

# Membership Agreement

## What is a Membership Agreement?

Even a casual reading of Scripture reveals that the commitment of believers to one another is anything but casual. In both descriptive and prescriptive language, the Bible attests to the formal and profound relationship that exists among those who have been reconciled to God and each other.

The Scriptures call us to love one another, surpass one another in showing honor, live in harmony with one another, instruct, greet, comfort, serve, bear the burdens of, forgive, encourage, always seek to do good to, exhort, stir up to love and good works, confess your faults to, pray for and show hospitality to one another.

Believers may pursue these obligations to each other through many avenues, but the primary way we are to fulfill them is within the fold of this beautiful (and sometimes messy) reality called the local church. Ever since its inception, the Church has been arranged into smaller congregations called local churches. Though Christians are divided on the exact relationship that exists between these local churches and other intricate matters of church doctrine, all have believed that they are essential communities instituted by God for His glory and our good. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul draws on the imagery of a body as a metaphor for the local church. Far from commending self-sufficiency and independence, the apostle upholds a radically countercultural vision of desperate interdependence marked by love, service, humility, sacrifice and sympathy. As participants in the body are called “members,” participation in the local church body is called membership.

Membership is not about privilege or prestige. It is not some elevated level of access with secret insider benefits. It is not a legal document or means of control. Membership recognizes and responds to the call of discipleship in the context of gospel-centered community. It is an affirmation and agreement to contribute to the good of the body rather than consume from it. It is a formalization of that which already implicitly exists. It is an obligation to sacrificially seek the good of others in the body of Christ by taking the general call toward service and embodying it within a particular people.

The Maranatha Baptist Church Membership Agreement is birthed out of our love for the church body and its individual members whom we hope will experience the fullness of joy which is found in the presence of the Lord.

The primary purpose of this agreement is to serve as a teaching document with three functions:

- To clarify the biblical obligations and expectations for both the pastors and deacons of the Maranatha Baptist Church and the individual members of the Maranatha Baptist Church body.
- To establish teaching and doctrinal parameters for the Maranatha Baptist Church body.
- To serve as a tool for reflection and growth toward holiness.

Each of these functions is in accordance with the document’s overall vision to provide an accessible explanation of the Scriptures in hopes that the Maranatha Baptist Church would grow in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. This agreement is comprised of a constitution and bylaws.

This membership agreement does not bind the signer to any legal obligations. Signing this form merely states that you read and agree to the constitution and bylaws of Maranatha Baptist Church and desire to join in it’s membership.

# Membership Agreement

By signing you acknowledge that you have read and agree with the constitution and bylaws of the Maranatha Baptist Church and wish to join in biblical membership with this local church.

## **Adult Members (Ages 18 and up)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print first and last name)                      (Date of Birth)                      (Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print first and last name)                      (Date of Birth)                      (Signature)

## **Junior Members (Age 17 and under)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print first and last name)      (Date of Birth)                      (Please print first and last name)      (Date of Birth)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print first and last name)      (Date of Birth)                      (Please print first and last name)      (Date of Birth)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print first and last name)      (Date of Birth)                      (Please print first and last name)      (Date of Birth)

## **Contact Information**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)    (City)    (Zip)

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone                                      Email Address

Please provide any cell phone numbers that can be placed on a list for important text message announcements. These numbers WILL NOT be shared publicly and will ONLY be used for important church announcements

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_                      (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_                      (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone with texting capabilities