



# FAMILY MATTERS







## The Heart Behind Harvest

[HARVESTMINISTRIES.ORG](http://HARVESTMINISTRIES.ORG)





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# Introduction

We are delighted that you have decided to learn more about our church and get connected through serving and membership. The local church serves as an embassy of God's Kingdom on earth, which is why membership is a declaration and expression of Kingdom citizenship. When a person chooses to follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they are immediately given a new identity in Christ and adopted into the Father's Heavenly family. This adoption subsequently calls people to be members in the household of God. Here at Harvest Ministries, a Kingdom citizen has the responsibility and privilege to represent Christ and a local church to our community-at-large.

Beliefs are things we consider to be our sources of truth, which come from God. Please read our statement of faith at [harvestministries.org/beliefs](https://harvestministries.org/beliefs). By being a member at Harvest Ministries, you agree to the beliefs described in our statement of faith.





# Our Story



## How did this church come to be?

By God's grace, Pastor Eric and Antoinette along with their two daughters moved to the Little Elm/Aubrey area, along the US 380 corridor in the summer of 2022. They reside just a few minutes from Braswell High School where the church meets every Sunday. Their desire is to reach the unchurched people in the area, as two-thirds of the residents are not engaged in any religious community at all. Most are Millennials and Gen Xers identifying as transplants and/or young families with multi-ethnic backgrounds. Many believe in God but don't have a personal, life-changing relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We desire is to reach each individual by worshiping God through serving the community, creating genuine connections and relationships with their neighbors along the 380 corridor, teaching Bible studies in their home, and encouraging people to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Their hearts long for everyone to harvest a ministry where they are by carrying out their mission statement: "Loving God and all people while preparing everyone to boldly follow Christ."



# Where is God taking us and how?

01



A VISION IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL WE BELIEVE GOD IS LEADING US TO

## Our Vision

We exist to see life transformation in Christ and develop Godly leaders in our community who harvest ministries where they are.  
(1 Corinthians 3:6-7; Galatians 6:9; Ephesians 3:20-21)

02



A MISSION IS SIMPLY WHAT WE DO IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION

## Our Mission

To love God and all people while preparing everyone to boldly follow Christ.  
(Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:12-13; 1 Peter 3:15)



# Our Values

BELIEFS THAT IGNITE US TO BE ON FIRE FOR JESUS  
AND AID US IN LIVING OUT OUR GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE

## **B** Bold Faith

Demonstrated by intentionally modeling Christ and sharing His timeless truths of the gospel with others without compromise in order to transform lives so Heaven will be standing room only.

## **S** Servant Leadership

Demonstrated by lovingly putting others before ourselves through irresistible acts of service in order to meet physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs.

## **U** Unconditional Love

Demonstrated by living out a pure, willful, and sacrificial love that's grace-filled and God-honoring while going out of our way to intentionally love and serve others well.

## **K** Kingdom Multiplication

Demonstrated by developing and equipping godly leaders and church planters through discipleship and training to reproduce generations into eternity.



# Discipleship Pathway

## **PREPARE the Soil**



Steward those who will not accept Christ or are curious in a God-honoring, safe, and welcoming environment in order to help them transition to belief.

## **PLANT the Seed**



Fill in all the gaps for those wanting to understand what it means to be a believer by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ by grace through faith with hopes they will become saved.

## **POUR Water on the Seed**



Teach, equip, and model for them what discipleship looks like by sharing biblical truths with practical applications so they are confident that God can use them to help others grow in their faith.

## **PRODUCE Good Fruit**



Reap the harvest of transformed lives while providing encouragement, accountability, and training so they can reproduce this strategy with those within and outside our spiritual community.



# How do we know we're producing Good Fruit?

01



## **Glorify**

We recognize God through worship, our glorified King.

02



## **Gather**

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

03



## **Grow**

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

04



## **Give**

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

05



## **Go**

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



# Guarding Our Culture

8 ATTRIBUTES THAT DESCRIBE THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR CULTURE

**We Can't Outgive God**



**We Are Always in Harvest Mode**



**God is Excellent and We Expect Excellence So People Can Experience God**



**We Put Others Before Ourselves Through Irresistible Acts of Service**



**We Go Out of Our Way to Intentionally Love Others**



**Leadership is a Privilege, Not a Position**



**Everyone Washes the Dishes**



**Flexibility Leads to Forward Progress**







# People who excel in our culture...

## Self-Aware



CAN ACCURATELY SEE THEIR OWN FLAWS AND FACE THE REALITY OF THEIR CURRENT SITUATION

## Problem Solvers



REJECTS NEGATIVE ATTITUDES AND OUTCOMES FOR ONES THAT PRODUCE MEANINGFUL RESULTS

## Worship Walkers



ENGAGES IN REGULAR SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES TO GROW THEIR WALK WITH GOD AND EQUIP OTHERS

## Passion to Serve



BELIEVES NOTHING IS TOO SMALL AND WILL SERVE WHENEVER AND WHEREVER ASKED OR NEEDED

## Grateful Posture



APPRECIATES THE POSITION GOD PLACED THEM IN AND IS HONORED BY ANY ROLE IN GOD'S KINGDOM

## Joyous Spirit



APPROACHES EVERY SITUATION WITH GREAT PLEASURE BECAUSE GOD HAS BLESSED THEM



# BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



## 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. While attending this class doesn't automatically commit you to membership, our prayer is that this experience gives you more information about who we are as a church and why we do what we do. At the end of this class, you'll have the opportunity to meet with someone on our leadership team, and have the opportunity ask questions and learn how you can get plugged in. Here's what the Bible says about church membership...

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)



# BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



## Why should I join a 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 distinct kind of 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)





## BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



### Why should I join a church? (continued)

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."



What are the 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)



# How do I become a member?

JOIN OUR FAITH FAMILY

01



## **Be a Baptized Believer in Jesus Christ**

One must have professed faith in Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior and followed that profession with water baptism.

02



## **Complete Membership Application**

One must complete our membership application which includes the sharing of one's salvation story.

03



## **Attend Membership Class**

One must attend our in-person Family Matters class or completed our online Next Steps course.

04



## **Participate in Membership Interview**

One must complete a membership interview with church leadership to review application and answer questions.

05



## **Sign Membership Covenant**

One must sign our membership covenant agreeing to be in active pursuit of following Christ realized through our church.



## MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Harvest Ministries statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Harvest Ministries family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members in active pursuit of the following:

### GLORIFY

WE RECOGNIZE GOD THROUGH WORSHIP, OUR GLORIFIED KING (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14–17; 1 Peter 1:13–16, 4:1–3; 2 Peter 1:19–21)

- Worship - Praises God regularly on their own and participates in corporate worship.
- Prayer - Regularly communicates with God through prayer individually and corporately.

### GATHER

WE GATHER WITH GOD'S FAMILY THROUGH FELLOWSHIP FOR DEEP CONNECTION. (Acts 2:42–47; Romans 8:13; Ephesians 4:1–3; Colossians 3:5; 1 Timothy 3; 5:17; Titus 1:5–16; 3:14; Hebrews 10:23–25; 13:17; James 5:16, 1 Peter 5:5; 1 John 1:6–10)

- Cluster - Connects with others in group settings (e.g. Bible study, life group).
- Accountability - Encourage one another in the development of purity and integrity.
- Family - Understands and practices the biblical responsibilities of their family role.





## MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

### GROW

WE EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP SO THEY CAN GROW SPIRITUALLY. (Psalm 141:5; Matt 3:13-17; 18:15-20; 28:19; Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 8:1-13; 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22; Hebrews 12:5-11)

- Salvation - Has made a personal decision by grace through faith to trust in Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Baptism - Has been baptized as a public expression of the decision to follow Christ.
- Spiritual Gifts - Has learned about spiritual gifts, assessed own gifting, and put gifting into practice.
- Biblical Literacy - Desires to understand, agree with, and apply biblical truths.
- Intimacy - Pursues a relationship with Christ daily through spiritual disciplines.
- Discipleship - Open to being discipled while striving to reproduce other fully devoted followers of Christ.



## MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

### GIVE

WE SHOW GOD'S LOVE THROUGH MINISTRY BY THE GIVING OF OUR TIME, TALENTS, AND RESOURCES. (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 25:14–30; Romans 12:1–2; 2 Corinthians 8–9; 1 Peter 4:10–11)

- Service - Demonstrates a servant-minded attitude.
- Generosity - Consistently practices giving financially to support the needs of the church.
- Ministry - Serving others in the church, particularly in their area of spiritual gifting.
- Leadership - Leads others with the expectation that they too will become leaders themselves.
- Investment - Invests increasing amounts of time, attention, and resources towards the cause of Christ.

### GO

WE SHARE GOD'S WORD THROUGH EVANGELISM, WHICH IS THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST. (Acts 2:42–47, Matthew 22:37–40; 28:18–20)

- Connect - Intentionally builds relationships with everyday people outside of the church.
- Communicate - Share one's own personal testimony and the gospel message.
- Invite - Actively brings others to weekend services and special events.
- Mission - Contributes personally to meeting the needs of the poor and other marginalized people in society.



## THE CULTURE OF SERVICE AT HARVEST LOOKS LIKE THIS...



### Why is serving important?

Jesus is the greatest example of a servant leader as Mark 10:45 states, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

There are 4 main ways a believer can serve the local church:

- Attend and be active in Sunday worship experiences
- Display irresistible hospitality at all times
- Share the gospel to those outside the church
- Make disciples of those inside the church



Servant Leaders display 6 main qualities:

- They show **INITIATIVE**
- They come **PEACEABLE**
- They have **NO HIDDEN AGENDA**
- They make **SACRIFICES**
- They stick to **COMMITMENTS**
- They display **HUMILITY**

**Final thought: "If you are too big for the small things, then you are too small for the big things."**



# Where can I serve?

**NextGen (Kids  
& Students)**



**Mobilization  
(Setup &  
Teardown)**



**Production  
(Audio, Video,  
Lighting)**



**Connections  
(Parking, Usher,  
Greeting, Coffee)**



**Community  
Engagement  
(Missions, Outreach)**



**Worship  
(Musician,  
Vocalist, Dance)**



**Communications  
(Marketing,  
Social Media)**



**Care (Prayer,  
Benevolence)**



**Health & Safety  
(Medical,  
Security)**



**Administration  
(Admin, Tech,  
Events)**





## TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

### Ready to Accept Christ or Get Baptized?

Take your next step through one of the following:

- Let church leadership know
- Visit [harvestministries.org/following-jesus](https://harvestministries.org/following-jesus)
- Text “JESUS” or “BAPTISM” to 80797



### Ready to Become a Member?

Take your next step through one of the following:

- Let church leadership know
- Visit [harvestministries.org/membership](https://harvestministries.org/membership)
- Text “MEMBER” to 80797



### Ready to Serve on our Dream Team?

Take your next step through one of the following:

- Let church leadership know or scan QR code
- Visit [harvestministries.org/next-steps-course](https://harvestministries.org/next-steps-course)
- Text “SERVE” to 80797



### Ready to Give?

Take your next step through one of the following:

- Visit [harvestministries.org/give](https://harvestministries.org/give)
- Text “GIVE” to 80797





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**HARVEST**  
MINISTRIES

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