

Church Membership

While all people are invited to attend our services, responsibility for specific ministries within the church is limited to formal members. Formal membership is a covenant to uphold the church in doctrine, fellowship, finances, and spiritual gifting.

Membership is limited to those who are born again Christians. A Christian is someone who has:

- 1) Acknowledged that they are a sinner, and have broken God's laws
- 2) Understood that the penalty for sin is death; separation from God
- 3) Understood that they cannot save themselves
- 4) Understood that Christ died upon the cross to pay the penalty for their sins with His own blood, and rose from the dead on the third day.
- 5) Understood that God offers forgiveness and eternal life as a free gift to those who will repent of sin and put their faith in Christ for salvation, and they have therefore done so.

While water Baptism is neither a requirement for salvation nor membership at SCF, it is the most significant outward reflection of a regenerate life; and as such any new members who have not done so will be greatly encouraged to be baptized at the earliest opportunity.

Members are asked to sign this covenant as a pledge to uphold the doctrines of the church as outlined in our Statement of Faith.

It is understood that membership is the mutual care and support between the Body of Christ and the individual. Faithful, regular attendance; contributing financially to support the mission and vision of the church; growing in holiness and the character of Christ; using God-given gifts and abilities to edify the body; and submitting to the Godly authority of the church leadership are an integral part of this relationship. It is also understood that choosing not to follow the aforementioned responsibilities can result in church discipline and ultimately in membership being dissolved.

Statement of Faith

1. We believe the Bible to be the verbally inspired, infallible Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truth. (2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21)
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19)
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return in power and glory. (John 1:1, 14 Isaiah 9:6, Matt. 1:18, 2 Cor. 5:21, Luke 24:39, Acts 1:11)
4. We believe that salvation is by God's grace (which is undeserved and unearned), that it was achieved by Christ's death and resurrection, and that we receive it by repenting from sin and by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. We celebrate this salvation through worship, and the observance of two ordinances, baptism and The Lord's Supper. (Eph. 2:8,9 Rom. 8:3 Acts 20:21, Matt. 28:19, 1 Cor. 11:23-25)
5. We believe in the deity of the Holy Spirit, that He indwells and regenerates all believers, that He empowers them for godliness and for ministry. We believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit which are to be used for the building up of the church. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit, led by the Spirit, and transformed by the Spirit. (Acts 1:8, Acts 5:3-4, 1 Cor. 14:12, 2 Cor. 3:18, Eph. 5:18, Rom. 8:9-14)
6. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. We are called to love one another, and to lay down our lives for one another, even as Christ laid down His life for us. (1 Cor. 12:-27, John 17: 20-23, 1 John 3:16, John 15:12)
7. We believe in the future bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost; the saved to the resurrection of life and the lost to the resurrection of condemnation. It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. (John 5:28, 1 Thess. 4:16-17, Heb. 9:27)

Statement of Faith

(continued)

8. We believe that the universe was created from nothing by the command of God. We believe that Man is *not* the result of a purposeless, natural evolutionary process, but was created in the image of God by the direct act of God. (Gen. 1:1, John 1:3)

9. We believe in the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception. (Luke 1:15, Judges 13:7-8, Psalm 139:13-16)

10. We believe that marriage is an institution ordained by God to be between one man and one woman and that sexual intimacy is to be exclusive to the marriage relationship. We believe that the Lord loves all people, but forbids the practice of homosexuality and any other form of sexual intimacy outside of marriage as contrary to His design and purpose (Gen. 1:27, Gen. 19, Rom. 1: 26-27, Lev. 18:22, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, 1 Tim. 1:10, Jude 1:7, Heb 13:4).



I hereby acknowledge the basis for membership as outlined above. As a born again believer in Christ, I agree to support Shore Christian Fellowship, its ministries, its leadership, and its mission.

Signature

Date

Elder Signature

Date

Shore Christian Fellowship



Membership Covenant