

The House Membership

Remember His calling to the church

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Introduction

If you've been coming to The House for awhile, you've probably noticed that we're not like most churches. We're not overly structured, we don't pass an offering plate, and yet we worship Jesus, share testimonies, and encourage one another to live in faith. Since we're not like other churches, you might be wondering why we'd be offering a membership class? Perhaps you're concerned that we'll become overly structured like other churches and less welcoming. You probably have questions, but hopefully you'll be excited to learn more and would consider becoming a member and partnering with The House in this way.

Defining Membership/Partnership

You may or may not know that The House is affiliated with the Assemblies of God. The Assemblies of God was founded in 1914 in Hot Springs, Arkansas with 300 people at the founding convention. Today there are 13,017 churches in the U.S. with over 3 million members and adherents. There are more than 69 million Assemblies of God members worldwide, making the Assemblies of God the world's largest Pentecostal denomination.

Often times, the early church is forgotten when we think of church membership. While still having every intent of bringing salvation to the lost, many congregations tend to become more inwardly focused in achieving population growth and building structure development rather than focusing on the building the body. The Assemblies of God has essentially partnered with The House and has recognized our church to be part of their denomination. They've provided counseling for the leadership of our church, financial support in church planting and missions outreach, and a basic structure in which we can exist in Vancouver, WA. In our affiliation with the assemblies of God it is necessary to have church membership to maintain the health of our church for the purposes of:

- Complying with the requirements of state and federal law, as a non-profit.
- Fostering an accountability structure that limits conflicts of interests, including building and land purchases.
- Partnership in building up the body of Christ.

“²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁸ And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:27-28

“¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

- Ephesians 4:11-13

As believers, we are a part of a larger body of Christ. Even in the early church, Paul wrote letters to encourage and correct believers in the body of Christ. When we think of church membership it is important to remember the earliest church congregation in which building the body of Christ is the primary focus.

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Ways to Partner

Prayer: Remember to pray for the pastors and the leadership of the house. Pray for our congregation and our local community. Pray for the region and the world. Join in prayer before Saturday service.

Church Attendance: Attend regularly, invite others to attend, and reach out to those that have noticed missing from service.

Small Groups: Join and/or lead a small group.

Examples: Women's Group, Men's Group, Young Families, Couples, Genesis Groups.

Events: Partner in planning, hosting, and set-up/tear down of events.

Outreach: Participate in local, regional, and international outreach opportunities. Go on a missions trip. **Examples:** Agapes Table, Coffee outreach, Mississippi, and Africa trips.

Serve: Volunteer with children's ministry or youth group. Be a volunteer driver. Assist with coffee/food preparations before services. Help set-up/tear down after church.

Giving financially: Partner through tithes and offerings. A tithe is typically defined as a set amount that you normally give, while an offering is anything that you give beyond that.

Give.

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. ¹² "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty." - Malachi 3:10-12

Give generously with what you have.

¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." - Mathew 12:41-44

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Be blessed.

“³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” - Luke 6:38

Vision Statement

Building people, families, and community into a higher way of living.

What We Value

Atmosphere: It sets the tone. We strive for an atmosphere that is inviting and promotes a passion for the things of God.

Influence: We are commissioned by Jesus to influence everyone in our lives.

Honesty: We speak and live the truth in love/

Family: Where would we be without ours? We value the need for building strong families in our church and community.

Wisdom: He who wins the souls of the wise. Wisdom is supreme. Wisdom comes from one source - The Word of God.

What does it mean to be a Christian?

At it's most basic definition, being a Christian means that you've accepted Jesus Christ as you Lord and Savior, you've asked him to forgive you of you sins, and you've made a commitment to know and follow Christ. To follow Christ means to be his disciple, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to build up the body of Christ.

“¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” - John 3:16

“⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” - Romans 10:9

“³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴ Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, love for God^[a] is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.” - 1 John 2:3-6

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” - Mathew 4:19

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“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ - Mathew 22:37-38

“¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.” - 1 John 4:11-13

What we believe

We believe that Jesus is the Word.

The Bible is God’s Word for abundant life. His Word is the basis for our teaching, preaching, and all that we do.

We believe:

The Bible IS the inspired Word of God.

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.

“¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” - 2 Timothy 3:15-17

“¹³ And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.”
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13

“²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” - 2 Peter 1:21

- **There IS only one true God.**

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

“⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” - Deuteronomy 6:4

“You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he.

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Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.¹¹ I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no savior. - Isaiah 43:10-11

²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
- Luke 3:22

- **Jesus Christ IS the Son of God.**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare: His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary work on the cross, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His exaltation to the right hand of God.

²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
- Luke 3:22

" and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord." - Romans 1:4

- **Our sin separates us from God.**

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

¹³ To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

¹⁸ Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For just as

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through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”
- Romans 5:12-19

- **Jesus Christ IS our only hope to be reunited with God.**

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life.

“¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” - John 3:16

“¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”^[a]

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” - Romans 10:13-15

“⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—” - Ephesians 2:8

- **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit IS available for all believers.**

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.

“⁸ 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.” - Acts 1:8

“⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues^[a] and praising God.” - Acts 10:44-46

- **The mission of the church IS to worship God and to seek those who need to hear about the hope we have in Jesus.**

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven.

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“¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. - Ephesians 4:11-16

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” - Mathew 28:19

- **Water Baptism and Communion are vital to the life of the church.**

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements --bread and the fruit of the vine-- is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ, a memorial of his suffering and death, and a prophecy of His second coming, and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

“⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” - Romans 6:4

“²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.” - 1 Corinthians 11:26

- **We should endeavor to become more like Jesus Christ.**

“⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.” - 1 John 2:6

“²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” - Galations 2:20

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” - 1 Corinthians 11:1

- **Jesus IS our healer, both physically and emotionally.**

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers.

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“ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” - Isaiah 53:4-5

“¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” - James 5:14-16

- **Jesus Christ IS coming soon!**

“¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” - 1Thessalonians 4:16-17

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”^[a] and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”^[b] So shall it be! Amen.” - Revelation 1:7

“I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.” - Revelation 3:11

Discipleship

In remembering our calling to the church, our purpose isn't to build up the building structure of the church, or to increase the population of the congregation. Our calling is to go and make disciples. As a member of the body of Christ, your purpose is to go and make disciples. If you're obeying this directive, then it's understandable that your membership at The House may or may not be a long-term commitment. We recognize that members may come and go as they follow the calling to build up the body of Christ. While you're here, being a church member represents a commitment to both being disciplined and making disciples of others.

“¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” - Mathew 28:18-20

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