensitive to allergies as it pertains to those items. Avoid clothing with words or imagery that can cause mixed messages or suggest support for something that goes against Biblical principles. Anything displaying drugs, alcohol, nudity, or foul language is not acceptable. *No smoking* inside or near the entrance to the teen center. We would also prefer that you do not smoke on teen center property if at all possible.

Our goal is to make sure all our volunteers are a good fit for the position they are in as well as comfortable with their schedule and placement. For scheduling/ shift questions or concerns, and all other inquiries, you may contact the Director

<u>Food</u>: Volunteers may feel free to bring outside food or drinks for themselves. We also offer snacks and drinks from the Snack Bar to all volunteers (within reason) at no charge during their shift. We only ask that volunteers not "share" their free snack bar snacks with teens as they may abuse your generosity.

<u>Transportation:</u> Volunteers and staff of the Portal 2:20 Teen Center are prohibited from transporting any teen at any time regardless of the situation that may occur, unless that teen is a direct relation to the staff member or volunteer (child, grandchild).

<u>Children's Policy:</u> Children younger than age 13 are not allowed to participate at the teen center due to the content of our programming as well as the potential issues that could arise from influences. Do NOT bring young children with you to the teen center while you serve your shift, as they will not be allowed into the facility.

<u>Student Interaction & Engagement:</u> We also expect you to engage with students from the moment you arrive until the end of your shift. Volunteers should never be sitting around not engaging with students, or congregating with other volunteers or staff. Please be aware that you are expected to stay for the entire length of your shift and may require an extra few minutes during shift change or at closing to clean up or finish an activity. In addition, please check with other volunteers to make sure no help is needed before signing out for the day.

<u>360 Supervision/ Interaction:</u> Volunteers must be aware of what is going on all around them. If you are engaged in an activity or conversation with a student, please take time to look around and verify that all other students are behaving and living up to the standards set for them. Try to position yourself where you can see multiple groups of students and the majority of the room.

<u>Clean Up:</u> End of each night volunteers and staff are asked to make sure the center is in order before leaving for the night. This includes making sure there are no food items or trash left laying out; snack bar cupboards, drawers and cases are closed, TV's, game systems and electronics have been turned off, and all activities have been put away in their proper place.

## **Visitor Information:**

**Visitor Policy:** Adult visitors must sign in on the visitor form and must wait for a staff member to escort them through the facility. Adult visitors may not be left unsupervised with teens or allowed to spend an extended amount of time at the teen center.

**Visiting/ Temporary Volunteers**: Adults who may be interested in becoming a volunteer or who fill-in as a last-minute volunteer when we are short staffed may do so under the following conditions-

- **1.)** The person who wishes to volunteer for the evening is WELL KNOWN to an established volunteer.
- **2.**) The person fulfills the basic requirements for volunteering (Age, Jesus Follower, Transportation, etc.)
- **3.**) The person may NOT interact one-on-one with any teen or lead any devotions or lessons without first becoming an "official" volunteer.

## **Rules and Expectations for Student Participation:**

#### **Rules for Entry:**

- 1.) All students ages 13-18 are welcome. Registration is required. \*
- 2.) Parents and visitors are welcome. See office attendant for visitor policies.
- 3.) No children under the age of 13 permitted during regular hours.
- 4.) No pets or ESA's permitted. Only licensed and trained ADA service dogs allowed.
- 5.) No weapons permitted on premises.
- 6.) Be sure to read and follow all rules posted inside and outside the facility.
- 7.) Inappropriate behavior or vandalism will be grounds for ejection. Throw trash away in a trash can!
- 8.) No smoking or vaping in or around Teen Center property.
- 9.) Appropriate clothing is required at all times. No offensive messages or face coverings/hoods pulled up.
- 10.) NO loitering. Students who sign out must leave the property promptly.
- 11.) NO Soliciting
- 12.) NO outside food or drinks permitted.
- 13.) Students are allowed a maximum of 2 sign-in/ sign-outs per day. Students are responsible for their own transportation to/from the center.

### **Facility Rules & Expectations:**

- 1.) NO running, jumping, climbing or horseplay.
- 2.) NO drugs, alcohol, tobacco or vaping.
- 3.) All backpacks, bags & large coats are to be left in designated area.
- 4.) NO weapons. Self-defense items must be left at front counter upon check-in.
- 5.) Dress appropriately. School dress code may be enforced.
- 6.) Respect others beliefs and personal space.
- 7.) Inappropriate behavior, talk or bullying will not be tolerated.
- 8.) NO food or drinks allowed outside of cafe area.
- 9.) Treat Teen Center property with respect. (No throwing pillows, standing on furniture, etc.) Vandalism or theft will not be tolerated.
- 10.) NO PDA (Public Displays of Affection) or "couch cuddling". Keep your hands and body to yourself.
- 11.) Do NOT share personal devices. Don't leave devices unattended.
- 12.) NO gambling or outside sales.
- 13.) Personal device use with headphones ONLY.
- 14.) No profanity or taking God's name in vain.
- 15.) Clean up after yourself. House elves don't live here.

## **Disciplinary Actions:**

<u>Your Authority as a Volunteer</u>: You have the authority as a volunteer to enforce all teen center rules and correct students who violate any posted rule. If you are having trouble enforcing a rule or have any questions as to how to handle a situation, you may contact the Director. Understand that the Director is not to be the only rule enforcer as this may cause teens to ignore corrections from other volunteers and they may be seen as "not in charge".

<u>How to handle teens who violate rules</u>: If you notice a teen has violated a rule, issue a direct verbal warning to the teen(s). Try to do this by directly confronting the teen with the violation in a friendly manner, and not by shouting across the room or by being aggressive. (If student is new, remind them that they must read and follow all Portal rules which are posted throughout the center and were included in their registration packet.)

Most incidences may only require a verbal warning to the student with a reminder that their attendance at the Portal is a privilege and not a right. If any teen continues to violate a rule, becomes aggressive, obnoxious or otherwise creates a disturbance or makes others uncomfortable, the teen will be required to sign out and parent(s) must be contacted. Teen is not allowed to leave until parent has been reached. If every reasonable attempt to reach a parent has been made and/ or teen has become a threat to self or others, police/authorities should then be contacted.

Further disregard for our rules can result in loss of teen center privileges or even a temporary ban from the center until such time as we feel that the teen is responsible enough to return. In cases where a student has physically harmed another, or causes destruction of property belonging to another teen or to the center, parents and authorities will be contacted and may result in a permanent ban from the center. All incidents must be documented right away and include the names of all parties involved, including volunteers.

At no time should any volunteer confront a teen out of anger, use foul language, call a teen names or become physical with a teen (with the exception of holding a teen to keep from harming themselves or another.)

<u>Mandatory Reporter</u>: If at any time a teen reports actions of sexual or physical abuse, expresses thoughts or actions of self-harm or harm of others, it is YOUR responsibility to report it immediately, even if you are unsure if the teen is serious or not. The process of reporting is as follows;

- 1. Using an incident report, write down as much of the conversation as possible, concentrating on the relevant information about abuse, self-harm or threat to others be sure to include the students full name along with yours.
- 2. Contact the Director and inform them of the situation.
- 3. If you believe the student may be in immediate danger of being harmed, harming themselves or others, parents/ authorities must be contacted before the student is allowed to leave the center.

## **Guide to Interacting with Teens:**

The healthiest and most beneficial relationships we can build with teens must be done in person while at the center. All volunteers are encouraged to spend time interacting with and conversing with teens, but with healthy boundaries respected.

- 1. <u>Interactions with Teens at the Portal</u>: Volunteers are encouraged to spend time interacting with teens while serving at the Portal, whether through playing games, activities or having conversations, everyone should be there with the focus on the teens being the priority. Volunteers are expected to interact appropriately with teens. Avoid discussions of a sexual nature and change subjects as needed. You are encouraged to be a listening ear and ask questions, however avoid giving direct advice or council to students. Redirect the student to try and answer their own questions or share examples of Biblical answers.
- \*Volunteers must never be alone one on one with a student under any circumstances. In cases where a teen may need to talk with a volunteer in confidence, you must first inform another volunteer and must be within eyesight of other volunteers/ students the entire time. In cases where a student needs to speak with a staff of the opposite sex, it is recommended that a group of 3 meet together to maintain safety and appropriateness.
- 2. <u>Sharing Your Story:</u> Portal 2:20 Teen Center encourages its volunteers to share their story and their testimony with students on an as needed basis as you feel it is appropriate. The students attending the teen center do not need to know every intimate detail of your past. Share a brief story. *Focus more on what God has done for you in your life than on the sin you used to live in.* Also avoid sharing someone else's story, or sharing names of other parties that may be involved in your story.
- 3. Gossiping: Gossiping (also known as "Spilling the Tea") is strongly discouraged for both students and staff. Volunteers are here to help students create healthy long-lasting relationships. Gossiping amongst volunteers or between volunteers and students only confuses the message. If you find a conversation has turned into gossip, perhaps you can help the teen understand this by saying something like "this conversation is starting to sound like gossip" and then help redirect the conversation elsewhere. Badmouthing other organizations, ministries or Churches is prohibited! Furthermore, volunteers should avoid talking about other students in a negative way either at Portal, or in public as you may not know might be in earshot. Any concerns about students should be addressed with the director in private or may be discussed properly amongst staff after Portal has closed. Thumper Rule: If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all!
- **4.** <u>Interactions with Portal Teens Outside of Portal</u>: If a volunteer sees a teen they know from Portal out in public, feel free to say hello and have conversations with them, their parents, siblings, etc. Just keep in mind to not discuss personal information or get involved in any gossip- you are still representing the Portal 2:20 Organization both inside and outside the Portal. Intentionally ignoring or avoiding teens out in public may negatively affect your relationships with them while at Portal. Volunteers however should not spend time alone with teens outside of

Portal, this incudes giving them rides, going out to eat, etc. If you have any questions about a possible situation, contact the director.

**5.** <u>Social Media:</u> Volunteers must understand that adding students to their social media accounts can greatly increase the risk for inappropriate behaviors between teens and adults. We at the Portal 2:20 Teen Center strongly encourage you to build relationships with face to face contact over social media interactions. *Volunteers should NOT have private personal conversations with teens over social media, email or the internet.* If a teen needs to confide in an adult, have them discuss things with you while in attendance at the Portal.

We are not responsible for social interactions over the internet, however if there is any reasonable suspicion of inappropriateness between one of our volunteers and a student or students, we will take immediate and appropriate action including contacting authorities if necessary. Our goal is to encourage safe and healthy boundaries with students and create a safe environment for all. When it comes to the well-being of children, it is better to be safe than sorry.

**6.** <u>Phone Numbers/ Cell Phone Usage</u>: Volunteers are <u>prohibited</u> from exchanging phone numbers with students. This rule is established in order to maintain healthy boundaries between volunters and students and so there is a decreased risk of false accusations. We utilize the Remind app for text alerts and brief conversations if necessary for information purposes only.

Volunteers are encouraged to not spend time on their cell phones while serving at the teen center. Our teens need you to be present and engaging with them. We are aware that situations may occur when you may need to make a call or answer an immediate question via text. Unless there is an immediate need, please keep your cell phone on silent and tucked away. *Never under any circumstances allow any student to use your cell phone.* If they need to make a call, they may ask to use the Teen Center's phone located at the front desk.

**7.** Physical Interactions: While we believe that hugs can sometimes be the best medicine, we must maintain a level of appropriateness for any physical contact with teens. Hugs with a teen of the opposite sex may be in the form of a side hug, arms-length shoulder pats (Penguin hug), or other creative boundary hugs. In all cases, hugs must be either initiated by the teen, or you must ask the teen if it is okay to give them a hug. Be aware of appropriate hands during any hugging interactions. When in doubt, side hugs and high fives are considered appropriate.

Volunteers are prohibited from crossing any boundaries with any student, including physical, emotional, or sexual. Under no circumstances should any volunteer form intimate relationships with any students, whether they attend the Portal or not. This includes any inappropriate contact with any students inside or outside of the teen center. This means any violations of the law, physical contact, inappropriate language or dress in the company of students.

\*If you feel like a student may be attempting to cross boundaries with you or another volunteer, you must report the interaction to the Director immediately.

**8.** Appropriate Staff Relationships: Staff and volunteers must work together to maintain a safe and healthy environment both physically and emotionally. If any volunteer has an issue with another volunteer, it is expected that the individual first talk to the person with whom they have an issue with and work to resolve things respectfully, and preferably out of the presence of teens. If they feel the issue is not able to be resolved, or feel unsafe around any other volunteer or staff member please speak with the Director as soon as possible.

## **Safety & Security:**

- 1. <u>Security Cameras</u>: At Portal 2:20 Teen Center, we have 8 cameras, 2 located in the snack bar, one at the front entrance, one in the lobby area, one in the secondary office room, one in the arcade area, one over the main door into the main room, and one in the back to the right of the stage. While we have covered a majority of the facility, volunteers still need to be diligent in watching teens. The cameras are meant as a backup and are not meant to act as the facilities monitoring system. If an incident occurs that require a review of the video footage, the Director must be contacted. Note, video footage may be limited to certain timeframes and may not be accessible after 30 days. \* (CAMERAS UNAVALIABLE AT POCKET PORTAL)
- **2.** <u>Incident Reports:</u> In cases of injury, abuse or other liability concerns, Portal 2:20 Teen Center has an incident report that will need to be filled out at the time the incident occurs. All incident reports need to be signed by all parties involved, including any volunteer witnesses. Incident report documentation can be found in the main office.
- 3. <u>Inclement Weather:</u> In the event there is inclement weather, especially during the winter, we may feel it is in the best interests for safety to both volunteers and students to close the Portal. We don't necessarily follow school closing schedules as we operate in the evening hours, however if the center does close due to weather, a text alert will be sent out via Remind as well as posts will be made via social media. If you are unsure about whether you are able to fulfil your shift due to weather, please be sure to call us as soon as possible so we can make other arrangements.
- **4.** <u>Badges/ T-shirts</u>: Volunteers are required to wear some form of Portal Volunteer identification while serving at the Teen Center or representing the organization at an event. This form can be a t-shirt and/or a name badge. Those with Certified CPR Training shall wear a badge that reveals this in case an emergency situation arises.
- 5. <u>Keys:</u> Volunteers will not be given keys to the building. Volunteers who's areas require an access key (such as the video game closet) must get their key from the director at the beginning of their shift, and must return it to the office before leaving for the day. Do not leave keys in doors or lying around. All keys are on a lanyard and must be worn at all times. Do not allow a teen to borrow a key. It is your responsibility to know which items are being used and that they are returned undamaged. \*(NOT APPLICABLE FOR POCKET PORTAL)
- **6.** Emergency Procedures: In case of fire, four fire extinguishers total are in the following locations: one under the TV at the snack bar, by the game closet in the arcade, to the left of the stage, and in the front office between the door and front counter. In case of fire, exit immediately and head outside. Meet at the fire hydrant out front of the building. In case of a weather emergency such as a Tornado emergency, line up along the walls in the hallway, sit along the walls and cover your head. In case of threat, call 911- instruct the students to duck and cover, spread out... hide as best you can.

## Portal 2:20 Teen Center Anti-Bullying Policy:

Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a Portal student, whether by other students, staff or third parties, is strictly prohibited. This prohibition includes physical, verbal and psychological abuse, including hazing, gestures, comments, threats or actions to a student which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation, including doing so through electronic communication. Demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of volunteers and staff to provide positive examples for student behavior.

Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's physical or emotional well-being. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, bullying and hazing, stalking, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting and making threats in all electronic forms, including cyberbullying.

#### Bullying is conduct that may meet the following criteria:

- Is directed at one or more students, directly or indirectly
- Substantially interferes with benefits or programs of one or more students
- Adversely affects the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the Portal activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing emotional distress
- Has an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health
- Cyberbullying is defined as meeting the criteria of bullying in the form of any electronic communication intended to harm one or more students, including but not limited to posting a message or statement in a public media forum about any other person if:
- The message or statement is intended to place a person in fear of bodily harm or death and expresses an intent to commit violence against the person
- The message or statement is posted with the intent to communicate a threat or with knowledge that it will be viewed as a threat

Any student who believes s/he has been or is the victim of bullying, hazing or other aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to a Portal volunteer or staff member. Every student is encouraged, and every volunteer is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Complaints against a volunteer should be filed with the organizations Board of Directors at Portal220teencenter@gmail.com. Portal volunteers must report incidents of bullying and aggressive behavior to the Director.

Reports by students may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report. Individuals reporting acts of bullying can do so with an assurance of confidentiality. All complaints about aggressive behavior that may violate this policy will be promptly investigated and documented by the organizations Board of Directors.

If the investigation finds an instance of bullying or aggressive behavior has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate action. This may include up to expulsion for students from Portal 2:20 Teen Center, up to discharge for volunteers, exclusion for parents, guests and removal from any official position. Individuals may also be referred to appropriate law enforcement officials. All verified incidents of bullying and the resulting consequences, including discipline and referrals, will be documented and reported to the board of directors on an annual basis.

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Making intentionally false reports about aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

### Portal 2:20 Teen Center Statement of Faith

We believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God. There is only one God who exists as three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All men are sinners and because of sin are separated from God.

We believe that Jesus was God's answer to our sin. Jesus is both fully God and fully man and came to earth to pay the penalty for our sin by death on the cross and that on the third day He rose again.

We also believe that salvation is a free gift from God for all who receive it through faith and trust in Jesus Christ. By trusting in Christ, we are called to acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior, be baptized, and live a life of repentance. We further believe that as Christians we are to proclaim the Gospel to the world.

We agree to live our lives according to Biblical standards and principles of morality and to have regular fellowship with a body of Christ-centered believers for growth and accountability.

We believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, is completely true and still relevant to our lives today, and is the foundation to all moral authority. We believe that God does not change and therefore is the same yesterday, today and will be tomorrow.

We believe there is but one Church, made up of all those who have a personal relationship with God through His Son Jesus. We encourage the unity of all Christians, and believe that this unity can be achieved when love for Christ is greater than love for man-made traditions. We do not claim to be the only Christians, but strive to be Christians only. Having Christ in common is what makes the Church, builds relationships, and strengthens families and communities.

Christ-Centered refers to the Lordship or authority of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and the Church is built upon that confession of faith. (Matthew 16:15-18)

Bible-Teaching refers to our belief that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Our teaching finds its authority not in psychology, philosophy, or popular opinion, but in the timeless truth of Scripture. (2 Timothy 2:15 and 3:16)