

THE
GATHERING COMMUNITY
●●●CHURCH

WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

- I am a child of God – John 1:12
- I am a saint – Eph 1:1
- I am Christ's friend – John 15:15
- I am a slave of righteousness – Rom 6:18
- I am enslaved to God – Rom 6:22
- I am a son of God – Rom 8:14, 15
- I am a joint heir with Christ sharing his inheritance with Him – Rom 8:17
- I am a temple of God – 1 Cor 3:16
- His Spirit dwells in me – 1 Cor 6:19
- I am a member of Christ's body – 1 Cor 12:27
- I am a new creation – 2 Cor 5:17
- I am reconciled to God and am a minister of reconciliation – 2 Cor 5:18,19
- I am a fellow citizen with the rest of God's people in his family – Eph 2:19
- I am a prisoner of Christ – Eph 3:1 & 4:1
- I am righteous and holy – Eph 4:24
- I am a citizen of heaven and seated in heaven right now – Phil 3:20
- I am hidden with Christ in God – Col 3:3
- I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my life – Col 3:4
- I am chosen of God, holy, and dearly loved – Col 3:12
- I am one of God's living stones and am being built up as a spiritual house – 1 Pet 2:5
- I am an enemy of the devil – 1 Pet 5:8
- I am a sheep of His pasture – Ps 23

Galatians 2:19,20

I have been crucified with Christ. I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

John 8:32

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Galatians 5:1

So Christ has really set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN A CHURCH? DOES IT REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

This question seems to be asked more and more today. There is a hesitation to join or become a member. But membership in a local church is important.

First, membership commits us as a family to each other. The Christian life is not to be lived alone - as a believer you are not an island. In a world that is becoming more and more impersonal we stand together as a family whose Father is God. We come together as a family to nurture, encourage, and hold each other accountable. We are called to carry each other's burdens (Galatians 6:1-2).

Membership commits us as a family to a unique purpose, vision, and ministry. As a local church, the vision that God gives us will be unique to our ministry. It is based upon the gifts of those who God has called to be a part of our family. As a member, you participate in that vision and the fulfillment of the purpose God has for the existence of The Gathering Community Church (GCC).

Thirdly, you are able to participate fully in the life and ministry of GCC. As a member, you are more than a spectator - rather, you are an active participant of the vision setting, discussion, and voting on all major issues. As a member you have active participation in ministries of GCC that are not always open to non-members (church offices, various teaching positions, serving on committees, etc.).

These are just a few of the reasons that membership in a local church is an important step in the life of a growing Christian. We have been blessed by God to be a part of this ministry, and GCC will only be as strong as the commitment of those who attend. Membership brings us together under an umbrella of unity and personal commitment to each other and to this Body.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

The procedure for becoming a member is an easy one...

1. Fill out the enclosed membership application. When it is completed, turn it in to an Elder or Pastor
2. Attend the membership class. This class will be held at various times throughout the year and will give you a chance to interact with the Elders, get a handle on the Doctrines, leadership, and organization of GCC, as well as her ministries and where you might fit into a ministry yourself.
3. Upon completion of the class, meet with an Elder to interact on a question or concern that you may have for us, or the Elder may have for you. This is done by an Elder setting up an appointment with you and those in your family desiring membership, giving us the chance to sit down in an informal setting and get to know you better. This is not an inquisition, merely a chance for us to hear how you came to know Christ and about your spiritual journey that is leading you into our family. This is also a great opportunity to ask any final questions that you might have about your new church family.
4. Meet the Prerequisites for membership:
 - Agreement with our STATEMENT OF FAITH (SEE THE CONSTITUTION, PGS 3-7)
5. The Elder Council and the church approves your application for membership. It is at that point that we have the privilege of formally welcoming you into our church family.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

(See By-Laws, pgs. 13, 14)

In becoming a member of The Gathering Community Church (GCC), a person commits themselves to the following responsibilities of membership.

1. To make it his or her habit to participate regularly in the services and meetings of the church.
2. To serve in a ministry of the church.
3. To contribute of one's means to the financial support of the ministries of GCC in an intentional and consistent manner.

Members can be removed from the church roll for the following reasons:

1. Transfer of the member to another church.
2. The request of the member who desires to be removed from membership.
3. The death of the member.
4. If a member does not fulfill the responsibilities of membership and fails to communicate with the church for a period of one year and fails to reply to communications, he or she may be removed from the church membership at the discretion of the Elder Council.
5. The discipline of the member in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17 for the following reasons:
 - A. Holding a false and heretical doctrine.
 - B. Living a sinful and unrepentant lifestyle.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

1. Name: _____

2. Address: _____

Apt. # _____ City _____ Zip _____

3. Phone: (_____) _____ Unlisted? WORK:(_____) _____

4. E-mail: _____ 5. Cel Phone (_____) _____

6. Date of Birth: _____ (month / day / year)

7. Marital Status: single married

8. Spouses Name: _____

Does your spouse attend GCC with you? _____

Wedding Anniversary: _____

9. Children's Name (s) & birth dates

8 a _____ (_____) 8 b _____ (_____) _____

8 c _____ (_____) 8 d _____ (_____) _____

8 e _____ (_____) 8 f _____ (_____) _____

10. Occupation: _____

11. What were the events leading up to the time when you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?

12. When and how did you become a Christian?

13. What changes have you seen in your life since you trusted Christ as your Savior?

a. What evidence is there to confirm the fact that you are a Christian? (use back side of paper)

14. Are you presently a church member elsewhere? _____

Church Name: _____

Church Address: _____

15. Have you ever been removed from membership in another church through church discipline?

16. How did you become acquainted with GCC?

17. When did you first visit or begin attending?

18. What were your initial impressions of GCC, both positive and negative?

19. Why are you interested in being a member of GCC?

20. Have you read our Constitution and By-Laws? _____

21. Do you have any areas of question, reservation, or disagreement with these documents? _____

22. Where do you feel that you might fit into ministry within our church family?

23. Are there any questions that we can answer for you regarding doctrine, ministry, organization, or practices of GCC?

It is my desire to become an active member of GCC.

I have read and understand and agree with the Constitution and By-Laws of GCC.

Signature

Date

Comments on back:

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP LIFESTYLE AGREEMENT

1. I understand that being in spiritual leadership is a great responsibility. Therefore I will make sure that my attitudes and actions will help those I shepherd into a more intimate relationship with Christ.
2. I understand that certain freedoms I have in Christ may be a stumbling block for others. Therefore I will set aside my rights for the spiritual growth of others I have been called to serve. I also realize that if my choices should be called into question that I will be brought in to address it with the concerned parties. (Romans 13-15)
3. I understand that ministry flows out of my life and that my sins will affect my ministry. Therefore I will not allow sin to gain a foothold in my life.
4. I understand that I can only pour into others what God is pouring into me. Therefore I will consistently be in God's Word, devoted to prayer and practice being dead to sin and alive to Christ.
5. I understand that I am part of a ministry leadership team. Therefore I will live the fruit of the Spirit before them, strive for unity, encourage and build up the team as a whole.
6. I understand that effective discipleship can only happen if I am committed to it, and intentionally build relationships with others. Therefore I will commit to being as involved as possible in events and Bible studies working on developing relationships with others.
7. I understand that it's easy to become complacent. Therefore I will continue to seek God's direction in my life as it applies to me personally, my family and in ministry.
8. I understand that I am a representative of Christ and The Gathering Community Church (GCC) whether I am at a church event or elsewhere. Therefore I will do my part to always submit to Galatians 5 living before others.
9. I understand that I may not always agree with the vision or the choices of the leadership of GCC. Therefore if it ever becomes an issue in my life, I will follow the biblical model and approach those responsible.
10. I understand that ministry is a privilege, not a right. Therefore I understand that if there is ever a time where because of sin or other situations, I may be asked to step back from ministry and/or leadership.
11. I understand that Spiritual leadership is an exciting opportunity to influence others in their relationship with Christ. Therefore I will give my best for the glory of God.

SIGNED _____ **DATE** _____

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GCC STRIVES TO

- 1 ...be culturally relevant and spiritually significant.
- 2 ...embrace the creative nature of God in His children (embrace the Arts).
- 3 ...recognize and rejoice in the fact that God is by and large a mystery.
- 4 ...pursue excellence (not perfection) in all things.
- 5 ...never let the wisdom of man be valued equally with nor above the wisdom of God.
- 6 ...be 100% honest 100% of the time.
- 7 ...be tolerant of one another's sins and intolerant of the justification of sin in our lives.
- 8 ...never claim to know more than the Bible teaches.
- 9 ...strictly adhere to the Holy Scriptures even if it seems that injustice will triumph.
- 10 ...never sacrifice people for the sake of ministry.
- 11 ...focus on relationships, relationships, relationships.
- 12 ...serve people, not have people serve the church.
- 13 ...make the first question asked by the leadership when a need is presented to be, "How can we bless these people?"
- 14 ...be unified in Christ and in harmony with one another.
- 15 ...really, really, really, have fun!