

YOUR CHURCH NAME HERE

Membership Class

Introduction: Who We Are

Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

This passage from Acts provides a beautiful picture of the early church community. Like those first believers, we gather as a church family committed to learning, fellowship, worship, prayer, generous giving, and missional living.

Our Purpose Grace Fellowship Anderson exists to help people experience _____, _____, _____ and _____ through a personal relationship with Jesus.

What Makes Membership Different Many churches have casual attenders or regular visitors, but membership represents something deeper. When you become a member, you are making a covenant commitment to this local church family and its leaders. You're saying "I belong here" and "this church family belongs to me."

Membership means you are:

- _____ in the mission and vision of this church
- _____ to the spiritual growth of this community
- Under the spiritual _____ and care of our pastors and elders
- _____ to use your gifts and resources for God's Kingdom work here

As Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us: *"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*

Answer Key: (hope, joy, peace, purpose, Invested, Committed, covering, Ready)

Section 1: Continued Growth as a Disciple of Jesus

Scripture Focus: 2 Peter 3:17-18 (ESV) *"You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."*

Additional Scriptures to Read:

- Philippians 1:6
- 1 Peter 2:2-3
- Colossians 2:6-7

Following Jesus is not a one-time decision but a _____ journey of growth and transformation. When we become members of Grace Fellowship Anderson, we commit to pursuing spiritual maturity through various means of grace.

Personal Spiritual Disciplines The foundation of spiritual growth happens in our _____ relationship with God through:

- **Bible Reading and Study:** We commit to regularly reading God's Word, allowing it to _____ our minds and hearts (Romans 12:2)
- **Prayer:** Maintaining ongoing _____ with God throughout our daily lives (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- **Worship:** Living lives that _____ God in all we do, not just on Sundays (Romans 12:1)

Community Growth God designed us to grow in _____ with other believers:

- **Sunday Teaching:** Regularly attending worship services where God's Word is proclaimed and we gather as the body of Christ
- **Small Group Participation:** Engaging in deeper _____ and Bible study with fellow believers
- **Accountability Relationships:** Having trusted friends who help us _____ spiritually and hold us accountable to our commitments

Ongoing Transformation As members, we acknowledge that spiritual growth is:

- A _____ process, not a destination
- Dependent on God's _____, not our own effort alone
- Evidenced by increasing _____ to Jesus in our character and actions
- Meant to impact every area of our lives: relationships, work, finances, and service

Discussion Questions:

1. What spiritual disciplines have been most helpful in your growth as a Christian?

2. How do you see community playing a role in your spiritual development?

Answer Key: (lifelong, personal, transform, communication, honor, community, fellowship, grow, lifelong, grace, likeness)

Section 2: Participation in the Life of the Church Through Worship, Serving, and Small Groups

Scripture Focus: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 18 (ESV) *"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many... But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose."*

Additional Scriptures to Read:

- Ephesians 4:11-16
- Romans 12:4-8
- 1 Peter 4:10-11

God has designed the church to function as a _____, where every member has a vital role to play. Participation in church life is not optional for members—it's essential for both personal growth and the health of our church family.

Corporate Worship Regular attendance at weekend worship services is important because:

- We gather as the _____ people of God to praise Him together
- We receive teaching and instruction from God's _____
- We participate in communion and other ordinances that Jesus _____
- We encourage one another through our presence and participation
- We model _____ to our families and community

Fill in the blank: Corporate worship is not about being _____ but about _____ God and His people.

Serving Through Ministry Teams Every member is called to serve because:

- God has given each believer specific _____ and abilities (1 Corinthians 12:7)
- The church functions best when everyone _____ their part (Ephesians 4:16)
- Serving others reflects the _____ of Jesus, who came to serve (Mark 10:43-45)
- Through service, we discover more about how God has _____ us

Common areas of service at Grace Fellowship include:

- _____ ministries (children, youth, young adults)

- _____ team (greeters, ushers, setup/teardown)
- _____ ministries (music, media, sound)
- _____ and missions
- _____ and facility care

Small Group Engagement Small groups are essential for:

- Building deeper _____ beyond Sunday morning
- Studying God's Word together in a more _____ setting
- Providing _____ and encouragement during difficult times
- Creating accountability for spiritual _____
- Developing leadership skills in a _____ environment

The Commitment As members, we commit to:

- _____ attend corporate worship unless hindered by illness, travel, or emergency
- Actively _____ in at least one area of ministry or service
- Participate in a _____ _____ for fellowship and growth

Discussion Questions:

1. What areas of service interest you most, and why?
2. How have small groups or close Christian friendships impacted your faith journey?

Answer Key: (body, covenant, Word, established, faithfulness, entertained, glorifying, gifts, does, heart, gifted, Age-level, Hospitality, Worship, Outreach, Maintenance, relationships, intimate, support, growth, safe, Regularly, participate, small group)

Section 3: Upholding the Core Values of [INSERT YOUR CHURCH NAME NERE]

Scripture Focus: Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV) *"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*

Additional Scriptures to Read:

- Philippians 2:1-4
- Colossians 3:12-14
- 1 John 4:7-12

Our core values shape how we relate to one another and represent Christ to our community. As members, we commit to embodying these values in our daily lives and church relationships.

NO PERFECT PEOPLE: *Real people, real hope*

Key Scriptures: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

We acknowledge that we're all _____, creating safe spaces where others can drop their _____ and discover the transformative power of grace. We're committed to being _____ about our struggles while remaining steadfast in the _____ we have in Jesus.

LOVE IN ACTION: *Compassion with hands and feet*

Key Scriptures: 1 John 3:16-18, Matthew 25:35-40, James 2:14-17

We believe love without _____ is incomplete. We roll up our sleeves and _____, becoming the hands and feet of Jesus in Anderson through tangible acts of compassion. Our love extends beyond our church family to our _____ and community.

ROOM FOR YOU: *Everyone has a place at the table*

Key Scriptures: Romans 15:7, Hebrews 13:2, 1 Peter 4:9

We embrace the beautiful mess of opening our _____ to others, especially families looking for hope and purpose. Our hearts, homes, and church family are wide open to anyone seeking _____. We create space where families can _____ before they _____.

EVERYTHING ON PURPOSE: *Intentional about what matters most*

Key Scriptures: Matthew 6:33, Colossians 3:17, 1 Peter 3:15

We're _____ about making sure our relationships, actions, and words point people toward the hope, joy, peace, and purpose found in Jesus. We don't force conversations about faith, but we live in such a way that people naturally want to know what makes us _____.

ONE BIG FAMILY: *Unity in mission*

Key Scriptures: John 17:20-21, Ephesians 4:3, Philippians 2:1-2

We choose each other and our shared _____ over ourselves. United by our love for Jesus, we work together as one family toward reaching our community. Our family bond becomes a powerful _____ to families who are looking for authentic community and belonging.

Living Out Our Values As members, we commit to:

- Being _____ about our struggles while sharing the _____ we have in Jesus
- Demonstrating _____ through practical service and compassion
- Creating _____ where everyone feels they belong
- Living _____ about pointing others toward Jesus
- Building a _____ that shows our community what loving relationships look like

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of these values resonates most strongly with you, and why?
2. How can these values shape the way we handle conflict or disagreement in the church?

Answer Key: (works in progress, masks, genuine, hope, action, serve, neighbors, lives, connection, belong, believe, intentional, different, mission, witness, authentic, hope, love, welcoming spaces, purposefully, united big family)

Section 4: Living as Missionaries to Our Neighbors and Community

Scripture Focus: Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) *"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"*

Additional Scriptures to Read:

- Acts 1:8
- 2 Corinthians 5:18-20
- 1 Peter 3:15-16

Every follower of Jesus is called to be a _____. This doesn't mean we all need to travel to foreign countries—it means we're all sent by God to the people and places where we live, work, and play in Anderson.

Understanding Our Mission Field Our primary mission field is:

- Our _____ and neighborhoods in Anderson
- Our _____ and schools
- Our _____ and community organizations
- The _____ where we shop, eat, and conduct business
- Our _____ and extended family members who don't know Jesus

The Missionary Mindset Living as missionaries means:

- Seeing every _____ as a divine appointment
- Viewing our daily activities as opportunities for _____
- Building authentic _____ with people who don't know Jesus
- Looking for ways to serve and _____ our Anderson community
- Being ready to share our _____ when opportunities arise

Practical Missionary Living As member-missionaries, we commit to:

Being Intentional About Relationships

- Developing genuine _____ with neighbors, coworkers, and community members
- _____ for those in our circles who don't know Jesus
- Looking for opportunities to _____ and encourage others
- Building _____ before trying to share our faith

Serving Our Community

- Participating in Anderson community _____ and volunteer opportunities
- Supporting local _____ and organizations that help others
- Using our professional skills and _____ to benefit our community
- Demonstrating God's love through acts of _____

Sharing Our Faith

- Being prepared to share our personal _____ with Jesus
- Inviting others to church _____ and special events
- Living in such a way that people are _____ about our hope (1 Peter 3:15)
- Trusting the _____ to work through our faithful witness

Supporting Global Missions While our primary focus is local, we also support global missions through:

- _____ giving to missions and missionaries
- _____ for missionaries and unreached people groups
- Participating in _____ opportunities when possible
- Supporting our church's _____ partnerships and initiatives

The Great Commission Church As members of Grace Fellowship, we believe that:

- Every member is a _____
- Every neighborhood is a _____
- Every conversation is an opportunity for _____
- Every act of service reflects _____'s love
- Every invitation to church could be _____-changing

Discussion Questions:

1. Who are the people in your daily life who don't know Jesus? How can you be more intentional in those relationships?
2. What are some practical ways our church family can better serve our Anderson community?

Answer Key: (missionary, homes, workplaces, clubs, businesses, friends, encounter, witness, relationships, bless, faith, friendships, Praying, serve, trust, events, charities, talents, kindness, testimony, services, curious, Holy Spirit, Financial, Prayer, mission trips, partnership, missionary, mission field, witness, Christ, life)

Section 5: Acknowledging the Authority of the Pastors and Elders

Scripture Focus: Hebrews 13:17 (ESV) *"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."*

Additional Scriptures to Read:

- 1 Timothy 5:17
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
- 1 Peter 5:1-5
- Acts 20:28

God has established _____ in the local church for the protection, guidance, and spiritual growth of His people. Understanding and embracing this biblical structure is essential for church health and our own spiritual well-being.

Biblical Foundation for Church Leadership God's design for church leadership includes:

- _____ who provide spiritual oversight and direction (Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:1-2)
- _____ who shepherd, teach, and care for the congregation (Ephesians 4:11-12)

The Role of Elders and Pastors Our church leaders are responsible for:

- Providing _____ direction and vision for the church
- _____ and protecting the congregation through biblical teaching
- Providing _____ care and counseling to church members
- Making important _____ that affect the church body
- Maintaining biblical _____ and doctrinal integrity
- Exercising church _____ when necessary for restoration and protection

What Biblical Submission Looks Like Submitting to church authority means:

- _____ our leaders and their God-given role
- _____ with church decisions even when we might personally disagree
- Approaching leaders with a humble and _____ spirit
- _____ for our leaders regularly and earnestly
- Supporting our leaders through _____ and practical help
- Receiving correction and guidance with a _____ heart

What Biblical Submission Does NOT Mean Biblical submission does not mean:

- _____ obedience without any questions or input
- Following leaders when they ask us to _____ or disobey Scripture
- Never expressing _____ or concerns respectfully
- Treating leaders as _____ or beyond accountability
- Avoiding _____ participation in church life

Our Leadership Structure at Grace Fellowship Our church is governed by:

- A board of _____ who provide spiritual oversight
- _____ staff who lead various ministry areas

These leaders are accountable to:

- _____ and His Word as the ultimate authority
- Each _____ in accountability relationships
- The _____ congregation through regular communication
- The broader _____ fellowship

The Heart Behind Authority Church authority is not about _____; it's about _____. Our leaders:

- _____ the congregation, not rule over them (1 Peter 5:3)
- Seek to _____ and equip members for ministry (Ephesians 4:12)
- Will give an _____ to God for how they shepherd His people (Hebrews 13:17)
- Desire to see every member _____ and flourish spiritually

Our Commitment as Members As members of Grace Fellowship, we commit to:

- _____ our pastors and elders as God's appointed leaders
- _____ for them regularly and supporting their ministry
- Following their leadership unless it clearly contradicts _____
- Approaching them with _____ and humility when we have concerns
- Supporting their _____ and the direction God leads them to take our church
- Participating in the _____ they provide for our spiritual growth

When We Have Concerns If we have concerns about leadership decisions or direction:

- We commit to going _____ to leadership rather than talking to others first
- We will approach them with a spirit of _____ and genuine desire for understanding
- We will _____ for wisdom and God's guidance in the conversation
- We will trust God to work through the _____ He has established

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding the biblical basis for church authority change your perspective on church leadership?
2. What are some practical ways we can better support and pray for our church leaders?

Answer Key: (leadership, Elders, Pastors, spiritual, Teaching, pastoral, decisions, doctrine, discipline, Respecting, Cooperating, teachable, Praying, encouragement, receptive, Blind, sin, concerns, infallible, active, elders, Pastoral, Christ, other, local, Charis Fellowship, power, service, Serve, equip, account, thrive, Honoring, Praying, Scripture, respect, vision, ministries, directly, humility, pray, structure)

Membership Covenant

[INSERT YOUR CHURCH NAME] Membership Commitment

It is my desire to become a member of Grace Fellowship Anderson. As the Lord has directed me to be a part of this spiritual family, I joyfully commit to the following:

- ☐ **AUTHENTICALLY PROFESS FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST** I have personally received Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, trusting in His death and resurrection for my salvation. I have publicly identified with Jesus and His church through believer's baptism.
- ☐ **COMMIT TO LIVING AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS** I commit to continually growing in my relationship with Jesus and living a life that reflects His love and character. I commit myself to the spiritual disciplines and practices of the faith, as well as relationship and discipleship with fellow believers.
- ☐ **UPHOLD THE CORE VALUES OF [INSERT YOUR CHURCH NAME]** I commit to living by and promoting our core values of No Perfect People, Love in Action, Room for You, Everything on Purpose, and One Big Family in my relationships within the church and in our Anderson community.
- ☐ **FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP AND COMMUNION** I will faithfully attend weekend worship services and participate in threefold communion.

☐ **FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN A SMALL GROUP** I will participate in a small group for deeper fellowship, Bible study, and spiritual growth.

☐ **FAITHFULLY SERVE THROUGH MINISTRY** I will commit to using my gifts and talents to serve within the church and our surrounding community, actively participating on a ministry team or in volunteer service.

☐ **FAITHFULLY SUPPORT THE CHURCH FINANCIALLY** I commit to grow in the practice of biblical generosity through faithful financial giving to support the ministry and mission of Grace Fellowship Anderson.

☐ **LIVE AS A MISSIONARY TO MY NEIGHBORS AND COMMUNITY** I commit to building intentional relationships with those who don't know Jesus, serving our Anderson community, and being ready to share my faith as God provides opportunities.

☐ **ACKNOWLEDGE THE SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY OF OUR PASTORS AND ELDERS** I will respect and submit to the spiritual leadership that God has placed over this church, supporting their ministry through prayer, encouragement, and cooperation with their direction for our church family.

☐ **ACCEPT THE STATEMENT OF FAITH AND CONSTITUTION** I accept the Statement of Faith of [INSERT YOUR CHURCH NAME HERE] and agree to be governed by the church's constitution and bylaws.

I have read and understand this Membership Commitment and agree to joyfully support the leadership, purpose, and values of Grace Fellowship Anderson. I understand that this covenant represents my commitment to this local church family and theirs to me.

Print Name:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Pastor/Elder Signature:

Date Approved:
