

Becoming A Member At Grace Community

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."
Romans 12:4-5

Although it is possible for a person to be a believer in Jesus Christ without ever joining a local church, we believe that God desires us as individual believers to participate in the life and worship of a local church. In the Bible the church is described as the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23), the family of God (Gal. 3:26), the household of God (I Tim. 3:15), and a royal priesthood (I Pet. 2:9). Each of these images of the church indicates that participating in the community and fellowship of a local church is an important part of becoming a passionate and devoted follower of Jesus Christ.

What do you gain from membership in a spiritual family?

1. **YOU FIND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.** *"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the one who falls and has no one to help him up!" - Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*
2. **YOU FIND A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN GROW.** *"They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the breaking of bread and prayer." - Acts 2:42*
3. **YOU FIND A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN USE YOUR GIFTS.** *"Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you..." - 1 Timothy 4:14*
4. **YOU BELONG TO SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF.** *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20*

Why else might it be important to become a member of a local church?

Here are a few reasons why it is important to become a member of a church:

1. It is a way to publicly declare that you are a Christian and part of Christ's body, the Church.
2. It expresses your commitment to support the local church with your prayers, loyalty, offerings, and spiritual gifts.
3. It is one way you help to determine God's will for the congregation (through meetings and votes) and it is expected of those wishing to take on meaningful leadership roles
4. It means that you have submitted to the leadership and spiritual guidance of the church as exercised by the pastor and elders of the congregation.

What are the requirements for membership in Grace Community?

"Members shall have been baptized into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, confess personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, maintain a good reputation in the community, embrace this constitution, and support the church with their attendance, gifts, resource, prayers, and participation....They shall not have membership in any secret society, fraternity, lodge or other organization which in its statements or rites assert that individuals are reconciled to God outside of Jesus Christ and His atonement." (Grace Community Bylaws Art I.A.1)

Membership At A Glance...

“First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God’s will, they gave themselves to us as well.” II Cor. 8:5

The statements below are a picture of what it looks like to be an active member of a local church. At the heart of membership is a sincere desire to build relationships with Christ and with others in a church family. In addition, members seek by God’s grace to do the following:

Share in the life of this church by...

- Attending worship services on a regular basis and warmly welcoming guests
- Participating in Bible classes and growth groups as we are able
- Spending personal devotional time with God and taking advantage of seminars, classes, and special events

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together” Heb. 10:25

Support the testimony of this church by...

- Living a grace filled life of loving God and loving others
- Refusing to gossip or put down other Christians or other churches
- Upholding “Relational Commitments” to live at peace with others in the church family

“A new command I give to you...Love one another.” John 13:34

Submit to the leadership and teaching of this church by...

- Praying regularly for my pastors and leaders and for the growth of the church
- Abiding by our constitution and statement of faith
- Inviting correction or Biblical counsel when needed

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ...: Ephesians 5:21

Serve in the ministry & mission of this church by...

- Discovering our unique gifts & cheerfully doing the work God has called us to do
- Practicing a stewardship approach to time, talents, and treasure
- Inviting other people to follow Christ and grow into membership, maturity, & mission

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others....” I Peter 4:10

Becoming A Member

We are a diverse church family committed to a grace-oriented and Christ-centered expression of the Christian faith. While there is an allowance for differences on minor issues, we ask those wishing to become members are asked to embrace sound doctrine as expressed in our Statement of Faith and to exhibit a living relationship with God through faith in Jesus (visit [the “Beliefs” section of our website](#) for complete information).

All people wishing to join Grace Community of Wesley Chapel:

- Visit briefly with the pastor / elders & complete a membership questionnaire

After the above steps have been completed, the pastor / elders will make a recommendation. New members are approved by vote at a business meeting and they are formally welcomed into the congregation at a worship service. For more information, contact the pastor.

Membership Questionnaire

Name _____ Date Of Birth _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Marital Status _____ Spouse's Name _____

Names Of Children _____ Date Of Birth _____ Baptized ? / Date _____

Previous Church Membership _____ Are you still a member there? _____

Questions (Answer in the space provided, write on the back, or attach a separate sheet)

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself (background, family, employment, interests, etc) and the reason(s) why you want to join with this church.
2. To the extent that you know yourself what are some of your spiritual gifts and/or other abilities that you might contribute to the Lord's work (see Romans 12 & I Corinthians 12)? What types ministry work or other volunteer opportunities have you participated in?
3. How do your personal convictions align with the vision, values, and beliefs of this church? Do you have any specific questions (our background, beliefs, distinctives, etc) or other topics that you would like to discuss with a pastor or elder?
4. On the back please write a brief testimony describing the story of your faith. Share about when / how you came to trust in Jesus and begin a new or renewed relationship with God. Please include a little bit about your baptism and spiritual growth. If you would like some guidelines or help on how to write a 1 or 2 paragraph testimony, you may visit www.ExploreGrace.com and click on the "[Resources](#)" section or you may talk to a small group leader or pastor.

As a believer in Jesus Christ and a baptized member of the family of God it is my sincere desire to become a member of Grace Community of Wesley Chapel. I agree to embrace the statement of faith and the constitution of this church. In addition, I will seek by God's grace to support the ministry and mission of this church cheerfully and wholeheartedly with my presence, abilities, gifts, material resources, and prayers.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Your application will be reviewed by the pastor / elders who will make a recommendation to the congregation. New members are approved by a congregational vote at a business meeting.