

Life in the Body, Part 9

1 Corinthians 14:40; Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; 3-5-17

Church membership is a conscious commitment to a local body of believers in Jesus for service and submission by trusting God for good through an imperfect church over time.

We are focusing on church membership in our body for two primary reasons:

1. Legal Reasons

It has come to our attention that our church documents and our membership process needs to be improved and strengthened in light of legal issues regarding issues like church discipline and employment.

2. Biblical Reasons

In considering the changes in our culture and the legal issues we may face, it has become apparent that the truth about church membership is important and needs to be revisited in our body, more importantly, because of what the Bible teaches.

ARTICLE I – NAME

ARTICLE II – LOCATION

ARTICLE III - AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

ARTICLE IV - PURPOSE

ARTICLE V - CHARACTER AND GOVERNMENT

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE VII - INCORPORATION

ARTICLE VIII - CHURCH ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAMS

ARTICLE IX - PASTOR AND STAFF

ARTICLE X – OVERSEERS

ARTICLE XI – RELATIONAL COMMITMENTS

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| Section 11.02 | Commitment to Peacemaking and Reconciliation |
| Section 11.03 | Commitment to Preserving Marriages |
| Section 11.04 | Commitment to Protecting Our Children |
| Section 11.05 | Commitment to Biblical Counseling |
| Section 11.06 | Commitment to Confidentiality |
| Section 11.07 | Commitment to Accountability and Church Discipline |

Membership also will allow you to enjoy ministry opportunities and privileges that are not available to people who only attend our church, including the following:

- You may participate and vote in congregational meetings, where we seek to discern and plan how to follow God's vision for our church.
- You will be eligible to minister to the children and youth in our church.
- You can seek more opportunities to use your spiritual gifts, including those of teaching, serving and leading within the body.

• If you need counseling or support from our leaders when their time is limited, your request for assistance will take precedence over requests from people who have not joined the church. If you would like to learn more about the importance of church membership, you may also meet with our leaders, who would be happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about membership.

ARTICLE XII - CHURCH COVENANT

Having been chosen by God and drawn by the Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, I now, with a view to my baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, do joyfully enter into this covenant with the members of this church as one body in Christ, according to the following affirmations and commitments.

1. I believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be the Word of God, and its doctrine of salvation to be the perfect and only true doctrine of salvation. (2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Matthew 4:4)
2. I acknowledge myself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving his wrath, and without hope except in God's sovereign love and mercy to save me. (Romans 3:9-18, 23; 6:23; Ephesians 1:3-14; 2:1-10; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Peter 1:2-9; Romans 8:29-30)
3. I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the only Savior of sinners, and receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered to me in the Gospel. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16-17; 3:9-26; 10:9; Philipians 2:5-11; 3:5-9; Titus 3:3-5; 1 Timothy 1:15)
4. I resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that I will endeavor to put to death the misdeeds of my sinful nature and to live my life as is fitting a true follower of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:17-6:4; Colossians 3:1-4:6; 1 Peter 1:13-15; 2:18-5:11; 2 Peter 1:3-9; Romans 8:29; 12:1-15:14)
5. I promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of my ability. (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:9-15; Ephesians 4:1-16; Hebrews 10:24-25; 12:24-25; 1 Peter 4:7-11)
6. I submit myself to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to pursue its purity and peace. (Matthew 16:18; 18:15-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 3:15; 5:17-20; Hebrews 13:17; Colossians 3:15; Romans 12:18-21)
7. Finally, I give my informed consent to and hereby covenant and agree to support and submit to the Core Beliefs, Core Values, and Core Commitments of this church.

These Relational Commitments are adapted from The Peacemaker Church. Used by permission of Peacemaker® Ministries (www.PeacemakerChurch.net).