



Membership

We believe that all those who know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and whose lives thus give ongoing evidence of true saving faith are members of the body of Christ. All such individuals are welcome at Valley Heights Community Church to enjoy the privileges and responsibilities of Christian fellowship, to worship God, to be ministered to through the preaching and teaching of the Word, and to participate in the ordinances commanded by the Lord, which are Christian baptism and the Lord's Supper.

I. Why Have a Membership?

As one studies the New Testament it becomes very apparent that new believers in Jesus Christ associated themselves with other believers forming local congregations called churches. In Acts 2:41-47, those who received the message of the gospel were baptized and were added to the congregation of believers. The believers "*devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread (communion) and to prayer*" ... "*All the believers were together and had everything in common.*" According to Acts 13:1, 'the church at Antioch' recognized specific individuals as leaders and teachers in the congregation. Acts 20 recounts how the apostle Paul, upon arrival in Miletus (vs. 17), "*sent for the elders of the Ephesian church.*" At the end of the book of Romans, Paul includes a lengthy list of individuals he wishes to send greetings to (Rom. 16), and he acknowledges their association with specific churches. When Paul writes the letter to the Philippians he addresses it, "*To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons.*" Nearing the close of Paul's life and ministry, he writes Titus and says, "*The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you*" (Titus 1:5).

Clearly, the New Testament demonstrates the practice of believers identifying themselves with, and committing themselves to, specific local congregations. We acknowledge that the Scriptures contain neither a mandate for nor a command against an official "membership roll." Valley Heights Community Church does have a membership roll for the purposes of encouraging unity and stability in doctrine, aiding in conducting business in an orderly manner, and providing legal protection in important church decisions. An individual's decision to be placed on the membership roll should flow from his/her commitment to the church and its doctrinal position.

II. How to Become a Member

Any individual 18 years of age or older who confesses Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord, who is supportive of our Statement of Faith, Constitution, and Bylaws, and who exhibits a desire to continue to grow and mature in his/her walk with Christ is eligible for membership in Valley Heights Community Church. Anyone who desires to become a member should fill out a membership application and contact one of the Elders to request membership. If the individual meets the qualifications, he/she will be placed on the roll and will be acknowledged before the congregation as a new member. Members are encouraged to attend and participate fully in all official meetings of the membership.