



Membership Discovery
February 2022

Name _____

Included in this Book

Why membership
Biblical qualifications for membership
Know God
Grow Together
Engage

Other Resources

Grace Church Constitution
Membership Covenant
One Anothers
Information Form

WHY

Church Membership?

Church membership is a visible and intentional commitment to join the family of Grace Church, promising to grow in one's relationship with God, with God's people, and with God's world.

Membership is About Visibility

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. 1 John 2:19

Some folks drift in and out of local churches, never firmly landing in one particular spot. Indeed, our culture is not known for long term commitments. On the other hand, church membership is a visible marker that signifies that one is committing to this local church. This the context in which the member is using their spiritual gifts to build up these particular people. And even if membership is short term in nature (like during a 4 year college program), we still encourage folks to join a church.

Membership is About Accountability

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Hebrews 13:17a

It is good for our pastors and elders to know exactly who our members are. They take their responsibility to shepherd God's people seriously. Although they may provide care to anyone who worships at Grace Church, they have a special responsibility before God to the members. Likewise, Christians are not called to obey every pastor or elder in town, but they do commit to follow the leadership of those in a particular church. And so membership means loving accountability.

Membership is About Responsibility

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25

This means you have “skin in the game.” Members understand that they are here to give more than they are here to receive. That takes intentional effort, but when we do this, we build each other up in love as God intends. Members then, will work on growing in their three primary relationships.

Membership is About Family

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, Ephesians 2:19-20

People long for relationships and community. We want to walk into a room and know that we belong there. The church is the answer to that longing. We are a family of believers who nurture one other's faith and well being. To be member of a church is to declare that you are here to be loved and cared for as someone who belongs to the family of God.

WHAT ARE

the biblical qualifications
for membership
at Grace Church?

There are three Biblical Qualifications for membership at Grace Church. Sharing these things bind us together as a Church Family.

**You have placed Saving Faith
in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior**

“To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:” 1 Cor. 1:2

You have undergone Believers Baptism

“So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” Acts 2:41

**You are in agreement with the
Foundational Doctrines of Grace Church**

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Tim. 3:14-17

Know God

growing in my relationship with God

God calls us to passionately seek to Know and Love Him more and more. The Bible often refers to this passionate desire for God as **“Seeking God with all of your heart”**.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

Jesus repeated this call to passionately Know and Love God in Matthew 22:34-40. When asked which of the Commandments was the most important, He said:

“And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:37-40

We grow in our Relationship with God as we engage in the Spiritual Disciplines (Spiritual Practices?) He gave us. These include Worship, Prayer and The Word as well as others. We engage in these Disciplines personally and together with other Believers.

Knowing God

As a member of Grace Church

We Commit to Gathering with the Church Family for Corporate Worship

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Heb. 10:24-25

We Commit to Worshipping God through Financial Giving

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

We Commit to Growing in our personal prayer lives, time in the Word, and intimacy with God

*“And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.”
Mark 1:35*

Grow Together

growing in my relationship with God's people

Growing together with other Believers can be summed up with the word “Fellowship” or “Community”. Nothing helps flesh this out more than the ‘One Others’ in the New Testament. Beginning with Jesus’ words,

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35),

there are over 20 separate ‘One Others’ given to us.

Please note there is a supplemental sheet with these ‘One Others’ in your Membership Folder.

One key way we can experience authentic biblical relationships with each other is by belonging to a Grace Group at Grace Church. These include Small Groups, Men’s Groups and Women’s Bible Studies. By joining with a smaller group of Believers the One Others can be lived out more personally and deeply.

A second way we experience authentic biblical relationships with each other is by serving in ministry as God has gifted us. By doing this we fulfill the place Christ has for us in His Body, the Church.

We believe that this ministry will combine three things:

- Our Spiritual Gift(s)
- Our Ministry Passions and Interests
- The Opportunities at Grace Church

The place where these intersect is the place where God has designed us to serve.

Growing Together

As a member of Grace Church

We Commit to Living out the ‘One Anothers’ with each other

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:12-14

We Commit to Joining with a Grace Group where we will grow together

“And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47

We Commit to Serving in the Ministry God has gifted us for

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Go Engage

growing in my relationship with God's world

John 3:16 is one of the best-known verses in the Bible – and gives us the purpose for Jesus Christ coming:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (John 13:34-35),

Jesus Himself said, *“For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.”*
Luke 19:10

Jesus then passed this Mission on to us, His followers. We are to be His Witnesses (Acts 1:8) as we fulfill The Great Commandment to be Disciples who Make Disciples.

And Jesus came and said to them,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

Locally, we engage the world by building relationships with the people around us. We **Notice** them, **Listen** to them, **Serve** them and then **Engage** in Spiritual Conversations with them.

Then globally we partner with our GO Team as we **Pray** for and **Give** financially to our Global Partners. And if led by God, we Go to the world beyond our borders.

Go Engage

As a member of Grace Church

**We Commit to
Build relationships with the people around us
with the intent of sharing the Gospel with them**

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect... 1 Peter 3:15

**We Commit to
Participate in Global Missions
through prayer, giving, and as God leads, going**

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. Acts 13:1-3

What's Next?

My Relationship with God

Whether we are just starting out in our relationship with Jesus Christ or measure our years with Him in decades, all of us can still be deepening our relationship with Him. Here are some of the resources recommended by Grace Church:

- ▶ Today in the Word - Moody Bible Institute
www.todayintheword.com
- ▶ For the Love of God - D.A. Carson
- ▶ Morning and Evening - Charles Spurgeon

My Relationship with God's People

Are you ready to explore joining a Grace Group? Great! All you need to do is contact Tammy Callicott in the church office.

- ▶ Email: Tammy@gracenormal.org
- ▶ Phone: 309-452-5076 Ext. 101

Becoming a Member of Grace Church

Now that you have attended 'Joining with Grace Church', here are the steps to becoming a member of the Grace Church Family.

Please note that in addition to the hard copies of the documents mentioned in your 'Joining Grace Church' folder, you will be sent electronic copies in an email.

- ▶ Read the Grace Church Constitution and Membership Covenant.
- ▶ Fill out the Membership Information Form.
You can place the completed hard copy form in Pastor Len's mailbox at church. You can also choose to use the electronic version and email it to Pastor Len at: plen@gracenormal.org.
- ▶ You will then be scheduled to meet with two of the Elders to share your testimony. If you have any questions they will be happy to answer them for you.
- ▶ Those two Elders make a recommendation regarding your membership to the Elder Board.
- ▶ The Elders vote on the recommendation at a regularly scheduled Elder's Meeting. If that vote is positive, you are a member of Grace Church.
- ▶ If agreeable, you are introduced to the church family as new members during the Sunday morning Worship Services.

More question? Contact Pastor Len:

Email: plen@gracenormal.org

Phone: 309-452-5076 Ext. 102