

## **An Introduction to Membership with Elevation**

Membership. The word has so many connotations, which is precisely why we have avoided using it at Elevation for so long. But we're using it now – why?

Well, the Steering Committee of Elevation has put this paper together to spell out the vision we have for membership in our local context. Once you've read it over, if you find you are ready to take the next step, we will look forward to connecting with you to see where this act of faith takes you!

### *The things we have in common*

A member of Elevation is best described as someone who is committed to living out our Key Values and who shares the Core Beliefs of our common faith. Please review the corresponding documents as part of this process. If you have a specific question about our understanding of how scripture speaks to what is appropriate and acceptable of a member of Elevation, we would ask that you connect with a pastor or member of the Steering Committee.

It is important for you to know that the leadership of the church is in place to serve the members of the community as a whole and to provide any guidance we can along the way. At the same time, this membership commitment is an expression of your support of Elevation's leadership and a commitment to serve in humility and with respect for other members.

### *The things we will do together*

As individuals commit themselves to building the church in this manner, the broader Elevation community will in turn commit itself to the health and growth of each individual member.

In addition, having an identified group of people who share and are committed to common beliefs and values provides us with an opportunity to bring more voices to the table at certain times. The leadership will call on members of Elevation to join with them in seeking God's heart for our church and will provide opportunities for members to speak into some of the more significant decisions that we will be called to make as time goes by.

### *Should we need to part ways*

If you desire to withdraw from this commitment, or if God leads you in a different direction, please submit notification in writing to the Steering Committee. We will release you in prayer with great hope for your future.

Should a member choose to live contrary to the spirit of membership and refuse the counsel of the church leadership, the Steering Committee will gracefully release the member from his or her commitment and will extend whatever acts of healing and reconciliation are available, asking for a peaceful response by the member in return.

At the end of the day, it is our desire to see this commitment be something much more than a formality. We pray that a decision to commit to membership with Elevation will represent a significant step along your journey of faith as a follower of Jesus.

## **My Commitment to Membership with Elevation**

At a time when many people are hesitant to commit to anything, it is my desire to make a formal commitment to my community of faith through membership. Because of the love and appreciation I have for God and the people of Elevation, I take this step of faith as an expression of my willingness to be a responsible member of the Body of Christ.

My experience and understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus are reflected in our Core Beliefs, which I affirm as having formational significance in my life. In addition, I will strive to live out our Key Values, participating in a way of life that gets to the heart of our shared faith. I understand that my membership is contingent upon my pursuit of a godly life and that I will be held accountable by the church for the commitment I am making.

I will actively seek ways to serve the Elevation community, generously contributing my skills, finances, and time. As I commit myself to building the church, I welcome in return the embrace of the community, trusting that my health and growth is important to them.

As a member of Elevation, I will commit to supporting the leadership of our church with humility and respect. When I am asked to seek God's heart for our church in decision-making matters, I will respond with an understanding that my participation is significant.

And so, having first united myself with Christ, I now choose freely to walk out my spiritual journey with those in my Elevation church family.