

Covenant Membership Process



What church membership is and *is not* here at New Life:

We have eliminated traditional “church membership” at New Life Fellowship. We found it a reflection of religious culture, not truly indicative of who is or is not a committed disciple and community member. A person joins the family of God upon repentance and regeneration. Entrance into God's household begins when you come to Christ and recognize Him as Savior and Lord of your life. As soon as possible after regeneration, the new believer follows Christ in baptism in water by immersion. This is the believer's statement that he/she pledges to walk on the highway of love with a clean conscience as a *disciple* of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word “disciple” is the root of the word “discipline”. The concept of discipline flies in the face of our “non-committed” culture. Jesus told us to make disciples . . . baptizing them and teaching them “to obey all that I have commanded you.” Disciples are people who willingly submit their lives to the *discipline* of following Christ, loving God and His people, to do the work of ministry by serving Jesus and others in love.

As we see it, church participation (membership) is a covenant (vow before God) with a local family of believers to be a disciple of Jesus and a faithful, committed family member committed to the purpose and mission of that particular local expression of the body. Church covenant here at New Life Fellowship joins your life together with ours around a common life, purpose, mission, and vision.

Benefits to those committed to walking with us:

- Participation in intergenerational community—God’s “school of love.”
- Personal relationships and mentoring are our priority for you (Eph.4:1 lff). Through your participation in the Lifegroup ministries, you and/or your family will be encouraged, cared for, strengthened and equipped to to grow and minister together.
- Mending in your life and relationships.
- Equipping and training in righteousness and in the truths of the Bible, the Word of God.

- Intentional, corporate participation in making disciples.
- Participation in a purpose and mission worth investing your life in.
- Participation in meeting the needs of our neighbors and communities.

Who can enter covenant? Anyone who is committed to:

- ✓ Grow and walk in love with Jesus & each other
- ✓ Live out the Word of God and the “Membership Covenant” daily.
- ✓ Contribute to the work generously.
- ✓ Impact your family, Lifegroup, church community, and world *positively* for the Kingdom.

I want to be a member! Where do I begin?

Ask God to make you a blessing. **Make time** to get to know us by participating wherever you can, in a Lifegroup and at weekly Celebrations. **Attend** a “Discovery” seminar when next available. Closely and **prayerfully examine** the “Membership Covenant” to see if your heart is drawn to the *blessings* and *responsibilities* of a covenant member. **Take responsibility** for your own growth and equipping by demonstrating your willingness to make use of available resources. **Make a decision** about whether or not you can enter covenant with us, based on what you know of our purpose, vision, and mission. If you can, **sign the covenant**. Ask your Lifegroup leader and a couple of covenant members to sign with you. **Fill out** a “Journey Guide” and set an Elder-interview with one of the Elders (or call the office to set one). Make arrangements with your Lifegroup leader to stand with you at a Covenant Celebration as you covenant before the Lord with us.

Sounds like being in a Lifegroup is my first step. How do I enter one?

Tell one of the elders or the office that you are interested in participating in a Lifegroup and signing up for a “Discovery Seminar.” The “Discovery” seminar will answer all of your membership questions and take you through the “Membership Covenant” in detail. Then you will be in a position to decide whether New Life is the harvest field where God wants you to be equipped, grow, and serve.