

## **Questions and Comments for Prospective Members**

### **Questions:**

1. Have you repented and believed in Jesus Christ alone for salvation?
  - a. Can you tell us about it?
  - b. Note: not necessarily date and time, but rather is it true now and how is your life reflecting the fact that you have repented and believed
2. Have you been baptized by immersion?
3. If not, are you willing to be baptized?
4. Why do you desire to be baptized?
5. Do you agree with our Doctrine Statement and Church Covenant?

## **Benefits of Church Membership**

### **Assurance of your salvation**

You should not join the church in order to be saved, but you may want to join the church to help you in making certain that you are saved. In joining the church, we put ourselves in a position where we ask our brothers and sisters to hold us accountable to live according to what we speak with our mouths. We ask the brothers and sisters around us to encourage us – sometimes by reminding us of ways we have seen God work in our lives, and other times by challenging us or disciplining us when we may be moving away from obeying Him.

### **Evangelizing the world**

A unified and godly church is an evangelistic witness to a lost and dying world. Also, we can do more together as the body of Christ than we can individually to spread the glory of God to the world.

### **Edifying the church**

You should join a church to help in the edification or building up of other believers. Joining a church will help counter individualism and will help us to realize the corporate nature of Christianity. Ephesians clearly shows us following Jesus is supposed to involve care and concern for others in the Body. That is part of what it means to be a Christian. And though we do it imperfectly, we should still be committed to doing it.

### **Glorifying God**

If you are a Christian, you should join a church for the glory of God. The way we live our lives can bring glory to God. “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us” (1 Peter 2:12). If that is true of our lives as individuals, it must also be true of our lives together as Christians.

## Expectations of Church Members

**Attend regularly.** Hebrews 10:25 tells us we should not forsake “the assembling of ourselves together.” That means that we should regularly attend the weekly meeting of the church.

**Particularly be at Communion.** I am trying not to place more importance on one Sunday service than another. With that said, there is no more special meeting than when we commune with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Attend member meetings.** As a congregational church, the members’ meeting is an important time in our lives together. It is the meeting of the members for making decisions as a church.

**Pray regularly.** Or, Paul says, “without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

**Give Regularly.** Scripture is full of instructions about giving. We believe giving is part of our worship of God. For example, Solomon taught that we should, “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruit of all your crops” (Proverbs 3:9). Or 11 Corinthians 9:7, “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”