

The Process of Becoming a Covenant Member of Hope Community

Welcome! We're thrilled to have you consider joining with us as we seek to honor God by helping as many people as possible become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Please [click](#) on the underlined to navigate to the necessary sermons, videos, websites, or email recipients. Video times are listed next to each for your convenience. Sermons average 45 minutes in length.

- **Introduction.** Please take some time to watch Pastor Steve's **welcome** (5:22), read **Hope's story** and watch **Our Vision** (8:37), **Values** (9:49), and **Philosophy of Ministry** (9:10) to learn more about us.
- **Keep God central in everything.** The **Gospel**, or Good News of Jesus Christ, is paramount to how we are to relate to God and each other. Through the Gospel we can have a **personal relationship** with God. Please listen to **Boasting in the Cross or The God Who Saves** to see God's paramount importance in our lives. _
- **Learn about the Church.** The Church is not a building, but a Spirit-empowered people on mission with Christ to bring glory to God. Please listen to **What is the Church?. Optional** and additional listening of **Don't Waste Your Life 9-5**, and **Seeking the Welfare of Our City** will help you to learn more about the ways Hope is attempting to be the body of Christ in the world.
- **Familiarize yourself with our theology, legal documents, and affiliations.** It is necessary for all prospective members to read, agree to, and abide by our **Constitution**. It is also necessary to watch **Theological Distinctives I** (8:22) and **Theological Distinctives II** (6:49), read the **Elder Statement of Faith**, and undergo **believer baptism** (6:39) by immersion (if you have not already done so). If you have *not* been baptized as a believer by immersion, please contact **Mark** in order to do so. There is a baptism preparation class required. Please watch **Affiliations** (7:35) to learn of our voluntary participation with like-minded ministries.
- **Learn more about the multi-faced ministry of Hope.** There are countless people that carry out Hope's vision from the senior pastor to the first time volunteer. Get familiarized with the ministries of Hope, **pastoral staff** and **ministry staff**. Additionally, watch **Governance** (7:26) to hear more about the Elders and Deacons leadership structure of our church.
- **Find your niche.** All covenant members are *highly* encouraged to participate in some form of small group community where life-on-life ministry and ongoing opportunities to serve are possible. Contact **Naty** or visit **Hope's Small Groups** webpage to get plugged in.
- **Finish the covenant membership process.** Finally, contact **Sean McVenes** to arrange a time to meet with 1 Elder and 1 Member of Hope. At this you'll be asked to share your faith journey, understanding of church, community participation, plans for serving, and goals for giving.
- **Don't stop!** We are excited to see the varied ways that you invest your time, talent, treasure, and ticker (heart) into what God is doing in and through our covenant community. Additionally, it is expected that covenant members will attend the annual meeting where they will be asked to recommit themselves as covenant members to the vision and people of Hope Community.

****PLEASE NOTE****

What follows is not a part of the covenantal membership process but only presented as answers to frequently asked questions and additional resources that may be useful in working through a particular issue (such as baptism).

Covenant Membership FAQ

Why does Hope Community have “covenant members”?

Hope Community is a church, and the Bible uses the metaphor of a body to describe the church: “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ” ([1 Cor. 12:12](#)). It’s a beautiful illustration of how we’re each created to serve different functions, we need everyone to function in order to be a healthy body, and all of us as separate parts find purpose and unity under Jesus, “the head of the body, the church” ([Col. 1:18](#)). Members are the church ([Eph. 2:19-22](#)).

What’s the difference between a covenant member and somebody who just goes to Hope Community every week?

At Hope Community, we make a distinction between “members” and “guests.” If you’re not a member, then you’re technically a guest that remains to a certain extent separated from our church family, and separated from the maturity, protection, accountability, and care that comes with being a covenant member of the church. This may not make much difference for visitors and non-Christians, but Christians who consume rather than commit to a local church do a disservice to Jesus’ body (the church) and themselves. Covenant members, on the other hand, participate as the church: sacrificing time, talents, and treasure; committing to the care and community of their fellow members; and submitting to the authority God has established to lead our congregation. In short, the difference between a member and a non-member is that members are “on mission.”

What does it mean to be “on mission”?

To be on mission means that you’re a Christian, that you’re identity is founded in Jesus, and that you embody the Hope Community vision through living a life of worship to Jesus, a life of fellowship with other Christians, and a life of mission to non-Christians (Matt. 28:18-20). These expressions are only possible with an identity established in Jesus.

Why should I become a covenant member?

The church of Hope Community is a family, adopted by God ([Gal. 4:6-7](#); [Eph. 1:5](#)). We care for each other, pray for each other, and serve together. If you’re already a Christian, if you’re already in some form of community of Hope, if you’re already giving of your finances and your time, then you’re already fulfilling some functions of a member. Without making an official commitment, however, we cannot provide the same level of pastoral care and community support, in part because we may not know who you are, and in part because the Bible requires that we take care of our family first ([Eph. 2:19](#) cf. [Gal. 6:10](#)).

If you're not a Christian, don't worry about membership until you've been reconciled to God through Jesus. If you are a Christian who has spent a lot of time at Hope Community, however, search your heart and identify your hesitation. There may be valid reasons to abstain from Hope Community membership. But we're rebels by our cursed nature; if you bristle at the very idea of becoming a member, ask yourself why—and don't hesitate to speak with a pastor.

What are the benefits of being a covenant member?

Scripture calls us a body, a family, a household—being a Christian is not a solo effort. Jesus works through the church ([Eph. 2:10](#)), the church is Jesus' body ([1 Cor. 12:27](#)), and apart from Jesus, you can do nothing ([John 15](#)).

This isn't Blockbuster, it isn't a country club, and it isn't 24-Hour Fitness. Again, members are the church. "In love [God] predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ...So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" ([Eph. 1:4-5](#); [2:19](#)).

You don't join for the perks – though there are benefits! The benefit is that we get to worship Jesus together, serve in His kingdom, and be children of God! We enjoy the guidance that his Word provides, and, when sin comes between us, we enjoy the reconciliation Jesus' blood provides.

How do I become a covenant member?

Read more details here: [The Process of Becoming a Covenant Member of Hope Community](#).

What is a "member covenant"?

A covenant is a promise by which we obligate ourselves to one another in such a way that the obligation of one party is not dependent on the faithfulness of the other ([Ezek. 20:44](#); [36:22](#); [Ps. 76:11](#); [Hos. 2:19-20](#); [3:1](#); [2 Tim. 2:13](#)). A covenant is what we would use to describe the vows between a husband and his wife, and between God and his people. We ask our members to sign a covenant so that we know that prospective members understand what it means to be a part of the church. The member covenant is not a legal document or some sort of cultic rite. It is an affirmation, an agreement, and a source of accountability for both the church and its individual members.

Do covenant members have to be baptized?

Since Jesus commands that all of his disciples be baptized, baptism is a requirement for all Hope Community covenantal members ([Matt. 28:19](#); [Acts 2:38](#); [10:48](#); [1 Peter 3:21](#)). If you've already been baptized since you became a Christian, you don't need to get re-baptized. Hope Community performs believer baptism by immersion. If you have more questions about baptism specifically, please speak with a pastor or email [Mark](#) to begin the process.

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Additional Resources

The following are shared for the continued growth of Hope Community Church Covenant Members. We believe that becoming a covenant member is not the end, but a fresh beginning to greater commitment in one's walk with the Lord.

CLASSES

1. S.H.A.P.E. which helps followers of Christ explore and better understand the unique design that God has for each of us. Hosted by Hope Community at various times throughout the year.
2. LDI Offerings: Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, Systematic Theology

MESSAGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY by Steve Treichler

1. Be Killing Sin or It Will Be Killing You
2. Don't Waste Your Life
3. In the Beginning, God Created them Male and Female
4. Generous Living
5. The Pain of Sexual Immorality
6. On Baptism
7. On Men and Women in Leadership in the Church

THE GOSPEL

1. The Gospel in 6 Minutes By John Piper
2. What is it to Win a Soul? By Charles Spurgeon
3. God is the Gospel by John Piper
4. 50 Reason Why Jesus Came to Die by John Piper
5. The God Who Becomes Human by Steve Treichler

PUTTING ON THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST/KILLING SIN

1. The Mortification of Sin by John Owen
2. Renovation of the Heart by Dallas Willard
3. A Biblical Theology of Sin by Steve Treichler

MARRIAGE, SEX, AND MANHOOD/WOMANHOOD

1. Sex and the Supremacy of Christ by John Piper
2. This Momentary Marriage by John Piper
3. Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood Edited by Wayne Grudem and John Piper
4. Dating to the Glory of God by Steve Treichler

*Hope Community expresses heartfelt thanks to God for the example of Dr. John Piper and Desiring God Ministries who have made countless resources available online for FREE.

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