**Our History and Mission**

Central Christian Church was founded by William Jessup in 1939 and has been a consistent Christian presence in Silicon Valley since then. The church is non-denominational, with roots in the Restoration Movement, and aligns itself with a group of churches called “The Christian Church” whose distinctives include the weekly celebration of communion, and a belief in the importance of believer’s baptism. We are also part of a network called the Relational Discipleship Network, based out of Real Life Ministries in Post Falls, ID.

The vision of the church is to reach the world for Jesus, one person at a time, and the way we do this (our mission) is through creating disciples in relational environments, primarily Life Groups.

**Defining a Disciple**

In Matthew 28 Jesus gave this command: therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)

In Matthew 4: 19 Jesus said: Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men.

We see three parts to discipleship:
**Come follow me:** We must follow Jesus, acknowledge his leadership and try our best to live life in a way that pleases him. A disciple is following Jesus.
**And I will make you:** Jesus is in the transformation business. He loves us too much to leave us the way we are. A disciple is being changed by Jesus.
**Fishers of men:** The good news of the Gospel is too good to keep to ourselves. We are commanded to share it with others. A disciple is committed to the mission of Jesus.

To sum up: A disciple is following Jesus, is being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus.

We believe discipleship is best accomplished in relational environments so you’ll often find us gathering together in smaller groups (we call them Life Groups) to do life together, sharing the joys and pains in authentic, transparent, transforming relationships.

To hear a sermon series on this, check out: <http://centralsj.org/discipleshift> and listen from the bottom up. You could also read the book *Discipleshift* by Jim Putman and Bobby Harrington, which would give you a good idea on the direction we are going: <http://amzn.to/1I9AL7O>

**What’s Important to Us**

• a strong belief in the redeeming grace of the Lord Jesus

• an adherence to a biblical worldview, and focus on biblical preaching

• a welcoming and accepting environment. Visitors often comment how warm and welcoming people are at this church. It’s part of our DNA, we’re proud of it, and we want to keep it that way.

• a belief in the importance of small groups for growing as a disciple of Jesus

• authenticity in relationships. We’re not perfect and we don’t pretend to be. Jesus isn’t finished with any of us yet, so we try to cheer each other on, and encourage one another on the journey.

The church is growing steadily, and has around 300 adults and around 100 kids who attend on a Sunday morning. We have two services, both with contemporary music, at 9 and 11am. We currently have six full time and two part-time staff. The church is financially healthy with no building debt, and sufficient reserves in the bank.

**Location**

The church is located centrally in San Jose, known as the capital of Silicon Valley, and a city with multiple cultural and recreational opportunities. San Francisco and the beaches are 45 minutes away. San Jose is the 10th largest city in the US with a culturally diverse population of just over 1 million, and notable for its mild climate, low crime rate compared to other large cities, and high cost of living.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San\_Jose,\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Jose%2C_California)

For further information, please check out our website: <http://centralsj.org>