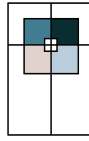


Tab 1



GRACE CHURCH
monterey bay

GCMB Membership Process

1. Attend Membership Classes

- a. Prospective members must complete the [Membership Class Signup form](#) to indicate they are interested in participation in the membership class.
- b. The class will be based on our [Membership Matters Booklet](#)
- c. The Membership Class is scheduled once a month following the Sunday service
- d. Participants should plan to spend three hours in the class.
- e. Childcare is not regularly available, but may be arranged with advanced notice.

2. Read Required Documents

- a. Applicants must read the following before submitting a Membership Application:
 - i. [GCMB Doctrinal Statement](#)
 - ii. [GCMB Membership Covenant](#)
- b. If those have not been read, elders will instruct the applicant to review them before proceeding.

3. Submit Membership Application

- a. Membership Applications may be:
 - i. [Submitted online](#)
 - ii. Submitted via hard copy (available in the church office)
- b. Elders will review applications at their next scheduled elders meeting and communicate the possible next steps within two weeks:
 - i. Schedule a membership interview
 - ii. Request clarification or additional information missing from application
 - iii. Provide [Baptism Application](#) if the applicant has not yet been baptized as a believer.

4. Membership Interview with an Elder

- a. The purpose of the membership interview is to:
 - i. Hear the applicant's testimony
 - ii. Confirm understanding and appropriation of the Gospel
 - iii. Review agreement with the GCMB Doctrinal Statement
 - iv. Review the Membership Covenant
 - v. Discuss commitment to the life and mission of the church
 - vi. Answer any questions the applicant may have
- b. Interviews may be conducted in-person or over the phone
- c. Note: Elders will not conduct interviews one-on-one with a woman.

5. Elder Recommendation

- a. Following the interview, the elders will collectively determine whether to recommend the applicant for membership.
- b. Potential outcomes include:
 - i. Recommend the applicant for membership
 - ii. Request an additional follow-up conversation
 - iii. Delay their recommendation pending further pastoral care

6. Congregational Consideration (Member Email)

- a. Membership candidates recommended for membership will be presented to the current members through a monthly membership consideration email
- b. Each candidate's profile will include:
 - i. A photo (provided through the Membership Application)
 - ii. A 4-5 sentence testimony as summarized by the elders
 - iii. Their baptism status
 - iv. A statement that the elders recommend the individual for membership
- c. Members will be invited to bring any biblical concerns to the elders before the next Members' Meeting.
- d. Candidates will normally be presented to the congregation at least two weeks prior to a Members' Meeting before being brought forward for a vote.

7. Congregational Vote

- a. At the next Members' Meeting, the congregation will consider the candidate for membership.
- b. Applicants are welcome to attend the meeting, but will be asked to sit in the foyer during the affirmation vote. After the vote, they will be invited back inside.

8. Baptism Requirement

- a. Baptism is required for membership at GCMB. However, individuals may be affirmed by the congregation as a "Member Pending Baptism."
- b. In practice:
 - i. Non-baptized applicant recommended for membership by elders
 - ii. Applicant considered by congregation via vote
 - iii. Applicant designated as "Member Pending Baptism"
 - iv. Applicant scheduled for baptism at the next Baptism Sunday
 - v. Applicant designated as "Member" following their baptism