

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

AT UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH



6 REASONS MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We practice Church Membership at UBC because we believe that it's biblical. Jesus established the local church and all the apostles did their ministry through it. The Christian life in the New Testament is church life. Christians today should expect and desire the same. So here are 6 reasons why we believe Church membership matters.

1

It's how to embody and experience biblical images.

It's within the accountability structures of the local church that Christians live out or embody what it means to be the "body of Christ," the "temple of the Spirit," the "family of God," and so on for all the biblical metaphors (see 1 Cor. 12). And you want to experience the interconnectivity of his body, the spiritual fullness of his temple, and the safety and intimacy and shared identity of his family.

2

It provides a specific church family you're committed to serve and be served by.

Membership helps you to know which Christians on planet Earth you are specifically responsible to love, serve, warn, and encourage. It enables you to fulfill your biblical responsibilities to Christ's body (for example, see Eph. 4:11-16; 25-32).

3

It's how to follow Christian leaders.

Membership helps you to know which Christian leaders on planet Earth you are called to willingly trust, follow, and submit to. It allows you to fulfill your biblical responsibility to them (see Heb. 13:7; 17).

6 REASONS MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

4

It helps Christian leaders lead and gives structure to Christian life. Membership lets Christian leaders know which Christians on planet Earth they will “give an account” for (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2). It places an individual Christian’s claim to “obey” and “follow” Jesus into a real-life setting where authority is actually exercised over us (see John 14:15; 1 John 2:19; 4:20-21).

5

It enables church discipline. It gives you the biblically prescribed place to participate in the work of church discipline responsibly, wisely, and lovingly (Matt. 18:15-19; 1 Cor. 5).

6

It builds a witness and invites the nations. Membership puts the rule of Christ on display for the watching universe (see Matt. 5:13; John 13:34-35; Eph. 3:10; 1 Peter 2:9-12). The very boundaries which are drawn around the membership of a church yields a society of people which invites the nations to something better. It is an example to the world of true community based on something deeper than shared interests or struggles. Rather, it is a community built on a shared Savior.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF UBC MEMBERS?

1

To protect the fellowship and ministry of the church.

- By acting in love toward other members
- By refusing to gossip
- By following the leaders
- By supporting the vision and values of the church

Romans 12:10 - Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Ephesians 4:29 - Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Hebrews 13:17 - Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

2

To participate actively in the life and growth of the church.

- By engaging in corporate worship
- By living a godly life continuing in God's Word and prayer
- By actively participating in the groups and/or ministries of the church
- By giving regularly

Hebrews 10:25 - Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another.

John 8:31-32 - ...If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

Matthew 6:6 - But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Acts 2:42 - They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1 Corinthians 16:2 - On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF UBC MEMBERS?

3

To serve in the ministry of the church.

- By exercising my gifts and talents
- By being equipped to serve
- By developing a servant's heart
- By serving strategically

1 Peter 4:10 - Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Ephesians 4:11-12 - God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." **Philippians 2:3-4,7** - Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant...

Romans 12:3-5 - ...Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

4

To participate actively in the life and growth of the church. To share in the mission of the church.

- By praying for it constantly
- By inviting the unchurched to attend
- By actively sharing the truth of the gospel
- By investing in the lives of the people around me

1 Thessalonians 1:2 - To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.

Luke 14:23 - So his master said, "Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full."

Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

1 Corinthians 9:19, 22 - I have become a servant of everyone so that I can bring them to Christ. . . Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone so that I might bring them to Christ.

WHAT SETS UBC MEMBERS APART?



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Each member at UBC agrees to support two separate statements.

1. UBC members agree to support our doctrinal statement: [see separate handout]
2. UBC members agree to our church covenant which reads as follows:



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Church Covenant.

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, and this local church body, with joy and sincerity, enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

WHAT SETS UBC MEMBERS APART?



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Church Life.

We commit therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love to strive for the advancement of both this Church and its individual members in knowledge, holiness, and care for one another; to promote its growth and maturity; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spreading of the gospel through all nations. We further commit to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; and to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it, without delay.

[Matthew 18:15-35; Matthew 25:34-40; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 7:36-50; John 13:34; John 13: 34-35; Acts 2:42; Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 2:5-8; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Galatians 5:13; Galatians 6:1-2; Galatians 6:6-10; Ephesians 4:2; Ephesians 4:11-16; Ephesians 4:29-32; Colossians 3:12-14; Hebrews 10:24-25; 2 Timothy 1:13-14; Hebrews 13:16-17; James 4:11; James 5:9; James 5:13-16]



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Personal and Family Life.

We also commit to maintain family and individual devotions; to raise our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk wisely in the world; to pursue holiness for the glory of God; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior. When we no longer attend this church, we will, as soon as possible, unite with another local church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Matthew 28:19-20; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 5:15; Ephesians 5:21-6:4; Colossians 1:10; Hebrews 10:24-25; James 1:22; 1 Peter 1:15-16

HOW DOES SOMEONE BECOME A MEMBER?

1

Be saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus.

2

Be baptized by immersion as a public symbol of one's faith after the point in time they became a Christian.

3

Indicate a desire to unite with the church. This is usually done by contacting a pastor or staff member or in response to a public invitation during one of the worship services. This could include a transfer of membership from another like-faith church, or a statement of faith.

4

Meet with a pastor for a review of the Membership Guidelines, Doctrinal Statement, and Church Covenant and have a conversation about why you want to join the church and complete a membership card.

5

The church will vote to receive you at the next regularly scheduled Business Meeting (second Sunday evening of each month).

3

The church will publicly recognize you as members during a worship service shortly after you join.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I BECOME A MEMBER?

1

Deacon Care

Each one of our members is assigned to a specific deacon who will follow up with you regularly to pray for you and support your family.

2

Commitment of the other members

The members of UBC are specially committed to serving and encouraging each other. As you become a member of this family, you will experience the special joy of its self-sacrificing fellowship.

2

Participating in church vision

The members of UBC are given the right to vote at our monthly business meetings and thereby play a role in setting the direction of our church.

4

Teaching the body

Because we greatly value doctrinal integrity at our church, only those who have committed to membership are able to teach in formal avenues of our ministries.

5

Facility Usage

One way we aim to bless our members is allowing them to use our buildings free of charge for various activities upon submitting a request.

6

SBC Resources

The Southern Baptist Convention makes special opportunities available to members of SBC churches. This includes reduced tuition for seminaries and supporting missions endeavors.

OUR MISSION

GLORIFY GOD BY MAKING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST.

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