

Membership at 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**ear – 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.

During worship services on January 11, 18 & 25 the focus of the message will be on membership:

January 11- “*Wired By God*”, looking at how God has wired you for a purpose.

January 18- “*Glancing Back & Looking Forward*”, a brief look at the history of Christianity as well as discussing the purposes of New Life.

January 25- “*How Do We Get There From Here?*”, identifying the strategies we will implement to fulfill New Life’s mission and reviewing the membership covenant.

February 1- (to be used in the event of inclement weather on previous Sundays)

Each of these Sundays will be audio (and hopefully, video) recorded for those who are not able to make it that day. The Video/Audio will be set up in a classroom to be viewed before or following worship on January 18, 25 & February 1. Copies of membership folders which will be handed out each Sunday will be available, too.

Beginning Sunday, February 15, those who have:

- completed and turned in the membership orientation packet and the membership covenant,
- attended/viewed/listened to each of the three aforementioned messages in January (either on the Sunday it was presented or in the make-up gatherings),
- met with a pair of leadership team members, and
- are interested in committing to membership at New Life,

Will be received into membership at a worship service. Such receptions will be held during worship on February 15, 22 & March 1.

Those for whom the January sessions don’t work out, we will be holding Membership Orientation Sessions (attend only one) on the third Sundays of March, April and May from 11am-1:30pm. Quarterly thereafter.

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” next to the line next to #1 on the Discovery Answer Sheet. When you turn in the packet, the Discovery Answer Sheet will be tabulated and you will be contacted regarding the top 3-4 gifts that the discovery revealed and asked why you feel you have these gifts. These 3-4 gifts, and your rationale, will be printed on your SHAPE profile.

How to complete the SHAPE (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experience) Profile:

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 (these will be emailed to you once the Gifts Discovery form is tabulated and you will be asked for 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 sheet of 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, put it in the “Membership” box on the church office desk. Then, sign up in the lobby to meet with a pair of leadership team members of your choice. 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.