

Christ Church | northeast Covenant Membership

The church exists today as resident aliens, an adventurous colony in a society...[lacking] belief in much more than the cultivation of an ever-shrinking horizon of self-preservation and self-expression.

- Stanley Hauerwas & William H. Willimon, *Resident Aliens*

People are members of political parties, retail stores, golf courses, civic clubs, and health spas. Each membership signifies something different. Set alongside of these, the purpose and significance of being a member of a local church can be misunderstood and even diminished. At Christ Church we take church membership seriously and believe that it is consistent with the spirit of the Biblical teaching on being the church.

The church is the Body of Christ in the world. It lives for the purpose of establishing the Kingdom of God through the Gospel preached and lived. Those who are eligible for membership are those whom Jesus Christ has rescued from sin and death. This rescue operation brings people back into a covenant relationship first with their Creator. The covenant Adam had with God resulted in a community with Eve as well as all of creation. Sin changed all of that.

Throughout Scripture, God makes covenants with man: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob (Israel), Moses, and David. While biblical covenants vary in kind, they are God's promises to faithfully and judiciously execute His purpose so as to deal with sin and redeem His creation. The covenant that God makes with Abraham is ultimately executed and fulfilled in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. It extends to all of those who accept Jesus by faith, through grace.

Those rescued by grace through faith aren't intended to live in isolation and individualism. The rescued ones' jobs, talents, gifts, monies, energies, and abilities converge in the universal church and the local church as an offering unto God. The apostles in the New Testament urged believers to gather regularly to understand God's Word through teaching and participate in baptism and the Lord's Supper in order to be mobilized for Kingdom purposes in the world around them. The covenant Jesus' followers enjoyed with God reconnects them with one another.

In this way, Christ Church is more interested in *being* the church than *doing* more church-related activities. Christ Church is a Kingdom of God mission not a civic club, political activism party, or spiritual spa. Our membership with each other flows out of the covenant with God on account of Christ.

We appreciate you prayerfully considering membership at Christ Church. One of our elders will gladly walk you through this process. The steps for becoming a member are as follows:

- (1) Contact the church and make plans to meet with an elder. The elder will recommend you to the elder board and the church for membership;**
- (2) If you have not already been baptized, make plans to be baptized;**
- (3) Make plans to attend *Open Door*: a four-week-long small group meeting that more completely introduces prospective members to Christ Church;**
- (4) Read and understand Christ Church's founding doctrinal assumptions;**
- (5) Complete and sign the membership card; and**
- (6) Be introduced to the church at a Sunday service.**

Please read through the attached a packet of information that we've provided an overview of Christ Church. Keep the packet and page one for your files. Turn the following information into the leadership at Christ Church.

Contact Information

We will assign an elder to you once we have received the information below. You and the individual elder will coordinate to meet and begin the membership process.

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Please list the names of your children, if any, who have been baptized (or who are seeking to be baptized) and are therefore eligible for membership:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

Email Address(es): _____

Email is our primary means of keeping members informed about the goings on within the community. Unless otherwise instructed, we will send weekly updates and notes regarding information in the community via email.

If you are presently a member of another church, please provide the name of and contact information for that church below. Once you are recommended for membership at Christ Church, we will contact them to notify them of your transition.

Name of church: _____

Contact Information: _____

[Office use]

ASSIGNED ELDER: _____

DATE: _____

Covenant Membership Agreement

I am a follower of Jesus Christ.

I affirm Christ Church's foundational biblical assumptions of Christian belief.

I have been baptized (or I am willing to be baptized).

I joyfully submit to the pastoral oversight provided by the elders of Christ Church, who have been examined and chosen by this community.

In joining Christ Church I understand that I am a participant in the life and mission of Christ Church. I intend to attend weekly gatherings, and I am seeking to live my life in every way so as to promote the biblical principles of God's Kingdom on this earth.

I will seek to offer my time, energy, abilities, talents, money, and other aspects of my life to promote the purposes of the Kingdom as they are lived and practiced within Christ Church.

Individual family members should write their names and sign below. Parent's should list the names of their baptized children who are unable to write their own names.

Name _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____