

membership matters @ lake pointe church

Q. WHAT IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

A. Church membership is a covenant relationship between individual Christians who share the same basic beliefs. These Christians take the step of church membership because they are deeply committed to:

- *Supporting and encouraging one another as they grow spiritually*
- *Working together to share Christ with others*
- *Seeking together to bless their local area and the world for God's glory*

Q. IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP BIBLICAL?

A. Yes. One-half of the New Testament is made up of letters that the Apostle Paul wrote to specific churches (i.e. groups of Christians in one locale who identified with and were committed to one another). In 1 Timothy, Paul wrote specifically about the qualifications of and instruction for church leaders (1 Timothy 3:1-13). Jesus referenced the local church several times and even detailed the circumstances in which an individual could be removed from membership (Matthew 18:15-17). If there was no such thing as church membership, none of this would make sense.



Q. WHY JOIN IF I'M ALREADY INVOLVED?

A. It's true some are almost as involved as they would be if they were members. However, membership is more intentional and usually evokes a greater sense of ownership and commitment from both the church as well as the individual. When you "make it official" by becoming a member of Lake Pointe, several things are available and are more likely to happen:

- *The Bible Fellowship you choose assumes responsibility to care for you and your family.*
- *You receive help in developing a customized personal spiritual action plan.*
- *Assistance is available to help you find a meaningful place of service.*
- *Financial assistance and scholarships are available for seasons of crises that are more substantial than those available for non-members.*

"I chose to become a member of Lake Pointe because I wanted to be a part of something big and wonderful, something that I could believe in and feel like I belonged and I was wanted."

Jodie Giddens

Q. WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

A. First, all members must have a personal relationship with God by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Next, all prospective members must have been or be willing to submit to Believer's Baptism. Believer's Baptism is defined as baptism that takes place after salvation to symbolize what God has already done in the believer's life. Although Lake Pointe believes that baptism should be by immersion, we do accept alternate forms of baptism as long as it takes place after conversion. Infant baptism would not qualify under these guidelines.

B. Finally, all prospective members must attend the New Member Workshop. The New Member Workshop is an orientation designed to help you get the best possible start as a new member of Lake Pointe. The workshop is led by Lead Pastor Steve Stroope and by Teaching Pastor Wes Hamilton. You will learn a little about the

history of Lake Pointe, and about the part you can play in its future direction. New Member Workshop is typically held on Sunday evenings once a month and includes a catered meal and free childcare.

Q. WHAT IS EXPECTED OF CHURCH MEMBERS?

A. There are five basic disciplines that we believe all healthy Christians practice as faithful members:

- *Involvement in a Bible Fellowship*
- *Giving in a God-honoring manner*
- *Serving in a meaningful ministry*
- *A commitment to invite others to Lake Pointe*
- *A regular time of personal Bible study and prayer*

We understand the Christian life to be a process, which means every member will not excel in all five of these areas. However, we believe a growing Christian will seek to grow from year-to-year in all five areas of discipline.

Q. HOW DO I JOIN?

A. The first step is to let us know you would like to become a member of Lake Pointe.

You can do that by:

- *Visiting the Connection Center. This option is available following any regularly scheduled weekend service.*
- *Calling the church office. Call 469.698.2200 and ask for the Pastor of Membership.*
- *Visiting lakepointe.org and completing the membership application online.*

You will then be given the opportunity to make your reservation for an upcoming New Member Workshop.