

Candlelight Christian Fellowship Voluntary Membership

Local Members

Being a member of the church is a declaration of commitment. It is a commitment to the beliefs, vision, direction, leadership and to the other members of the fellowship. As a member, you are declaring agreement with, dedication to, and active participation in the ministry life of the local church.

It has long been our belief that the New Testament demonstrates the model for “church membership:” Those who are born again believers and who participate in the local church are members. Therefore, we as Christians are “members of the body of Christ.” However, with a continuing decline in moral values, and a failure to provide accountability—both here at Candlelight and with other churches in the community and country—we chose to develop a voluntary membership for those who “attend” Candlelight in person or online. Furthermore, with participants as members, we are better equipped to serve the body and provide networking, follow-up and assess needs in the church family.

Although the term “church member” is not specifically used in the Biblical text, it is the position of Candlelight Christian Fellowship that the idea of recognized membership is not a contradiction to the Biblical model. Believers are certainly called to participate in the life of a local church (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 4:7-16). It is here that the various gifts we exercise are used to assist growth and maturity in Christ (1 Corinthians 12). Membership is a concept which upholds the importance of the body of Christ and helps to guard against the tendencies of independence and disunity the Bible warns against. By becoming a “member” of Candlelight Christian Fellowship, you are declaring your commitment to Christ, and to our ministry leadership. It is a declaration of intent to use your gifts for the edification of those who are part of the Candlelight Family and to maintain the bond of unity with the fellowship while awaiting the Lord’s return.

“Membership” at Candlelight will serve us all because it allows us to know those who are committed to our ministry goals and those who share our vision to make devoted followers of Christ. We depend on our members to help shape the ministries we offer and provide insight and assistance in fulfilling our mission. As members of the church, together we will share a greater awareness of each other’s gifts and talents as well as needs or weaknesses. This will help us shape our ministries in a way that best edifies you and the other members of the congregation. It also helps us know whom we can depend on in fulfilling the long-term goals of the ministry. Because we are dedicated to you, it is vital that we maintain a membership database and an updated contact/ mailing list for communications and accountability in this growing family of people. Our goal is to do our very best to serve you all in Jesus’ name with excellence and love.

Those of you who desire to be added to the “local member” roster should be comfortable with a few fundamental attributes.

As mentioned above *“Being a member of the church is a declaration of commitment. It is a commitment to the beliefs, vision, direction, leadership and to the other members of the fellowship. As a member,*

you are declaring agreement with, dedication to, and active participation in the ministry life of the local church.” Participation includes but is not limited to, lifestyle befitting a Christian, a willingness of all local members to regularly attend and support the gatherings of the fellowship, a commitment to financially support the fellowship, and the desire to maintain accountability with the church—in life and conduct.

Being a local member will not bind or otherwise restrict you, obligate you, or enforce upon you anything not already embraced by being a member of body of Christ.

Candlelight Local Membership

All local professing believers, you are those who physically attend Candlelight (18 or older) and wish to become members should attend all Church Shopping classes (101, 201, 202, and 301) as a prerequisite to membership unless given an exception by a pastor/elder. Church Shopping classes are offered quarterly. This ensures 1) an individual has demonstrated consistency in attendance and giving, 2) confirms they are aware of Candlelight’s major doctrines before they become eligible to teach/lead a ministry, 3) mitigates the “revolving-door” effect of members who join prematurely out of emotions.

At the completion of CS 301, the individual will be sent a link to Candlelight’s membership request form. If the individual is in full agreement with Candlelight’s membership policy, as well as doctrinal statements, they may digitally sign the membership covenant and submit the form via email. They will be sent a confirmation of membership in reply. Local Membership grants the individual all other current membership benefits, including access to use the church facilities for ceremonies, memorial services, and approved events, voting privileges, member benevolence aid, and ministry leadership opportunities. *(See Candlelight Article on Membership, and By-Laws Article I)*

Discontinuance or Revocation

Current Candlelight By-Laws (Article I. Section 4. Subsection 2a) discontinues membership for those with “Non-Attendance for a period of 183 days or more.” (Please note, Candlelight services offered are not subject to membership. We desire to serve all—free of obligation.)