



Why Membership Matters

Joining a Local Body Within the Greater Body of Christ





Our Guide

This guide exists to help every believer better understand their next step of faith, which is to join a local church.

Our Why

We believe that everyone should be in active pursuit of Jesus no matter the age or stage of life. After becoming a baptized believer, the next pursuit of Christlikeness is church membership.

Our Goal

Our goal is to guide and nurture every person through the membership process at Harvest Ministries. Our prayer is that you connect with the local body of Christ beyond a Sunday worship experience.

Your Next Steps

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01 Our Story

How did this church come to be?

By God's grace, Pastor Eric, Antoinette, and their two daughters moved to the Little Elm/Aubrey area in the summer of 2022. They reside just a few minutes from Braswell High School along the US 380 corridor where the church meets every Sunday. Their desire has always been to reach unchurched people, and they discovered two-thirds of the residents are not engaged in any religious community at all. They started this church with a burden for young families, a diverse community, and transplants.

Our desire is to reach each individual by worshiping God through serving the community, creating genuine connections and relationships with our neighbors, teaching God's Word faithfully, and encouraging people to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Our hearts long for everyone to harvest a ministry where they are by carrying out our mission statement: "Loving God and all people while preparing everyone to boldly follow Christ."

Our Name & Logo

The name "Harvest Ministries" came from a dream Antoinette had about a church her and Eric were eager to be a part of. At the same time, Eric had been reading Scripture about reaping, sowing, and harvesting (Mark 4:1-25; Galatians 6:9). We believe Harvest is more than a noun, it's a verb. Take action!



Our logo is inspired by Acts 1:8. Each of the four parts represents our missional call to reach our own Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth. At the center of each of the four parts is a cross because Jesus is at the center. The arrows represent people coming into our church to find Jesus and leaving out as missionaries to share Jesus.

02 Who We Are

VISION

We exist to see life transformation in Christ and develop Godly leaders in our community who harvest ministries where they are.

MISSION

To love God and all people while preparing everyone to boldly follow Christ.

VALUES

Bold Faith
Unconditional Love
Servant Leadership
Kingdom Multiplication

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

Prepare the soil.
Plant the seed.
Pour water on the seed.
Produce good fruit.

FRUITFUL MEASURES

Glorify
Gather
Grow
Give
Go



LET'S MAKE HEAVEN STANDING ROOM ONLY!

HARVEST MODE ON!

03 Why Membership Matters

What does the Bible say about Membership?

Becoming a member at Harvest Ministries is about becoming part of a family, not putting your name on a roll or joining a club. The Bible shares many examples that describe the relationship of the church to Jesus. The church is described as:

- The **BODY OF CHRIST** (1 Corinthians 5:12)
- The **BRIDE OF CHRIST** (Ephesians 5:22-23)
- Christ's **EMBASSY** (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- Christ's **FLOCK** (Psalm 95:7; 1 Peter 2:25; 5:2)
- **STONES** in a Spiritual House (1 Peter 2:5)





03 Why Membership Matters

Why should I join a local church?

Membership is also implied in many instances in the Bible:

- Widows were cared for and enrolled on a list (Acts 6:1-2; 1 Timothy 5:9)
- Membership records were diligently kept (Acts 1:15; 2:38)
- Unique actions were carried out by church members (Acts 2:42-47)
- There's a distinction between those in the church and those not (1 John 2:19)
- Church discipline leads to the removal from the fellowship (1 Corinthians 5:2)
- Church discipline is done as a collective (2 Corinthians 2:6)
- There's a special encouragement within the church body (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Why should I become a member at a church? There are 3 main reasons for to become a church member:

- So that you can be **DEVELOPED** (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- So that you can be **SHAPED** (Isaiah 64:8)
- So that you can be **INSTRUCTED** (Galatians 6:6)

What does becoming a church member communicate to God?

- It communicates that "I can make deep commitments."
- It communicates that "I am a contributor here, not a consumer."
- It communicates that "I have an awareness that I am NOT self-sufficient."
- It communicates that "I am willingly placing myself under leadership."
- It communicates that "I choose to live counter cultural."

04 Benefits of Membership

What are the benefits of church membership?

Here are some benefits of church membership:

- Pastoral Care (1 Peter 5:2)
- Spiritual Health (Philippians 2:3)
- Contributor to Legacy Building (Psalm 78:5-8)
- Adds Value to Yourself (Romans 12:4-5)
- Gives Opportunity for Obedience and then Blessings (Ephesians 5:25)
- Benevolence (Galatians 6:10)
- Strategically Positions You to be on Mission (Matthew 28:19)





05 What Membership Is Not

The following statements are typical of “church goers,” not members:

“I GIVE FINANCIALLY.”

Great! But financial support alone is not belonging.

“I ATTEND WEEKEND SERVICES.”

Amazing! But attendance alone is not belonging.

“I SERVE ON A MINISTRY TEAM.”

We love it! But serving alone is not belonging.

“I ATTEND MY CLUSER.”

That’s beautiful! But being in a small group alone is not belonging.

“I HAVE GONE HERE FOR YEARS.”

Praise God! But longevity alone is not belonging.

“I GREW UP HERE AT HARVEST.”

Awesome legacy! But your family’s tenure alone is not belonging.

Membership is an intentional decision to belong, align, and commit to the vision, mission, values, and family of Harvest Ministries. It’s more than a casual statement...it’s a way of life!

06 What's Next?

**What are the expectations of a member of Harvest Ministries?
Here are 5 areas of *active pursuit* by each member:**

GLORIFY

We recognize God through worship, our glorified King.

GATHER

We gather with God's family through fellowship for deep connection.

GROW

We educate God's people through discipleship so they can grow spiritually.

GIVE

We show God's love through ministry by the giving of our time, talents, and resources.

GO

We share God's Word through evangelism, which is the Good News of Jesus Christ.



06 What's Next?

How do I become a member of Harvest Ministries?

Step 1: Be a Baptized Believer in Jesus Christ

Step 2: Attend Next Steps Class

Step 3: Complete Membership Application

Step 4: Complete Membership Interview

Step 5: Sign Membership Covenant

Ready to Become a Member?

Take your Next Step through one of the following:

- Let church leadership know
- Visit harvestministries.org/membership
- Text "MEMBER" to 80797





HARVEST
MINISTRIES

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