

INTRODUCTION

We're delighted that God has brought you to Bethel. He is building a special group of people and has given us the privilege of working with Him as He does a mighty work among us. Welcome.

People who attend Bethel come from a variety of backgrounds. We vary in age, understanding of what it means to be a Christian, previous church experience, familiarity with Scripture, training in discipleship, understanding of biblical teachings, strength of personal walk with the Lord, understanding of church membership, and level of commitment. These differences, along with the fact that it is difficult for us to get to know everyone well, make it necessary to establish a common ground of understanding as the basis for church life.

The intent of this booklet is to provide basic training that is important for all the people of Bethel. It includes fundamental teachings for the Christian life as well as specific information on Bethel.

Completion of the booklet is a requirement for membership at Bethel. Church membership is not a final destination in your walk with God or relationship with Bethel. It is, however, a useful step in expressing commitment to what God is doing at Bethel and to the other people in the body.

The membership process outlined in Section V is intended to allow you to make an informed, meaningful decision about membership. Although the process is thorough, please view it as a learning opportunity rather than a hurdle or burden.

The amount of time required to complete the booklet will depend on your familiarity with the material, how quickly or how thoroughly you do things like this, and your motivation and discipline. You won't be able to do it in one marathon sitting, so give yourself time.

The objective is not just to fill in the blanks or mark the correct answer. Read all of the material carefully. It's helpful stuff.

Don't get bogged down with questions that are unclear or that you can't answer. Make a note of them and move on. Someone from your Small Group will be happy to help you with them. If they can't figure it out either, we'll probably change that question or throw it out when the booklet is revised.

*May God use this booklet to help make you
an effective church member,
and more importantly, an effective disciple of Christ.*

A Note from the Elders about Membership

If you are reading this page, you have some interest in learning more about Bethel's beliefs, values and priorities. We as Bethel elders are glad that you want to learn more. Elders in a local church have a responsibility to teach, care for, shepherd and lead the people God brings to that church. We take our responsibility seriously because we know that one day God will ask us to give an account of how we treated and led the people He has entrusted to us. This booklet is one tool we have to teach what the Scripture says about beliefs and behaviors that should characterize members of a local church.

The book is divided into five sections designed to take you through an understanding of the human spiritual condition to becoming a believer, a mature disciple, and a member at Bethel. As you work through the material, the goal is not just to gain head knowledge, but also to live by the Biblical principles of discipleship that you learn. If at the end of your study, you desire to become a member, your small group leader will review your booklet. If your small group leader determines that you are ready to move to the next step, he/she will recommend you for membership to the elders. You will then have a brief interview with an elder or two. The purposes of the interview are for the elder(s) to: (i) hear your personal testimony (when and how you became a Christian), (ii) see if you have any questions about Bethel, (iii) find out if you are committed to living for the Lord in the practical areas of life, and (iv) if you are moving from another local church that your transition is according to God's standards. To this end, we will ask you to complete a one-page "getting practical" questionnaire that will help us find out if you are practicing the basic disciplines of our covenant of fellowship, such as regular Bible reading, prayer, corporate worship, giving to the Lord's work at Bethel, and evangelism.

Our desire is to see committed disciples hit the ground running as they join Bethel. It is not healthy for you or for us as a church to have you join if your understanding of the Christian life is in your head only, and not in your hands, feet, tongue and pocketbook. In most churches, the membership outnumbers the weekly attendance. At Bethel, the situation is just the opposite. We place the bar high for membership for a purpose. We want our membership to genuinely reflect our spiritual values and commitments.

We look forward to seeing how the Lord leads you in this venture!

Sincerely,

The Elders of Bethel Church

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SECTION I: THE FOUNDATION

Your Spiritual Condition

The Bible teaches that all people fall into two categories: those who are in our natural, sinful state (in Adam) and those who have come into a new relationship with God through Jesus (in Christ). One who is in Adam is living in the nature he was born with. Although he may not be exceptionally evil, by nature and by deed he has selfishly rebelled against God and His plan (Romans 3:23). One who is in Christ has confessed this selfish rebellion and received a new righteousness based on Jesus' righteousness and sacrificial death for us. We enter into this new condition by placing our faith and hope in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

In Adam

- What does the Bible say is the condition of those in Adam?
- Read the following verses and match them with the condition they describe.

_____ Ephesians 2:1; Rom 6:23a	A Darkened
_____ Rev 20:11-15	B Dead
_____ Ephesians 4:18; Ephesians 5:8	C Doomed (judged)
_____ II Tim 3:13	D Disobedient (unrighteous)
_____ John 8:34	E Deceived
_____ Matthew 18:23-25	F Dominated (enslaved)
_____ Ephesians 2:12	G Deserted (separated)
_____ Romans 3:10-18	H Debtor

In Christ

What does the Bible say is the condition of those in Christ according to the following verses?

No Longer Dead, but...

- Ephesians 2:5, 6 _____
- I Peter 1:23 _____

No Longer Doomed, but...

- II Corinthians 5:18 _____
- Ephesians 1:11,14 _____
- Romans 8:29,30 _____

No Longer Darkened or Deceived, but...

- I Thessalonians 5:5 _____
- I Corinthians 2:14-15 _____
- I Corinthians 2:16 _____

No Longer Dominated, but...

- Colossians 1:13 _____
- Romans 6:18 _____

In Christ *(cont'd)*

What does the Bible say is the condition of those in Christ according to the following verses?

No Longer in Debt, but...

- Romans 5:1 _____
- Ephesians 1:4 _____
- Colossians 2:14 _____

No Longer Deserted, but...

- Romans 15:7 _____
- Romans 8:15,16 _____
- Colossians 3:12a _____
- Ephesians 2:18 _____

No Longer Disobedient, but...

- Romans 6:1-6 _____
- Galatians 2:20 _____

Becoming a Believer

In our sinful condition we are separated from our holy God. We cannot reach Him through our own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religious activities. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for saving us from our sinful condition.

Read Romans 6:23:

- What we have earned through sin is _____.
- God offers _____ in Christ as a _____.

Read Ephesians 2:8,9:

- We can be saved by _____ through _____.
- Being saved is not a result of _____.
- What are some things people may try to do to earn or deserve right standing with God?

If becoming a believer (being saved) is not the result of our efforts, how does one go from being "in Adam" to "in Christ"? In John 3:3-7, Jesus says we must be _____.

II Corinthians 5:17 says that anyone who is in Christ is a _____. These statements suggest a decisive, life-changing event, not simply adoption of a system of belief.

Becoming a believer can be viewed as an encounter with Jesus Christ having two elements. They were stated by Jesus in Mark 1:15: _____ and _____.

Becoming a Believer *(cont'd)*

Repent:

To repent means to turn around. A person cannot become a believer without acknowledging that he or she has gone the wrong way and deciding to turn away from sin and self-will.

Read Acts 3:19

Why do we need to repent and turn to God? _____

Believe:

Read John 1:12. To become a child of God, one must _____ Him, or _____ in His name. To believe in Jesus' name means not only to accept the truth of who He is and what He has done for us, but also to stake our faith and hope in life on it.

I Corinthians 15:1-4 gives the essential facts we are to believe: Christ _____ for our sins, was _____, and was _____ on the third day.

Have you believed in Christ according to this description? ___ Yes ___ No

If so, describe how it happened:

If not, are you ready to repent and put your faith in Jesus? Does the following prayer express the desire of your heart? ___ Yes ___ No

Lord, Jesus, I want to know you personally. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sin. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.

SECTION II: GROWTH

*Believers are to grow as disciples (followers) of Jesus.
The following practices help us become better disciples.*

Devotional Life:

Daily communion with God and meditation on His Scripture is a crucial discipline for growing in Christ. Meditation is prayerful reflection with a view to understanding and application. What are some of the benefits of daily meditation on the Word of God?

Psalm 119:9-11

Psalm 1:1-3

II Timothy 3:16-17

Set a Time and Place

- When is a good time for you to set aside for time alone with God to read His Word, meditate on it, and pray?
- Where is a good place?

Select a Reading Plan

The length of each day's reading can be anywhere from a few verses to several chapters. Many Bible reading guides are available, or you can plan your own reading. Many people at Bethel use either the One Year Bible or a similar plan.

What is your Bible reading plan? _____

Meditate on the Reading and Its Application to Your Life

The intent is not just to get through the reading, but to discover what God has for you in it. Write down thoughts and impressions that God gives you as you read. Good things to look for are:

- promises
- commands
- examples
- sins to confess
- things to praise God for
- things to ask God for

Read James 1:22-25. What should be your response to the things God shows you in your life through His Word?

Pray

Prayer is talking with God. Through prayer we develop and sustain our relationship with Him. Through prayer we align our perspective with His. Through prayer we invite Him to act in our lives and in the lives of others.

Some people use the following outline as they pray:

- A Adoration:**
Praise God and affirm your love for Him and commitment to Him.
- C Confession:**
Acknowledge your failures and shortcomings.
- T Thanksgiving:**
Thank God for the eternal things He reveals to us in Scripture, the big blessings in your life, and the immediate things you are experiencing.
- S Supplication:**
Ask God for the things you need and the things He wants to do in your life, your family, your church, other people, and around the world. Keep a list of the things He impresses you to request. Note how He answers them.

Match the following elements of prayer with the related verse:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| _____ Praise | a. Psalm 73:25 |
| _____ Expression of love and commitment | b. Psalm 32:5 |
| _____ Confession of sin | c. Psalm 145:1-6 |
| _____ Thanking Him for what He has done | d. Matthew 7:9-11 |
| _____ Asking for our needs | e. Matthew 9:37,38 |
| _____ Praying for others | f. Psalm 100:4 |
| _____ Praying for God's work | g. I Timothy 2:1 |

How are we to pray?

Matthew 6:5,6	
Matthew 6:6,7	
I Thessalonians 5:17	
Matthew 21:22	
Philippians 4:6	
James 4:3	
I John 5:14-15	
Psalm 66:18	

What difficulties do you have in prayer?

Fellowship

Another essential component of Christian discipleship is fellowship with other believers. The Christian life cannot be lived in isolation. God intends for us to function as parts of Christ's body. You need other parts, and the body needs you.

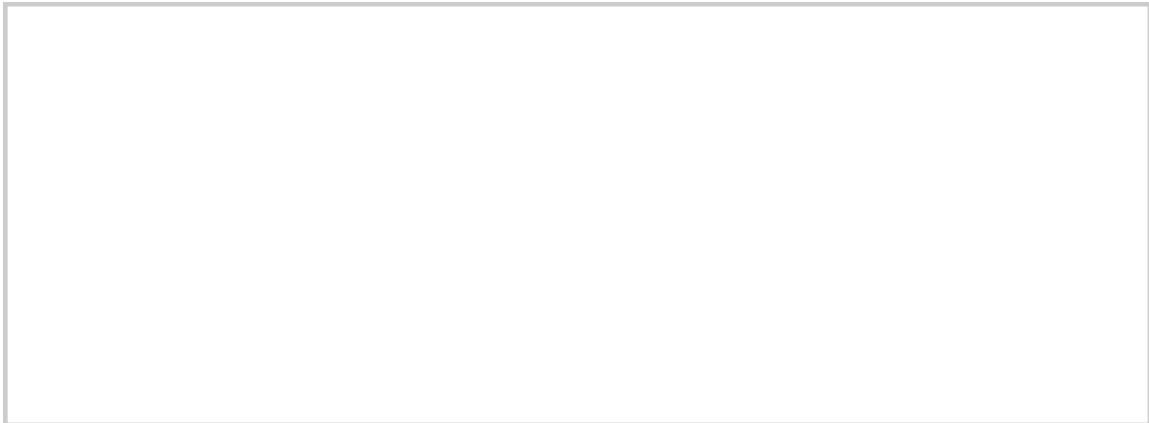
- Read Hebrews 10:24,25.
- What is one thing we are not to do? _____
- What are two things we are to stimulate one another toward?
 _____ and _____
- What are some other "one anothers" commanded in Scripture?

John 13:34	
Romans 15:7	
Galatians 5:13	
Galatians 6:2	
I Thessalonians 5:11	
I Peter 4:9	
Colossians 3:16	
James 5:16	

These and many other Christian responsibilities to one another are meant to build us up as individuals and as the body of Christ. They should be exhibited toward all Christians and within every church. However, many of them are difficult to fulfill apart from relationships developed through regular, extended, deeper-level interaction.


At Bethel, a primary mechanism for developing true fellowship is a small group. Small Groups provide the opportunity for belonging, caring, accountability, prayer, and mutual ministry and growth in discipleship. This type of fellowship is also promoted in Joy in the Morning and Joy in the Evening for women; Iron Men groups for men, and GROW Groups. Meaningful fellowship can also be found in many other small groups with more specialized purposes.

How are you experiencing meaningful fellowship at Bethel?



Fellowship is deepened by collaborating in ministry, *Phil. 2:25*.
You will find purposeful fellowship
as you partner with others in a place of service.

Who are you laboring with in the ministry?



Sharing Christ

Every Christian has the ability, privilege, and responsibility to give life-changing good news to others. Through life and words we represent Christ and offer hope.

Read II Corinthians 5:20. We are Christ's _____

Read Acts 1:8. We are Christ's _____

Read Matthew 5:13. We are the _____ of the earth.

Read Matthew 5:14-16. We are the _____ of the world.

To let your light shine demands no more than honesty. If you are transparent about who you are, it is impossible not to witness.

What are some reasons why a Christian may not feel comfortable speaking about Christ or letting others know of his faith?

-
-
-

A Christian is not responsible for making others believe, but for living the Christian life and telling the simple facts of the gospel. In I Corinthians 2:1-5 Paul says he did not witness with _____. He focused on _____.

There are several things you can do to share Christ effectively:

Live a Devoted Life

I Peter 3:15,16. What will stimulate people ask about the hope within you?

Resolve to "Fly the Flag"

II Timothy 1:7,8. Do not be _____ or _____.

Pray for People: list 5 people you can pray for to receive Christ.

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•
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•
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Sharing Christ *(cont'd)*

Build Bridges to People

Relationships are the bridges over which the gospel can travel. They can be built over long periods of time or over short periods. Genuine concern and credibility promote acceptance of your words. The key element in building a bridge for the gospel is to listen for felt needs and explain how Jesus can meet that specific need.

How did Jesus build a bridge in John 4:1-26?

Know the Message

What are the gospel facts Paul listed in I Cor. 15:1-4?

Outline a simple gospel presentation:

Know Your Story

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•	
•	
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People are likely to listen to your experience. Can you explain succinctly how you came to faith in Christ and the difference He has made in your life? Outline it below:

Before you met Christ:

How you met Christ:

How it changed your life:

Be Ready and Look for Opportunities

I Peter 3:15

II Timothy 4:2

Stewardship and Giving

- Managing the resources God entrusts to you is a major part of discipleship. Christians are responsible for using all of their time and money in a way that is pleasing and glorifying to God.
- Your priorities and values are demonstrated in the way you use your time and money. Jesus said, “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” *Matt 6:21*. Problems such as greed, self-indulgence, materialism, impatience, selfishness, and wrong priorities usually show themselves in calendars and pocket books.
- The Lord Jesus spoke more about money and money management than he did about heaven and hell! The topic is obviously of importance to God, not because He needs our money, but because money (and material possessions in general) have an uncanny way of becoming idols in our lives.
- A reading of the Gospels shows that God’s desire is that we use what He has given us monetarily for Kingdom gain. Match the verses on the left with the stewardship principles on the right to see how this is to be done.

---	Psalm 24:1	A	Give cheerfully and freely.
---	II Corinthians 9:7b,c	B	God blesses when you give.
---	II Corinthians 9:6	C	God owns everything you have.
---	II Corinthians 9:7a	D	Personally determine your giving.
---	Deuteronomy 16:17	E	Give proportionately.
---	I Corinthians 16:2	F	Support those who minister to you.
---	I Corinthians 9:14	G	Give regularly and in a planned way.
---	II Corinthians 8:1-5	H	Give sacrificially / generously.

Stewardship and Giving (*cont'd*)

- In practical terms, responsible giving means investing a portion of the financial resources He has entrusted to us as stewards in God's work in the local church and around the world. If we are committed to the local church and desire membership, then we need to share in the vision and work of the church, including financially.
- How much should we give? In the Old Testament, the standard was a tithe, which is equivalent to 10% (Malachi 3:8-10). Although a specific percentage is not given in the New Testament, it is reasonable to conclude that we should give *at least* 10%. Why at least 10%? Because the Lord Jesus took each Old Testament command that God had given Israel and "raised the bar" on it. For instance, in the areas of murder and adultery, He expanded the external prohibition to include internal prohibitions as well (Matt. 5:21-30). He did this because we have a resource that Old Testament saints did not have – the indwelling Holy Spirit. Having this source of power, we are able to live as Jesus lived, and give as Jesus gave. This includes giving beyond the minimum God called for in the Old Testament.
- As a practical guideline, we (the elders) ask Bethel members give 10% of their income to Bethel, and additional resources to other ministries, as the Lord leads. By giving to Bethel, an individual is investing not only in the Lord's work in the Tri Cities, but also in His work overseas.

SECTION III: DOCTRINE

Baptism

Jesus commanded his disciples to go and make disciples. What are two aspects of making disciples listed in Matthew 28:19,20?

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Baptism is an outward expression of faith and new life in Christ. It does not change a person's standing with God, but is a symbolic testimony of what has happened in his or her life. It is also an expression of commitment. A person who is being baptized is expressing the following:

- I am obeying the Lord's command.
- I have been born again through faith in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
- I pledge myself to walk as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- I have become a part of the body of Christ; I identify with and commit myself to other Christians.

Baptism of Believers Only

The standard practice in the New Testament was to baptize new believers. The only person who should be baptized is one who has been born again by personally accepting Christ's death for his or her sins and is living a life in fellowship with Him. Someone who was baptized prior to receiving Christ as personal Savior has not yet experienced biblical baptism.

Who was baptized in each of the following passages? Were they baptized in water before or after receiving the good news of Jesus Christ?

SCRIPTURE	WHO?	BEFORE or AFTER?
Acts 2:41		
Acts 8:12		
Acts 8:35-38		
Acts 16:14-15		
Acts 16:30-33		

T / F A person should be baptized in order to become a Christian.

T / F A person should be baptized as a proclamation that he or she has become a Christian.

T / F Someone who was baptized before personally trusting Jesus as Savior should be baptized again as a believer.

Baptism by Immersion

How do the following verses indicate that New Testament baptism was by immersion?

Acts 8:38	
Matthew 3:16	
Mark 1:5	
Colossians 2:12	

Although arguments can and have been made regarding the mode of baptism, Bethel requires believer baptism by immersion for membership for the following reasons:

- In the original scripture text, the word “baptize” is synonymous with the word for immersion.
- Baptism by immersion clearly follows the example of Jesus in His water baptism.
- Baptism by immersion more clearly symbolizes the meaning of our salvation, death to the old life and a new life in Christ (Romans 6).
- Bethel is an affiliate of the Conservative Baptist Association. Although, as a local church, we are an autonomous body, we have willingly chosen to follow the guidelines of the Association in the area of believer baptism by immersion for membership. This position is stated in Article VII of our constitution.

This position in no way implies that people who have been baptized as believers by means other than immersion are inferior or less spiritual than those who have been baptized by immersion. However, we feel that, for the above reasons, we must hold onto the requirement for baptism by immersion for membership in Bethel. Historically, we have found that for those who have willingly submitted to re-baptism (even for the purpose of membership in Bethel) the experience became a special and rewarding one.

Communion

Because of Christ's death on the cross, you are able to have an abundant life. Jesus wanted us to remember what He did for us on the cross, so He instituted what is called communion, or the Lord's Supper. We believe that communion is both a joyous celebration of what Jesus did for us and a serious remembrance of what it cost Him.

Read Matthew 26:26-29:

What were the two elements Jesus offered?
What did He say they each represented?

•	
•	

Read I Corinthians 11:23-26: What message (v.26) are we proclaiming when we observe communion by eating bread and drinking wine (juice at Bethel)?

If communion is a testimony of what Christ's broken body and shed blood mean to you, should you participate if you have not received Christ as your Savior? ___ Yes ___ No

Read I Corinthians 11:27-30: What should a person do before partaking of communion in order to be sure that he is not participating inappropriately? (verse 28)

**Read I John 1:9;
Matthew 5:23,24**

If God points out unconfessed sin in your life as you are preparing take communion, what should you do?

At Bethel we observe communion once a quarter in Sunday Worship and once a quarter in Small Groups. All Christians are invited to participate; church membership is not required.

Parents are asked to determine whether or not their children should participate; they should if they have received the Lord and understand what communion signifies.

Bethel Beliefs

Read the statement below and answer the following questions on pages 27-29

- Section 1 - The Scripture** - We believe the Bible and only the Bible to be God's infallible Word and the Christian's supreme authority in all matters of faith and practice. We affirm our belief in the verbal and plenary inspiration of the Scripture in their original autographs. (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21; I Peter 1:25)
- Section 2 - God and the Trinity** - We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. While its members possess individual, personal attributes, the Trinity is without division of nature, essence, or being. (Genesis 1:1; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; 4:24; II Corinthians 13:14; I John 4:13)
- Section 3 - Jesus Christ** - We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, born of the Virgin Mary, sinless in life, who atoned for the sins of the world by His substitutionary death on the cross. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension into heaven, and His High Priestly intercession for His people. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:1, 14; Acts 1:9-11; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:25; 9:24; I John 2:1-2)
- Section 4 - The Holy Spirit** - We believe the Holy Spirit to be the third person in the Trinity, whose ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. During this age, the Holy Spirit draws men unto God; convicts men of sin, righteousness, and judgment; and indwells, guides, instructs, and empowers the believer for godly service. (John 14:16-17, 26; 16:8-15; Romans 5:5; 8:9-11; I Corinthians 3:16; 12:12-14; II Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:13-14; Matthew 28:19-20)
- Section 5 - Man** - We believe that Adam was created in the image of God but fell into sin and that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and therefore, lost. However, we believe that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). We believe that those who accept Christ as Savior and Lord shall be forever in God's presence and those who reject Christ as Savior and Lord will be forever separated from God and be cast into the lake of fire for eternal punishment. (Genesis 1:26-27; Mark 9:43-44; John 3:36; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12; II Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:15)
- Section 6 - Salvation** - We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ provides the only ground for salvation for all who believe. Only those who receive Jesus Christ and are born of the Holy Spirit can thus become children of God. (John 1:12; 3:16; Acts 13:38-39; Romans 5:1; 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 1:5-8; Hebrews 9:22; I Peter 1:18-19; 2:24)
- Section 7 - Satan** - We believe in the reality of Satan as a personal angelic being who has fallen from his original state of heavenly glory and is now the prince of the corrupt, anti-God world-system. We believe in Satan's final and eternal judgment in the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:10; Ephesians 2:2; II Corinthians 4:4; Ezekiel 28:11-19; John 14:30; Job 1:12; 2:6)

Section 8 - The Church - We believe that the true Church is composed of all persons who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of members of the true Church. These shall be eligible for membership in the local church. (Acts 2:41; I Corinthians 12:12-13; II Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 4:4-6, 15-16)

Section 9 - The Ordinances - We believe that baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, in testimony of a person's faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Christ. It is a confession that the believer is dead to sin and risen to newness of life in Christ Jesus. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death "till He come." (Matthew 28:19; 26:26-30; Acts 8:35-38; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Section 10 - The Priesthood of the Believer - We believe all people who are born of God have equality of direct access to God's ear and heart, and there is no distinction between people in their exercise of that priesthood in their personal relationships with the Lord. (I Peter 2:5, 9; Hebrews 4:14-16; 2:10-18; Revelation 1:6)

Section 11 - The Last Things - We believe in "that blessed hope" (Titus 2:13) the personal, visible, pre-millennial return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. (Zechariah 14:4-11; Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15)

Based on the preceding statement of beliefs, what does Bethel believe about the following?

T / F All of the words in the Bible were inspired by God as the record of His revelation to us.

Our highest authority is:

- a) the church
- b) our intellect
- c) what seems right
- d) the Bible

Read II Timothy 3:16,17: the Scriptures are profitable for:

•
•
•
•

T / F God the Father created Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

T / F Christians believe in three gods: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Read John 10:30-33: why did the Jews seek to stone Jesus?

--

Which of the following is true of Jesus?

- a) divine nature
- b) fully human
- c) physical resurrection from the dead
- d) all of the above

Which of the following is not true of the Holy Spirit?

- a) draws men unto God
- b) convicts of sin
- c) indwells all men
- d) fills and empower believers

Read John 16:13,14. What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do?

T / F All men are sinners by nature and by choice.

T / F All men have an eternal destiny.

T / F All men will be saved by the shed blood of Jesus.

Which of the following is true of Satan?

- a) fallen angel
- b) the evil one, the enemy, the deceiver
- c) the prince of this world
- d) subject to God's judgment
- e) all of the above

Which of the following is true of Christ's true church?

- a) consists of buildings
- b) consists of born again believers
- c) consists of denominations
- d) eliminates need for local churches
- e) none of the above

Read I Corinthians 12:12-27. In this passage the church is viewed as a _____.
Individuals are viewed as _____ with different _____.
God is concerned that there be no _____ in the church (v 25).

T / F Pastors have better access to God than other Christians.

T / F Pastors are primarily responsible for doing the work of the church.

T / F Jesus will return to earth to rule.

T / F Christians who die will be raised.

The Gifts and Ministries of the Holy Spirit

Preamble

This statement is intended to encompass the broad character of the body at Bethel Church. It is not to be understood as reflecting any one person's viewpoints, but rather is a position the Church Council has chosen to take for the sake of preserving the unity of the Spirit in this ministry. The unity of the Spirit is something created by God, not by men. It was never intended by God to imply a uniformity of opinion with regard to every issue of life, doctrinal or otherwise. Believers can, unfortunately, choose to accentuate their differences rather than focus together on those incontestable purposes for which Christ has called His Church. In so doing they smother unity and become sidetracked in ministry. For while there is a God-allowed diversity of opinion and interpretation regarding doctrinal issues, we must mutually agree what course of action we will take if that diversity affects the overall effectiveness of this ministry. With this in mind, the members of Bethel Church are asked to weigh the expression and propagation of their personal beliefs in light of the statements of this paper.

In the event that doctrinal areas regarding spiritual gifts and their manifestation become a question, the following statements will serve as a guideline for the leadership of this ministry to insure the unity of the body. (1 Cor. 12:25; Romans 12:16; Eph. 4:3)

We mutually agree to hold to the following position:

1. That every believer, at the moment of salvation, is baptized by the Holy Spirit, and is thereby placed into Christ's body. From that position, he is given the privilege of maintaining a powerful and living relationship with Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 12:13; Romans 8:10) This experience is not repeated, it is not an experience that necessitates speaking in tongues, nor is speaking in tongues necessary as a validating sign of having been baptized with the Holy Spirit.
2. That the source of power to live the Christian life comes from being filled with the Holy Spirit. This is a ministry of the Holy Spirit which is a continuously repeatable experience designed to sanctify the believer and give him or her power for ministry and service. (Eph. 5:18; Acts 4:8,31; 13:9)
3. That the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given sovereignly by Him, bestowed only on true believers, and dispersed according to the will of God, not men. (1 Cor. 12:11) Believers are to earnestly desire the biblical expression of spiritual gifts in the body, and especially the greater gifts. (1 Cor. 14:1) The gifts are given for the building up of the body of believers. (1 Cor. 12:7; 14:26)

The Gifts and Ministries of the Holy Spirit *(cont'd)*

Based on the preceding discussion of the Gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit, answer the following:

T / F All sincere Christians will have the same interpretation regarding doctrinal issues.

T / F A mutual understanding of and submission to a church's doctrinal position is important to ensure that diversity of opinion does not interfere with the overall effectiveness of the church's ministry.

T / F Upon receiving Jesus as Savior, every believer is baptized with or indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Which of the following is true of the filling of the Holy Spirit?

- a) occurs once and lasts permanently
- b) intended for selected believers
- c) designed to create an emotional high
- d) synonymous with being baptized with or indwelt by the Spirit
- e) power and control by the Spirit resulting from yielding to Christ

The gifts of the Spirit are discussed in I Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4.

Which of the following is true of the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

- a) special enabling
- b) only Christians receive them
- c) each Christian receives at least one gift
- d) given for the building up of the body
- e) gifts of others are to be valued
- f) all of the above

T / F God may bestow the gifts of healings, miracles, tongues, and interpretation of tongues today if He so desires.

T / F Exercise of these gifts must conform with the biblical guidelines stated in I Corinthians 12 -14.

T / F Expression of individual gifts is more important than the unity of the body.

Do you have any questions or reservations about what Bethel believes concerning these or other doctrinal issues?

SECTION IV: BETHEL SPECIFICS

Bethel's Purpose

What's going on here? Why do we do the things we do? How do we know if we're doing well? Bethel has adopted a statement of purpose to help answer these questions and guide our development. The long form of the purpose statement is:



Building a community of whole people who, through devotion to Jesus Christ, are learning to live every day by the word of God.

The short form of our purpose statement is **“make disciples.”**

What does a disciple look like according to the following verses?

Matthew 28: 19,20	
John 13:35	
John 15:8	
John 8:31	
Luke 9:23	
Luke 14: 26-33	

Bethel's definition of a disciple follows the acronym **GROW**:

G God-Lovers
R Relationship-Builders
O Obedient-Followers

What is **W** World-Influencers one way you could grow in each of these four aspects of discipleship?

God-Lover	
Relationship-Builder	
Obedient Follower	
World-Influencer	

Who are you helping to grow as a disciple? How?

GROW!

Bethel's Values

- Bible as our authority** We seek truth in our teaching, counseling, discipling, and decision-making. The authority of God's revealed truth overrides that of our thoughts, opinions, experiences, feelings, and traditions.
- Excellence as a goal** We always want to grow in Christ likeness and fruitfulness. Creativity and change are valued in our ministries because we want to serve and honor God better.
- Transparency** We desire genuine Christian living. Honesty before God is essential to becoming a Christian, and honesty before each other is a key to genuine fellowship and real growth.
- Hands-on** We value participation and involvement in worship, body life, and ministry. God has given us all gifts, abilities, responsibilities, and opportunities. We desire to be givers, not spectators or consumers.
- Expansion** We believe that living things grow. Personal growth is a sign of life. Church growth is a sign of health and participation in God's kingdom purpose.
- Leadership** We honor called, dedicated servant-leaders who function as a team. We cultivate leaders because every disciple is a leader, and godly leadership is needed in the family, the church, and the world.
- Come as you are** We accept people as they are socially and spiritually. We tend to dress and communicate informally because we don't believe that formality enhances spiritual worship or growth.
- Humor** We have a serious purpose, but a joyful faith. We think church and Christian living are fun and that appropriate humor can draw people together and warm hearts to hear God.
- Uprightness** We value integrity (but it doesn't start with a "u"). We want to do things God's way in speaking the truth, keeping our commitments, handling finances, and living beyond reproach.
- Relevance** We don't change God's message, but present it in a way that people today appreciate and find meaningful. Our music is contemporary and our preaching is practical.
- Community** We are committed to being a unified family and a part of the Tri-City community. We encourage relationships, accountability, commitment, and teamwork rather than independence.
- Humility** We know that we have not arrived. We are still learning. We know we're not self-sufficient. We want to prayerfully call upon God and follow Him with a quiet, gentle spirit.

Can you give an example of how each of the following is valued at Bethel?

Bible as authority
Mark 7:8

Excellence as a goal
Philippians 3:12-15

Transparency
II Corinthians 4:2

Hands-on
Romans 12:6-8

Expansion
Acts 6:7

Leadership
Hebrews 13:7



God-Lovers, Relationship-Builders, Obedient Followers & World

Come as you are
I Samuel 16:7

Humor
Philippians 4:4

Uprightness
Proverbs 11:3

Relevance
I Corinthians 9:19-22

Community
Romans 12:5

Humility
Corinthians 1:26-29

Bethel's Organization

- **Bethel seeks to function according to scriptural commands** and the example of New Testament churches. We recognize some flexibility and differences in the way churches are organized and how they operate. Our structure and guidelines are spelled out in our constitution and bylaws, which you are encouraged to read. Note the following key points:
- **Bethel is affiliated with the Northwest Conservative Baptist Association.** Although we decide for ourselves what God wants us to do as far as doctrine, staff, program, finances, and facilities, we have chosen to cooperate with other churches of similar belief and practice in such things as missions, camps, and training.
- **Elders** are elected by the membership and given responsibility for spiritual guidance and direction of the church. They also make the final decisions regarding finances and staffing.

What are some of the biblical qualifications of an elder, according to I Timothy 3: 1-7?

What are elders to do according to I Peter 5:1-3?

- The **Senior Pastor** is elected by the membership as the primary leader and teacher in the church. The senior pastor is automatically an elder.
- The **Executive Pastor** is charged with oversight of the ministries and operation of the church.
- **Pastors and Directors** are hired by the church to lead and equip the members in ministry. They oversee major ministries of Bethel. These ministries include Children, Middle School, High School, Women, Men, Outreach, Assimilation, Small Groups, Music, Administration, Media and Community Service. Directors who are elected as elders are called pastors.
- Other **Staff** are hired to facilitate the work of the church in a variety of ways. Ministry staff serve and lead in direct ministry, e.g., newcomers, children's ministry. Support staff provide valuable service, e.g., secretarial, event coordination, custodial.
- **Deacons** are elected to lead designated commissions for ministry. Deacon requirements are similar to those of elders (I Timothy 3:8-13). Bethel's commissions include Finance, Property, and Church Services.

Elders, Deacons, and Staff for 2008/2009

Elders

Dick Erickson, Chairman
Dave Bechtel
Bob Bonner
Scott Chambers
Nathan Croskrey

Jim Dirks
Dave Hilliard
Tom Lueck
David Richardson

Deacons

Church Service
Finance
Property
Treasurer

Boyd Hathaway
Blaine Carr
Jim Dirks
Tom Mathieu

Pastors and Directors

Senior Pastor
Executive Pastor
Outreach/Global Missions
Adult Ministry & Assimilation
GROW Groups
Men's Ministry
High School
Middle School
Church Operations & Sports
Children's Ministry
Community Service
Counselor
Women's Ministry
Production & Media
Music
Young Adult Ministries
West Pasco Campus

Dave Bechtel
Bob Bonner
Dave Dawson
Dave Hilliard
Kelli Templeton
Dick Erickson
Seth Hanson
Chris Shelton
Kent Ladendorf
Teri Pearson
John Schultz
Brian Clemmons
Linda Bechtel
Chip Roebuck
Keith Cookson
Dave Stone
Tim Phillips

Children's Ministry Coordinators

Sherri Crawford
Edie Stewart
Pete Firth
Alyssa Thornton
Beth Olsen
Jenny Cowell
Ingrid Powers
Amy Thornton
Zenon Thornton

Financial Secretaries

Beth Wasemiller
Joy Hansen

Facility Manger

Jeff Stewart

IT Technician

Micah Stewart

Special Events Coordinator

Jan Sederburg

Women's Ministry Coordinator

Lorna Dirks
Sandy Crane

Custodians

Donna Huff
Marilyn Hoover
Cindy Windsor
Caleb Guyll

Administrative Assistants

Joanne Lueck
Lorna Foelber
Kelly Machart
Karen McLarnin
Karen Phillips
Michelle Hopp
Evelynne Klein
Debbie Gatherer
Joy Hansen
Melody Ackerman
Jackie Watts

Receptionists

Debbie Gatherer
Pam Ruby

Facility Coordinator

Brenda Hollingsworth

SG Communication Coordinator

Amber Bruce

Singles Ministries Coordinator

Dale Shaver

Growth & Healing

Beth Wasemiller
Don Templeton

Bethel Finances for FY 2008/2009

FY 2008/2009 General Fund Budget Summary

Administration	\$300,000
Capital	226,684
Church Services	17,000
Finance	50,000
Library	2,075
Information Technology	16,200
Office Operations	66,744
Property	197,520
Foreign Missions	265,200*
Community Missions	46,800*
Payroll	1,755,400
Ministries	545,741
Total	3,489,364

Balances as of 12/31/08

General Fund	\$630,603
*NOW	\$2,172,945
Benevolence	\$41,445

Building debt as of 12/31/08

\$1,466,954

*NOW is a three-year \$6 M+ program begun in 2006 to fund building and mission projects for the **N**ext generation, **O**ur community, and **W**orldwide. NOW expenditures for missions and building are not included in the operating budget.

Small Groups

God has used small groups to care for and grow His church since Bible times.

Read Mark 3:13-19

1. How many men were in Jesus' small group?

Read Acts 2:41-47

1. Where did the early Christians meet?
2. What kinds of things did they do?
3. What attitudes did they exhibit?
4. What happened as a result of their church life?

Small groups are the basic means through which Bethel Church lives and works.

We assemble to worship in a large group setting on Sundays, and we have auxiliary structures and ministries to carry out specialized functions, but much of the core mission of the church is carried out through small groups. **Groups have three basic functions (CAT)**

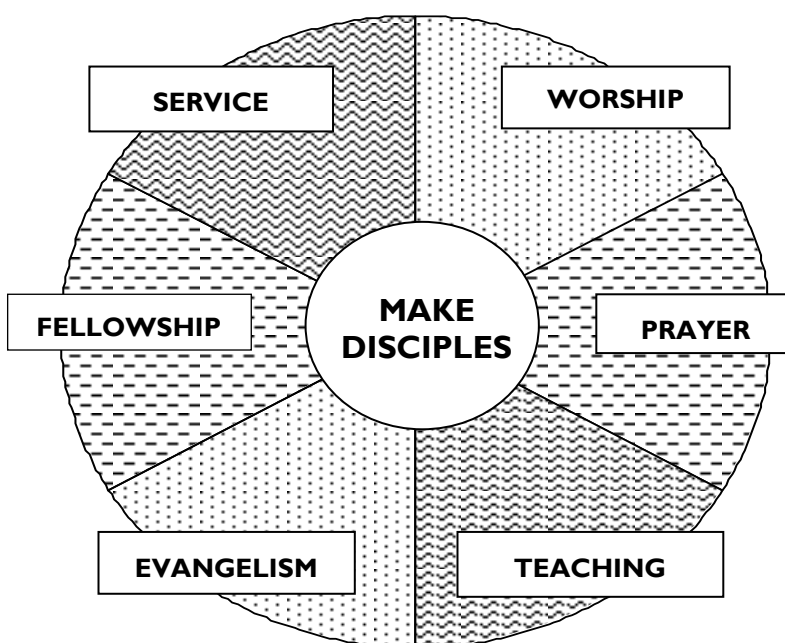
- **COMMUNITY:** People have a deep need to feel that they belong. In a small group, they have opportunity to develop relationships and be knit into the purpose and identity of the church as they do the "one-anothers" commanded in scripture. The pastoral staff and elders cannot keep in touch with the needs of every member in a large church. Small groups can effectively and personally meet the personal and practical needs that arise in the lives of group members.
- **ACTION:** Serving and reaching out in Jesus' name are often a group process. Small groups pray together for the lost, encourage one another in talking about Christ with others, and reach out as a group to share the Christian life with someone, and serve in the church and community together. Body life is a powerful testimony to the validity of the gospel.
- **TRANSFORMATION:** Jesus made disciples in the context of a small group. In small groups we can observe, interact with, pray for, teach, exhort, and encourage each individual. Each person in a Small Group should grow in knowing God and obeying Him. He or she should also develop ministry passion, spiritual gifts, and leadership skills.

Types of Small Groups

Shepherding/Discipling Groups: Everyone at Bethel is encouraged to belong to a shepherding/discipling type group. The following ministries all operate through these small groups:

Women	Joy in the Morning & Joy in the Evening
Men	Ironmen
Resonate	Young Singles and marrieds
GROW Groups	Family-oriented
Life Transformation Groups	High School Discipleship
GROW Groups	Middle School Discipleship
Shepherd Groups	Children

The emphasis and flavor of each shepherding/discipling group will be distinctive, but the goal of each is to produce complete and balanced disciples. Therefore, each group should include the following: elements: Teaching (study), Fellowship, Worship, Prayer, Service, and Evangelism.



Other Types of Small Groups

Growth and Healing Groups:

These groups form around a desire to cope with and overcome a common need or problem. Search for Life groups provide instruction and support, while other groups are designed for men, women, marriage, or special needs.

Service Groups:

Although these groups form around tasks, their purpose is also to care for and grow one another. Examples include Landscaping, Missions groups, and the Special Events Worship Team.

Outreach Groups:

These groups are teams formed with a specific outreach focus. Examples are Alpha and First Steps.

Interest Groups:

Almost any interest can be the basis for a group gathering to connect with and grow one another. Our formula is:

$$\text{Relationship} \times \text{Intentionality} = \text{Discipleship.}$$

Examples of interest groups are Aerobics, Softball, and High Flyers.

- What group or groups are you currently in? How has each been meaningful?

- What other groups might interest you?

- Is there a type of group you might like to lead someday?

Discovering Your Gifts

Three crucial components of a fulfilling church relationship are meaningful worship, personal relationships, and a **well-suited role in the work of the church**. At Bethel, the worship and relationship components are primarily addressed through the Sunday service and small groups. The ministry roles come in varied forms.

Each member brings a special set of abilities, interests, experiences, motivations, and spiritual gifts to the church. Using this mix to serve and build up the body honors the Lord, creates a greater sense of belonging, make a meaningful difference, and is very fulfilling.

Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? How does God use you most naturally? What are you especially good at? What role(s) do you find most fulfilling? What do others in the church see you contributing?

I Corinthians 12:8-10

Wisdom
Knowledge
Faith
Healing
Miracles
Prophecy
Discernment
Tongues
Interpretation

Romans 12:6-8

Encouragement
Giving
Leadership
Mercy

Ephesians 4:11

Evangelism
Shepherding

Exodus 31:3

Craftsmanship

I Corinthians 12:28

Apostleship
Teaching
Helps
Administration

I Timothy 2:1-2

Intercession

I Peter 4:9-10

Hospitality

Psalms 150:3-5

Creative Communication

Finding the Right Fit

Is there a group of people or aspect of the church that you especially care about?

Do you know where in the church you would most like to serve using your gifts?

There are many ways you can serve at Bethel. Some are informal, occasional, or spontaneous; others involve more clearly defined responsibilities. You may want to investigate some of the areas listed here. **Check the areas YOU might be interested in:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Children	<input type="checkbox"/> Growth and Healing
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle School	<input type="checkbox"/> Practical Service
<input type="checkbox"/> High School	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship and Music
<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Adults	<input type="checkbox"/> Drama
<input type="checkbox"/> Women	<input type="checkbox"/> Benevolence
<input type="checkbox"/> Men	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports
<input type="checkbox"/> Singles	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerobics
<input type="checkbox"/> College	<input type="checkbox"/> Office
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Marrieds	<input type="checkbox"/> Library
<input type="checkbox"/> Families	<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Nesters	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping
<input type="checkbox"/> Seniors	<input type="checkbox"/> Greeting
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups	<input type="checkbox"/> Sound, Lights, Tapes
<input type="checkbox"/> Missions	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality
<input type="checkbox"/> Newcomers	<input type="checkbox"/> Weddings
<input type="checkbox"/> Outreach	



NOW Campaign & Thematic Goals

What is the NOW Vision Campaign?

The **NOW** Vision Campaign is a three-year, \$6 million effort to extend our ministry through special building and missions projects. It was begun in 2005 and runs through 2008. The money in the NOW fund has come from contributions designated for NOW, sale of our old building, and General Fund giving beyond expenditures.

The “**N**” portion of NOW is for the **N**ext Generation. Primary projects include the completed Children’s Wing and a Sports/Recreation Facility.

The “**O**” portion of NOW is for **O**ur Community. Projects include Elijah’s Pitstop car repair ministry, Nehemiah’s Network construction ministry, planting a satellite church in West Pasco, and developing a Hispanic ministry through a community center at Tierra Vida in East Pasco. NOW funds have been used to hire a Community Service Director and a West Pasco Satellite Director.

The “**W**” portion of NOW is for **W**orldwide Missions. In addition to our regular missions support, NOW funds are being used to target four countries: Zambia, Mexico, and Iraq. Numerous Bethel teams have gone to these countries to scope out possibilities and support ongoing work. The Zambia work has focused on AIDS relief, improving living conditions, and training pastors. In Central Mexico, we have linked with and trained local pastors and conducted an outreach event and several small construction projects.

What is our Thematic Goal?

In recent years God has directed Bethel to direct greater congregational attention and energy toward a specific value for period of time. Recent thematic goals have been “Let the Light Shine (in our community involvement and service),” “Invite,” and “Pursuing a Deeper Relationship with Jesus.”

The theme for 2008/2009 is “Grab a Hand, GROW Together.” This entails reaching out to another to move up together in the progression of discipleship stages from spiritual “Infant,” to “Child,” to “Young Adult,” to “Parent.” A Core Discipleship Curriculum is being developed to address the Child stage through small groups, and a one-to-one equipping tool is being developed to address the Young Adult stage.

As a congregation, we are focusing on grabbing a hand to grow a “Compassionate Heart,” a “Competent Mind,” and “Helping Hands.” The primary activities for these emphases are holiday giving, Jan Term classes, and serving together at ShareFest.

SECTION V: MEMBERSHIP

Bethel Membership

We are more interested in making disciples of Jesus Christ than in making Bethel members. Membership, however, can be a helpful step of growth, commitment, and participation in what God is doing here.

Joining a church allows an individual believer to better fulfill the corporate dimension of discipleship. How do the following verses relate to church membership?

Hebrews 10:24,25	
Hebrews 13:17	
Acts 4:34,35	
I Peter 5:2,3	

By taking membership, an individual expresses:

- commitment to other members of the body
- agreement with the church's fundamental beliefs and goals
- desire to participate in the work of the church
- mutual accountability with others in the church
- willingness to accept the leadership of church leaders

At Bethel, only members are permitted to vote on congregational decisions or hold certain leadership and ministry positions.

The requirements for membership are:

- born again through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- believer's baptism by immersion
- commitment to Christian living and the church body as described in the church covenant of fellowship

-
- The membership commitment is expressed in the Covenant of Fellowship on pages 47 & 48.
 - Prayerfully read and consider the covenant.
 - Determine if it expresses the commitment God would have you make.

After reading the Covenant,
which is NOT a part of the membership commitment?

- _____ Read the Bible regularly
 - _____ Attend worship regularly
 - _____ Contribute to the financial support of the church
 - _____ Live a consistent, God-honoring life
 - _____ Assist in the work of the church
 - _____ Attend church business meetings
 - _____ Provide pastors' lawn care
-

Membership Covenant at Bethel Church

I, _____, having been led by God the Holy Spirit to receive Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord,

having been **baptized** by immersion as a profession of my faith,

being **committed** to personal growth as a disciple of Jesus,

having **studied** Bethel's doctrine, purpose, and government, and

desiring to unite in the worship, fellowship, and work of the local expression of Christ's spiritual body known as Bethel Church,

I enter into the following covenant with other Bethel members to be a:

God Lover

- Regularly read and meditate on Scripture. (*II Tim 3:16,17; Rom 12:2; II Tim 2:15*)
- Pursue a continual, intimate relationship with God through prayer and listening to God. (*Ps 141:2; Col 4:2*)
- Worship and learn regularly in Bethel worship services. (*Ps 69:30; Ps 122:1; Acts 2:42*)

Relationship Builder

- Love one another as Christ loves us, being humble, gentle, patient, slow to take offense, and quick to forgive and seek forgiveness. (*John 13:34,35; Eph 4:1,2; Matt 18:15-20*)
- Invest energy and time in building authentic relationships to stimulate spiritual growth in one another, typically through a small group. (*Heb 10:24,25; Acts 20:20; Col 1:28*)
- Pray with and for one another, sharing our burdens, sorrows, and joys. (*Rom 12:15; Gal 6:2*)
- Promote unity, godliness, and scriptural faithfulness within the church. (*Eph 4:3; Phil 2:1-4*)

Obedient Follower

- Commit to the Lordship of Christ and the authority of the Bible in how I conduct my life. (*Lk 9:23,24; I Jn 5:2,3; Psalm 119:10*)
- Turn from all godless living and sinful pleasures, and to live a consistent, God-honoring life. (*Titus 2:11-13*)
- Be a devoted, faithful, and spiritually encouraging spouse, if married. (*Eph 5:22-33; I Pet 3:1-7; Matt 19:3-6*)
- Offer Christian love, instruction, guidance, and discipline to any children God may entrust to me. (*Eph 6:4; Titus 1:6*)
- Give financially to the Lord through Bethel: consistently, proportionately, and generously. (*Mal 3:10; II Cor 8:7; I Cor 16:1,2; II Cor 9:6-8*)

World Influencer

- Endeavor by example, relationship, word, and prayer to win others to an acceptance of Jesus as Savior and Lord. (*I Cor 9:19-22; Col 1:28*)
- Use my time, abilities, and spiritual gifts to assist in the work of the church and to promote its usefulness in making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in our community and the world. (*Rom 12:6-8; I Cor 12; Matt 28:19,20*)
- Promote what is godly in our community, and to demonstrate God's love to the poor and hurting. (*Matt 5:13-16; Matt 25:31-46*)

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Getting Practical about the Membership Covenant

God Lover

- In the past two weeks, on how many days have you read the Bible, and on how many have you prayed?

- How many times in the past two months have you attended worship services at Bethel?

Relationship Builder

- Give a recent example of how you have shown love or patience toward someone, forgiven someone, or asked forgiveness?

- How and with whom are you consistently investing energy and time to build authentic relationships, stimulate spiritual growth, and share burdens, and pray for others?

Obedient Follower

- Give an example of the Lordship of Christ and the authority of the Bible in a recent decision you made.

- If you are married or have children, how do you love and encourage them in Christian faith and practice?

- In the past three months, what percentage of your income have you contributed to Bethel?

World Influencer

- In what ways have you volunteered to serve through Bethel in the past three months.

- In the past six months, what have you done to help win others to Christ or demonstrate His love to those outside the church?

Membership Process

***We receive members through the recommendation of a Small Group.
The process involves several steps:***

- **Get involved in a Small Group.**
Participation in a Small Group will prepare you for membership commitment and give our body a chance to get to know you.
- **Complete this self-study membership training booklet.**
Someone in the Small Group will be able to answer questions or provide assistance.
- **Have your Small Group leader or designee review your booklet and complete the membership recommendation on the last page.**
- **Attend a membership orientation and interview.**
When you have completed the booklet and the Small Group is confident of your relationship with the Lord and commitment to Bethel, you may attend an orientation for prospective members. Church leadership holds these orientations approximately quarterly. The orientation is an opportunity to affirm our mutual vision and commitment and to discuss any unresolved issues or questions.

The small group interview with an Elder addresses issues such as personal testimony, baptism, previous church involvement, acceptance of church doctrinal beliefs, agreement with Church Covenant commitments, and identification of possible areas of service. It is intended to welcome you to Bethel and praise the Lord for what He has done in your life.

Note: Bring your completed booklet with the Recommendation for Membership, page 52, completed by your Small Group Leader or designee. We invite your Small Group leader or designee to attend the interview with you, but it is not mandatory.

Application for Membership

NAME: _____

Why do you want to be a member of Bethel?

Have you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? ____ Yes ____ No

Describe how you came to that decision:

Have you been baptized? ____ Yes ____ No

Explain when, where, and how:

Describe any previous church relationships. Why did you leave?

Do you have any questions or reservations about Bethel's doctrinal statement or constitution?

If so, what?

Do your responses on the Getting Practical form indicate that you are living according to the commitments of the Covenant of Fellowship, including attendance, giving, relationships, spiritual disciplines, and service? _____ Yes _____ No

Are you in a Small Group? ____ Yes ____ No

Which one? _____

What ministry or area of service in the church are you involved in or would you like to be involved in?

Interviewers: _____

Date: _____

Recommendation for Membership

To be filled out by Small Group leader or designee

Name: _____

Small Group making recommendation: _____

_____ The candidate clearly understands what it means to be a Christian, and has trusted Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior.

_____ The candidate attends worship service regularly.

_____ The candidate attends Small Group meetings and activities faithfully.

_____ I have discussed the commitments expected of Bethel members (Covenant of Fellowship) with the candidate. He/she demonstrates an understanding of and faithfulness to the following:

_____ personal walk with the Lord (Bible reading, prayer, witness, etc.)

_____ relationship with members (involvement, care, attitude, etc.)

_____ serving

_____ giving

_____ The candidate has completed the Bethel Membership Training booklet, and I have reviewed it with him/her.

Comments:

Based on his/her faith, character, and commitment to Bethel, we recommend

_____ for membership.

(Signed by Small Group leader or designee)
