



# Committed

## Are you committed?

- \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't equal \_\_\_\_\_
- Just because you \_\_\_\_\_ something doesn't mean you \_\_\_\_\_ it

*The idea of experiencing salvation without belonging to a local church is foreign to the New Testament*

## Membership isn't an end... it's a beginning

- Membership and \_\_\_\_\_ are not always synonymous
- Membership and \_\_\_\_\_ are not always synonymous terms
- Membership is a \_\_\_\_\_
- Biblical community is a \_\_\_\_\_

## Committed

- We have defined our committed core as people who partner with us in three ways
  1. With their \_\_\_\_\_
  2. With their \_\_\_\_\_
  3. With their \_\_\_\_\_

## Engagement (participation)

- Membership remains a part of our church life... but we are looking for engagement in the life of the body of believers
  1. W \_\_\_\_\_
  2. S \_\_\_\_\_
  3. C \_\_\_\_\_
  4. I \_\_\_\_\_

## Two Types of Membership:

- “Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?” (Amos 3:3)

### #1 - \_\_\_\_\_ Membership

- “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” ~ (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

### #2 - \_\_\_\_\_ Membership

- “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” ~ (Hebrews 10:24-25)

## Our Mission:

- To make \_\_\_\_\_ that make \_\_\_\_\_...
- To be a \_\_\_\_\_ of devoted followers of Jesus Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ out His gospel.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind . . . Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37; 40)

- This is called the Great \_\_\_\_\_

*“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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)*

- This is called the Great \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ out 10 people in our surrounding area (10 mile radius) does not attend a church of any kind

### Cross Roads Structure:

#### #1 – The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_

- “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)
- A top priority in a fellowship is \_\_\_\_\_
- A good structure promotes \_\_\_\_\_ and downplays \_\_\_\_\_

#### #2 – The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_

- We operate primarily on the basis of \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_
- “You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” (1 Peter 3:8)

#### #3 – The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_

- We function on the basis of \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_
- “We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.” (Romans 12:5)

#### #4 – The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_

- The members are the \_\_\_\_\_
- The pastors are the \_\_\_\_\_
- “Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)



## Two Membership Factors (Requirements & Expectations)

### #1 – The \_\_\_\_\_ of Membership

- S \_\_\_\_\_
- A \_\_\_\_\_
- A \_\_\_\_\_
- M \_\_\_\_\_
- M \_\_\_\_\_

### #2 – The \_\_\_\_\_ of Membership

1 - \_\_\_\_\_ - I will make Cross Roads  
\_\_\_\_\_

2 - \_\_\_\_\_ - I will \_\_\_\_\_ in a  
\_\_\_\_\_

- “The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your life.” (Deuteronomy 14:23)

3 - \_\_\_\_\_ - I will \_\_\_\_\_  
at my church

- “God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God’s generosity can flow through you. Are you called to be a speaker? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Are you called to help others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then God will be given glory in everything through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 4:10-11)

4 – \_\_\_\_\_ – I will work to \_\_\_\_\_ in my  
Relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

- “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18)

5 – \_\_\_\_\_ - I will \_\_\_\_\_ in my unchurched  
friends and \_\_\_\_\_ them to a service/event

The difference between "casual attenders" & "participating members" is summed up in one word: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reflections on Church Membership

### You need your church for:

- Strength – A member receives encouragement from other believers.
- Unity – A member develops Christian relationships.
- Growth – A member grows spiritually through relationships.
- Ministry – A member is given opportunity to serve others.
- Direction – A member is channeled like a river within its banks by the mission/vision of the church.

### Your church needs you for:

- Strength – A church is only as strong as its members.
- Unity – A united church touches its community.
- Growth – A church lives and senses growth through people.
- Ministry – A church ministers through people, not programs.
- Direction – A church needs the input and involvement of its members.



## What is the significance of official membership in the local church?

It lets the church know where you stand.

- As our church grows, it becomes increasingly difficult for church leaders to keep track of just who is here and is committed and who is just “along for the ride.” A formal process of church membership clarifies the relationship of individuals with the church.

It lets you know where you stand.

- The process of church membership is as much about *self*-discovery as it is about *church*-discovery. As persons become educated about a church and then make an official pledge of support, it helps to confirm for them where their commitments lie.
- For many Christians in history and today, persecution was and is the filter that helps people discover and demonstrate the genuineness of their commitment. But without persecution, church membership can become a process that helps people determine the strength of their own commitment.

It lets others know where you stand.

- Membership is a way to declare to those outside the church that you are fully committed to something bigger than yourself. Additionally, in the event of any legalities arising, our government cannot acknowledge someone’s “attitude” of commitment but needs to refer to actual documented membership.

## Warnings about Church Membership:

- You will likely encounter some difficult people in the church.
  - “Welcoming everyone into the Church means that every personality type (no matter how irritating), every opinion (no matter how idiotic), every weakness (no matter how pathetic), every maturity level, every ego size and every form of baggage will be represented.” – from *The 10 Dumbest Things Christians Do*, by Mark Atteberry
- Our church is not always going to be like it is today.

### 10 Healthy Habits for Life in God’s Family

1. If I have a problem with you, I will talk to you about my concern before I talk to anyone else.
2. If I have a problem with the pastor, I will talk to the pastor before I talk to anyone else about the pastor.
3. I will work to make sure that all of my comments made in public are respectful, helpful, and positive.
4. I will come to church expecting to be a participant in worship rather than an observer.
5. Each week I will meet and greet at least one person I don’t know very well and do my best to remember their name.
6. I will involve myself in at least one other church-related activity or small group meeting outside the weekly worship gathering.
7. Each week I will look for at least one thing in a person who serves in my church and tell them how much I appreciate their efforts.
8. When we meet as a church, I will assume that the people gathered around me, to a large extent, are wounded and hurting.

and will do my best to interact with and encourage, and not ignore them.

9. I will come to church expecting to learn (or relearn) at least one lesson from God's Word that I will work to apply to my life during the upcoming week.
10. I will expect to encounter Almighty God on a regular basis, and be open to his redeeming grace in my life.

*The health of our church is not just the responsibility of the pastors or the leadership. It's the responsibility of each and every person who considers him or herself a follower of Jesus Christ. As Paul stresses in 1 Corinthians 12:27: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."*

### **Finding a Better Church**

My church is composed of people like me. We make it what it is.

- *It will be friendly if I am friendly.*
- *It will grow if I help it to grow.*
- *It will do great work if I work.*
- *It will make generous gifts to many great causes if I am a generous giver.*
- *It will reach its God-given potential if I reach mine.*
- *It will be a church of loyalty, love, courage and faith if I am filled with these qualities.*

Therefore, with God's help, I will dedicate myself to the task of being the things I want my church to be.

### **Cross Roads Membership Covenant**

*"As a covenant agreement for membership in the Brethren in Christ Church, I accept the Bible as the Word of God in which is revealed the way of salvation and the guide for faith and conduct. I witness to a personal experience of God's saving grace in my heart and express desire and purpose to live a holy life, turning away from sin, in devotion to Jesus Christ. I covenant as a member of the Cross Roads Church to be loyal to this congregation, to consent to Bible instruction, to support the services of this congregation by my regular attendance and prayers, to contribute to the program of the church as the Lord provides, and to encourage a spirit of Christian fellowship and unity within the church."*

#### **Membership Covenant 1**

- "As a member of the Brethren in Christ Church, I accept the Bible as the Word of God in which is revealed the way of salvation and the guide for faith and conduct."

#### **Membership Commitment 1**

- Do you accept the Bible as the Word of God and your guide to faith and conduct? If so, please respond (together), I do.

#### **Membership Covenant 2**

- "I witness to a personal experience of God's saving grace in my heart and express desire and purpose to live a holy life, apart from sin and separated unto Christ."

### Membership Commitment 2

- Do you witness to a personal experience of God’s saving grace in your life and do you desire to live your life for Jesus as your Savior and Lord? If so, please respond, I do.

### Membership Covenant 3

- “I covenant as a member of the Brethren in Christ Church to be loyal to this congregation, to consent to instruction in Bible doctrine, to support and sustain the services of the congregation by my regular attendance and prayers, to contribute to the program of the church as the Lord prospers me, and to foster a spirit of Christian fellowship and oneness within the church.”

### Membership Commitment 3

- Do you desire to be a member of the Brethren in Christ Church, accepting this congregation as your church home with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities this provides, as we walk the life of faith together, following our Lord, and Savior Jesus Christ? If so, again I ask you to respond, I do.

### Saying “Yes” To Membership at Cross Roads Church Means:

You accept the Bible.

- *As a covenant agreement for membership in the Brethren In Christ Church, I accept the Bible as the Word of God in which is revealed the way of salvation and the guide for faith and conduct.*

You are trusting and following Christ.

- *I witness to a personal experience of God’s saving grace in my heart and express desire and purpose to live a holy life, turning away from sin, in devotion to Jesus Christ.*

You promise to...

- Be faithful and committed to the church.
  - *I covenant as a member of the Cross Roads Church to be loyal to this congregation,*
- Learn and grow spiritually.
  - *...to consent to Bible instruction,*
- Participate and pray.
  - *...to support the services of this congregation by my regular attendance and prayers,*
- Serve and give.
  - *...to contribute to the program of the church as the Lord provides,*
- Promote healthy and harmonious relationships.
  - *...and to encourage a spirit of Christian fellowship and unity within the church.*

