



Membership Commitment

We are so excited to know that you are considering committing to Northside through membership. We hope the following information helps you understand what it means to be a member of Northside, and that you feel the freedom to ask any questions you may have as you go through it.

Why Membership Matters

Membership is an expression of your desire to make Northside Church your “home” church. As such, it carries particular significance in the following ways:

- It speaks of your commitment to pray for and seek God’s best for Northside.
- It is a public commitment indicating your desire to be actively involved in the ministry of Northside.
- It expresses your desire to follow Jesus and invites the church into that journey with you.
- It promotes the sort of relationships within the church that we believe the Bible calls us toward.
- It is a genuine encouragement to the church body and leadership when someone joins the church in this way.
- It allows you (if you are 16 or older) to vote on some of the most important aspects at Northside as outlined in Northside’s bylaws.
- It shows your agreement with the major beliefs and priorities of Northside.

Requirements of Membership

Membership means we share a common faith and have basic agreement on the beliefs, practices, philosophies, and direction of Northside. We hope the following requirements for membership help you understand key values we believe Northside members should hold in common.

- *A Personal relationship with Jesus Christ by faith. We believe that members should always be considering these five areas of their relationship with Jesus.*
 - Understanding our need for Jesus. This means having an accurate understanding of what sin is and does in our lives as well as understanding that it is what Jesus has done that leads us to true forgiveness, restoration, and reconciliation with God.
 - Inviting Jesus into our everyday lives. This means growing in our desire and ability to allow Jesus to be the Lord of our life, giving Him the proper authority in our lives.
 - A desire to grow in our relationship with Him. We believe that investing in our relationship with Jesus is important. Northside provides several resources that can help, but we as individuals should take on the appropriate ownership of our faith.
 - Learning more and more about what it means to follow Jesus.
 - Growing in our understanding of God's Word and the role it should play in the life of a believer.
- *Baptism by Immersion. We believe that this is the biblical precedent and that it embodies significant symbolism intended by God both for the benefit of those being baptized and for those who are there in support. If you have not yet been baptized by immersion, this does not preclude you from becoming a member, providing you commit to being baptized at an upcoming Baptism Sunday.*
- *Belief that the Bible is the Word of God. We believe that the Bible is wholly and completely the Word of God and is God's revelation to us.*
- *The willingness to make a membership commitment at Northside Church. This is done through signing the membership statement. After you have signed the membership statement you will be introduced to the congregation and welcomed as a member of the Northside family.*

We believe that our relationship with God really is a relationship, and that what God has for you is not just on the other side of life, but that it's also lived out here and now. No one does it perfectly and God even uses those areas and places where we struggle to cause growth in our relationship with Him when we are truly seeking Him. Our desire for the members of Northside is that we would be honestly seeking Jesus, unafraid to ask honest questions, and that we'd honestly trust Him for the answers.

Responsibilities of a Member

Northside's membership responsibilities are not intended to be taken as a rigorous code of conduct, but rather as directions from a loving God who created us, knows us, and desires the best for us. That God desires them for us and not from us is an incredibly important distinction. We believe these responsibilities are rooted in biblical instruction given for both our individual benefit and that of the church body. As part of an expression of desire to follow Jesus and commit to the body of Northside, we expect members to agree to the following:

- A commitment to regular attendance.
 - *“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”* (Hebrews 10:25)
- A commitment to spiritual growth.
 - *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* (2 Peter 3:18)
- A commitment to service as the Lord directs.
 - *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others.”* (1 Peter 4:10)
- A commitment to speak well of the church to others.
 - *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”* (Ephesians 4:29)
- A commitment to Christian principles of life.
 - *“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.”* (Philippians 1:27)
- A commitment to support the church financially as God directs.
 - *“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- A commitment to encourage others to be a part of the Northside family and to welcome those who do come to Northside.
 - *“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”* (Romans 15:7)
- A commitment to respect Northside’s leadership.
 - *“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”* (Hebrews 13:17)

Northside's Purpose

Northside exists to help people experience all that God has for them by helping them identify and take steps in what we believe are three of the most important relationships we have.

- Our relationship with Christ
- Our relationship with His Church
- Our relationship with our community (and beyond)

Statement of Membership Commitment

I have read through the "Requirements of Membership" and acknowledge the following (please mark the boxes to confirm):

- I have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and believe the Bible is God's Word

- I have been baptized by immersion as a statement of my faith OR I have not been baptized by immersion, but am committing to do so at an upcoming Baptism Sunday

- I am ready to make a public commitment to Northside Christian Church as a member

I have read through the "Responsibilities of a Member." I understand them and am ready to commit myself to fulfilling those responsibilities with integrity before God.

Printed Name

Signature

Date