



**MEMBERSHIP
CLASSES**
Growing Together

Membership Class

Covenant Family Chapel
Belonging to a Family of Families



(Church Membership Class)

Membership Class

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Membership Class

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Introductory Letter from the Co-Pastors

Dear Prospective Partner in Christ, we are filled with joy because you have attended membership class. We are happy that at the end of this class, you prayerfully consider becoming a member of the Covenant Family Chapel.

We are a spirit-filled body of believers who believe, live, and teach the entire Bible. Our ministry is designed to minister to the needs of the total person in every area of life.

There is a major emphasis on family life, relationship management, child-rearing, personal development, and spiritual development and growth.

It is often said by many that they have learned more about the bible here in a short while than they have learned in their entire lifetime. That is because of the clear, precise, line upon line, precept by precept Biblical teaching they receive. They can see it for themselves in the word of God. That's exciting!

We know that this is an important decision, but we believe that you will be led by the Spirit of God to make the right choice.

Our ministry commits to reaching the lost and hurting with the love of Jesus through our outreach ministries. We are praying that you decide to become a part of our fellowship and vision. We commit to teaching you the Word of God and giving you Biblical motivation to become all that God wants you to be.

At the end of this class, you will have the chance to volunteer to use your talents and giftings. Our volunteer coordinator will reach out to you in a few days after the class. Thank you for coming!

Sincerely Yours,

Diana & Neil Acheampong (Co-Pastors)

Membership Class

Overview of Church Membership Class

If you want to find out more about the Covenant Family Chapel and what it means to be part of Covenant Family Chapel, or if you are in the process of becoming a member, this class is for you. The class will cover subjects such as:

- **Meaning and Purpose of church membership**
- **How to be sure about your relationship with God?**
- **History of Covenant Family chapel**
- **Our Corporate Vision and Mission**
- **What do we believe as a church organization?**
- **Organizational structure and where you fit.**
- **Your responsibilities to CFC and CFC's responsibilities to you.**
- **How to get connected at CFC and serve.**

Membership Class

Session One

Meaning And Purpose of Church Membership

Membership Class

Understanding the Church as a Family

“Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God’s very own family, citizens of God’s country, and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” Ephesians 2:19 (Living Bible)

Key Truths from Ephesians 2:19

1. The church is a family
2. God expects you to be a member of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is an orphan.

The Church is the Centerpiece of Christ’s Plan

According to Ephesians 2:18-3:11, the term “administration” refers to a “plan” or the “house order” for Christ church”. The term “household” also refers to the church.

1. What is Christ’s plan (administration)?
2. How does it fulfill God’s eternal purpose?
3. How important is the church in Christ’s mission?

The Church as a Family of Families

According to 1 Timothy 3:14-16

1. What do you think Paul had in mind when he talked about conduct in the household of God?
2. What is the role of a local church regarding guarding truth?

Church Membership is Belonging to the Family of Families

Membership Class

What Church Membership?

Church membership is a statement that a Christian agrees with a local church and is willing to be identified as a representative of it.

What is the Purpose of Church Membership?

Church membership is valuable for organizational purposes and a good way of determining who is allowed to participate in important church decisions and/or who are involved in official church positions and functions. Church membership is not required of Christians. It is simply a way of saying, "I am a Christian and I believe Covenant Family Chapel is a good church."

The Goal of Membership Class

That I will commit myself to Christ first and then to Covenant Family Chapel as **my church family**.

What Makes Us a Family?

- **Our Salvation** (What God has done for us)
- **Our Statement** (Why we exist as a church)
- **Our Strategy** (How we fulfill our purpose)
- **Our Structure** (When and where we fulfill our purpose)

The next three sessions will be focused on what makes us a family.

Membership Class

Session Two

Our Salvation

Membership Class

Our Salvation

Belonging to the church family requires that you are saved from your sins. The lesson on salvation is to help you to know how to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and be sure about it. Here's how you can do it.

You must realize that you are a sinner – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” *Romans 3:23*

Sin results in death. We all face physical death, which is a result of sin, and spiritual death that alienates us from God, and will last for all eternity – “The wages of sin is death.” *Romans 6:23a*

The Bible teaches that **there is a place called the Lake of Fire where sinners will be** in torment forever. It is the place where people who are spiritually dead will remain. You must understand that you deserve death for your sins.

"God demonstrates His love for us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us!" *Romans 5:8*

When **Jesus died on the cross He paid the price for all sin.** The only condition is that we believe in Him and what He has done for us, understanding that His love poured out on the cross is our only hope to have forgiveness and change, not a religion, or church membership.

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Salvation is a gift from God to you! You can't earn this gift, but you must **reach out and receive it faith.** You must ask God to forgive you and save you.

"..But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." *Romans 6:23b*

"Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved!" *Romans 10:13*

"...If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth, he confesses, resulting in salvation." *Rom 10:9-10*

If you know that God is knocking on your heart's door, **ask Him to come into your heart in prayer.**

If you prayed and confessed that Jesus is Lord, welcome to the family of God. Now let us begin our journey to belonging to one of the families of God.

Membership Class

Session Three
Our Statements

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

(What are we called to do?)

MOLDING DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Who Are Fit for Marriage, Ministry, and the Marketplace.

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus says to us, go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

PROCESS STATEMENT

(How do we implement what we are called to do?):

1. We bring people to Christ and into **membership** of the church
2. We build them up as **disciples**
3. We train them to **serve** in the body of Christ
4. We send them out on a **mission**, reaching out to the unsaved

So, after this class, you need to focus on being built up as a disciple and get the in-service training offered periodically to help you serve.

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FAITH STATEMENT (What We Believe)

The Holy Scriptures - *The Holy Scriptures of the Bible, in the original manuscripts, are the inspired and inerrant Word of God in all its parts and the whole. The Bible is the all-sufficient, infallible and authoritative rule for faith and conduct. Both, the Old and New Testaments were written by holy men as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit and are a guide to salvation and all Christian worship and service. The Holy Scriptures are the supreme revelation from God and about God, superior to all conscience and reason, though not contrary to them.*

The One True God - *The Bible teaches us that there is but one true and living God. God has chosen to reveal Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the same though distinct in personality. The three are one, having the same nature, attributes, and are worthy of the same worship and obedience. God is the only proper object of worship.*

The Lord Jesus Christ - *Jesus is the Christ. He is the Son of God and the Son of Man and was born of the Virgin Mary. He came into the world to save men from sin. He lived a sinless life, and although innocent, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day, Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead. He was exalted to the right hand of God and His divinity is proved from all that exists, all that can be seen, His life, His words and teaching, His ministry, and His attributes.*

The Holy Spirit - *The Holy Spirit is as much God as the Father and the Son. He, therefore, is equal in perfection, wisdom, and power, and feelings and emotions. He loves, comforts, draws to salvation, guides, empowers, leads, teaches, gives revelation, commands, forbids, sends, reproves, distributes spiritual gifts, and He can be sinned against and grieved. The works of God ascribed to the Holy Spirit include creation, inspiration, giving of life, washing of rebirth and renewal, and sanctification.*

The Salvation of Man - *For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Thus, man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God. Salvation*

Membership Class

is received through repentance of sin, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The inward evidence to the believer of his salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit and a good conscience toward God. And the outward evidence to all men is a life of love, righteousness, and holiness. The new life of a believer is demonstrated by the fruit of the Spirit and obedience to Christ. The final result of salvation is that the spirit of the believer dies in Christ immediately and goes to be with the Lord for eternity.

Water Baptism - *We believe water baptism by total immersion is commanded of every believer in the Scriptures. All who have repented and truly believe in their heart that Christ is Lord and Savior are to be baptized. Thus, they declare to the world that they have died with Jesus and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life in Him as Lord and Savior of their lives.*

Holy Communion - *The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements - bread and the fruit of the vine - symbolizes our Passover, our perfect redemption, the new covenant in His precious blood, and our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ. It serves as a continual memorial of His suffering and death and as a prophecy of His second coming. It was commanded by Jesus to be celebrated by all believers until He comes.*

The Baptism of The Holy Spirit - *All believers are entitled to and should earnestly seek and expect to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This is distinct from the new birth and with it comes the power for Christian life, service, and witness. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues, and such speaking is conclusive evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We do not, however, hold that a believer who has not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit or who does not speak in tongues is less of a Christian than one who does, for all believers are chosen, holy and dearly loved by God.*

Sanctification - *Sanctification is the miracle by which a true believer is separated from evil and dedicated to God. Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection, and by faithfully meditating daily upon that oneness with Christ. The sanctified believer offers every aspect of his/her life, including thoughts, acts, feelings, and intentions, to the power and dominion of the Holy Spirit. Thus, sanctification*

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is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit as they submit to and obey the Word of God, and engage in self-examination, watchfulness, and prayer.

The Church and Its Mission - *The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of the great commission and purpose. All who are saved and united by a new birth in Jesus Christ are part of Christ's church universal, which is His body and the local congregation of Christian believers is God's chosen instrument for (a) corporate worship; (b) evangelization of the unsaved and (c) the nurturing of Christians to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.*

Five-Fold Ministry - *The church is to be taught and led by the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers so that every disciple can see and exercise their priestly and kingly ministry. By the authority granted in the Holy Scriptures, the church leadership must teach and train its people to do the work of the ministry with maturity and unity. Working with these ministries will be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, and the gifted men and women of the church. The Bible also teaches that the church's ministry leaders are to be paid from the tithes and offerings that the church receives.*

The Second Coming of Christ - *The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years.*

The Final Judgment - *There will be a final judgment in which all will be judged according to their works.*

The New Heaven and the New Earth - *We look for and expect a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*

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Session Four
Our Structure

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The structure of any local church should be determined by the scriptures and not by culture, business practices, or known denominational traditions.

The nature of Covenant Family Chapel determines its structure which is based on scriptural mandates. According to the scriptures, the church is a family, a fellowship, a flock, and a body or the body of Christ.

A. AS A FAMILY, WE OPERATE BASED ON RELATIONSHIPS NOT RULES.

1 Peter 3:8; 4:17; Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 2:10-12; 1 Timothy 3:4-5; 5:1-2

B. AS A FELLOWSHIP, WE FOCUS ON HARMONY AND UNITY.

Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:3; Romans 14:19

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin according to the scriptures - Col. 3:15, 1 Cor. 1:10, 2 Tim. 2:14, Pr. 17:14, 2 Cor. 13:11, Phil. 1:27, 2:1-3, Col. 2:2, Phil. 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Cor. 14:33, John 13:34-35, 2 Tim. 2:23, Rom. 15:5-6, Rom. 12:16-18, Col. 3:13-14, Ps. 133:1

A good structure then should promote unity - 1 Corinthians 11:17-18

“Voting” tends to CREATE CONFLICT. At Covenant Family Chapel, we do not vote. Voting only occurs on the board of directors’ level for things such as:

- Changes in the church constitution and by-laws
- Purchase of land or buildings
- Appointment of ordained Ministry Leaders

Most things are done by consensus among the Board of Directors.

C. AS A FLOCK, IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY SHEPHERDS.

John 10:1-30; John 21:16-17; Matthew 25:33; Matthew 26:31;

1 Peter 5:1-6; Acts 20:17-18, 28

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D. AS A BODY, WE FUNCTION BASED ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS NOT ELECTED OFFICERS.

1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23; Colossians 1:18; 2:19

We are a body – not a business! We are an organism – not an organization!

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ, we who are many forms one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us.” Rom. 12:4-6

In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

AT COVENANT FAMILY CHAPEL WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN MAXIMIZE MINISTRY.

“God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” Eph. 4:11-12

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Our Structure

Based on state laws, Covenant Family Chapel is governed for religious and ecclesiastical purposes as follows:

Board of Directors - A governing body who presides over the affairs of this ministry in general and has the sole authority over all other leaders.

Co-Pastors - Those entrusted by God to lead this church. As God's anointed religious and ministry leaders of this church, the Co-Pastors are accountable in all things to God, the Board of Directors, and to one another as well as the non-ordained fellowship partners.

Corporate Officers - The president, vice president(s), secretary, and treasurer are responsible to the board of directors, co-pastors.

Ordained Ministry Leaders - They are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Co-Pastors, with simple majority approval of the Board of Directors. They are accountable to God, to the Board of Directors, to the Co-Pastors, and one another.

Fellowship Partners (Members WHO ARE ALSO MINISTERS) -

Everyone in this church is a fellowship partner (member). All fellowship partners (members) are accountable to God, to the Co-Pastors, to the Board of Directors, and one another.

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Privileges of Fellowship Partners (Church Member)

The following ministries and privileges are available to members in good standing with Covenant Family Chapel, who maintain a Godly life and are in harmony with the CFC's Corporate Vision, and beliefs.

- The solemnizing of marriages
- The performance of last rites
- The service of dedications
- The ministry of visitation
- The ministry of prayer
- Access to resource materials for spiritual growth and development
- Receive exhortation, edification, and quality Biblical instruction.
- Ministry of counseling and guidance
- Involvement in the ministries and missions of CFC
- Ministry of Church Ordinances such as communion, etc.
- The congregational expression of the Body of Christ
- The privilege of receiving references as related to a commitment to Covenant Family Chapel.

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Fellowship Partner's Responsibilities (Membership Covenant)

This is a signed statement that you will:

Protect the unity of Covenant Family by acting in love toward others, refusing to gossip, and following godly instructions.

Share the responsibility of Covenant Family by praying for its growth, sharing the good news with the unsaved, warmly welcoming those who visit, and helping to nurture new believers.

Serve the ministry of Covenant Family by discovering my gifts and talents, allowing myself to be equipped to serve, and developing a servant's heart.

Support the testimony of Covenant Family by faithfully attending worship services, and programs, living a godly life consistent with the bible, and giving my tithes and offerings faithfully & regularly.

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Fellowship Partner (Membership) Covenant

I _____ Will
(First Name) (Last Name)

PROTECT THE UNITY OF COVENANT FAMILY CHAPEL

- By acting in love toward others
- By refusing to gossip
- By following godly instructions

SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COVENANT FAMILY CHAPEL

- By praying for its growth
- By sharing the good news with the unsaved
- By inviting the unsaved to our worship services
- By warmly welcoming those who visit
- By helping to nurture new believers

SERVE THE MINISTRY OF COVENANT FAMILY CHAPEL

- By discovering my gifts and talents
- By allowing myself to be equipped to serve
- By developing a servant's heart

SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF COVENANT FAMILY CHAPEL

- By faithfully attending worship services, and programs
- By living a godly life consistent with the bible
- By giving my tithes and offerings faithfully & regularly

Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Membership Class

History

Covenant Family Chapel began in Aspen Hill Maryland in May 2003.

In 2004, the church leased space in the United Methodist Church on Georgia Ave in Silver Spring to begin our public services which were held in the afternoon on Sundays.

After one year most of the membership relocated and the founding Pastor, Neil Acheampong also relocated to Frederick Maryland.

On Palm Sunday 2005, CFC began again with some of the old members and four new families. The first service in Frederick was held in the basement of Pastor Neil's house located at 1013 Lindfield Drive.

After two meetings the church relocated to the Sleep Inn Hotel and subsequently to Holiday in Hotel now called Clarion Inn both on Spectrum Drive. The church later moved to a storefront on the Golden mile area on route 40 in March of 2008.

In 2011 we purchased the former home of the First Church of Christ Scientology building located at 5 East 2nd Street until we moved to our new property located at 10307 Coppermine Rd Woodsboro MD on October 5, 2019.

Prayerful Consideration

I ask you to prayerfully consider becoming part of our church family today but if you still have questions that are not answered you have the liberty to wait to have them answered. God bless you as you make this choice of becoming a fellowship partner (member) of the Covenant Family Chapel.

Connect with Us

1. Fill out a volunteer form to start using your talents and gifts and we will train you.
2. Join a Growth Group today – a small group ministry that meets in homes and in your neighborhood to help you build significant relationships and grow.

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