



HARVEST
BIBLE CHAPEL
SPRING LAKE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME:		DATE:	
NAME OF SPOUSE:		MARITAL STATUS:	
ADDRESS:	CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
TELEPHONE #:	CELL PHONE #:		
E-MAIL:			
CHILDREN'S NAMES & AGES:			

IN AN EFFORT TO GIVE YOU TIME TO COMMIT YOURSELF TO THE FAMILY OF BELIEVERS HERE AT HARVEST, A MINIMUM OF FOUR MONTHS OF REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR MEMBERSHIP.

MEMBERSHIP SAYS...

I belong here. God says that believers belong together (Hebrews 10:23-25). I sense that God wants me here with the people of Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake at this time in my walk with Christ, and I want to make a public declaration that I am committed to God's work through this church.

I affirm, believe and support the teaching of this church. God says that believers had all things in common including devotion to the Apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42-47). I desire to associate with people of like mind and conviction and embrace the authority of God's Word in my life and the life of the church.

I share the same ministry goals as Harvest. God says that believers are to be committed to one another for the sake of spiritual impact (Ephesians 4:16). I believe that Jesus has a work to do in the Tri-Cities/Spring Lake area and around the world, and I am willing to join with others who have the same vision to see that it gets done.

I accept the responsibility for a group of fellow believers in the family of God. That is God's plan as well (Galatians 6:1-2, 10). I want to be part of a caring network of people, sharing one another's joys and sorrows, and helping one another grow through worship, Bible study, and fellowship.

I am accountable to mature brothers and sisters in Christ, for my walk with God. God warns against spiritual autonomy (Hebrews 13:17; Matthew 18:15-20). I want to receive the guidance, equipping, and assistance necessary to remain on target and I do not want to go it alone in standing for Jesus Christ.

I accept responsibility for how things are done here. God says that is how it should be (1 Corinthians 12:20-27). Elders, deacons, and other church leaders are called from within and serve the congregation. I believe every member needs to contribute their unique gifting and passion to contribute to a healthy body.

MEMBER COVENANT

INTRODUCTION

“Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:1-2

As Christians, we are members of God’s household (Ephesians 2:19) called to function, participate, and minister in a particular place within the body of Christ. A healthy body requires that each member do its part well. A healthy church requires the same: members who are sacrificially committed and well-equipped to do the works of service that God has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10; 4:12). Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake hold its members in high regard; we expect them to lead as missionaries of the gospel to the culture. God, in his sovereignty, placed us in this community, among these people, in this century, for a reason (Acts 17:26-27).

“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...” Romans 12:3-6

Being a member of Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake is really about being part of a family. All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by their identity in Christ. This unity is expressed in the way they collaborate in loving God, loving fellow Christians, and loving non-Christians. Members who enter into a covenant with their local church are called to a higher degree of responsibility and service. At the same time, the elders and deacons are covenanted to assist members first and foremost, to love and lead, provide counsel and aid, and pray for, teach, and guide them.

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace...” 1 Peter 4:8-10

WHAT IS A COVENANT?

A covenant is a promise by which we obligate ourselves to one another in such a way that the obligation of one party is not dependent on the faithfulness of the other (Ezekiel 10:44, 36:22; Psalms 76:11; Hosea 2:19-20, 3:1; 2 Timothy 2:13). The Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake Covenant includes a statement of biblical doctrine, the obligations of Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake to its members, and the obligations of its members to Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake. Though the covenant does define the relationship between members and the church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God as a commitment to his glory and his bride, the church (Ephesians 5:25).

OBLIGATION OF HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL SPRING LAKE TO ITS MEMBERS

- We covenant that your elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- We covenant to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-5).
- We covenant to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service (Eph. 4:11-13) and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14).
- We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18).
- We covenant to be good financial stewards of the funds given to this ministry and we will give regular accounts and reports so that our financial dealings are transparent (1 Peter 5:1-4).
- We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).
- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1).
- We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12).

MY OBLIGATION TO HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL SPRING LAKE AS A MEMBER

- I have read and understood the Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake doctrinal statement (attached) and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7, 17). _____ *(Please Initial that you have read.)*
- I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- I will maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines. My relationship will be evident through my participation in weekly worship services, communion, service, and a life that glorifies Jesus (Ps. 105:1-2; Ps. 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; 2 Peter 1:3).
- I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure (Prov. 3:9-10; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:22-26; Eph. 4:1-16; 5:15-18). This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Rom. 12:1-8; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:7-31; 1 Peter 4:10-11).
- I will not function in leadership or as a member in another church family (Heb. 13:17).
- I covenant to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:5-8; Gal. 6:1-5 8; 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 1:9; 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 2:5-7, 14-25).
- I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin that I could live a new life (2 Cor. 5:17); I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, and fornication (Job 31:1; Prov. 5; Rom. 13:12-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-7:16; Heb. 13:4); I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible and my conscience dictate (1 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 5:19-21). Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; 1 John 1:6-10).

MY TESTIMONY OF PERSONAL FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

BEFORE I TRUSTED IN CHRIST MY LIFE WAS...

THIS IS HOW AND WHEN I TRUSTED IN JESUS CHRIST AS MY SAVIOR...

HERE ARE ONE OR TWO WAYS CHRIST HAS CHANGED MY LIFE...

MY COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION OF HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL SPRING LAKE

The mission of Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake is making disciples and planting churches. I commit to participate in this mission as a diligent, faithful disciple of Jesus, that my identity would be in him, my worship would be for him, my fellowship would be through him, and my interaction with the culture would be for his glory.

I understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake and is an acknowledgment of my submission to the elders of the church. I accept the responsibility to notify Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake.

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

The Triune God

We believe in the one living and true God, eternally (John 17:3) existing in perfect unity as three equally and fully divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20). Each member of the Godhead, while executing distinct but complementary roles in redemptive history, has precisely the same nature, attributes, and being, and is equally worthy of the same glory and honor and obedience (John 1:1-4; Acts 5:3-4).

God the Father

We believe God the Father created all things in six literal days for His glory according to His own will (Revelation 4:11), through His Son, Jesus Christ. He upholds all things by the Word of His power and grace, exercising sovereign headship over all creation, providence, and redemption (Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 1:3).

God the Son

We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, moved by love in accordance with the will of the Father, took on human flesh (John 1:1, 14, 18). Conceived through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the virgin Mary. He, being fully God and fully man (John 14:8-9), lived a sinless life and sacrificially shed His blood and died on the cross in our place accomplishing redemption for all who place their faith in Him. He arose visibly and bodily from the dead three days later and ascended into heaven, where, at the Father's right hand, He is now Head of His Body the Church, the only Savior and Mediator between God and man, and will return to earth in power and glory to consummate His redemptive mission (1 Timothy 3:16, John 14:2-3).

God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ during this age. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He draws the unredeemed to repentance and faith, and at salvation imparts new spiritual life to the believer, bringing that person into union with Christ and the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit sanctifies, seals, fills, guides, instructs, comforts, equips, empowers, permanently indwells at salvation, and bestows spiritual gifts to the believer for Christ-like living and service (John 16:8; 13:15; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 1:22; 4:11-12; Romans 8:9-17; 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:4-5, 11-13, 19; Galatians 5:25; Hebrews 2:1-4; 2 Corinthians 12:12).

The Scriptures

We believe the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments to be the full record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. Different men, while writing according to their own styles and personalities, were supernaturally moved along by the Holy Spirit to record God's very words, inerrant in the original writings. Therefore, those applying themselves to study its literal, historical-grammatical context can accurately understand God's Word. Scripture is fully trustworthy as our final and sufficient authority for all of life (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

Mankind

We believe that God created mankind—male and female—in His own image and likeness, free of sin, to glorify Himself and enjoy His fellowship. Tempted by Satan, but in the sovereign plan of God, man freely chose to disobey God, bringing sin, death and condemnation to all mankind. All human beings, therefore, are totally depraved by nature and by choice. Alienated from God without defense or excuse, and subject to God's righteous wrath, all of mankind is in desperate need of the Savior (Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 3:10-19; Romans 1:18, 32).

HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL DOCTRINAL STATEMENT, CONT.

Salvation

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as the substitutionary atonement in our place, and that salvation is found in none other than Jesus Christ. Before Creation, God chose those who would be saved and granted this unearned grace solely based on His sovereign good pleasure. Jesus Christ's death on the cross was the sole and complete payment for sins, fully satisfying God's righteous wrath, for each person that turns from sin in repentance and places their faith in Christ alone by grace alone. At salvation each person is made a new creation by the Holy Spirit, declared righteous before God, and secured as an adopted child of God forever. Genuine faith continues in obedience and love for Jesus Christ with a life eager to glorify God and persevere to the end (Romans 8:37-39; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 2:8-10).

The Church

We believe that upon placing one's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, the believer is made part of the Body of Christ, the one universal Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The Scriptures command believers to gather locally in order to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, fellowship, the ordinances of baptism and communion, service to the local body through the development and use of talents and spiritual gifts, and outreach to the world to make disciples (Ephesians 1:22-23; Acts 2:42-46; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Matthew 28:18-20). Wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command, there is the local expression of the Church under the watchful care of a plurality of elders. A church's members are to work together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ (Ephesians 4:16).

Baptism and Communion

We believe that Christian baptism is a public declaration of the believer's salvation in Christ, identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection symbolized by immersion in water. The Lord's Supper is the united commemoration by believers of Christ's death until He comes and should be preceded by a careful self-examination (Acts 2:41; Romans 6:3-6; 1 Corinthians 11:20-29).

Missions

We believe it is the aim, duty, and privilege of every believer and local church fellowship to glorify God by responding as active participants in the Great Commission call of Jesus Christ to go and make disciples of all nations. We believe the primary focus and priority of this call is centered on efforts that establish, strengthen, and reproduce biblically-based churches, which will then plant churches that plant churches for future generations and God's glory. (Matthew 9:37-38).

Things to Come

We believe in and expectantly await the glorious, visible, personal, premillennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The blessed hope of His return has vital bearing on the personal life, service, and mission of the believer (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost. The lost will be raised to judgment and experience eternal wrath in hell. The saved will be raised to eternal joy in the new heaven and new earth in the manifested presence of God (Acts 1:3, 9; Hebrews 7:25-26; Matthew 25:31-45).

HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL DOCTRINAL STATEMENT, CONT.

Four Pillars

The four doctrinal pillars of the Church, which serve as its biblical priorities, are:

1. Proclaiming the authority of God's Word without apology. (II Timothy 4:1-5; Hebrews 4:12)
2. Lifting high the name of Jesus Christ in worship. (Mark 12:30; John 4:23-24; John 12:32)
3. Believing firmly in the power of prayer. (Jeremiah 33:3; Ephesians 6:18; James 5:16)
4. Boldly sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 9:36-38; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 6:19-20)

Marriage, Gender & Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a natural born man and a natural born woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.) We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to our members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.) We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.) We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake.

Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The doctrinal statement does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Elder Board is Harvest Bible Chapel Spring Lake's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.