

Membership

We are pleased that you have expressed interest in becoming a member of Grace Evangelical Free Church. We are excited about what God is doing in and through the Grace family, and we are glad you want to be a part of it.

Why Membership?

Membership is a public statement of one's commitment to an organization. It is a statement of belief in what the organization stands for and indicates a desire for involvement. Specifically for a local church, there are several reasons why a Christian should go beyond involvement and join in membership.

1. Full identification with the church

Jesus often spoke of the importance of being identified with Him as His disciple. Church membership can be part of that process. Membership is a public statement of allegiance to a church, signifying agreement with what the church believes and values.

2. Accountability to the church

Being a member means being willing to live by the beliefs and standards of the church. It means abiding by the church's constitution and by-laws and submitting to the leadership's authority. Membership includes accountability, which is essential for maintaining purity within the church. Without membership it is very difficult to exercise church discipline or to hold people accountable to the standards of the church.

3. Accountability and care within the church

Membership clarifies the primary group of people for whom the church is most responsible when it comes to care and concern. Those who are members are also more accountable to care for each other.

4. Responsibility for the church

A member not only enjoys the blessings and benefits of being part of the church but also accepts the responsibility for helping to fulfill the vision and ministries of the church. When a person is accepted into the church's membership, that new member needs to be involved in the church, such as serving in the programs, attending faithfully, praying, caring for others, participating in congregational meetings, giving financial support, and making oneself available for leadership.

5. Selection of leadership

Because members have publicly declared their allegiance to the church, it is from this membership that board members and other key leaders are chosen.

6. Fulfillment of legal requirements

To be a legally recognized organization, there must be officially elected officers and trustees who are responsible for the property and operations of the organization. It is the formal membership who elect people to these recognized leadership roles.

7. A voice in the denomination

It is from the membership of the local church that delegates are selected to attend the District and General EFCA Conferences where they make decisions which go beyond the scope of the local church.

How to become a member?

We welcome all who desire to become members of Grace Church to complete a Membership Application. This application provides an opportunity to share about your relationship with Jesus Christ and your desire to be connected to the local body of believers at Grace Church. This is simply a way for us to get to know you better and to understand how we can walk alongside you in your spiritual journey, helping you grow in your relationship with Christ and with His body.

As part of the process, we will also ask you to affirm your agreement with the biblical beliefs of Grace Church. While you may be continuing to grow in your understanding of various points of doctrine, what is most important is clarity on the essential truths of Scripture and the work of Christ. Where questions or differences arise, they provide an excellent opportunity for meaningful conversation and deeper understanding, always with the goal of strengthening unity in the body of Christ.

Finally, we ask you to sign a Membership Covenant, which expresses your commitment to live out the biblical principles we hold together as a Grace church family. This covenant serves as a mutual encouragement to one another as we seek to follow Christ and fulfill His mission through Grace Church.

Grace Church's responsibility to you:

1. To provide support through accountability in your journey with Christ.
2. To provide opportunities for you to use your gifts in ministry.
3. To provide you with opportunities for growth and training.
4. To pray for you - seeking God's will for your life.
5. To treat you as an important member of the family.

Your responsibility to your church family (Covenant of Membership):

We believe membership is a commitment to be a part of the family, and as a family member, you agree to:

1. Protect the unity of Grace Church,
 - by acting in love toward other members
 - by seeking to be a peacemaker
 - by following the leaders
2. Share in responsibility for the health and growth of Grace Church,
 - by praying for its continued health and growth
 - by inviting the unchurched to attend services and events run by the church
 - by warmly welcoming those who visit
3. Serve in the ministry of Grace Church,
 - by discovering my gifts and talents
 - by being willing to be trained and equipped
 - by developing a servant's heart
4. Support to the best of my ability the cause, community, and corporate life of Grace Church,
 - by attending worship services faithfully
 - by living a Godly life
 - by giving financially regularly

Membership Application

(One per person)

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Carrier _____

Occupation _____

Date of Birth _____ Marital Status _____ Anniversary _____

Children _____

Birthdays _____

Have you been baptized? _____

Have you read and agree with Grace EFC Statement of Faith? _____

If no, please explain:

Have you read the constitution and by-laws and agree to abide by them? _____

If no, please explain:

I agree to fulfill, to the best of my ability, the expectations of the Membership Covenant.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

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Recommendation (Completed by Elders)

Recommended _____ Not Recommended _____ Tabled _____

Signature(s) _____

Pastoral Signature _____

Membership Interview

(Completed by Elders)

Name of applicant _____

Date of interview _____

Elders completing interview _____

Steps toward assimilation:

What Life Group are you connecting them to?

What ministry or area of service are you connecting them to?

Are they currently in a discipleship relationship or interested in being in a discipleship relationship?

Are there any follow-up needs or information the office/staff/pastors should know?

Which elder/individual is following up with them to ensure they are assimilated into the Grace family?