

# MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

BETHEL CHURCH, REDDING, CA



You don't need to become a member to thrive at Bethel Church. Membership is an outward and formalized sign of the commitment in an individual's heart. As members, we join together for God's glory and our mutual benefit. Membership is a commitment between the Congregation's members, one with another and between the Congregation's leaders and members.

## **IF YOU WANT TO BE A MEMBER, YOU MUST:**

1. Have a personal relationship w/Jesus Christ (born again) – Acts 2:41a.
2. Be baptized in water following salvation - Acts 2:41b.
3. Attend the one-time class Bethel Life.
4. Attend the one-time class Servant Life.
5. Attend at least 8 of the 12 Deeper Life classes.
6. Finish the "Firm Foundations" workbook (available in the bookstore) **or** transfer your church membership from your previous church. If your previous church membership grounded you in the major teachings of the Bible, you may ask them to transfer your membership to Bethel by sending us a letter on church letterhead (c/o Dann Farrelly) or emailing [membership@ibethel.org](mailto:membership@ibethel.org)
7. Be actively involved in a ministry and/or pursuing it when membership requirements are finished.
8. Sign a "Membership Commitment" as a token of the commitment in our hearts (which the board will then approve).
9. Submit a complete "Membership Application" with picture of yourself (if one was not taken in the Deeper Life class). You can also send a picture by email to [membership@ibethel.org](mailto:membership@ibethel.org).

**GRADUATION FROM 1<sup>st</sup> YEAR BSSM COUNTS FOR DOING STEPS 3, 4, 5 & 6.**

## **ABOUT THIS MEMBER PACKET**

- The next page contains the section in our bylaws explaining membership. It is for you to keep.
- Carefully read and pray about the membership commitment. If you believe God wants you to make this commitment, fill it out along with the application, front and back. Submit them both with a current picture of yourself (a picture with your spouse is OK too).
- Upon approval of the membership commitment by the COE (Council of Elders) we will give you a signed copy for your records. When you receive it do not return it to us!
- The application asks if you are in agreement with our Statement of Faith and Statement of Purpose from our bylaws. We have included them in this packet so you can read them prior to submitting your application. Please also keep them for your records.

**You Keep This Page**



# BYLAWS: MEMBERSHIP SECTION

Taken from the Bethel Church Bylaws, March 2014



## ARTICLE THREE – MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

Section 3.01. Membership. The Congregation will have members. Membership is an outward formalized sign of the commitment in an individual's heart. As members, we join together for God's glory and our mutual benefit. Membership is a commitment between the Congregation's members, one with another and between the Congregation's leaders and members.

Section 3.02. Membership Rosters. The COE and the individuals it delegates will maintain a roster of both active members and inactive members. The COE will periodically review the Congregation's membership rosters and place individuals on either the active members or inactive members roster as appropriate. The COE may remove individuals from either roster pursuant to Section 3.07.

Section 3.03. Membership Standards. We invite those who meet the membership standards and regularly attend services to become active members of the Congregation. Each active member must affirm the following membership standards in writing that will be included on the membership commitment form promulgated by the COE:

1. I have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and boast in Him, not myself (Eph. 2:4-10).
2. I have been baptized in water at some point in my life, signifying conversion and new life in God (Matt. 28:19; Col. 2:12).
3. I take responsibility as a disciple of Jesus to continue to enjoy my own close, obedient, loving friendship with the Lord. (John 15:1-17).
4. My life evidences a genuine experience of regeneration - the new birth. (John 1:12-13, 3:3-8; I Peter 1:18-25) and a commitment to holiness, wholeness and our church family (Romans 6:4, 8:1-4, 13:13-14; Eph. 4:17-32, 5:1-2,15; I John 1:6-7). Specifically, I affirm the sacredness of sexuality and marriage. In marriage, I will be completely faithful to my spouse (Heb. 13:4). I believe Scripture teaches that sex is a blessing to be rightly experienced only within heterosexual marriage. Therefore, I will avoid sex outside of marriage, pornography, living as husband and wife when not married and/or homosexuality (Matt. 15:19, Rom. 13:13, I Cor. 6:9-20). As well, I will follow the wisdom of the Lord by refraining from intoxication with alcohol and/or drugs (Rom. 13:13, Gal. 5:19-21). Should I stumble in any of these areas, I will get up again with the help of the Holy Spirit and my church family.
5. I have read and am in agreement with Bethel's Statement of Faith and Statement of Purpose found in Sections 1.01 and 1.02.
6. I contribute regularly to the support of the congregation in the form of tithes, offerings, time and attendance.
7. I agree to be governed by the congregation's bylaws as they pertain to church life.
8. If offended, I would not abandon this commitment but would speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:25) and work through conflict with gentleness, grace and forgiveness (Eph. 4:1-3).
9. I will be thankful (Col. 3:15) and live humbly and honorably in all my relationships with both Christians (Eph. 4:1-6) and non-Christians, so as to be a faithful ambassador of Christ's kingdom (II Cor. 5:20).
10. I will be accountable to keep these commitments and welcome correction in my life and doctrine if need be.
11. If the Lord seems to be transitioning me to a different church, I will not simply leave but consider this transition with my church family. Bethel will transfer membership to other congregations when requested to do so.

Section 3.04. Membership Application and Procedure. Persons eligible for membership who wish to become members of the Congregation must make their desire known to the COE by application and signed membership commitment form. The COE will examine the applicant in accordance with membership standards in Section 3.03 above. The COE has the right and authority to determine the eligibility and acceptability of all membership applicants by majority vote. For each individual the COE approves for membership, the Secretary will record their name in the COE meeting minutes, will add the newly accepted member's name to the active member roster, and will send the newly accepted member a letter of acceptance. New members may be publicly received as members at any Sunday service.

Section 3.05. Inactive Members. Any active member may be declared an inactive member by the COE's majority vote who:

- A. Absences themselves from the Congregation's services for a period of three consecutive months or more;
- B. Ceases to contribute to the Congregation's support for a period of three consecutive months;
- C. Are under charges for misconduct;
- D. Have unrepentantly given themselves over to sinful or worldly practices; or
- E. Departs from the membership standards

A member who the COE has declared to be an inactive member will have no voting privileges until the COE restores them to fellowship as an active member and reinstates their name on the active member roster. Any of the above listed causes are sufficient grounds to terminate a person from membership (Matt. 18:15-18; Romans 16:17-18; I Cor. 5:11; Gal. 1:8-9; Titus 3:1-15).

Section 3.06. Voting Constituency. All active members 16 years of age or older, in good standing, constitute the Congregation's voting constituency. Each member of the voting constituency may cast one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members.

Section 3.07. Termination of Membership. Active members wishing to end their relationship with the Congregation may do so by notifying the COE, Senior Elder, or the Congregation's Secretary in writing. Active members desiring to be transferred to another church may apply to the Congregation's Secretary for a letter signed by the Senior Elder, Secretary or other COE member, which will be granted on the Senior Elder or COE's approval. The COE is empowered to periodically remove from the membership rosters those who are deceased, or who may have voluntarily withdrawn from the Congregation's fellowship, or who have been granted letters of transfer, or have remained in inactive membership status for a period decided upon by the COE or who have not responded to discipline and have been asked to permanently leave fellowship with the Congregation.

Section 3.08. Membership of the Senior Elder and Ministerial Staff. By virtue of office the Senior Elder and his spouse will be active members during the Senior Elder's tenure. By virtue of appointment each ministerial staff member and their respective spouses will be active members during the staff member's tenure or period of employment.

**A copy of the full bylaws for Bethel Church is available upon request.**

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

Taken from the Bethel Church Bylaws, March 2017  
Section 1.02 - Statement of Faith



## WE BELIEVE...

There is only one true God who is the eternal King, Creator and Redeemer of all that is. He is perfectly holy, just, loving and truthful. He has revealed Himself to be eternally self-existent - one being in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God.

Humankind was created in the image of God to know and enjoy Him yet we willfully rejected the Lordship and glory of God for which we were intended. Because of this, sickness, death and judgment entered the world and now creation experiences the effects and consequences of sin.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the one and only Son of God, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin, Mary, and is God's Anointed One, empowered by the Holy Spirit to inaugurate God's Kingdom on earth. He was crucified for our sins, died, was buried, resurrected and ascended into heaven, and is now alive today, in the presence of God the Father and in His people. He is "true God" and "true man."

We are saved by God's grace, through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Anyone can be restored to fellowship with God through repenting, believing and receiving Jesus as their Savior and Lord. The Holy Spirit convicts, regenerates, justifies, sanctifies and adopts us as we enter the Kingdom of God as His sons and daughters.

In the ongoing sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life and minister super-naturally. The baptism of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 1:4-8 and 2:4 is poured out on believers that they might have God's power to be His witnesses.

The victorious redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides freedom from the power of the enemy – sin, lies, sickness and torment.

The Church consists of all who put their faith in Jesus Christ. He gave his church the ordinances of Baptism and Communion. The Church exists to carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ and further advance His kingdom by undoing the works of the enemy, preaching and living the good news of God's love, discipling the nations, baptizing and teaching them to love and obey God.

In the ever-increasing government of God and in the Blessed Hope, which is the glorious visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to rule and reign with His overcoming bride – the church.

Heaven and hell are real places. There will be a resurrection of the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting death.

# STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Taken from the Bethel Church Bylaws, November 2005



Bethel Church of Redding (the "Congregation") purposes to be an expression of the Body of Christ (the church), submitted to the Lord Jesus Christ in all things, patterned after the elements of the New Testament church order that are reproducible in our context, and dedicated, through the power of the Holy Spirit:

To evangelize the unconverted to a saving faith in Jesus Christ; to apply the healing Gospel of Jesus Christ to all kinds of social and personal sins, diseases, and disorders;

Matt. 28:19  
Prov. 11:30  
John 10:10

To reproduce the life and character of the risen Christ in a growing congregational expression of the Body of Christ; to disciple participants, producing in them wholeness and maturity; to develop spiritual leaders who can reproduce themselves and meet the needs of others;

Phil. 2:5-11  
Matt. 28:19  
II Tim. 2:2

To adore and glorify God in the liberty of the Holy Spirit through public and private worship; and to administer the sacraments or ordinances;

Rev. 19:10b  
I Cor. 6:20  
Isaiah 1:50  
Matt. 28:19  
I Cor. 11:23-24

To experience and express love as the intended relationship of God and person, and person to person;

John 13:34-35  
Matt. 22:37-40

To encourage and strengthen other expressions of the body of Christ, especially in Redding, and to promote unity and harmony in the body; and

I Cor. 14:12  
Romans 14:19

To discover, nurture, and commission people whom the Holy Spirit has called to minister beyond Redding.

Matt. 28:19  
Matt. 9:37

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

BETHEL CHURCH, REDDING, CA



## ABOUT BETHEL MEMBERSHIP

*"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." Romans 12:4-5*

The Bible uses many pictures to describe Christians as a community: a household (Eph. 2:19), a human body (I Cor. 12:12-31) and a temple made up of "living stones" (I Peter 2:4-5, Eph. 2:21). All of these illustrate and mandate our interconnectedness and our need for each other. This is why we ask members to sign this commitment. These are requirements to become a member of Bethel Church not to become a Christian!

Our covenant with God and our commitment to one another create our culture and our community. Membership is an outward, formalized sign of the inward mutual commitment we have made with each other and the Lord. This commitment defines not only our role, but also the intention of our heart; it affects our decisions and influences our perspective. This commitment is costly, but the payoff is immense. As members, we join together for God's glory and our mutual benefit; we share the responsibilities and rewards of all that God will accomplish through us. In addition, as outlined in our bylaws, membership is an important component in our relationship with the government and the proper stewardship of the resources God has entrusted to our congregation over the years.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

As your leaders, we will foster a trustworthy leadership team that submits to the authority of the Word of God (I Tim. 3:1-13 & Titus 1:6-9, I Peter 5:1-7). We commit to prepare you "for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:12-13). We will seek to set an example in speech, life, love, faith and purity (1 Tim. 4:12) and accurately teach the Word of Truth (2 Tim. 2:15). We are willing shepherds of "God's flock" (1 Peter 5:2) holding one another to the expectations written below. We will be approachable and teachable and create a church family full of faith, hope, love and joy!

## YOUR COMMITMENT

By signing this commitment you acknowledge your need to cooperate with God's love and power as He establishes righteousness in all of us, which we cannot create on our own. I affirm the following:

- I have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and boast in Him, not myself (Eph. 2:4-10).
- I have been baptized in water at some point in my life, signifying my conversion and new life in God (Matt. 28:19; Col. 2:12).
- I take responsibility as a disciple of Jesus to continue to nurture my own close, obedient, loving friendship with the Lord (John 15:1-17).
- My life evidences a genuine experience of regeneration - the new birth (John 1:12-13, 3:3-8; I Peter 1:18-25) and a commitment to holiness, wholeness and our church family (Romans 6:4, 8:1-4, 13:13-14; Eph. 4:17-32, 5:1-2, 15; I John 1:6-7). Specifically, I affirm the sacredness of sexuality and marriage. In marriage, I will be completely faithful to my spouse (Heb. 13:4). I believe Scripture teaches that sex is a blessing to be rightly experienced only within heterosexual marriage. Therefore I will avoid sex outside of marriage, pornography, living as husband and wife when not married and/or homosexuality (Matt. 15:19, Rom. 13:13, 1 Cor. 6:9-20).

As well, I will follow the wisdom of the Lord by refraining from intoxication with alcohol and/or drugs (Rom. 13:13, Gal. 5:19-21). Should I stumble in any of these areas, I will get up again with the help of the Holy Spirit and my church family!

- I have read and am in agreement with Bethel's Statement of Faith and Statement of Purpose.
- I contribute regularly to the support of the congregation in the form of tithes, offerings, time and attendance.
- I agree to be governed by the congregation's bylaws as they pertain to church life.
- If offended, I would not abandon this commitment but would speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:25) and work through conflict with gentleness, grace and forgiveness (Eph. 4:1-3).
- I will be thankful (Col. 3:15) and live humbly and honorably in all my relationships with both Christians (Eph. 4:1-6) and non-Christians so as to be a faithful ambassador of Christ's kingdom (2 Cor. 5:20).
- I will be accountable to keep these commitments and welcome correction in my life and doctrine if need be.
- If the Lord seems to be transitioning me to a different church, I will not simply leave but consider this transition with the community and redefine this commitment with Bethel Church Redding. Bethel will transfer membership to other congregations when requested to do so.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTACH PICTURE HERE  
or email to  
membership@ibethel.org

Photo is required to be  
submitted when you apply.



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

BETHEL CHURCH, REDDING, CA



**Everyone 16 years and older should fill out their own application.**

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*The **previous address** below helps us to consolidate any old records from any previous addresses that may be on file.*

Previous Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your preferred method of communication: ☐ mail or ☐ email? May we text you? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

Phone (main): \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ cell ☐ land Phone (alternate) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ cell ☐ land

Male ☐ Female ☐ Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Engaged ☐ Married ☐ Separated ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Marriage Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your spouse a believer? ☐ Yes or ☐ No Is your spouse applying for membership? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

**Children** (Please list below all the children **living at home with you**)

How many children do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Male ☐ Female ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Male ☐ Female ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Male ☐ Female ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Male ☐ Female ☐

**Which Bethel Steps have you completed?**

Bethel Life Class ☐ Yes ☐ No

Servant Life Class ☐ Yes ☐ No

Firm Foundation's Workbook? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Requested a letter of transfer from your previous church? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a graduate of First Year BSSM at Bethel Redding? ☐ Yes or ☐ No If yes, what year? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of previous church, prior to Bethel? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you a member of your previous church? Yes ☐ No ☐ How long have you lived in the area? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you attended Bethel? \_\_\_\_\_ If current student: School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Are you ordained or licensed with a denomination? ☐ Yes or ☐ No If yes which one? \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Employment: Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes No Please check the box either "Yes" or "No".**

☐ ☐ Have you been born again? When? \_\_\_\_\_ Where were you? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ ☐ Have you been baptized in water? When? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ ☐ Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit? (not a requirement for membership)

When? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes No Please check the box either "Yes" or "No".**

- ☐ ☐ Are you in agreement with our Statement of Faith & Statement of Purpose? (See attached)
- ☐ ☐ Have you previously been a Bethel Church Member? Approximately when? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ ☐ Are you currently part of any type of small group? (Core, Life, Home/Fire, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

What Bethel leader (at any level of our team) do you have the strongest relationship with? \_\_\_\_\_

**All membership applicants should have or be preparing for an ongoing ministry responsibility.**

Please check ☒ the areas of ministry you are **currently** involved in and make note of any that you are actively preparing/ applying for. WE REALIZE SOME OF YOU DO MINISTRY OUTSIDE THE CHURCH. Please list these in the appropriate section below.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awakening Jr/Sr High; College | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality Team                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Platform Arts                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus Ministry                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Ministry Team             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Ministry           | <input type="checkbox"/> Intercession Team                | <input type="checkbox"/> Prophetic Ministry Team          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian School Volunteer    | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Volunteer              | <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco Outreach           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communion Preparation         | <input type="checkbox"/> Life/Core Group Leader/Co Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Food Outreach           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Volunteer          | <input type="checkbox"/> Light Maintenance Volunteer      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound System Team                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connect Pastor                | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring                        | <input type="checkbox"/> SOZO Ministry Team               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crisis Meal Preparation       | <input type="checkbox"/> Missions                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday AM Cooking                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond/Fellowship(senior)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Nightstrikes (Fri pm evangelism) | <input type="checkbox"/> Transformation Center/Counseling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FireStarters                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushering                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom Team                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Office/Administration Volunteer  | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship Projection Team          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healing Room Volunteer        | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Squad                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship Team                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Visitation           | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor On Call (drop-in/phone)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Connect Coach                    |

Other Bethel Church ministry not listed above \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ministries you are involved in outside the Church \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to become a member of Bethel Church? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_