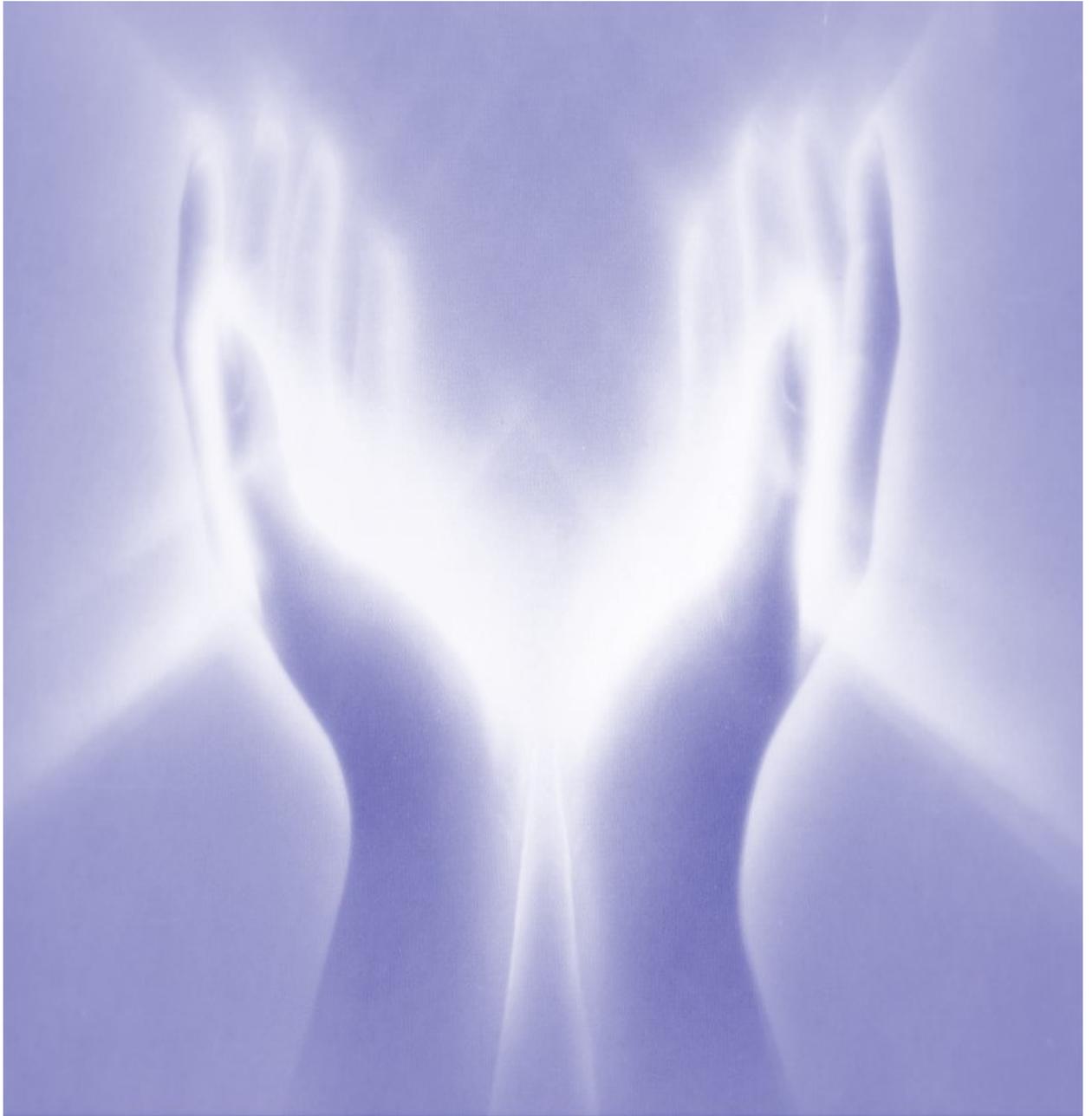


# Membership

into the Temple Baptist Church Family



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## Introduction to Membership at Temple Baptist Church

Welcome to TBC's membership class. We are thankful that you are considering membership at Temple. We trust this class will be informative and helpful for your decision-making process.

Paul mentions two different types of commitments in 2 Corinthians 8:5—**Best of all, they went beyond our highest hopes, for their first action was to dedicate themselves to the Lord and to us for whatever directions God might give them.** We base our membership commitments on this verse. The first membership commitment is to Jesus Christ for salvation. The second membership commitment is to other Christians for membership into a local church family.

It is said, "You get what you expect." At Temple Baptist Church, we only expect of our members what the Bible clearly expects of all Christians.

At TBC, we define fellowship as "being as committed to each other as we are to Jesus Christ." 1 John 3:16—**We know what real love is because Christ gave up his life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters.**

Jesus said love for each other is the mark of discipleship. John 13:34—**I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.**

The phrase "one another" or "each other" is used more than 50 times in the New Testament. We are commanded to love one another, pray for one another, encourage one another, admonish one another, greet one another, serve one another, teach one another, accept one another, honor one another, bear one another's burdens, forgive one another, submit to one another, be devoted to one another, etc. All of these commands are what membership in a local body of believers is all about. Loving one another is part of the responsibilities of membership at Temple Baptist Church.

Throughout the Bible and church history, spiritual covenants have been made between people in order for mutual edification and accountability. That is what we ask of each person joining Temple Baptist Church—to make a spiritual covenant with the other members.

### At Temple Baptist Church we have three qualifications for membership:

- 1) A personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Savior.
- 2) Completion of the seminar, "Membership into the Temple Baptist Church Family."
- 3) A signed commitment to abide by Temple Baptist Church's Membership Covenant and Statement of Faith.

### People are received into membership by completing these four steps in order:

- 1) Completing the three qualifications mentioned above.
- 2) Interviewed and approved by the senior pastor. If the senior pastor is not available, candidates will be interviewed and approved by a pastoral staff member.
- 3) Interviewed and approved by an elder.
- 4) Upon successfully completing the first three requirements, candidates for membership are admitted into membership by the extending of the hand of fellowship at a Sunday Worship Service.

#### Membership commitments at Temple Baptist Church:

1. Membership into God's family through faith in Jesus Christ
2. Membership into TBC's family

**Temple Baptist Church Membership Covenant**

Having placed my faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized as a believer in Jesus Christ, and being in agreement with Temple Baptist Church's statements, strategies, and structures, I am now led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Temple Baptist Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

**1. I WILL SEEK GOD WITH MY WHOLE HEART AND SOUL**

... By making and keeping "My 15:12 Covenant" to God

... By making and keeping "Our 15:12 Covenant" with Temple Baptist Church to God

... By learning how to live by the Spirit

**2 Chronicles 15:12—Then they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their ancestors, with all their heart and soul.**

**Galatians 5:5—But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive everything promised to us who are right with God through faith.**

**Galatians 5:16a—So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit.**

**2. I WILL SERVE THE MISSION OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

...By bringing God's presence to the world in which I live

...By inviting the non-churched to attend TBC events and/or services

...By developing a servant's heart

**Acts 1:8—But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**

**Matthew 28:18-20—18Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. 19Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

**Philippians 2:3-4,7—3Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. 4Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing ... 7He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.**

There are four commitments to TBC's membership covenant:

1. Seeking God with your whole heart and soul
2. Serving the mission of Temple Baptist Church
3. Protecting the unity of Temple Baptist Church
4. Sharing the responsibilities of Temple Baptist Church

**3. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

...By living in the light of God's presence

...By acting in love toward visitors, regular attendees, and members

...By refusing to gossip

1 John 1:7—***But if we are living in the light of God's presence, just as Christ is, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin.***

1 John 2:7—***Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment, for it is an old one you have always had, right from the beginning. This commandment--to love one another--is the same message you heard before.***

Ephesians 4:29—***Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.***

Proverbs 26:20—***Fire goes out for lack of fuel, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops.***

**4. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

...By praying for its growth

...By actively participating in services and opportunities

...By giving of my finances as taught in the Bible

1 Thessalonians 1:2—***We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.***

Galatians 2:20—***I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***

Hebrews 10:25—***And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.***

1 Corinthians 16:2a—***On every Lord's Day, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering.***

Leviticus 27:30—***A tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to him as holy.***

Who has God placed on your mind to invite to join you at TBC?

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to the terms of this membership covenant. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Temple Baptist Church Statement of Faith

**Holy Bible:** The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority for determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, the Bible is inspired, infallible and inerrant (see Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25,26; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21).

**Trinity:** There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal (see Genesis 1:26; Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 3:16,17; 28:19; Luke 1:35; Hebrews 3:7-11; 1 John 5:7).

**Jesus Christ:** Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100 percent God and 100 percent man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the cross for humankind and, thus, atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory (see Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1,14; 20:28; Philippians 2:5,6; 1 Timothy 2:5; 3:16).

**Virgin Birth:** Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in the virgin Mary's womb; therefore, He is the Son of God (see Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18,23-25; Luke 1:27-35).

**Redemption:** Humanity was created good and upright, but by voluntary transgression, it fell. Humanity's only hope for redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (see Genesis 1:26-31; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21).

**Regeneration:** For anyone to know God, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential (see John 6:44,65).

**Salvation:** We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ: His death, burial and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human effort (see Romans 10:9,10; Acts 16:31; Gal. 2:16; 3:8; Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 9:22).

**Repentance:** Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation (see Acts 2:21; 3:19; 1 John 1:9).

**Sanctification:** Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (see Romans 8:29; 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 6:14-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3; Hebrews 2:11).

What ministry has God put on your mind or heart to participate in at Temple?

Write it down here.

Or has God placed a new area of ministry on your mind or heart for you to start at Temple?

Write it down here.

**Jesus' Blood:** The blood that Jesus Christ shed on the cross of Calvary was sinless and is 100 percent sufficient to cleanse humankind from all sin. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for both our sinfulness and our sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death (see John 1:29; Romans 3:10-12,23; 5:9; Col. 1:20; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5; 5:9).

**Jesus Christ Indwells All Believers:** Christians are people who have invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come and live inside them by His Holy Spirit. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to Him, thus making Jesus the Lord of their lives as well as Savior. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried and rose again from the dead (see John 1:12; 14:17,23; 15:4; Romans 8:11; Revelation 3:20).

**Baptism in the Holy Spirit:** Given at Pentecost, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father. The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus after His Ascension to empower the Church to preach the gospel throughout the whole earth (see Joel 2:28,29; Matthew 3:11; Mark 16:17; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4,17,38,39; 8:14-17; 10:38,44-47; 11:15-17; 19:1-6).

**The Gifts of the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the Church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection and confirm the power of the gospel. The lists of these gifts in the Bible are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of biblical parameters (see Romans 1:11; 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; 14:1-40; Ephesians 4:16; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:5-16; Hebrews 2:4; 1 Peter 4:10).

**New Covenant:** The new covenant is God's promise to believers. The main truths of the new covenant are: 1) God's truths in our minds for understanding. 2) God's truths on our hearts so we will obey them. 3) God is our God. 4) We are God's children. 5) The Holy Spirit is our Teacher. 6) God forgives our sin. 7) God does not remember our sin (see Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:26,27; Luke 22:20; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18; and Hebrews 8-10).

**The Church:** The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission. Every person born of the Spirit is an integral part of the Church as a member of the Body of believers. There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (see John 17:11,20-23; Ephesians 1:22; 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23).

#### **Two Sacraments:**

**1. Water Baptism:** Following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism by full body immersion is our practice unless there is a medical condition or another condition in which full body immersion can not be performed (see Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38).

**2. The Lord's Supper:** A unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. (See Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12,36-38; 10:47,48; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-26).

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**Healing of the Sick:** Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples. It is given as a sign that is to follow believers. It is also a part of Jesus' work on the cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit (see Psalms 103:2,3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16,17; Mark 16:17,18; Acts 8:6,7; Romans 11:29; 1 Corinthians 12:9,28; James. 5:14-16).

**Resurrection:** Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the cross. As a result, both the saved and the lost will be resurrected—they that are saved to the resurrection of life, and they that are lost to the resurrection of eternal damnation (see Luke 24:16,36,39; John 2:19-21; 20:26-28; 21:4; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:42,44; Philippians 1:21-23; 3:21).

**Heaven:** Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all believers in the gospel of Jesus Christ (see Matthew 5:3,12,20; 6:20; 19:21; 25:34; John 17:24; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Hebrews 11:16; 1 Peter 1:4).

**Hell:** After living life on earth, the unbelievers will be judged by God and sent to hell where they will be eternally tormented along with the devil and the fallen angels (see Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 14:9-11; 20:12-15; 21:8).

**Second Coming:** Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to establish His kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures (see Matthew 24:30; 26:63,64; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7,8; Revelation 1:7).

**I need clarity on the following faith statements.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How have you experienced God's presence at TBC?

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree with Temple Baptist Church's Statement of Faith. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Introduction to TBC's Vision and Values

The goal of Temple Baptist Church is to follow Jesus Christ in all that we do—individually as Christians and corporately as a church. We have covenanted together to seek God with our whole heart and soul. 2 Chronicles 15:12,15—***They entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and soul.15 All Judah rejoiced about the oath because they had sworn it wholeheartedly. They sought God eagerly, and he was found by them. So the LORD gave them rest on every side.***

Following Jesus is an exciting adventure for a local church. We discover on a regular basis that His ways are truly different and higher than our ways.

The Bible and the Holy Spirit are the two main entities that reveal to us what Jesus wants us to do. We place a high emphasis on understanding and following the Bible as well as living by the Holy Spirit.

We believe our vision and values are consistent with the teachings of the Bible and the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

Our vision is to be a community that is maturing believers who will bring Christ's presence to the world.

- **Vision:** Our vision is to be a community that is maturing believers who will bring Christ's presence to the world.
- **Values:** Our values are beliefs that we hold in common and endeavor to put into practice and use to guide us as we do God's work.

Temple Baptist Church is determined to follow Jesus Christ in all that we do. There are two main entities that reveal Jesus' will to us. What are they?

- 1.
- 2.

## Temple Baptist Church

## Vision and Values

**Temple Baptist Church's Values:** Our values are beliefs that we hold in common and endeavor to put into practice and use to guide us as we do God's work.

We value **worshipping together** in a way that inspires people to draw close to God and express sincere appreciation for who He is and what He has done. We value the creativity that God places within people. He made people to be creative. We encourage our people to use their God-given creativity while serving Him. Hebrews 13:15,16—***With Jesus' help, let us continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God by proclaiming the glory of his name. 16Don't forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to God.***

We value the development of **authentic Christian community** among believers that produces *intimate relationship* with God and other believers and results in ministry to and development of the whole person. Acts 2:46-47—***They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity-- 47all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.***

**We value evangelism** that develops appropriate ministries and encourages believers to cultivate authentic relationships with non-Christian people to identify with their basic needs and lead them into relationship with Jesus Christ. We desire to expand God's kingdom into uncharted areas. 1 Corinthians 9:20-22—***When I am with the Jews, I become one of them so that I can bring them to Christ ... 21 When I am with the Gentiles who do not have the Jewish law, I fit in with them as much as I can. In this way, I gain their confidence and bring them to Christ ... 22 When I am with those who are oppressed, I share their oppression so that I might bring them to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone so that I might bring them to Christ.***

We value the *growth* of **loving relationships** among believers in our congregation. John 13:34-35—***So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.***

We value **humility** from our people and multiculturalism that encourages interest in many cultures within our communities and society. Philippians 2:3-4—***Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. 4Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.***

We value **our leaders** to be *servants* who are honest and real while fulfilling their calling. They are to serve the congregation and our society. Matthew 20:26—***But among you it should be quite different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant.***

We value *organic grassroots* **ministries** designed to help believers *discover, develop and exercise* their God-given spiritual gifts as well as their natural talents and acquired skills in life and ministry. 1 Peter 4:10—***God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.***

We value *flexible and fluid* **ministry structures** that contribute effectively and efficiently to the fulfillment of our mission and vision. We are not reluctant to end programs or ministries that no longer serve a purpose. Mark 2:27—***Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made to benefit people, and not people to benefit the Sabbath.***

### Next Steps for Membership into the Temple Baptist Church Family

As mentioned at the beginning of this lesson, there are three qualifications and four steps for membership into the TBC family.

#### A. Qualifications for membership:

- 1) A personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Savior.
- 2) Completion of the seminar, "Membership into the Temple Baptist Church Family."
- 3) A signed commitment to abide by Temple Baptist Church's Membership Covenant and Statement of Faith.

#### B. People are received into membership by completing these four steps in order:

- 1) Completing the three qualifications mentioned above.
- 2) Interviewed and approved by the senior pastor. If the senior pastor is not available, candidates will be interviewed and approved by a pastoral staff member.
- 3) Interviewed and approved by an elder.
- 4) Upon successfully completing the first three requirements, candidates for membership are admitted into membership by the extending of the hand of fellowship at a Sunday Worship Service.

Here are the steps for completing the membership process.

**Step 1.** Meet with Pastor Greg. During your meeting with him, you will give your profession of faith in Jesus as your Savior and Lord. To prepare for this meeting, please write out your salvation experience on page 10. You will also sign the membership covenant and statement of faith. Please bring this booklet to the meeting.

My meeting with Pastor Greg is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Step 2.** Meeting with an elder. During this meeting, you will discover ways you can be involved at Temple. You will also sign the membership covenant and statement of faith. Please bring this booklet to the meeting.

My meeting with an elder is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Step 3.** Receive the hand of fellowship at the \_\_\_\_\_ worship service.

Briefly write out your salvation experience.

Is Jesus your Lord?

What are a few ways in which you have seen Jesus involved in your life since your salvation experience?