



Membership Application

One of the deepest desires each of us has is to have fellowship with others. This is especially true of Christians who seek to live their life according to the standards that God has laid out for us in the Bible. Such fellowship can be found through membership in a local church. Church membership means mutual benefits and responsibilities for both the church and the member.

Attendee vs. Member

The difference between an attendee and a member is COMMITMENT. Similarly, commitment is what makes the difference between a married couple and a couple just living together. While living together, one can walk out at any moment. But marriage is a commitment for life. There are three reasons why one should be committed to a local church.

First of all there is a BIBLICAL reason. Christ is committed to the Church, therefore, as Christ-followers, we should also be committed to that which He is committed. Ephesians 5:25 says, "*Christ loved the church and gave his life for her ...*" Colossians 1:18 adds, "*He is the head of the body, the church ...*" Furthermore, the Bible claims that the Church is the Bride of Christ (Revelation 19:22). Imagine someone saying, "I like you; I just do not like your body." Or even worse, someone saying, "I like you; I just do not like your spouse." That would be offensive. Likewise, we risk offending Christ when we say that we want to be a Christian, but we just don't have time for the Church. As Christians, we are becoming more like Christ. As we become more like Christ, we will love the Church more and more, just as He does.

Secondly, there is a CULTURAL reason. Commitment to the Church is an antidote for our society. In this day and age, people find it difficult to commit to anything – a job, a marriage, a name brand, and even their country. Church membership challenges halfhearted consumerism and builds character in those who are committed.

Lastly, there is a PRACTICAL reason. Church membership defines who can be counted on. Every team has a roster, every school has an enrollment, and every army has an enlistment. Our country takes a census and requires voters to register. Membership objectively identifies who is family and who is not. When corporate decisions must be made, the members can be counted on to express the corporate consensus.

The Church should expect me to:

- Faithfully attend its services
- Live a consistent Christian life
- Support the goals, mission, and vision of the church
- Support the church through tithes and offerings
- Regularly pray for the church and its leadership
- Serve in the church and its outreach according to my God-given gifts and abilities

I should expect the Church to:

- Minister to my spiritual needs, especially through the preaching of the Word
- Assist me with godly counsel and prayer especially in times of decision, stress, and difficulty
- Provide me with opportunities for Christian fellowship
- Serve me and members of my family in matters of spiritual instruction
- Be a wise steward of my financial and personal investments in the kingdom of God

Prerequisites for membership (taken from Article VI Section 1 of the Harvest Family Fellowship constitution and bylaws):

Active voting membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who possess the following qualifications:

- a. A testimony to an experience of the "new birth."
- b. Having been baptized in water.
- c. Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13,14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1,2,15; 1 John 1:6,7).
- d. An indication of a willingness to contribute regularly to the financial support of the church of which they are to become a member.
- e. Acceptance of the Tenets of Faith of the Assemblies of God.
- f. At least 16 years of age.
- g. Regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership.
- h. Agreement to being governed by the bylaws of this assembly, and of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God, as both may be amended from time to time.



Harvest Family Fellowship Application for Church Membership

Full Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **E-Mail** _____

Occupation _____

Date of Birth _____ **Place of Birth** _____

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? _____

If so, what was the approximate date of your salvation? _____

Have you been baptized in water? _____ **If yes, when?** _____

Have you received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit? _____

Marital Status: **Single** _____ **Married** _____
 Divorced _____ **Widowed** _____
 Remarried _____

Names and birth dates of children: _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____