



Emmanuel Membership Application

Membership at Emmanuel is an important step toward committing yourself to fellowship with this community as we seek to participate in God's mission in Seattle and beyond. Members commit to support the ministry of our church and our denomination, and have the opportunity to regularly vote on critical aspects of our life together.

According to our constitution: "Membership in the church is granted as provided in the bylaws to those who through faith in God's Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, have been born anew to a living hope through the Holy Spirit, desire to live a Christian life, promise to faithfully support the mission, ministries, and policies of the church, and to share in its fellowship and obligations. All new members are required to be baptized in accordance with the Holy Scriptures."

Those interested in membership will be asked to complete the following:

- 1) Attend a membership class offered periodically by the church. (Contact the pastor for more info.)
- 2) Submit this completed membership application to the pastor or another member of Leadership Team.
- 3) If you have never been baptized as a lifetime follower of Jesus, contact the pastor to arrange for your baptism prior to your acceptance as a member (*note*: as a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church, Emmanuel recognizes both infant and adult baptisms).
- 4) After completing the requirements listed above, your application will be reviewed by Emmanuel's Leadership Team (which may include a personal interview to get to know you and your story). The Leadership Team will vote to accept your membership application. Under the Emmanuel constitution, the Leadership Team of the church is invested with the authority to welcome new members into the body. (Although if any current member of the church objects to this membership, they may contact the Leadership Team and request a full congregational vote before the membership is finalized.)
- 5) At the next congregational meeting, you will be presented as a new member of the body!

Before submitting your application, please become familiar with the information provided on our website about the values and history of Emmanuel and the Evangelical Covenant Church:

www.emmanuelphinneyridge.org

www.covchurch.org

Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Birth Date: _____

Email: _____

Marital Status: single married divorced widowed

Spouse's Name: _____

Dependent Children's Names/Ages: _____

Job Type (or Academic Major): _____

Company (or School): _____

Retired: Yes No

What are your ministry interests? How have you been involved at Emmanuel so-far?

Are you currently a member at any other church? YES NO

If so, church name & address: _____

Have you been baptized? If so, when and where?

Do you consider yourself to be a Christian, a person who chooses to follow Jesus in your life? YES NO

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Statement of Beliefs

Emmanuel is a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church denomination. Joining this church body also means joining the broader Covenant community in Seattle and around the world. Covenant churches have historically valued the freedom of individuals and congregations to wrestle with matters of faith and life in an open way, but we do have certain central convictions that we share in common, and that we ask all members to uphold. This does not mean that there is no room for questions or doubts as individuals, but it does mean that in our life together as a body, we agree to affirm and support these things.

First, all members are asked these traditional Covenant membership questions when joining the body: “Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior and promise to follow him as Lord?” and “Do you accept the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, as the word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct?” These central convictions serve as our common ground and the beginning of our ongoing conversation together about matters of faithful living and discipleship.

Covenant churches also agree to gather together around six basic affirmations of our denomination. Although there is no formal “creed” or written doctrinal statement that Covenanters are required to sign, we all agree to value these core attitudes in our life together as a church:

- *We affirm the centrality of the word of God* (the Bible is the foundational text that we gather around as we seek to know our identity and our mission in the world)
- *We affirm the necessity of the new birth* (discipleship to Christ must necessarily involve a transformed heart and life)
- *We affirm a commitment to the whole mission of the church* (we actively work for love and justice in our world in both a personal and a systemic way, in addition to teaching right beliefs)
- *We affirm the church as a fellowship of believers* (the church is a voluntary body of believers who come together out of our own free will to serve God and the world – we each choose this)
- *We affirm a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit* (the Spirit is alive and active, ready to reveal the next steps for us as individuals and as a body if we are open to receive it)
- *We affirm the reality of freedom in Christ* (we respect the ability of individuals and congregations to pray, study scripture, and arrive at their own unique understandings of God’s will and work in the world, and we will give each other this freedom as an expression of our unity in the midst of diversity)

Church Responsibility

Emmanuel Church will be faithful to consistently teach a biblical Christian faith and to operate in a way that is obedient to the teachings of Jesus and the high standards of discipleship to him alone.

Emmanuel leadership will be selected according to the criteria specified in our church constitution. A copy of the constitution is available to anyone by contacting the pastor or another Leadership Team member.

We commit to seek God’s will for the direction of our church and ministry to the best of our ability as we study the scriptures and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We commit to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ by equipping and praying for you, and exercising church discipline when or if necessary.



Member Responsibility

The members of this church do covenant together by God's grace to live lives in a manner consistent with the standards of biblical teaching, including the support of this congregation in attendance, prayer, service, and giving, to live lives in word and deed that are an encouragement to others to know and be like Jesus Christ, to reflect in all our relationships the servant love of our Lord, and to support the broader mission of Christ through the Evangelical Covenant Church denomination.

By submitting this application, you indicate the following:

I will maintain a close relationship with Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and a continual attitude of worship. My relationship with Christ will be evident through my participation in weekly worship services, small groups, service, and a life that brings glory to God. I further understand that this means I will be proactive in building up our church with my words and actions rather than tearing it down with complaining or passively attending.

I have read and understand the statements contained in this document related to the beliefs of the church and denomination, and will not be divisive to its teaching. I submit myself to the Christian scriptures as authority in my life, and open my life up to the leadership of the church for any church discipline or correction if the need ever arises. I understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will work hard to preserve unity and peace.

I will be a steward of what God has given me. This includes my abilities, my talents, my time, and my finances. I will give regularly to Emmanuel Church with both my money and my participation in a way that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary. I understand that being on mission with Emmanuel Church means that I am committed to connect instead of consume. I also understand that my acts of stewardship and service will be seen by the leadership and I expect them to help hold me accountable.

I will pursue an integrated faith and life. By God's grace I will abstain from sinful and unhealthy attitudes and actions, as the Bible and my conscience dictate. I also agree to live out my faith in my workplace and in all relationships I participate in. I will pursue new and authentic relationships with people outside our faith as well as members of our own community. I will invite friends and neighbors to church and help incline them toward the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

I understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of Emmanuel and is an acknowledgement of my submission to the leadership of the church. I accept the responsibility to notify the church if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Emmanuel Church.

Signed,

Date:
