

MEMBERSHIP AT VINELIFE

*“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”
(Romans 12:4-5)*

What is membership at Vinelife?

When we come to Christ by faith, we enter into two covenants. The first is our covenant with God, where we journey with Him in a loving relationship for the rest of our lives. The second covenant is with the family of God, otherwise known as the church. Jesus calls the church to be members of one body, exhibiting the glory of God and existing for the flourishing of the world.

The Bible uses many pictures to describe the church: a household (Eph. 2:19), a human body (1 Cor. 12:12-31) and a temple made up of “living stones” (1 Peter 2:4-5, Eph. 2:21). All of these illustrate our interconnectedness and our need for each other. Membership is not about signing on a dotted line of beliefs, but rather joining a family that is seeking to share Christ with the world and with each other.

Many times membership in a church community is seen as limiting rather than unleashing. It is often seen as exclusive rather than inclusive. We see membership as a way of creating stability to help us grow in our faith, allowing us to journey together in Christ. It stretches us to be a diverse community, and to love those who are not like us. It also destroys the modern idols of individualism and consumerism, where each person lives their own privatized, self-centered faith. This stands in contrast with the loving, self-sacrificial posture of the New Testament church.

Through the power of the Spirit, we enter into relationship with our church community. The relationship is reciprocal in that the leadership of the church covenants with you, and you covenant with them. This is the pattern we see in the book of Acts – servant leadership that empowered the people for a life of witness and spiritual fruit to the glory of God. Thus, in our covenant at Vinelife, we make mutual commitments to one another.

Membership is an outward, formalized sign of the inward mutual commitment we have made with each other and the Lord. This commitment requires sacrifice, but the reward is great. As members, we join together for God's glory and our mutual benefit; we share the responsibilities and rewards of all that God will accomplish through us.

The Vinelife Church Membership Covenant is a stated commitment that we are living in community together and seeking to embody the values of our church in active expressions of love and service.

LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

- Preserve a trustworthy eldership and leadership team that submits to the authority of the Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit, while remaining relationally connected to outside apostolic leaders (1 Tim. 3:1-13 & Titus 1:6-9, 1 Peter 5:1-7).
- We commit to prepare you “for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:12-13).
- We will seek to set an example in speech, life, love, faith and purity (1 Tim. 4:12) and accurately teach the Word of Truth (2 Tim. 2:15).
- We are willing shepherds of “God’s flock” (1 Peter 5:2) holding one another to the expectations written below.
- We will be approachable and teachable and create a church family full of faith, hope, love and joy.

YOUR COMMITMENT

- I acknowledge Jesus Christ is Lord of my life and that I have been saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:4-10).
- I have been or am willing to be baptized in water, signifying my new life in God (Matt. 28:19; Col. 2:12).
- I take responsibility as a disciple of Jesus to continue to nurture my own close, obedient, loving friendship with the Father, Son, & Spirit.
- I will seek to discover and use my spiritual gifts for the blessing of others. (1 Cor. 12, Rom. 12:3-7)
- I will intentionally pursue God-honoring community relationships through participation in a home group or ministry team (Acts 2:42-27).

- I will contribute regularly to the ministry of the Vinelife family in the form of financial generosity, gifts, abilities, time, and attendance.
- I am open to receive the oversight and shepherding of the leadership of Vinelife Church in the areas of doctrine, direction, discipline, and discipleship. (Heb. 13:17, 1 Thess. 5:12-13)
- I will seek to preserve the unity and peace in our community, worshiping God in all I do, growing in the truth of God's word, and actively pursuing a life that reflects the Gospel to our world.
- When conflict and offense arise, I will not abandon this commitment but will speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:25) and work through conflict with gentleness, grace and forgiveness (Eph. 4:1-3).
- If the Lord seems to be transitioning me to a different church, I will not simply leave but consider this transition with the community and seek counsel, prayer, and blessing from my leaders.
- I have read, prayed through, and agree with Vinelife's Statement of Faith, Values, and Practices.

After prayer and thoughtful consideration, I believe I am called into the household of faith known as Vinelife Church. I willingly and joyously enter into the following commitment to Vinelife Church overflowing from my covenant with Christ.

Print Name

Signature

Address

City/Zip

Phone

Email

Birthdate: Today's Date

[Office Use Only] Submitted: _____ Date Approved by Elders: _____

ATTACH PICTURE HERE

or email to

Photo is required to be
submitted when you apply.