

THE CHURCH

PURPOSE AND SITUATION OF THE ROLLO

This is the third rollo of the Weekend, preceded by **Grace** which presents Christ as the full expression of God's love. The purpose of this rollo is to present the church as the whole community of those who are in union with Jesus Christ. The church is to be an instrument of God's grace. The candidates are invited to see themselves in the light of His grace.

This rollo does not set forth detailed doctrine of the church. Instead it emphasizes that all Christians, with a focus on the laity, are called to be active members of the church. This is done through regular worship, work, witness, prayer, fellowship, and bearing witness to the reality of the kingdom of God. Because it is scheduled early in the Weekend, **THE CHURCH** rollo should have a moderate amount of witness.

We are the church. As such, we are called to continue His work in this world.

Time objective: Should not exceed **20** minutes.

THE CHURCH

OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION**
 - A. The condition of the world**
 - B. The mission of the church**
 - C. The focus of this rollo will be on the role of the laity**
- II. WHO IS THE CHURCH?**
 - A. The Body of Christ**
 - B. Laity and clergy in partnership**
- III. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE LAITY?**
 - A. The call – to serve God**
 - B. The command – to go into the world**
 - C. The commitment – to be active in the world for Jesus' sake**
 - D. The community – to support each other in grace**
- IV. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?**
 - A. To be an instrument (tool) of God's grace**
 - B. To continue the works of Jesus**
- V. CONCLUSION**
 - We are the church – the mission is clear**

THE CHURCH

COMMENTARY ON THE OUTLINE

(This material is intended as a study aid for the Rollista. It is not intended to be the rollo.)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The condition of the world.** This rollo begins by asking the candidates to look at the condition of our world. It is a world wrapped in spiritual darkness – war, greed, selfishness, sorrow, injustice, and hatred. It is a broken world, a sinful world, a lost world, and an unbelieving world. All human solutions lead to failure. In spite of education, technological advances, and the progress of civilization, people are still unable to find peace with each other and with God. The solution to the problems of this world is Jesus Christ.
- B. The mission of the church.** Therefore the mission of the church is to make Christ known to the world.
- C. The focus of this rollo will be on the role of the laity.** In accomplishing this mission, the role of the laity is critical.

II. WHO IS THE CHURCH?

- A. The Body of Christ.** The church is the people of God. The New Testament describes the church as the Body of Christ. The church is both local assemblies of believers and the whole people of God: the faithful fellowship of the saints, living and dead, not limited by time and space. It is the whole community of those who are in union with Jesus Christ.
(1 Cor. 12:12, 27; Heb.11:13-16; Heb. 11:39-12:2)
- B. Laity and clergy in partnership.** The clergy should be mentioned, but not emphasized, in this rollo. The clergy preach and teach the Word of God, lead worship, and shepherd the congregation to which they are called or appointed. The laity of the church is called to work as active disciples, in unity with the clergy, using their unique gifts to fulfill the mission of the church – making Christ known to the world. Pastors need to hear an affirming word about their partnership with laity in the work of the church.

The whole body of Christ, laity and clergy, must share in seeking to understand what God in Christ can do through them in His church and in the world. We are to love, pray, study, serve, teach, and admonish in love, and seek to extend the church on earth – uniting the hearts of all in Christ's love.

III. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE LAITY?

- A. The Call – To Serve God.** God calls every Christian to a life of active service in the world. Every circumstance and situation in working life, social life, family life, and leisure life is an opportunity to make visible God's love in Jesus Christ. As the

people of God, each member of the church is given a ministry by the Holy Spirit to use for the common good. Each person has a unique role in this mission, which God desires and equips you to fulfill. (1 Peter 4:10,11)

- B. The Command – To Go into the World.** The great commission of the church is the same for every Christian - to go into the world and make disciples of every nation. Our obedience to Christ's command means that we are sent. We are God's voice, God's compassion, God's hands, and God's feet. (Matt. 28:18-20)
- C. The Commitment – To Be Active in the World for Jesus' Sake.** The Bible is full of examples of how Jesus, Himself, was active in His world and always directed attention to God. When we hear God's call, we must be willing to respond. God will equip us for the task to which He has called us. When we make ourselves available, God will use the gifts He has given us for His purposes. We all must strive to be our best for Christ and to be active in the community, so that others may believe that God is alive. (John 14:10, 11)
- D. The Community – To Support Each Other in Grace.** It is important that each Christian who seeks to serve God in the world be part of a Christian community, a church. Such a community supports us in our daily walk with Jesus – in our victories and defeats, our joys and sorrows, as we work and worship together. It is within the community of Christ's people that we discover the gifts God gives us to serve Him and each other. It is within the Christian community that we hold one another accountable. (1 Thes. 5:12-15)

IV. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

- A. To be an instrument (tool) of God's grace.** The church is an instrument of God's grace. The rollista should point out that the church is the principal tool for revealing God's grace and truth. The church is called to:
 - demonstrate unity and love to the world, (John 17:21-23 and John 13:34, 35)
 - worship and glorify God in all things,
 - witness to the presence of, as well as, the coming of the Kingdom of God.
- B. To continue the works of Jesus.** The church was created by Jesus Christ; we have been called to continue His work in the world today, i.e. to be God's hands and feet. We are called to love and serve others, and to promote goodness, justice, and peace. (Col. 1:15-20 and John 14:12-14)

V. CONCLUSION

- This rollo tells the candidates that we (all of God's people) are the church and that we are called to be active within the world. God works through us. By His grace, we become servants of Christ. Each of us has a unique call. The church was chosen by God to reveal Jesus Christ to the world. We are the church. Our mission is clear!

Note to the rollista: *There is far more subject matter in this “**Commentary . . .**” than is required to meet the time objective of the rollo. While it is necessary to speak very briefly on each item listed in the outline, be careful to select for expansion, only those items for which you have something significant to contribute - - usually through personal experience. Remember, the more important part of the Weekend will occur during table discussions than what participants will learn or remember from hearing the rollo. The rollo is meant more to spark ideas for the table discussions than it is meant to be instructive.*

Time Objective: Should not exceed **20** minutes

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BIBLE REFERENCES

(These Bible references are included here to help the rollista understand some of the biblical background of the rollo. The list is neither complete nor is it intended to become part of the rollo. Read the references and listen for the Word of God.)

1 Cor.	12:12, 27	We are the Body of Christ
Hebrews	11:13-16	The church is the faithful fellowship of saints, living and dead
Hebrews	11:39-12:2	Let us fix our eyes on Jesus
1 Peter	4:10, 11	Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others
Matthew	28:18-20	Go into the world and make disciples of all nations
John	14:10, 11	Anyone who has faith in Jesus will do what He has done
1 Thes.	5:12-15	Live in peace with each other; warn, encourage, help and be patient
John	13:34, 35	As Jesus has loved us, love one another
John	17:21-23	That we may all be one as Jesus and the Father are One
Col.	1:15-20	Jesus is the head of the Body, the church
John	14:12-14	We may ask for anything in Jesus Name and He will do it