

Welcome to

THE LIGHTHOUSE

More than church, we are family!

GOD CREATED US TO BELONG

We believe that church life is modeled after the family. For this reason, we have provided documents which outline the need for church membership. Contained in them are important instructions on how you can be a member of our Lighthouse family.

YOU WILL LEARN:

- How to grow in Christ through fellowship with committed believers known as the **Local Church**, who understand their place in the **Universal Church** of Jesus on earth
- The **Two-Way Street** Principle—being loved, served, prayed for, and supported, as well as being encouraged to give back through your time, talents, and treasures
- What we value—**Connection, Restoration, and Diversity**
- What we do—**Worship, Encouragement, Discipleship, and Outreach**
- How to walk out these principles through the guidance of church leadership



Dear Friends,

In this age of isolation and uncertainty, it is more important than ever to be connected and have a sense of belonging. It is my hope that you will find a home with us. Please read the information carefully and pray through it before making a decision.

Much love,

DAN COOPER

Lead Pastor

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HOW TO JOIN THE LIGHT HOUSE FAMILY

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

CHURCH IS NOT MERELY...

- A social club
- A political action group
- A self-help therapy center
- A hospital for the sick
- A physical building
- A secular business

CHURCH IS...

- An assembly of believers
- The body of Christ
- A dwelling place of God
- A spiritual home

Two Expressions of Church

UNIVERSAL

- All believers of all time—past, present, and future
- All believers in Jesus Christ presently on this earth regardless of their denominational affiliation, race, color, or nationality

LOCAL

- A body of believers in regular fellowship with each other
- Believers who not only worship and fellowship together, but also are committed to each other according to biblical principles of community

There is one church—the body of Christ. Local assemblies are only parts of that one church, but are necessary for the implementation of the mission and purpose of Jesus.

We Need Each Other

- A believer thrives with spiritual stability in the context of the local church
- The body is to be joined together, not fragmented. When we support each other, we always have people watching out for us
- Disciples are students, learners, followers, and ones under authority. We become true disciples when we fellowship and contribute to one another's lives
- A believer committed to associate with a local church is spiritually stronger
- We will overflow in the blessing of God's word when we link ourselves in relationship to a local church

Just as God's word was not given to just one man, its application is lacking when attempted by just isolated individuals.

THE NEED TO JOIN THE LOCAL CHURCH

INDEPENDENCE...

We cannot fulfill God's plan if only trust in ourselves. We need God and others.

DEPENDENCE...

We cannot fulfill God's plan if we take no personal responsibility. We need God and others, but we also need to contribute.

INTERDEPENDENCE...

We can fulfill God's plan because we take an active part in our relationships with God and others through partnership.

WHO MAY JOIN THE LOCAL CHURCH?

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP...

- Be a born-again believer
- Living out the lifestyle of a believer
- Have a humble and teachable heart
- Adhere to our basic tenets of faith
- Commit to the process of growing with this church community
- Honor the authority of church leadership
- Identify with the vision of this church

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ATTENDING AND JOINING

GUESTS

Visitors are ones who show up to dinner, enjoy the meal and the great conversations, and then head home. They are a great addition to any meal, breathing life and vitality into the group, but there is no commitment to attend other than to arrive and participate according to their comfort level.

FAMILY MEMBERS

Family members get the house ready for dinner. They clean, decorate, cook, and make sure everything is ready for guests. Members make sure their visitors get what they came for, giving them a taste of family life. They stay after to wash the dishes and live their lives until the next dinner party.

Visitors get to have all the fun without commitment, but they don't get the benefits that come with commitment—intimacy and belonging.

Who We Are

CONNECTION

We desire to foster deep relationships with God and with each other

RESTORATION

We desire to see broken lives made whole through the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit

DIVERSITY

We desire that all tribes, tongues, and nations feel welcome

Don't look for a church to "go to".
Look for a church where you belong, a place where you can align with the values and grow through its actions.

THE IDENTITY OF THIS LOCAL CHURCH

WHAT WE DO...

- **Worship:** We serve God, who is worthy of the best we have to give. Simply because He deserves it, we express our extravagant love on Him, in spirit and in truth
- **Encouragement:** We all face trials and tribulations and it is in our love to each other that we lift up one another so that we can be strong
- **Discipleship:** To grow in grace, we need to submit to the process of being molded by God and the authorities He's placed in our lives
- **Outreach:** In order to disciple nations, we must preach the gospel to all people groups, teach them to obey God's word, and baptize them in the name of God

THE BELIEFS OF THIS LOCAL CHURCH

The church accepts the Bible as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and—for the purpose of maintaining general unity—acknowledges these statements as fundamental truth and doctrine.

Basic Tenets of Faith

- We believe in the one true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- We believe God created man in His image so that we can relationship with Him
- We believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, written by many authors, breathed by the Holy Spirit
- We believe Jesus is Lord, fully God and fully man, having lived a sinless life on earth
- We believe man can only be saved from the power of sin is through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus
- We believe Jesus is the head of the church, appointing five-fold ministry leaders to oversee it
- We believe in water baptism as full immersion, publically identifying new believers in family of Christ
- We believe in taking part in the Lord's supper by remembering Jesus' sacrifice for us through consuming symbolic substitutes of His body and blood
- We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by whom we receive power and gifts for life and service
- We believe in divine healing for our bodies and souls
- We believe in the second coming of Jesus when He will return to earth to take His bride home with Him
- We believe in final judgement, when we will stand before God and give an account for the life we lived and the choices we made

Family Expectations

TIME

Members agree to attend regular weekly worship services via in person or online, as well as additional training/growth opportunities such as conferences, seminars, etc.

TALENT

Members agree to take an active role in the programs and/or functions of the church through volunteering unique skills, abilities, and spiritual gifts

TREASURE

Members agree to give financial support to the needs and programs of the church in proportion to how the Lord has provided for them

Discipline is not about adhering to a list of rules or enduring punishment for breaking them. Discipline is a process of ridding ourselves of anything that hinders our relationship with God.

Biblical Guidelines

- We honor the government by obeying laws, providing they do not violate God's word. In doing so, we receive the blessing of safety and protection
- We believe God's plan for sexual intimacy is only appropriate in a relationship between one man and one woman within a marriage covenant
- We submit to God's lordship by living a self-controlled life in daily acts known as holiness, which is a life-long process. We are to be "filled with the Holy Spirit" and not intoxicated (Eph 5:18). We seek to be set free from our addictions through the power of the Holy Spirit and with the help of our brothers and sisters
- We determine to be at peace, as much as is possible, with our brothers and sisters in Christ, so we can live in harmony and unity with each other

CHURCH DISCIPLINE...

- Members agree to follow the teachings of Scripture as worship to God—obedience to civil law, honoring God-ordained relationship structures, self-control, sexual purity, soberness, harmony with others, etc.
- Members agree to allow church leadership the right to hold them accountable to the teachings of Scripture

Next Steps

- 1:** The absolute basic prerequisite is that one must be born-again
- 2:** Not be living a lifestyle that contradicts the character of Christ
- 3:** Already have been in regular attendance for three months
- 4:** Committed to the life and growth of the Lighthouse community

The membership form is a formal notice of your desire to function in this body. When you are confirmed into membership it is the official approval of the leadership for you to function with their support.

HOW TO JOIN THIS LOCAL CHURCH

- 5:** Fill out the attached Membership Application Form and turn it in to a pastor
- 6:** You are a member of this community once the elders approve it and announce it publicly to the rest of the family

Lighthouse Family

Application

PLEASE FILL OUT & PRINT FOR MEETING WITH THE PASTOR

FULL NAME	D.O.B.	WATER BAPTIZED (Y/N)	BORN AGAIN (DATE) (Y/N)	CONTACT INFO	
				Phone #:	Spouse Phone #:
SPOUSE				_____	_____
				Email:	Spouse Email:
CHILDREN				_____	_____
				Address:	_____
				_____	_____
				_____	_____
				PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT:	_____

WHAT IS YOUR CHURCH BACKGROUND?

WHAT IS THE LAST CHURCH YOU ATTENDED?

HOW LONG HAVE YOU ATTENDED THE LIGHTHOUSE?

IN WHAT AREAS DO YOU FEEL CALLED TO SERVE?

WHAT PAST EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN SERVING AT A CHURCH OR MINISTRY?

Do you align yourself with our basic tenets of faith, the identity of our church, and the expectations of being a member of the Lighthouse family?

Believing that God has led me to this church family, I desire membership and will, to the best of my ability, support the Lighthouse with my prayers, my finances, and by my involvement in its activities. I submit myself to the covering of this church and to its leadership (To be signed by each born-again family member desiring membership).

Please Initial

APPROVED BY PASTOR:

APPROVED BY ELDER: