

## Membership Document

"Shepherd the flock of God that is among you" (1 Peter 5:2)

#### Is church membership biblical?

While no mention of church membership is made in Scripture, it is implied that the local fellowship knew who a part of their church body was. In the New Testament it seems as if there was a single church per city. In York there are around 200. When visitors come, neither the leaders nor other members are often sure if those people are ready to be a part of the church. Membership is a way to know who wants to receive care from the Cityview church body.

#### Membership Requirements

Any person may become a member who:

- (a) Has accepted Jesus as their Savior;
- (b) Has shown their repentance and new birth by being baptized;
- (c) Is demonstrating the fruits of repentance in their life by not living in unrepentant sin;
- (d) Desires to actively participate with the church by giving of time, giftings, resources and prayers as the Holy Spirit would lead.

You don't need to agree with everything we teach to be a member. If you are a good-standing member in God's body, you are welcome to come and grow together with us.

For those in teaching roles, however, we ask that you teach in accordance with the doctrines of Cityview Church.

#### Membership Process

We ask that member applicants sign the Membership Commitment form at the end of this document, share your testimony with at least one of the leadership team, and if deemed to be a baptized Christian demonstrating the fruits of repentance, we will welcome you as a member during a Sunday morning service.

#### Correction and Conflict Resolution

Being a disciple of Jesus is a calling to a life of submission to Christ. While as believers we are made new creations at salvation, we will continue to face the temptation to sin and at times will give into sin until we reach perfection at death or Christ's return.

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8).

As a local body of Christ, we are committed to love each other enough to fight for a member who has become enslaved in sin. This is also true for a member who is being drawn away from Scripture to false doctrines that lead to a sinful lifestyle or denial of the basic tenets of Christianity. Spiritual battles for our hearts and minds are real, and we want to guard each other from being deceived by Satan or drawn away from God by our own lust and pride.

We also recognize that in the church comprised of imperfect people, conflict will arise. In those situations, we will follow the instructions for loving restoration given in Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Corinthians 5 while heeding the warnings given to those who confront in Matthew 7:1-5 and Galatians 6:1.

"Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted." (Galatians 6:1)

#### Termination of Membership

Church membership may be terminated at the member's request. It will also be terminated if the member does not continue in the qualifications for church membership listed above: if they no longer hold to the basic tenets of the faith making them a Christian, if they are living in unrepentant sin, or if they are no longer actively involved. Those turning from the faith and living in unrepentant sin will be lovingly confronted as described in the section above. Those who have not been actively involved will be contacted prior to being removed as a member.

If a member desires to terminate membership, the Pastor/Elder team will ask to meet with them to fully understand the reasons for leaving. This is a crucial step for the leadership team as they discern how Cityview can grow in being Christ's representative. It is the leadership's desire to transfer the member into the care of another church instead of simply to cancel their membership. Otherwise, the leaving member can become a spiritual orphan and become much more susceptible to Satan, the roaming lion. Thus, if a member chooses to leave, the leadership team may make occasional contact to learn if the member has found a new church home and may offer to assist in that process. The leadership team may also contact the new church's leadership to ensure that they are indeed seeing the new attender as one whom is in their care.

# **Cityview Church Membership Commitment**

#### **New Member**

I have accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior and have since been water baptized, showing my commitment to follow Him. I want to experience spiritual growth and maturity as I live for the Lord daily in humble obedience and desire to be encouraged and challenged in this faith walk. I want to join this family of believers as an active participant, giving of my time, talents, and resources as we pray for and serve one another. As an active Cityview member, I commit to walk alongside my church family in our spiritual journeys; sharing in victories, helping through failures, lovingly confronting where there is sin and error, and extending forgiveness as needed.

### Congregation

| As Cityview Church, we joyfully welcome you into this part of God's family. We commit to care for you  |
|--|
| and walk alongside you in your journey with Christ. We in turn invite you to walk with us and to share |
| our lives in the same manner; encouraging and challenging, comforting and cheering, speaking, and      |
| listening. May God use us together at Cityview to grow His kingdom!                                    |

| Date       |  |
|------------|--|
|            |  |
| New Member |  |
|            |  |
|            |  |
|            |  |
|            |  |

Melvin Matson, Rich McClellan, Troy Miller, and Gary Mummert (Elders/Pastors)