

# Completing the Membership Process @ New Life Church

Thank you for your interest in membership at New Life Church. The Body of Christ is an active, living, breathing and growing “organism”, not merely an organization. When God’s brings about growth in the local church we believe it is appropriate to give thanks as well as seek the Lord’s guidance as to why He has brought you to this Body and what He seeks to strengthen or start in this Body through you and your gifts.

This packet of information is the starting point toward completing the membership orientation process at New Life. [DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED! THE EXPLANATION IS LENGTHY IN ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN THE PROCESS AS CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE] Along the way, if you have questions, feel free to contact the pastor or a member of the Leadership Team.

The goals of the membership orientation process are:

- Help you get better acquainted with the church’s history and mission
- Assist you in clarifying how God has wired you for service in His Kingdom through discovering your SHAPE for ministry:
  - What are your **S**piritual gifts?
  - What is your **H**earth – passion in life?
  - What **A**bilities do you have?
  - What is your basic **P**ersonality-temperament?
  - What **E**xperiences have you had in life that have contributed to who you are – spiritual, educational, painful, etc.
- Enable you to be clear about what you are saying “I Do” to as a member– what you can expect from church leadership and ministries as well as what is expected of you as an active member.

An Elder or Pastor George will find a time to review with you the two sections in the packet, “Discovering Membership” Part 1 & 2). If you would like to listen to a presentation Pastor George made on these sections, you can use your handouts for Discovering Membership Part 1 & 2 and follow along with the audio presentation at our website:

<http://www.newlifechurchmo.org/membership-info.html>

- Part 1 – “*Getting On Board: Wading In*”. How are you “Wired By God”? This session looks at how God has wired you for a purpose.
- Part 2 - “*Getting On Board: Glancing Back & Looking Forward*”, a brief look at the history of Christianity as well as discussing the purposes of New Life Church.
- Part 3 – “*Getting On Board: How Do We Get There From Here?*”, identifying the strategies we will implement to fulfill New Life’s mission and reviewing the membership covenant.

## How to complete the Spiritual Gifts Discovery:

In Ephesians 2:10, the Apostle Paul reminds believers that “You are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for you to do”. This tool is one of many ways to discover how God has wired you and for what type(s) of works/ministry. Remember, Ephesians 2:8-9 made it clear that the works/ministries we do are in response to God’s amazing grace, His gift of salvation; works/ministries are not a means to salvation, but an expression of gratitude for salvation. The Spiritual Gifts Discovery sheet has 64 statements (32 on each of 2 pages). Next to each statement put the following number if you agree with the statement:

**0** – “Not at all” **1** – “A Little” **2** – “Moderately” **3** – “Considerably” **4** – “Strongly”

Once you have responded to, and placed a number next to, each statement, transfer that number to the Spiritual Gifts Discovery Answer Sheet. For instance, if you placed a "2" next to statement #1, then put a "2" on the line next to #1 on the Discovery Answer Sheet. When you finish transferring the numbers, total the 4 numbers in each row and put that number on the line under the column "TOTAL". Your highest 3 or 4 are considered your strongest gifts. For an explanation of the gifts, see the document, "Spiritual Gifts Order on Green Sheet". These top 3-4 gifts, and your rationale, should be recorded in the SPIRITUAL GIFTS section of your SHAPE Profile.

**How to complete the SHAPE Profile** (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experience): Rev. Rick Warren began using the acronym "SHAPE" nearly 3 decades ago to look at how our shape affects every area of our lives? Our relationships, career, finances, retirement, recreation, hobbies, and enjoyment. You matter to God and are shaped by Him for a purpose. It is hoped that you will discover how God has made you unique and how that affects every area of your life.

**To complete the profile:**

- **Spiritual Gifts** – list your top three gifts and your rationale – why you feel you have these gifts.
- **Heart** - Complete the three sentences, "I love to..." This sections helps discover what you have a heart for, what you are passionate about, and/or what motivates you. Respond to the other statements as best you are able. Feel free to use an additional paper as needed.
- **Abilities** – Respond to the statements as best you are able.
- **Personality** – circle the "x" or a spot between the x's which best represents you. Are you more "Introverted" or more "Extroverted", etc.
- **Experiences** – in paragraph form, respond to each of the statements on pages 3-4, using additional pages if needed. Be sure to address each section – Spiritual Experiences, Painful Experiences, Educational Experiences and Ministry Experience.

**NEXT STEPS:**

Once you complete this packet please contact Pastor George and he will schedule a time to meet with you. The intent of this encouraging meeting is to address questions you have about New Life Church, share hopes/concerns regarding membership, and briefly review your SHAPE profile.