

Life in the Body, Part 8

1 Corinthians 14:40; Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; 2-26-17

Church membership is a conscious commitment to a local body of believers in Jesus for service and submission by trusting God for good through an imperfect church over time.

We are focusing on church membership in our body for two primary reasons:

1. Legal Reasons

It has come to our attention that our church documents and our membership process needs to be improved and strengthened in light of legal issues regarding issues like church discipline and employment.

2. Biblical Reasons

In considering the changes in our culture and the legal issues we may face, it has become apparent that the truth about church membership is important and needs to be revisited in our body, more importantly, because of what the Bible teaches.

ARTICLE I – NAME

ARTICLE II – LOCATION

ARTICLE III - AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

ARTICLE IV - PURPOSE

The purpose of this church is to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ who rest in Jesus, hope in God, and pursue love, by God's grace and for His glory, through the proclamation of the gospel of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ARTICLE V - CHARACTER AND GOVERNMENT

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

1. Testifying of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:21; Romans 10:9-10)
2. Having been baptized. (Matthew 28:18-20)
3. Partaking of the Lord's Supper. (Luke 22:19)
4. Participating in the corporate worship services, unless physically hindered. (Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 John 2:19)
5. Exercising one's spiritual gift(s) for the edification of the body. (1 Peter 4:10)
6. Caring for the needs of those in the body. (1 Corinthians 12:25-26; Galatians 5:13;6:10)
7. Following the leadership of those in authority. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17)

Members shall be removed from the church roll for the following reasons:

1. Death
2. Transfer of membership to another church or permanent relocation that prohibits attendance at Coast and necessitates a membership change.
3. Personal request of the member in writing (without any pending or ongoing disciplinary matters).

4. Dismissal by the congregation according to the following conditions: The member either makes an open stand against Christ or begins to live stubbornly contrary to Scripture and brings shame on Christ's name.

Formal church discipline may be exercised for the following scriptural reasons: sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 5:9-13); financial dishonesty (1 Corinthians 5:9-13); financial irresponsibility (2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; 1 Timothy 5:3-8); substance abuse (1 Corinthians 5:9-13); abusiveness (1 Corinthians 5:9-13); or divisiveness (Titus 3:10-11) and for any other serious sins as deemed appropriate by the elders in light of Scripture.

Procedures for dismissal of a member shall be according to Matthew 18. This may include:

- Private appeals for repentance.
- Written notification of pending, formal church discipline.
- Public announcement of church discipline.
- Formal vote to excommunicate.
- Denial of the Lord's Supper and normal Christian fellowship.
- Notification of other churches and individuals who might be affected or harmed by the individual under church discipline.

ARTICLE VII - INCORPORATION
ARTICLE VIII - CHURCH ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAMS
ARTICLE IX - PASTOR AND STAFF
ARTICLE X - OVERSEERS
ARTICLE XI – RELATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Section 11.02	Commitment to Peacemaking and Reconciliation
Section 11.03	Commitment to Preserving Marriages
Section 11.04	Commitment to Protecting Our Children
Section 11.05	Commitment to Biblical Counseling
Section 11.06	Commitment to Confidentiality
Section 11.07	Commitment to Accountability and Church Discipline

Membership also will allow you to enjoy ministry opportunities and privileges that are not available to people who only attend our church, including the following:

- You may participate and vote in congregational meetings, where we seek to discern and plan how to follow God's vision for our church.
- You will be eligible to minister to the children and youth in our church.
- You can seek more opportunities to use your spiritual gifts, including those of teaching, serving and leading within the body.
- If you need counseling or support from our leaders when their time is limited, your request for assistance will take precedence over requests from people who have not joined the church.

If you would like to learn more about the importance of church membership, you may also meet with our leaders, who would be happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about membership.

ARTICLE XII - CHURCH COVENANT