

First Assembly of God Membership Class

January 2023



Welcome to our Membership Class! We are so thrilled that you have taken this important step here at the First Assembly of God. Whether you're new or have been around a while, we thank you for deepening your commitment in becoming a family member of First Assembly.

Christ's vision for our church is powerful. We are all about *Experiencing God, Connecting Together, Growing and Serving, and Impacting our World*. No matter the diversity of our backgrounds, when we come together in unity, God releases His anointing. His mission becomes our passion as we become Messengers of Hope!

Today, your desire to join First Assembly is more than just becoming a formal member of a "church"; it's about you becoming a family member who takes some personal ownership of the Spiritual DNA of our vision and mission.

This has been provided to give you somewhat of a "big-picture" view of who were called to be and what we are called to do. We encourage you to become accustomed to the content, as it will answer the many questions of our ministry philosophy. We know that when you become part of what God is doing here at First Assembly, I can promise you that your life will be transformed. You will find that your life finds greater meaning and purpose as we live out life together and serve the mission that God has called us to.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Torrance & Reverend Elsa Bobb

Senior Pastors

First Assembly of God, Grand Cayman

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10 REASONS WHY MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT

1. *It was an apostolic precedent (Acts 2:42–47).¹*

In the Early Church believers met with the apostles daily for teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. No indication is given that any believers remained separated from the local church. For example, the apostle Paul tried to "join the local disciples" when he relocated to a new community (Acts 9:26*).

2. *The first-century believers kept track of each other (Acts 2:42–47).*

Several times in the Book of Acts the phrase, "The Lord added to their number daily," is recorded. The church kept track of who was becoming a part of the body of Christ. Numbers represented believers, and they added those believers to themselves.

3. *Ekklesia is the original Greek word for "church."*

Ekklesia means "the called-out ones." The word itself denotes being called *out* of something (the world) and *into* something else (the church). This includes both the Church universal and the local church. Spiritually speaking, we become a part of the Church (the body of Christ) worldwide. Practically speaking, however, we become a part of the local church in our own communities and spheres of influence.

4. *Church membership is an expression of commitment.*

In a world where commitment is nonexistent, the church serves as a standard of commitment. Jesus is looking for those who will not look back, have counted the cost, and are willing to give up everything to follow Him (Luke 9:62; 14:33). Church membership is a commitment to the Body through the times of blessing as well as times of trial.

5. *Church membership models caring.*

Church members exist to accomplish many functions, including devotion to each other, honoring one another, sharing with each other, and practicing hospitality (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12).

6. *Church membership shares the burden.*

We are instructed to carry each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2). A commitment to church membership says, *"I'm willing to share the load and*

¹ Goodall, Wayne. http://ag.org/top/church_workers/chuadm_mem_membership.cfm

help carry someone else's burdens. I'll be available when needed."

7. *Church membership breeds encouragement.*

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24,25).

8. *Church membership says, "I'll serve."*

We must join the ranks of the committed to receive the full benefit of serving God. Someone has said, "You are either a spectator on the sidelines or a participant in the trenches." God is looking for participants. Ephesians 4:12 declares that the members of the church are to be equipped for service.

9. *Church membership is an attitude of submission.*

Church members submit first to each other and then to Christ (Ephesians 5:21–24), for Christ is the head of the Church, His body, of which He is the Savior. Scripture is clear that the church is not an organization with a ladder of hierarchy, encouraging its members to climb the ladder. In sharp contrast, the church is like a body with Christ as the head—at the controls. All members are to submit to the head, her one and only leader. The result should be mutual submission to one another and to Christ. This allows accountability with each other and enables others to add counsel and correction to our lives if necessary (Matthew 18:15–17).

10. *Church membership is symbolic of our heavenly citizenship.*

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household..." (Ephesians 2:19). Being committed to the family of God grants us citizenship and eliminates our alien status. When foreigners want to become official citizens and gain access to the rights and privileges of a different country, they must make a commitment to and take responsibility for the safety of, defense of, constitution of, and authorities of that country. Christians are God's people through faith in Jesus Christ (John 14:6) and are added to God's household.

THE POWER OF MEMBERSHIP

You were saved to be God's child, not an orphan. Scripture says we're part of Christ's family. Too many people claim to know God but don't commit to Christ's mission for the local church. Your stories, gifts, and spiritual/physical devotion give value beyond human understanding. Jesus promised we'd surpass Him. Jesus' promise seems impossible. Jesus knows His power is activated and magnified in the local church's unified vision and purpose. Together, we can change the world. Your desire to join First Assembly is a commitment to serve God locally and worldwide. Your partnership includes:

1. You experience God in corporate worship: Every worship experience is a chance to experience God in new ways. When the body gathers, His Spirit is present. Your presence unifies the body of Christ. Too many people lack commitment. As we wait on the Lord, First Assembly must be united. When we're hungry, He meets us.
2. You're connecting with family: It is vital to have brothers and sisters in the Lord. God made us to support each other in all seasons of life. Whether we're up or down, we can be there for one another. By doing this, you demonstrate an understanding that your salvation experience with God is not something that is private, but something that is to be shared among others.
3. You're growing in your spiritual and natural gifts: We need what God has planted in you! Your potential is beyond measure. We believe that you grow in two major ways:
 - a. You grow into the likeness of Christ. You become a disciple of Jesus Christ by continually seeking for ways to advance your walk with the Lord. Each one of us has a step that we need to take. None of us can say that, "We've finally made it," or that "We've arrived!" God is continually shaping us into the likeness of Christ so that we can be what He has called us to be. That movement towards His likeness is not something that is received by chance, but it is accomplished through intentional discipleship. While many churches talk about discipleship, we do it! Here at First Assembly, we have a transformational journey that we encourage every member to walk. Whether you've been a long time believer or you're a recent convert, we encourage you to grow! From Encounter to School of Discipleship, God will grow you and transform you into the likeness of Christ.

- b. You serve like Christ. God has granted each believer with spiritual gifts that are meant to serve the church and to grow the Kingdom of God. If you're unaware of your gifting's, we can help you figure them out. We encourage you to look for ways of blessing others with your spiritual gifts. There a wide range of ministries that you can get involved in. By doing this, you bring glory to God and fulfill what God has called each of us to do.

4. Your commitment to impacting our world. God has called First Assembly of God to make a huge spiritual impact both locally and abroad. Jesus commissioned His disciples in Acts 1:8 with these words, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in *Jerusalem*, and in all *Judea and Samaria*, and to the *ends of the earth*." Today, our impact consists of something very similar. Our "Jerusalem" is Broward County. Our "Judea and Samaria" is our surrounding counties of Miami-Dade and Palm Beach. Our "ends of the earth" is our global missions. Our impact is:
 - a. Local. Our Jerusalem is the Cayman Islands. Our message is clear: "*We are a church that takes a message of hope, everywhere we go, to everyone we meet!*" To those who need spiritual and physical care, we are a lighthouse of hope.

 - b. Global. We are passionate for Global Missions. We send support all around the world.

Distinctives of First Assembly of God

What makes us different from the Church down the road?



We have a Passionate Spirituality. We believe in the moving power of the Spirit of God. We believe that what took place in the upper room is still alive and well today (Acts 1:8). As an Assemblies of God church, we believe that “All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.”² How is the power of Spirit alive in First Assembly and experienced in today’s world?

- We have authentic power from God.
- We are led by the Holy-Spirit.
- We receive spiritual gifts from God.
- We are continuously growing into the image of Christ, being transformed into what He’s called us to be.
- We enjoy serving one another with excitement, by doing what He’s called us to do.
- We have boldness to reach and impact the lost with the love of Christ.



We are an International Church. We are proud that we are situated in a region that is internationally connected. We have many language and people groups. We believe that as an international church:

- We celebrate the diversity of our people!
- We can experience the first fruits of God’s mission to build His Kingdom of all nations.
- We can see God’s work of unity in our diversity.

² http://ag.org/top/Beliefs/Statement_of_Fundamental_Truths/sft_full.cfm#7

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD ³



The General Council of the Assemblies of God (USA), one of the largest Pentecostal denominations in the United States, was organized in 1914 by a broad coalition of ministers who desired to work together to fulfill common objectives, such as sending missionaries and providing fellowship and accountability. Formed in the midst of the emerging worldwide Pentecostal revival, the Assemblies of God quickly took root in other countries and formed indigenous national organizations. The Assemblies of God (USA) is a constituent member of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship – one of the largest Pentecostal fellowships in the world.

Historical Roots

Throughout the latter half of the 19th century in the United States, Protestants from various backgrounds began to ask themselves why their churches did not seem to exhibit the same vibrant, faith-filled life as those in the New Testament. Many of these believers joined evangelical or Holiness churches, engaged in ardent prayer and personal sacrifice, and earnestly sought God. It was in this context that people began experiencing biblical spiritual gifts.

Pentecostals pioneers were hungry for authentic Christianity, and they looked to previous spiritual outpourings, such as the First Great Awakening (1730s-40s) and Second Great Awakening (1800s-30s), for inspiration and instruction. They identified themselves in the tradition of reformers and revivalists such as Martin Luther, John Wesley, and Dwight L. Moody.

The Pentecostal Revival



One of the focal points of the emerging Pentecostal movement was known as the Azusa Street revival (1906-09). It was an unlikely location for an event that would change the face of Christianity. In the summer of 1906, revival erupted in the newly-formed congregation meeting at the small, run-down Apostolic Faith Mission at 312 Azusa Street in Los Angeles, California. Critics attacked the congregation because its mild-mannered African-American Holiness preacher, William J. Seymour, preached racial reconciliation and the restoration of biblical

³ <http://ag.org/top/about/History/>

spiritual gifts. The revival soon became a local sensation, then attracted thousands of curiosity seekers and pilgrims from around the world.

Seymour had been a student of Charles Parham, who provided the doctrinal framework for the young Pentecostal movement. Parham's identification in scripture of speaking in tongues as the "Bible evidence" (later called the "initial evidence") of Spirit baptism became a defining mark of the emerging Pentecostal movement. After students at his Bethel Bible School in Topeka, Kansas, began speaking in tongues at a prayer meeting on January 1, 1901, Parham, through his Apostolic Faith Movement, had some success in promoting the restoration of the gift of tongues. While the Apostolic Faith Movement was largely confined to the south central United States, the revival at Azusa Street catapulted Pentecostalism before a worldwide audience.

Formation of the Assemblies Of God



As the revival rapidly spread, many Pentecostals recognized the need for greater organization and accountability. The founding fathers and mothers of the Assemblies of God met in Hot Springs, Arkansas on April 2-12, 1914 to promote unity and doctrinal stability, establish legal standing, coordinate the mission enterprise, and establish a ministerial training school. These founders constituted the first General Council and elected two officers: Eudorus N. Bell as chairman (title later changed to general superintendent) and J. Roswell Flower as secretary, as well as the first executive presbytery.

The approximately 300 delegates to the first General Council represented a variety of independent churches and networks of churches, including the "Association of Christian Assemblies" in Indiana and the "Church of God in Christ and in Unity with the Apostolic Faith Movement" from Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas.



From the beginning, evangelism and missions have been central to the identity of the Assemblies of God and have resulted in a continuing growth at home and abroad. In 2007, the Assemblies of God claimed a constituency in the United States of 2,836,174 adherents; 12,311 churches; and 33,622 ministers. The General Council supported 2,691 foreign missionaries and associates working with the broader World Assemblies of God Fellowship, whose adherents numbered more than 64 million.

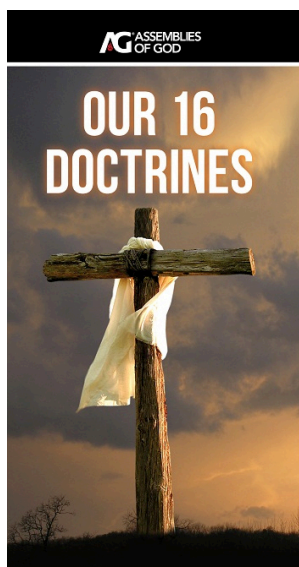


The aggressive missions programs of the church are designed to establish self-supporting and self-propagating national church bodies in every country. Ministers and leaders are trained in 1,891 foreign Bible schools. The Assemblies of God has 19 endorsed Bible colleges, universities, and a seminary in the United States.



The National Office of the Assemblies of God is located in Springfield, Missouri. The National Office includes an administration building, the Gospel Publishing House, and the International Distribution Center. The Gospel Publishing House, the printing arm of the church, turns out more than 12 tons of gospel literature each day.

16 Fundamental Truths Of The Assemblies Of God



The Bible is completely adequate by itself to serve as the guide for our beliefs and way of living. The primary purpose of this statement is intended to be the common basis for our fellowship and unity, or as the Bible recommends, that we may agree with one another so as to avoid divisions because of disagreements on what we believe (1 Corinthians 1:10 and Acts 2:42). There is no claim that the wording of this statement is divinely inspired, but the truth it sets forth is felt to be essential to a full-gospel, Bible-based ministry. This statement does not contain all of the Bible's truth, rather it merely covers some basic fundamental teaching thought to be vital to successful Christian living.

This "Statement of Fundamental Truths" contains the 16 doctrines of the Assemblies of God. These are non-negotiable tenets of faith that all Assemblies of God churches adhere to. Four of these, Salvation, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Divine Healing, and the Second Coming of Christ are considered Cardinal Doctrines which are essential to the church's core mission of reaching the world for Christ.⁴

⁴ For the full version, please visit http://ag.org/top/Beliefs/Statement_of_fundamental_truths

1. WE BELIEVE...The Scriptures are Inspired by God and declare His design and plan for mankind.
2. WE BELIEVE...There is only One True God—revealed in three persons...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (commonly known as the Trinity).
3. WE BELIEVE...In the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. As God's son Jesus was both human and divine.
4. WE BELIEVE...though originally good, Man Willingly Fell to Sin—ushering evil and death, both physical and spiritual, into the world.
5. WE BELIEVE...Every Person Can Have Restored Fellowship with God Through 'Salvation' (trusting Christ, through faith and repentance, to be our personal Savior). **[1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the AG]**
6. WE BELIEVE...and practice two ordinances—(1) Water Baptism by Immersion after repenting of one's sins and receiving Christ's gift of salvation, and (2) Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's suffering and death for our salvation.
7. WE BELIEVE...the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a Special Experience Following Salvation that empowers believers for witnessing and effective service, just as it did in New Testament times. **[1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the AG]**
8. WE BELIEVE... The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is 'Speaking in Tongues,' as experienced on the Day of Pentecost and referenced throughout Acts and the Epistles.
9. WE BELIEVE...Sanctification Initially Occurs at Salvation and is not only a declaration that a believer is holy, but also a progressive lifelong process of separating from evil as believers continually draw closer to God and become more Christlike.
10. WE BELIEVE...The Church has a Mission to seek and save all who are lost in sin. We believe 'the Church' is the Body of Christ and consists of the people who, throughout time, have accepted God's offer of redemption (regardless of religious denomination) through the sacrificial death of His son Jesus Christ.

11. WE BELIEVE...A Divinely Called and Scripturally Ordained Leadership Ministry Serves the Church. The Bible teaches that each of us under leadership must commit ourselves to reach others for Christ, to worship Him with other believers, to build up or edify the body of believers—the Church and to Meet human need with ministries of love and compassion.
12. WE BELIEVE...Divine Healing of the Sick is a Privilege for Christians Today and is provided for in Christ's atonement (His sacrificial death on the cross for our sins). **[1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the AG]**
13. WE BELIEVE...in The Blessed Hope—When Jesus Raptures His Church Prior to His Return to Earth (the second coming). At this future moment in time all believers who have died will rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air, and Christians who are alive will be caught up with them, to be with the Lord forever. **[1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the AG]**
14. WE BELIEVE...in The Millennial Reign of Christ when Jesus returns with His saints at His second coming and begins His benevolent rule over earth for 1,000 years. This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel and the establishment of universal peace.
15. WE BELIEVE...A Final Judgment Will Take Place for those who have rejected Christ. They will be judged for their sin and consigned to eternal punishment in a punishing lake of fire.
16. WE BELIEVE...and look forward to the perfect New Heavens and a New Earth that Christ is preparing for all people, of all time, who have accepted Him. We will live and dwell with Him there forever following His millennial reign on Earth. 'And so shall we forever be with the Lord!'

OUR VISION AND MISSION

What is a vision?

A vision is having a clear image of where God desires us to BE. A vision looks towards the future and answers the question, “*Where are we going?*”

A vision exceeds what is seen in the present reality and looks towards a future reality.

The vision for First Assembly of God is a reflection of the mission of Christ: Experiencing God, Connecting Together, Growing & Serving, Impacting our World.

- It’s the heartbeat of everything we do.
- It brings pleasure to God.
- It applies personally over our life and our church.
- His mission becomes our passion.

What is our Mission?

Our Mission is to be “Messengers of Hope.”

So, to clarify:

1. The vision for First Assembly is that we are: Experiencing God, Connecting Together, Growing & Serving, Impacting our World
2. The Mission for First Assembly is that we are: “Messengers of Hope.”

Living the Vision and Mission

How do we practically live out the powerful vision and mission of First Assembly?

Encounter Weekend

An Encounter Weekend is a special time designed to help you experience the presence of God and to lay the foundation for your continued growth and development as a believer. You can expect new revelation, new vision and healing.

School of Discipleship

School of Discipleship is a series of discipleship classes for those who want to understand God's purpose and vision for life. Having completed Encounter Weekend, you are invited to deepen your character, grow your ministry and expand your level of influence in leadership. While many "talk" about discipleship, we actually do it!

Lifegroups

We believe that being a part of "church" is more than going to a weekend service; it's about being connected to others. We have heard many times that our church is a "big church," but a way of making it feel smaller is by joining one of our *small groups*, called *Lifegroups*. These groups, hosted in homes all over the island, allow you to connect with people on a more intimate level. We have groups that are open to the whole family, and some dedicated to a particular focus.

Benefits of a Lifegroup

We see that the Early Church committed themselves to each other in fellowship.

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles." (Acts 2:42-43)

As all churches grow, they experience growth pains. The major issue becomes unmet needs.

“Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.” (Acts 6:1, ESV)

1. Some things we must learn:
 - a. Pastors can't do it all
 - b. Pastors give away ministry
2. What is the Pastor's focus and Job Description? Praying; Preaching; Teaching; Equipping

When Lifegroups are integrated into the body of the Church, the Result is: Health & Growth

1. Relationships can be formed
2. Personal application of the Bible can be experienced in the daily lives of group members.
3. Assimilation of visitors and new converts into the life of the church. This helps them get connected.
4. Intentional discipleship – Path of Spiritual Growth & Development
5. Leadership development – During the School of Discipleship progression: Includes them in leadership; Empowerment; Delegation of responsibilities
6. Multiplication – Releasing those whom have been empowered to repeat the process with others.
7. Use of spiritual gifts – Use their gifts to benefit the life group.

Serving in Ministry

There is a new dimension of our relationship with God when we begin to serve in ministry. God has gifted each believer with a set of special gifts to be used towards building the body of Christ.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Membership Requirements

- A. Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration (a new birth) (John 1:12, 13; 3:3-8; I Peter 1:23-25).
- B. Evidences of a consistent Christian life. (Romans 6:4; 13:13-14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1-2; I John 1:6-7).
- C. Subscription to the tenets of faith as set forth in the constitution.
- D. Regular contributors to the support of the Assembly according to the Scriptures. (Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:6-9).
- E. Evidence of a cooperative, submissive, humble, and Christlike spirit as the Scriptures enjoin.
- F. Fulfillment of the requirements of a membership class.

Our Commitment to You

We take our role very seriously when we consider you as a member. We commit to:

1. Minister to your spiritual needs, especially through the preaching of the Word.
2. Offer you opportunities in Experiencing God in fresh and new ways
3. Assist you with godly counsel, especially in times of decision, stress, and difficulty.
4. Provide you and your family with correct biblical instruction and encouragement.
5. Sustain you by the prayers and concern of pastors and fellow believers in all distressing circumstances of life.

6. Offer you opportunities in deepening your relationship with the body and building a sense of community.
7. Be an accountability partner in encouraging spiritual and personal growth.
8. Offer you with opportunities where you can serve the body.
9. Be a sound steward of your financial and personal investments in the kingdom.
10. Offer you with special privileges and benefits relating to membership.

Church Discipline

Discipline is exercised by our official board. Refer to Bylaws for an extended guide, including Scriptural references. Some grounds for exercising discipline or expulsion from the church shall include the following:

1. Absence from the services of the assembly for an extended period of 90 days without reasonable cause.
2. Failure to consistently support the church
3. Living an immoral and sinful life, refusing to follow to Scriptural conduct.
4. Promulgation of erroneous, inconsistent, and false doctrine.
5. Persistence in those things which the Scriptures forbid, such as being habitual busybodies, having unbridled tongues, evil speaking, backbiting, tail bearing, slander, bitterness, murmuring, strife, engendering division and schism.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized in water, and being in agreement with First Assembly of God's purpose, beliefs, values, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with First Assembly of God's family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I Will Protect the UNITY of My Church

- By connecting in love towards others
- By refusing to participate in gossip
- By caring for the needs of others

“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” — Romans 14:19

“Live in complete harmony with each other—each with the attitude of Christ toward each other.” — Romans 15:5

“...have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.” — 1 Peter 1:22

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...” — Ephesians 4:29

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account.

“Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” — Hebrews 13:17

2. I Will Share the RESPONSIBILITY of My Church

- By praying for its growth
- By inviting the unchurched to attend
- By warmly welcoming those who visit

“We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.” — 1 Thessalonians 1:2

“...Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.” — Luke 14:23

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” — Romans 15:7

“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” — Romans 15:7

3. I Will Serve the MINISTRY of My Church

- By supporting the mission and vision with my gifts and talents
- By growing in my gifts and talents
- By submitting to spiritual leadership

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” — 1 Peter 4:10

“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you...” — 1 Peter 4:10

“It was he who gave some to be...pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” — Ephesians 4:11-12

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others...but [Christ] made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant....” — Philippians 2:3-4,7

4. I Will Support the TESTIMONY of My Church

- By attending faithfully and fruitfully
- By living a Holy and Spirit-filled Life
- By giving His tithe and my offerings

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” — Hebrews 10:25

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...” — Philippians 1:27

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...” — 1 Corinthians 16:2

“A tithe (tenth) of everything.... belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.” — Leviticus 27:30

Your Tithing Commitment

As a member of First Assembly of God, we believe that together we share in the financial responsibility of the church. As a scriptural precedent, we believe that tithing as a tangible act of our worship.

The tithe is giving one-tenth of one’s personal income to support the work of the Lord. We believe tithing is a *recognition* that everything we have, comes from God. *“A tithe (tenth) of everything...belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.” Leviticus 27:30*

- It helps me to rely on God. God already owns everything (Psalm 24:1, 1 Corinthians 10:26). Moreover, God gives to us in abundance! (James 1:17, 1 Timothy 6:17,18, Ephesians 1:3-8, 20)
- It opens the door to obedience in other areas of my life. It’s all about the heart. God is pleased with our obedience. Returning what belongs to Him is a sign of obedience to Christ. (Leviticus 27:30) We demonstrate our love for Christ by obeying his commands. (John 14:15)
- It activates my faith. It takes faith to put God first. And God is honored by my faithfulness. (Proverbs 3:9) He deserves my faithfulness because God should never come second to my circumstances. Tithing helps to keep my priorities straight. Only then can I do more with 90% with God than 100% without Him. And can you picture how tithing might be tool to witness to others? How Jesus is God’s tithe—His first and His best. Jesus was sacrificed so the rest of us could be redeemed (bought back, or cleared with payment).
- It helps meet the needs of God’s people. (Malachi 3:10, 1 Corinthians 16:1,2,

Acts 4:34) When you return your tithe to your local church, God uses it to fulfill his Work. At the same time, God has promised that our own needs will be met (Matthew 6:33).

- It fights a selfish heart. Tithing guards Christians from selfishness (Acts 20:35). Tithing reminds us that ultimately our money does not belong to us. I had to learn to trust that God alone provides, protects, and promotes me. What follows then is a grateful heart! And I can then be used by God to give far beyond what I thought was possible.
- It supports the Great Commission. Matthew 28:19,20 Your tithe should go to your local church and God has chosen to work through the church during these ages.

The Membership Application Process

As we receive your application for membership, we plan to process everything in a smooth and timely manner. Please allow several weeks for approval. There are several stages that must take place:

1. Attend Membership Class
2. Complete and review the Membership Application ensuring that all blanks have been filled out.
3. The Church Board will review your application.
4. You may be notified by a board member or pastor for a brief membership interview. If you are unable to meet at the church for an available time, a phone interview will be satisfactory. Please be available to connect with us. The interview just gives us the opportunity to personally connect with you.
5. After careful review from the board, you will be notified of your approval status.
6. Once you've been approved, your name will be called during a Sunday service, and you'll join other new members to be prayed over and officially welcomed into the Fellowship. We'll let you know when this service is taking place.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Please use the space below to write down any questions that you might want answered: