

Together Membership Campaign FAQ's

1. **Why is Fellowship doing a membership series now?**

As we celebrate God's faithfulness to us over the past 40 years and look expectantly to our future together, we want to pause and have a conversation as a family about what it means to belong to this local body of Christ followers called Fellowship Bible Church. The elders believe now is a great time to have a unifying conversation about our commitments to one another here at Fellowship. It also allows our pastors and elders to obey Scripture's command to know who the flock is that is among us (1 Peter 5:2).

2. **Has Fellowship always had membership?**

Yes. Fellowship has had membership since its early days as a church.

3. **How long is someone considered a member?**

There is no time limit on membership.

4. **What are the benefits of being a member?**

Membership is about members and their shepherds acknowledging to each other that they are a part of the same spiritual family called Fellowship Bible Church. As with any family, there are expectations that we have of one another as family members. Healthy families talk about those expectations regularly, and we want to be a healthy family.

5. **What is expected of members?**

During our four-week sermon series in September we will unpack in detail what it means to be a member at Fellowship. Page 33 of the Together study guide also includes a copy of the membership commitment that summarizes our responsibilities to each other. Essentially, a member is someone who:

- Personally trusts in the saving work of Jesus Christ
- Has been baptized
- Consistently attends our public worship service
- Belongs to a D Group
- Serves the body of Fellowship
- Is faithful to supporting the financial needs of Fellowship
- Is committed to following the leadership and shepherding of Fellowship's elders.

6. **What if I am not ready yet to be a member?**

The way we see it, we have members and we have future members, so our hope is that at some point you would consider becoming a member. We will still do our best to care for and lead all who attend Fellowship, members and non-members alike. At the same time, our elders and pastors can shepherd best those who have told us that they desire our shepherding.

7. **If I want to become a member but my spouse does not, can I still pursue membership?**

Yes, though it would be ideal if you and your spouse were united in this area. However, if one spouse does not want to pursue membership, the other spouse may still pursue it.

8. **I have been a member of Fellowship for 20 years. Do I need to recommit to membership?**

We have many at Fellowship who started attending in recent years who have never pursued membership. Others grew up at Fellowship and are adults now, but they never attended a membership or Discovery class. And there are many others in our body who completed our membership process years ago, but now they would have difficulty describing what it means to be a member of Fellowship. That's why we want to take this opportunity now, in the spirit of unity, for some of us to learn for the first time and for others of us to be reminded again what it means to be a member of a local body of believers.

Together Membership Campaign FAQ's

9. **Do I have to be baptized to be a member?**

We believe Scripture commands that baptism is a necessary step of obedience for every Christ follower. It is also necessary for membership at Fellowship. If you have already been baptized after making a profession of faith in Jesus Christ then you don't need to be baptized again. But those who have never been baptized should be baptized in keeping with Scripture and the example of Jesus. Our elders and pastors would love to visit with you to discuss any questions or concerns you might have about baptism. Please refer to page 34 of the Together membership booklet for more information about baptism.

10. **If I decide not to become a member, can I still belong to my D Group?**

Yes! There is no requirement to be a member of Fellowship to be a part of a D Group. We want our D Groups to be an open front door for people to connect with Fellowship.

11. **Can I be a member if I attend another church?**

Membership is about declaring who is your spiritual family and who your shepherds are. If you are attending another church and believe that is your home, we praise God for that and would encourage you to put down spiritual roots there.

12. **Does the membership covenant I signed twenty years ago still count?**

So that we can ensure our membership records are up to date, we are asking everyone who desires to be a member to complete a new membership commitment.

13. **I see that serving is one of the requirements for membership. What opportunities are there to serve?**

While our greatest serving needs are on Sunday, there are serving opportunities with Fellowship throughout the week. The main point is to remember that we are a family and as with every family we each are responsible for ensuring our household is healthy and functioning well. Stop by the Connection Center any Sunday and we would be happy to help you find serving opportunities.

14. **Do I have to give a certain amount in order to be a member? Will the church check my giving?**

Your financial support is important to Fellowship, and we have seen God do amazing work through the generosity of our body, but there is no expectation about how much our members give. We simply desire that everyone give cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7) as an act of worship. Page 24 of the Together study has some Scriptural guidelines for you to consider as you plan your giving. We take the confidentiality of your giving very seriously, with access strictly limited to necessary staff for accounting and tax reporting purposes.

15. **Can non-Christians be members?**

We love non-Christians and desire to be generous and hospitable to them. Ultimately, we would love to see them become members of Fellowship, but we have an even greater desire that they become brothers and sisters in Christ. That is their next spiritual step to take with us. Membership is for Christians because no one can live out the biblical responsibilities of membership without God's grace and the filling of the Holy Spirit.

16. **I am not in a D Group. Can I pursue membership?**

Yes! Each of our campuses will have additional opportunities for those not in a D Group to work through the membership study. For those on the Little Rock campus, we will have a small group study from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm on Sunday nights from Sept. 10-Oct. 1. These small groups will be hosted by our elders. Following completion of the study we will launch new D Groups which you can be a part of. Sign-up for the study at fellowshiponline.com/events. (Remember: this Sunday night study is for those not already in a D Group!)

17. **What steps do I need to take to let Fellowship know that I want to be considered a member?**

Our desire is for the membership process to be very simple. The week that we finish our Together sermon series (October 1), Fellowship will provide a link to a web page in which you will indicate a desire to be a member by

Together Membership Campaign FAQ's

electronically checking a few boxes and typing your email address. That's it! We will also have paper membership commitments available in the Connection Center for those who would prefer not to use the web-based process.

18. I have other questions about membership. Who should I speak to about them?

Our Connection Center team is available every Sunday to help answer any questions you may have about membership. We can also arrange for you to meet with an elder to discuss your questions.