

# Membership

Membership at Cornerstone

Would you like to become a member at Cornerstone Community Church?

## Membership in 4 Steps

At Cornerstone, we believe that membership into the body of Christ and the local church is important for spiritual growth and accountability. Members of Cornerstone play an active role in our community and are eligible to elect their church leaders and vote on the annual budget. Members are able to lead and teach others the Good News of Jesus Christ.

### Step 1 ~ The Membership Class

Our Membership Class (Class 101) is offered several times per year. In this class, you will learn what we believe as a church, the history of the church, the direction of the church, and the focus of the church. Most importantly, you will be aware of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and how we know we will be with Him for eternity.

Although this membership class is mandatory for membership, we also offer Classes on Discovering Spiritual Maturity (Class 201), Discovering My Ministry (Class 301), and Discovering My Mission (Class 401). These classes are essential in discovering who we are in Christ and who we are called to be through Christ.

### Step 2 ~ The Membership Covenant

Our Membership Covenant is a written document that describes the promises and commitments we have as members of the Body of Christ to one another at Cornerstone. Included in the covenant are commitments to love one another through protecting the unity of the church, sharing responsibility, serving in ministry, and supporting the testimony of our church.

The Membership Covenant will be given to all attendees at the Membership Class. If, after this class and prayerful consideration, you wish to join the church in membership, you may sign this covenant, turn it into the Pastor or church office, and then you are ready for Step 3.

### Step 3 ~ Fit for Service Form

At the Membership Class, you will be given a Fit for Service Form. Please complete this form and turn it into the office or at the Membership Interview. This highlights areas of interest and experience in serving at the church which is an important part of membership.

### Step 4 ~ The Membership Interview

After you attended the Membership Class, and signed the Membership Covenant, you will be invited to interview with two of the Elders of Cornerstone. This interview will typically last anywhere from 20-30 minutes and primarily includes questions about your spiritual journey in Christ. Other questions will include whether you have been baptized by immersion (which is also necessary for membership), your church history, and areas of service that are of interest to you. Our Elders are friendly and compassionate and put each prospective member at ease.

After the Interview . . . the Elders will meet at their monthly meeting and will either approve you for membership or ask additional clarifying questions to determine eligibility. This whole process may take up to three months. Those approved for membership will be presented to the congregation at our “right hand of fellowship” service. (Galatians 2:9)

### Baptism by Immersion

According to Scripture, Baptism is an act of obedience to Christ and follows the example that Christ has set for us (Mk 1:9). Baptism is symbolic in that it represents Christ’s burial and resurrection and illustrates our lives as believers in Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Baptism comes from the Greek word, baptiza which means “to immerse or dip under water.” We believe that baptism by immersion best follows the examples of every baptism in Scripture (full immersion) and should be done after one becomes a believer in Jesus Christ. Baptism is not necessary for salvation, but it is a public and outward symbol of the commitment made in one’s heart. Therefore, baptism by immersion is necessary to become a member at Cornerstone.

### Is Church Membership Biblical?

Although Scripture does not contain an explicit command to formally join a local church, the biblical foundation for church membership permeates the New Testament. This biblical basis can be seen most clearly in:

- 1) The example of the early church (Acts 2:41-42, 47, 5:14, 16:5)
- 2) The existence of church government (Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:2-3, 1 Thessalonians 5:12, 1 Timothy 5:17, Hebrews 13:17)
- 3) The exercise of church discipline (Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 1 Timothy 5:20, Titus 3:10-11).
- 4) The exhortation to building up the body (Hebrews 10:24-25, Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 1 Peter 4:10-11).