

NEW LIFE WORSHIP ASSEMBLY



NEW MEMBER MANUAL

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INTRODUCTION TO MEMBERSHIP

THE DEFINITION OF MEMBERSHIP

- Membership is deciding to be “all in” at New Life Worship Assembly.
- Membership is committing to New Life Worship Assembly instead of “dating” New Life Worship Assembly.
- Membership is joining the mission and belonging to the family of New Life Worship Assembly.
- Membership is moving from consumer to contributor.

Membership is obeying the New Testament call to live as an accountable member of a larger family/body: “For just as the body is one and has many members...all the members of the body, though many, are one body. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1 Cor. 12:12, 27).

Membership is a covenant between committed people and the leadership of New Life Worship Assembly Church.

A COVENANT

The weight of entering into a covenant is often diminished in our culture where casual promises and broken vows are the norm; however, we use this language intentionally to communicate that membership is to be considered with sobriety and commitment.

BETWEEN MEMBERS AND LEADERS

Members: Those who seek the office of member commit to living a lifestyle that’s in line with New Life Worship Assembly mission and core values and being held to a higher degree of accountability and responsibility by church leadership.

Leaders: Those who become members receive the promise of shepherding from the leadership of New Life Worship Assembly.

A BIBLICAL METAPHOR

The metaphor of membership is repeatedly highlighted throughout the New Testament to articulate both one’s commitment to and unique role in a church family/body. This isn’t membership as in a civic organization or country club. Becoming a member of New Life Worship Assembly doesn’t give you a designated parking space, a T-shirt, a special chair, or a status symbol to parade in the community. No, we’re talking about the kind of membership given to us in 1 Corinthians 12: “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1 Cor. 12:27) With this in mind, no one should enter the membership covenant simply because they’ve been around a while and figure it’s the next step or “Something you should do.” Church membership should require God’s consult and direction.

A SERIOUS COMMITMENT

Membership is an informed commitment to the vision, mission, values, doctrine, and philosophy of ministry of New Life Worship Assembly Church, a willing submission to the leadership of the church, and an intentional embrace of your unique role in the church family and our mission to change the world. Most organizations and club members are consumers — the organization exists to serve them. Membership in the church is entirely different. Membership at New Life Worship Assembly means ministry and service, moving from being a consumer to be a giver. Instead of always asking, “How can NEW LIFE WORSHIP ASSEMBLY and others serve me?” Our members regularly ask the question, “How can I best serve my church, my city, and the world at large?” Action Question: How can you best serve New Life Worship Assembly Church and our mission to change the world?

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMITMENT

Our mission and our personal growth require commitment, especially when it's hard.

New Life Worship Assembly Church is committed to making disciples of Jesus to impact the world for Jesus. We make disciples who declare and demonstrate the Gospel in our homes, on our jobs, in our communities, in our cities and beyond; disciples who follow Jesus and bring others to Jesus. This means that we strive to help you grow in maturity and fruitfulness. This means that sometimes you will be challenged by things you hear from the pulpit, experience in growth classes, and encounter in discipleship relationships. Sometimes you will be called to step outside of your comfort zone. Sometimes decisions will be made that don't align with your preferences. Your idols will be threatened. Sometimes you will discover that our mission is harder than you thought. You will, inevitably, experience conflict, hurt, difficulty, and unmet expectations. With the Gospel at the center of our identity as a church family, instead of being harmful these experiences of conflict can be healthy for both you and our church.

Remember, the local church is the one organization that admits being a place filled with imperfect people. So, by joining New Life Worship Assembly you are joining a family of imperfect people who are still learning how to best love God and love one another while living out our mission to change the world. What we are seeking to do as a church is not easy. We are doing something that can only be done in God's strength. Like any great adventure, this adventure involves ups and downs.

Your first inclination may be to bail as soon as you get uncomfortable. Experience may tell you that the slightest conflict equals the end of a relationship. If all you are doing is "dating" and "consumer-izing" the church, without investment or commitment, you may be tempted to simply move on as soon as the initial honeymoon starts to fade. After all, there's another church down the road. But just like in the covenant of marriage, growth happens when we stay true to our commitment, address sin and conflict, and allow ourselves to be challenged and stretched. That's where the deep growth, repentance, discipleship, and joy happen.

New Life Worship Assembly will never be the perfect family, but it's a safe family — a safe place to be known and loved by God and other members of the family who are all growing together in this great challenge.

Commitment is also necessary because members have a vital role to play at New Life Worship Assembly Church.

The church has a blemished track record of allowing members to become observers and consumers while pastors/ elders, deacons, and staff are looked upon to provide services and do ministry. However, at New Life Worship Assembly we are committed to equipping members to do the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12) and to operate in their gifts so that the church grows into a mature, healthy, and powerful body (Ephesians 4:15-16). Pastors cannot meet every need in the church, nor can they singlehandedly impact the world. But a committed, entrepreneurial body of disciples of Jesus can make significant impact. It's what God desires for us and from us. The New Life Worship Assembly mission is a mission to be carried out by every member of the church.

Action Question: Reflecting on my previous experiences, what biases do I hold in my thinking, beliefs, and perspectives about the necessity of church membership?

NEW LIFE WORSHIP ASSEMBLY CHURCH

The New Life Worship Assembly Church — History

New Life Worship Assembly began in June 2018 at Hampton Inn located at 591 Al Henderson Blvd, Savannah, Georgia with five faithful souls who dedicated themselves to the call of God for the ministry. The energy of the five became infectious and soon the ministry began to see growth.

PURPOSE: Our purpose is to prophetically inspire, infuse and ignite the fire and flame in the lives of those whom God has called us to reach and to love people back to wholeness. Our ministry houses a “NO JUDGMENT ZONE” as we believe that no matter what took place in one’s life, Jesus can clean them up even if he must reach way down. Our purpose is to build a community of believers that will carry the message of Jesus, “*by this you are my disciples if you have love for one another.*” Our love at New Life Worship Assembly spreads beyond the four walls. It leaks into our community; our schools and each place God allows us to touch.

CULTURE: We are a multicultural ministry that welcomes all ages. Our culture is filled with warmth, love and a passion to do the word of Jesus Christ. At New Life, we believe, “you come as friends but leave as family” and we practice this in all we do as our ministry is all inclusive. You do not have to build tenure or time to be a part of all we do at New Life Worship Assembly. All we ask for are willing hearts that truly desire to do the works of Jesus Christ.

New Life Worship Assembly is led by Eustache T. Cummings who serves as our Lead Pastor/Founder. Pastor Cummings is a thinker, discerner of the times and a prophetic sound all describe what his life brings to the kingdom of God. He has been in ministry for 18 years and continues to chase after the things of God. Called to the ministry from the tender age of 12, he is no novice to the pulpit and public ministry. Eustache practices to preserve theological integrity and his undying passion as a student of the word of God has made him a sought-after preacher of the gospel. Eustache has a heart, compassion and a highly administrative background for ministry, development of God's people and he loves people everywhere.

Dr. LaVeisha Cummings is the “best” part of Pastor Cummings as he calls us his “boo thang” is a possessor of wisdom and a gatherer of knowledge. A cutting-edge minister in her own right, she is a dynamic exhorter of the word of truth to a generation indifferent towards the Church "as we know it" and the message of Jesus Christ. Our First Lady is the epitome of love as she is warm, gregarious, magnanimous and has true heart to pour into broken women and love them back to wholeness. A dynamic and professional counselor, she offers herself mending the broken pieces and billboard her motto, “you can live again” with all whom she pours into.

New Life Worship Assembly is called to: **Infuse**, **Ignite** and **Inspire**.

Thanks for coming to grow with us and being the “**BEST**” part of what God has called us to do.

The New Life Worship Assembly Church — Vision

There will always be intricate pieces of New Life Worship Assembly Church that are woven together to build the Kingdom of God and be the people God has called us to be. With that, we are of raising up leaders and voices that fit the need for the region God has called them to serve locally and for the world abroad. Within the context of Pooler, we know that we have a God-sized vision to see a city shaken and turned upside down for the glory of God. The way that we will accomplish that will happen by us implementing the following phrases:

Engaging Culture: one of the most powerful aspects of Jesus' ministry was His desire to engage culture. He literally changed the world by using what others would have called "the least of these" to make it happen. He had no regard for title or reputation of the status quo; instead, He sought to meet people right where they were and cause their hearts to be changed for the Kingdom. He did it for Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10). He did it for the woman at the well (John 4). We believe that He desires to do it for the entire world today. By engaging culture, we understand that we live in a society that has little regard for God. Instead of using that as a barrier, we use it as the tool to allow the light of Christ to shine through us and go into every man's world. Regardless of the status of one's life or situation, we will never allow a moment in their lives to stop what God wants to reveal in their destiny. Since Jesus engaged culture and met people right where they were, so will we.

Equipping Leaders: Jesus' model of ministry shows us the importance of equipping accompanied by impartation. He took three years and through careful trial and release of authority prepare men to change the world. Too much and too often, we require and expect people to follow through on ideas and concepts that they have not been properly equipped to manage. Our heart is to raise up world changers by equipping them with the knowledge, insight, and power that is necessary to see God's design released over their lives. By equipping leaders, we commit to take the necessary time to evaluate and prepare people for their God-given assignment in the earth. There is a God-sized dream and purpose laid out for your life and we believe God wants you prepared to reveal all that He has. We impart to raise up multipliers and duplicators so that every leader will be raising leaders to continue to create opportunities for the Kingdom to be expanded in the earth.

Empower Living: The freedom that becomes accessible because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is more than one connects to salvation. The crux of Jesus' sacrifice and atonement deals with reconciliation between God and man — which also deals with our lives and living. We want you to prosper holistically (body, soul, and spirit) and consequently, each area of our lives has the capacity for empowerment. Health, wellness, financial breakthrough, spiritual growth, and soul prosperity (3 John 2) are all part of our inheritance through Jesus Christ. We are adopted as sons (Roman 8:15) and our Father is the King of kings. Through this, we decide that we never settle for less than the King's best in every area of our lives.

Expanding Kingdom: When we allow all these areas to be in sync together, we will set the course for our city to see the Kingdom of God revealed in the earth. Each of these areas reflect the fullness of God being released in and over our lives. Our ultimate goal and desire is to see Him lifted and to see His Kingdom expanded throughout the world.

We are world changers who carry the DNA of the King. Wherever we go and whatever we do, our ultimate desire is for His name to be lifted throughout all of the earth. When we do our part to make His name known, the automatic byproduct of the name of Jesus being lifted is the drawing of souls to Him (John 12:32). When we do the lifting by establishing His name and Kingdom, He will always be faithful to do the drawing and expand His Kingdom in the earth.

Action Question: What unique role is God calling you to play in shaping the future story of New Life Worship Assembly Church?

Action Question: How can you make this vision a regular part of your prayer life?

Action Question: How can your unique set of skills, talents, education, and experience help advance the mission of New Life Worship Assembly Church?

Action Question: What does it mean that we have a supernatural, God-sized vision instead of a human sized vision?

NEW LIFE WORSHIP ASSEMBLY CHURCH CORE VALUES

At the heart of every organization is the “why.” The value system that exists within our organization reflect the guiding principles for living out the unique way God has called us to be World Changers. The specific methods by which these values are expressed could change over the years, but the values themselves will not change. We will always be a body that is directed by and committed to these core values:

- To build a strong family of disciples with a heart to change the world
- To create a consistent atmosphere of worship, intimacy, and visitation from the Lord
- To provide a place of training, nurturing, and equipping for World Changers
- To herald and demonstrate the message of world revival and reformation
- To restore honor and integrity to the family unit
- To be an Apostolic paradigm
- To promote racial, generational, and gender unity with the purposes for God

Action Question: Which one of these core values reaches the most into the heart of who you are and your passion? How will you live it out?

Action Question: What do you see as your unique role, gifts, and strengths in our church family?

NEW LIFE WORSHIP ASSEMBLY BELIEFS

The New Life Worship Assembly Church statement of faith articulates the doctrine we believe as a church. These beliefs are foundational to our church, a summary of what the Bible proclaims about the central matters of faith. In becoming a part of New Life Worship Assembly, you are making a statement of agreement and alignment with these points of our doctrinal statement.

New Life Worship Assembly Church is a Nondenominational Church.

WE BELIEVE IN...

1. **God:** We believe in the one triune God revealed in the Bible; God, the Father; Jesus Christ, the Son; and the Holy Spirit. God is Creator, Redeemer, and the Sovereign Ruler of creation. He is the author of truth, love, and faith.
2. **Jesus:** We believe Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God - God who came in the flesh. He was in the beginning with God: yet, He was God. Apart from Him, nothing came into being that has come into being. He is eternal with the Father undiminished in His deity and perfect in His humanity. We further believe that through His death, bodily resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of the Father, man can be saved from his sinfulness. Jesus Christ will return to this earth in His full splendor and majesty for those who eagerly await Him. Furthermore, every knee will someday bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.
3. **Salvation:** We believe the salvation of man is through renouncing his self-determination, taking responsibility for his disobedience, turning from his sin, and seeking forgiveness from God. Further, we believe such a penitent person must put his faith in Jesus Christ, whom we believe the incarnate Son of God; Jesus died substitutionally for the transgressions of man was raised from the dead on the third day and ascended back to the Father in Heaven.

Did you know you were created to have a loving relationship with God? He is patiently and lovingly waiting for you to respond to His invitation to salvation. Salvation is deliverance from the bondage of sin and preservation of spiritual and eternal acceptance granted immediately by God to those who:

1. Repent
2. Accept Him and believe
3. Confess and have faith in Jesus Christ

Supporting Scriptures: John 3:16-17; John 17:3; Acts 17:30; John 14:6; Matthew 10:32-33

4. **Holy Spirit:** We believe God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are one. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. We know God is the Word. We know Jesus is the Word manifested in the flesh.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. The Holy Spirit also regenerates, sanctifies, and empowers the believer for ministry. He graces believers with Christ-like character and gifts His church for loving service.

We receive the Holy Spirit upon our reception of Jesus Christ. One very distinct function of the Holy Spirit is to aid the believer in his or her Christian walk. He is our Comforter, our Guide, our friend, our Helper, and so much more. It is through your Christian walk that you will come to know Him and live a life victorious by the power of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit has been active in the universe from creation onward.

The Hebrew translation for “breath” reads “Spirit.” This would bring the scripture into a greater perspective. In other words, the entire creation of the universe was formed by the Word of the Lord and the Spirit of the Lord.

Benefits of the Holy Spirit

- You will be liberated from sin. You (we) may have struggled in an area of life that you have not been able to overcome. The Word says you will not be liberated from the law of sin until you follow the Spirit.
- Righteousness will enter your life naturally as you learn to “walk in the Spirit.”
- Your mentality will be changed. You will be freed from setting your mind, “on the things of the flesh” to set them on the, “things of the Spirit.”
- You will become totally at peace.
- You will be healed.
- You will receive the total death to self and total life in God.
- You will receive intimacy with God.

Speaking in Tongues

Speaking in tongues means speaking in a way or language that is not normally understood by the speaker or the listeners. On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus’ apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages. Those who heard the speech each heard it in his own language, even though they were from many different countries.

The Apostle Paul classified speaking in tongues as just one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Supporting Scriptures: John 16:13; Matthew 28:19; John 1:12-13; Acts 2:38-39; John 14:12; John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8

5. **Bible:** We believe the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and the believer’s standard for faith and practice.
6. **Sin and Repentance:** We believe man was created in the image of God. Mankind is separated \ from God through disobedience and without God, he is without hope.

Repentance means “to turn” from one’s sin and to dedicating oneself to the amendment of one’s life. We must repent (denounce, come out of agreement with, turn away from) for those things (habits, mindsets, actions/reactions, addictions, etc.) that separate us from God.

Supporting Scriptures: Psalm 51:17; Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 57:15; Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9

7. **Rededication:** We believe in the recommitment of our lives to Christ, even if we have fallen away from the Lord.

Reasons for Rededication:

- God is ready to forgive and restore you.
- God wants to cleanse you from sin.
- God wants you to live in fellowship with Him.
- God wants to reclaim the usefulness of your life and restore the joy of your salvation.
- God wants to recommit you to Lordship.
- God wants to fill you with His Spirit.
- God wants you to have a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Christ wants to be Lord of all your life.

Support Scriptures: 1 John 1:7; John 5:8-9; Acts 2:36; Ephesians 5:17-18

8. **The Believer:** We believe in the priesthood of the believer, that Jesus Christ became the High Priest of the believer, by the shedding of His blood, and has made it possible for each Christian to have free access to the presence of the Father. In His presence, each one can come to know the Father in confidence and faith.

We teach at New Life Worship Assembly everyone has a purpose and a destiny. We want you to experience God, develop a relationship with Him and as you grow and mature in your walk with Him, you will discover the purpose for your life. Everyone has a destiny.

9. **Church:** We believe the very nature and purpose of God is revealed in His church. Jesus came and established the church as His Body in the earth. We believe the Church Universal consists of all who live under the Lordship of Jesus, while the Church Local is a body of believing people, baptized and experiencing the love of Christ. Since the Church is one as God is one, the Church Local must seek to walk in harmony with the Church Universal.
10. **Prophetic:** A prophecy is a word spoken on the behalf of God. It is divine utterance that comes from the Holy Spirit. We do not speak our own words; we only prophesy what we hear, see, or sense by unction of the Holy Spirit. Intimacy with Him will determine how clearly you receive revelation and information. Prophecy, then, reveals the mind, will, purpose, and intent of God.

God speaks in many ways and intimacy is the key to operation and establishment of the gifts of the spirit. You must walk with the Lord and become acquainted with His voice within you. He is always speaking about something! Learn the art and discipline of hearing from God.

Supporting Scriptures: John 14:26; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 14:3; Revelation 19:10; Matthew 7:7-8, 11

11. **Evangelism:** We believe in world evangelism. We accept the commission of Jesus Christ, who is Lord, to make disciples of New Life Worship Assembly, to baptize them, and to teach them to observe His commandments. We join with all those believing in Him to accomplish this urgent task. We accept this as a personal commission as well as a commission of the entire Church.
12. **Water Baptism:** We believe baptism is an outward expression of an inward commitment to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We believe the decision to be baptized is up to the individual and that he or she must fully understand what it means to be a Christ follower.
13. **Tithes and Offerings:** We believe the Church should be supported by the tithes and offerings of those committed to its mission (Matthew 23:23; Malachi 3:8-10). We further believe that when people serve God with a free spirit, there is financial abundance to accomplish the purpose of God. We further believe that since the tithe belongs to the Lord, everyone should be led by the Holy Spirit in giving.
14. **Civil Authority:** We believe God is the ultimate authority. He has ordained civil government in His Church to bring righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. We believe in mutual respect between civil and spiritual authority as separate from church government, but it should not be separated from God and His law.
15. **Christ's Return:** We believe Jesus Christ will return to earth in a viable way. His purpose will be to manifest His government in the earth. Christians are exhorted to watchfulness and obedience in His appearing. While here are many viewpoints concerning His second coming, we believe Christians should lovingly look for His appearing, giving full attention to obedience while He tarries. We believe His appearing will occasion the resurrection of the righteous who have died and who are now with Him.
16. **Judgement:** We believe in the final judgement at the end of the age. The righteous and the wicked will stand before God and be judged. Those who have righteousness produced by faith will be awarded the privilege of ruling and enjoying eternal blessings. Those who are wicked will be eternally punished.
17. **The Gifts of the Spirit:** We believe and value all the gifts of God as found in 1 Corinthians 12-14, Romans 12:1-8, and 1 Peter 4:10-11. Each gift should be operated in love, under Lordship, in faith, and under biblical and local authority. The gifts are a humble serving of one another by the Spirit. As God

governs us in love, we will desire both the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit.

18. **Five-Fold Ministries:** We believe in the 5-fold ministries (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers) to equip believers in Christ to do the work of service.
19. **Communion:** We believe in the regular partaking of the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. During Jesus' last days, He gathered the disciples in a room and asked them to consume bread and wine "in remembrance" of Him. Two thousand years later, we regularly observe the act of consuming bread and grape juice as a community for the exact same reason—to remember our Savior, who sacrificed Himself for our sins.