

DISCOVERING
CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP



GraceChurch
KELSEYVILLE

Table of Contents

Welcome to Discovering Church Membership	3
Our Salvation.....	4
What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?.....	4
The Symbols of Salvation: Baptism and the Lords Supper.....	7
Our Statement	10
Our Purpose Statement	10
Our Faith Statement – What We Believe.....	12
Our Lifestyle Statement	16
Our Structure	18
Our Associations	20
What It Means to Be a Member?.....	21
What Is Expected of Me as a Member?	21
Grace Church of Kelseyville Membership Covenant.....	22
Grace Church of Kelseyville Membership Application.....	26

Welcome to Discovering Church Membership

We're glad that you have chosen to find out more about Grace Evangelical Free Church of Kelseyville! This booklet is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this booklet is designed to explain who and what our church is.

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household."

Ephesians 2:19

The Goal of Learning About Membership

That you will grow in your commitment to God and to the church family. Through this booklet you will discover what makes Grace Church a family and what things unite us.

We are united by:

- **Our Salvation** (What God has done for us)
- **Our Statement** (Why we exist as a church)
- **Our Structure** (When and where we fulfill our purpose)

Our Salvation

What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “WHY?”. They exist without knowing why there is life and what is God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic, but very important, question a person can ask is, “What is the meaning of life?”.

God's Purpose: **Peace and Life**

God loves us and wants us to experience peace and life, abundant (John 10:10) and eternal. We can have this peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1). Those that place their trust in Jesus can have eternal life with God. (John 3:16)

The Problem: **Our Separation**

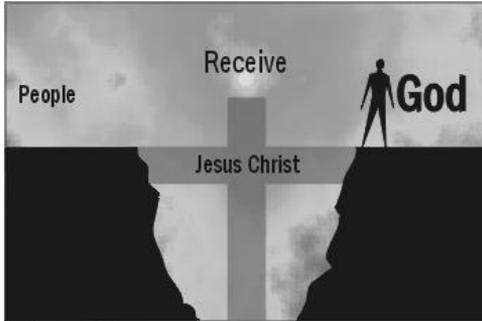
God created us in His own image (Genesis 1:27) to have an abundant life. But the sin of humans resulted in separation from God (Genesis 3, Romans 5:12). We all have sinned (Romans 3:23), and the penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23, Revelation 20:14-15). We cannot work our way to God, and nothing we do can save us because of the separation (Titus 3:5).

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast." Eph. 2:8-9



God's Grace: **The Cross**

God sent His son, Jesus Christ, to earth to pay the penalty for our sin by dying on the Cross (Romans 5:8) which bridged the gap between God and people. After three days Jesus rose from the grave (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Jesus became the mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5).



Christ said, "I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except THROUGH ME!" John 14:6

Your Part: **The Response**

To receive Jesus Christ, you must understand the problem, that you are a sinner and nothing you do on your own will gain you eternal life with God (Ephesians 2:8-9). You must repent of your sins. You must believe that Jesus Christ died for you and put your trust in Jesus as your Lord. When you do this, you become one of God's children (Romans 10:13), the Holy Spirit indwells you, and you begin the amazing journey of growing in the knowledge of this great God and living a life that serves your risen Lord.

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

Romans 10:9-10

Example prayer (Simply saying these words does not save, only faith in Jesus):

"Dear Heavenly Father, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. Please forgive me. I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I want to turn away from sin and obey You with my life. I understand that there is nothing I can do to save myself. Please save me, make me your child, and teach me Your will that I may obey. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Believers Duty: **God's Will**

Through trust in Jesus Christ, you can now have eternal life with God in heaven. This is His amazing grace. Once you have surrendered your life to God, the journey has just begun. Believers are filled with the Holy Spirit, given unique gifts to obey God's commands, and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, the way of salvation. You are to make disciples of Christ who make more disciples. Believers are to read God's Word (the Bible) to understand His will, to pray to Him and to ask for direction in life and walk in obedience to His Word. Believers of Jesus Christ are not perfect people. You will fail, but you have a merciful and forgiving God and Father who hears your prayers.

When We Know and Love God, And Live in Harmony with His Purpose for Our Lives, It Produces:

- Clear Conscience (Romans 8:1)
- Life & Peace (Romans 8:6)
- Help with Weakness (Romans 8:26)
- Purpose (Romans 8:28)
- Confidence (Romans 8:31)
- Security (Romans 8:39)
- Power & Strength (Philippians 4:13)
- Fulfillment (Philippians 4:19)
- Freedom (John 8:32,36)

The Symbols of Salvation: Baptism and the Lords Supper

What is Baptism?

Baptism doesn't make you a believer. It shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring. It is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

1. It Illustrates Christ's Burial and Resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried...and He rose again." 1 Cor. 15:3-4

"For when you are baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ. Col. 2:12

2. It Illustrates My New Life as A Christian and Demonstrates That I Am a Believer of Jesus.

"...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8

Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To Follow the Example Set by Jesus.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." Mark 1:9

2. Because Jesus Christ Commanded It.

"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" Matt. 28:19-20

When Should I Be Baptized?

As soon as you have believed! “Those who believed...were baptized...that day!” Acts 2:41

What about children? At Grace Church of Kelseyville, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

At Grace Church of Kelseyville, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed” as children.

Why Be Baptized by Immersion?

1. Because Jesus Was Baptized That Way.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.”

Matthew 3:16

2. Every Baptism in The Bible Was by Immersion.

(Example) “...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” Acts

8:38-39

3. The Word “Baptize” Means to Dip Under Water”.

The Greek word baptizo means “to immerse or dip under water”.

4. It Best Symbolizes a Burial and Resurrection!

What is the Lords Supper?

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called “ordinances”) as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: Baptism and The Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

1. It Is a Simple Act

“The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread...” (vs. 23)

2. It Is a Reminder

... when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; eat it in remembrance of me.’ (vs. 24)

3. It Is a Symbol

“In the same way, He took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me.’” (vs. 25)

4. It Is a Statement of Faith

“For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes back.” (vs. 26)

Who Should Take the Lord’s Supper?

Only those who are believers of Jesus Christ (Mark 14:22-26)

How Do I Prepare Myself for The Lord’s Supper?

“Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.” 1 Cor. 11:27-28

- Self-Examination (1 Cor. 11:27)
- Confessing My Sins (1 John 1:9)
- Recommitment (Rom.12:1)
- Restoring Relationships (Matt.5:23-24)

Our Statement

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. 1 Corinthians 1:10

Our Purpose Statement

To Know Christ and to Make Him Known.

We Exist as a Church to Glorify God.

The Great Commandment: “Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.’” Matt. 22:36-40

The Great Commission: “Jesus said, ‘Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.’” Matt. 28:19-20

Our Priority’s

Worship, Evangelism, & Discipleship

I. We Exist to Celebrate God’s Presence: **Worship**

“Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.” Matt. 4:10

“...The Father seeks worshipers...and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” Jn 4:23-24

Expressions of Worship

- Commitment of self (Romans 12:1-2)
- Praying (Ps. 95:6) & Meditating (Hab. 2:20)
- Singing (Eph. 5:19)
- Hearing the Word (John 17:17)
- Giving (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
- Baptism (Romans 6:3-4) & Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11-23-26)

II. We Exist to Communicate God’s Word: **Evangelism**

“His intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known...” Eph. 3:10

"WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?” Rom. 10:13-14

III. We Exist to Grow God’s People: **Discipleship**

We believe our church must grow bigger by growing smaller.

What does that mean? By growing large through corporate worship and by growing small through small groups and seeking accountability from other believers. We want to worship God unhindered, evangelize to the lost and gather together. We want to see souls saved and more people come to church. This is growing bigger. But we are not about just obtaining numbers. We want people to come to be changed by the Message of Hope and then grow through discipleship. Discipleship happens within Sunday School classes and small groups. The heartbeat of Grace Church is our small groups, and every member needs to be a part of one. We call this growing small. We believe that each and every Christian has been given unique gifts to be used for church and must be using those in obedience to God.

Our Aim: To Walk in a Manner Worthy of Christ and become devoted followers of Jesus. – Eph.4:1 We Must Learn to Find Our Place of Ministry & Service

“God gives us many kinds of special abilities... and there are different kinds of service to God... All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.” 1 Cor. 12:4-5, 27

At Grace Church of Kelseyville every member is a minister. Every task is important. Every member is a “10” in something.

Our Faith Statement – What We Believe

Essential beliefs: We have unity.

“There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...” Eph. 4:4-6

Non-essential beliefs: We have liberty.

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So, whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” Romans 14:1,4,12,22

In all our beliefs: We show love and graciousness.

“...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains — but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.” 1 Cor. 13:2 (Ph)

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

This church endorses and affirms the following statement of faith which is that of the Evangelical Free Church of America. This statement is a summary of the teachings of the Scriptures, but it shall not in any way replace the Scriptures as the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

1. About God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1, Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 40:13-14, Isaiah 48:16-17, Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:19, John 10:27-30, II Corinthians 13:14, Ephesians 4:4-6).

2. About Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into Heaven, where at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate. (Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 53, Matthew 1:18-25, Matthew 28:6, Luke 1:34-35, Luke 24:38-39; 50-53, John 10:15, John 19:30-34, Hebrews 7:24-28, Hebrews 9:22-26).

3. About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service. (Matthew 10:20, John 3:3-5, John 14:21, John 16:8-11; 13-14, Romans 8:1-17; 26-27, I Corinthians 6:19, Galatians 5:16-25, Titus 3:5).

4. About the Bible

We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and the Divine and final Authority for the Christian faith and life. (Matthew 5:18, John 12:47-50, II Timothy 3:14-16, Hebrews 4:12, I Peter 1:23-25, II Peter 1:19-21)

5. About Human Beings

People are the supreme object of God's creation. We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained. (Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 3, John 1:19, John 3:1-12, John 16:11, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12-19, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 4:22-24, Titus 3:5).

6. About Salvation

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit, and thus become children of God. (John 1:12, John 3:16, Acts 4:12, Romans 5:9, Ephesians 2:1, Ephesians 2:8-10, Hebrews 10:12-16, I Peter 3:18-19).

7. About Baptism & Communion

We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation. (Matthew 28:19, John 6:53-58, Acts 2:38-42, Acts 10:47-48, I Corinth. 11:20-34).

8. About The Church

We believe that the true church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is the head. (Matthew 16:16-18, Acts 2:38-41, I Corinthians 11:20-34).

We believe that only those who are thus members of the true church shall be eligible for membership in the local church. (Acts 2:41, Philippians 1:1 Hebrews 10:23-25).

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the church, and that every local church has the right under Christ, to decide and govern its own affairs. (Acts 6:1-6, Acts 14:23, Acts 15:1-31, Titus 1:5, I Peter 5:1-3).

9. About **Eternal Security**

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot “lose” it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security. (John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10,14; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

10. About **Eternity**

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

We believe in the personal, premillennial and imminent coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this “Blessed Hope” has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer. (Matthew 24:29-30, I Thessalonians 2:19-20, I Thessalonians 4:16, Titus 2:11-13).

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, of the believer to everlasting blessedness and with the Lord, and of the unbeliever to everlasting conscious punishment in a place the Bible calls Hell. (Matthew 24:29-30, Luke 16:23-24, I Thess. 4:16-18, Rev. 20:11-15).

Our Lifestyle Statement

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

Bible As Our Sole Authority

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right.” 2 Tim. 3:15

Since God’s Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is “What does the Bible say?” We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

Autonomy Of Each Local Church

“Christ is the head of His Body, the church. He is the source of the Body’s life...” Col. 1:18

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control. In relating to our “daughter churches” that we sponsor, we encourage each congregation to determine its own strategy, structure, and style.

Priesthood Of Every Believer

“Christ loves us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God...” Rev. 1:6 “You are...the King’s priests...God’s own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God.” 1 Pet. 2:9

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

Stewardship Of Time, Talent & Treasure

“A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Lev. 26:30

At Grace Church we practice giving of tithes and offerings for the support of Christ’s body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that returning to the Lord a portion of our income is the Biblical standard of giving. We believe in faith giving as an act of worship and obedience.

Spirit-Led Living

(Jesus said), “I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God’s power within us. So, we seek to practice a daily dependence on God’s Spirit to enable us to do what is right. (Phil. 2:13, Eph. 5:18)

Holy Living

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1-3

We seek to represent Jesus Christ with a strong, holy, and loving walk with Christ. We realize that not living like Jesus can negatively impact our witness as a church.

Telling Others About Christ

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those with whom God brings us into contact. We share the gospel and invite friends to church.

Our Structure

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

1. The Church Is a Fellowship

A top priority in a fellowship is harmony and unity.

“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.” Rom. 14:19 (Ph)

ANY attitude that purposely causes disunity is sin.

Col. 3:15, 1 Cor. 1:10, 2 Tim. 2:14, Pr. 17:14, 2 Cor. 13:11, Phil. 1:27, 2:1-3, Col. 2:2, Phil. 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Cor. 14:33, John 13:34-35, 2 Tim. 2:23, Rom. 15:5-6, Rom. 12:16-18, Col. 3:13-14, Ps. 133:1

“Your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you” 1 Cor. 11:17

A good structure promotes unity and downplays differences. Voting in a church tends to divide. Although we will not always see eye to eye we can live in harmony and unity even if we disagree.

At Grace Church Kelseyville, we vote on:

- Annual budget and elders
- Purchase of land or buildings
- Calling the senior pastor and pastoral staff
- Changes in the church constitution

2. The Church Is a Family

To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:8

We operate on the basis of relationships not rules

“Don’t reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a father. Treat the young men as brothers, and the older women as mothers. Treat the younger women as sisters...” 1 Tim. 5:1-2 (Ph)

3. The Church Is a Body

1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 5:23, Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18, 2:19

We are a body — not a business!

We are an organism — not an organization!

Therefore, we function on the basis of spiritual gifts not elected office. In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

“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. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us.” Rom. 12:4-6

“God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” Eph. 4:11-12

The people are the “ministers”.

The pastors are the administrators”.

4. THE CHURCH IS A FLOCK

(Jesus’ favorite description of the church) John 10:1-30, Matt. 26:31, Matt. 25:33

THEREFORE, IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY SHEPHERDS

“Jesus asked Simon Peter, ‘Do you really love me?’ ‘Yes Lord,’ said Peter. ‘Then take care of my sheep.’” John 21:16-17

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leaders. “POIMEN” Shepherd, “PRESBUTEROS” ELDER, and “EPISCOPOS” OVERSEER

“Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the church. When they arrived he said to them... Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be **pastors** of the church of God...” Acts 20:17-18, 28

Our Associations

We have chosen to associate as a church with the Evangelical Free Church of America. It is an association of some 1,600 autonomous and interdependent churches and church plants united by a mutual commitment to serve our Lord Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and obedience to the Word of God. They are committed to cooperate with one another in ministry and fellowship as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission which Christ has entrusted to His Church. The growing ministry of the EFCA currently extends to some 50 countries of the world.

What does "Evangelical" mean? - The term "Evangelical" refers to our faith, our theology. We are committed to the proclamation of the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, and to the Scriptures as being the inspired, inerrant, authoritative, and sufficient Word of God.

What does "Free" mean? The term "Free" refers to our structure and organization. We are committed to a congregational form of government. We are autonomous, congregationally governed, and interdependent. We believe that we can be more fruitful for God's kingdom by associating with a larger group of churches to accomplish God's work.

We typically call ourselves "Grace Church of Kelseyville" because it is shorter and easier to say. The grace of God is what we offer to those around us. It is also what knits us together as a church.

What It Means to Be a Member?

The difference between “attendees” and “members” can be summed up in one word: **Commitment**

At Grace Church of Kelseyville, we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

I. A Biblical Reason: **Christ is committed to the church**

“...Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it.” Eph. 5:25

II. A Cultural Reason: **It is an antidote to our society**

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers”. Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

III. A Practical Reason: **It defines who can be counted on**

iv. A Personal Reason: **It produces spiritual growth**

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you’re not committed to any specific church family.

What Is Expected of Me as a Member?

At Grace Church of Kelseyville, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant.

Grace Church of Kelseyville Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized and being in agreement with Grace Church of Kelseyville's statements and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Grace Church of Kelseyville family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

I. I Will Protect the Unity of My Church

...By acting in love toward other members

...By refusing to gossip

...By following the leaders

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together." Rom. 15:19 (Ph)

"Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts." 1 Peter 1:22 (GN)

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs" Eph.4:29

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you." Heb. 13:17

II. I Will Share the Responsibility of My Church

...By praying for its growth

...By inviting the unchurched to attend

...By warmly welcoming those who visit

"Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full." Luke 14:23 (LB)

"So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified." Rom. 15:7 (LB)

III. I Will Serve the Ministry of My Church

- ...By discovering my gifts and talents
- ...By serving to build up the body of Christ
- ...By developing a servant's heart

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you..." 1 Peter 4:10 (Ph)

"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." Eph. 4:11-12

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..." Phil 2:3-4, 7

IV. I Will Support the Testimony of My Church

- ...By attending faithfully
- ...By living a godly life
- ...By giving regularly

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another." Heb. 10:25

"But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ." Phil. 1:27

"Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering." 1 Cor. 16:2

V. I Will Commit to Personal Growth Through Fellowship within My Church

- ...By growing large through corporate worship
- ...By growing small through small groups
- ...By seeking accountability from other believers

NOTES

NOTES

Grace Church of Kelseyville Membership Application

First and last name:					
Name of spouse:		Marital status			
Birth date:		Gender:	Male	Female	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:		
Telephone #:		Secondary telephone #:			
E-mail:					
Children's names and birth dates:					
Please read The Essentials We Believe statement. Can you abide by and affirm this statement of faith (pg. 12-15)?				Y	N
If no, please explain what part of "The Essentials We Believe" you have a serious difference with.					
Please read GRACE CHURCH OF KELSEYVILLE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT . Can you abide by this covenant (pg.22-23)?				Y	N
RENEWING MEMBERSHIP SIGNATURE:		DATE:			

How long have you been attending grace?			
Were you a member of another church?			Y N
If yes, what was the name of the church?			
If yes, were there any disagreements or conflict between yourself and the leadership of this church (please explain)?			Y N
If yes, are you leaving your previous church in a manner that is above reproach?			Y N
Have you personally accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and are you committed to having the character of Jesus Christ live through you?		Y	N Unsure
If yes, briefly summarize how you came to know Christ as your Lord and Savior and the condition of your spiritual life.			
Have you been baptized as a believer?			Y N
I was baptized by:	Immersion	Sprinkling	Other:
As a member of this church, I would like to serve in the following ways:			
SIGNATURE:			DATE:

-----office use only-----

Pastor or Elder doing interview:	Date of Interview:
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GraceChurch

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