



# Membership Class 2021

# Why should I become a member?

## 1) Jesus challenges us to *come* \_\_\_\_\_, *but don't*

- \_\_\_\_\_.
- In the first half of Jesus' ministry, all kinds of people were gathering around Jesus. Jesus welcomed all people to explore who he was.
- But in the second half of Jesus' ministry, Jesus then challenges his followers: "Who do you \_\_\_\_\_?" (Mark 8:29) He calls them to commit to him.
- Our church welcomes all people to come as they are. But we also want to challenge you to not stay as you are, and to make the radical commitment to Jesus.

## 2) Committing to Jesus means committing to his \_\_\_\_\_.

- Committing to Jesus but not the church is like marrying someone but never wanting to see their family.
- In the Bible, there is no such thing as a Christian who is not committed to a body of believers. From the beginning, God did not call individuals but the \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 12:2, Ex. 19:6), and now the people of God is the church, described as a \_\_\_\_\_ where each member is a body part (1 Cor. 12 \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph 2:19), a family made up of \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 12:49), a \_\_\_\_\_ of God where each member is a "living stone" (1 Pet 2:5).
- *"The church is not a building you go to; it's a people you go with. The church is not an event you attend; it's a mission you join. The church is not a club you sign up for; it's a family you're a part of. It's people. And God most often ministers to us through his people, the church."*

## 3) Being part of a family means \_\_\_\_\_.

- "I don't need a piece of paper to prove I love you." But we know that love requires tangible commitment.
- We commit to the "one another" commands of Scripture:
  - o \_\_\_\_\_ your sins to one another (James 5:16)
  - o \_\_\_\_\_ one another, as Christ accepted you (Romans 15:7)
  - o carry one another's \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal 6:2)
  - o \_\_\_\_\_ one another daily (Hebrews 3:13)
  - o Teach and \_\_\_\_\_ one another (Col. 3:16)
  - o Bear with one another, \_\_\_\_\_ one another (Col 3:13)
  - o \_\_\_\_\_ one another toward love and good deeds (Heb 10:24).

## 4) So that the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church can care for you.

- The Elders of the church are responsible to shepherd the flock and "keep watch over your souls" (Heb 13:17). But the elders must know who has committed to be part of the flock. When you become a member, you make a commitment to the church, and the leaders of the church make a commitment to you to shepherd you.

## Reasons you should *not* become a member:

- **Peer** \_\_\_\_\_. All my friends are becoming members, so I will do it too. It is a serious commitment, and you should make sure you are ready to make this commitment before doing it.
- **To feel** \_\_\_\_\_ **to those who are not members.** Members are not morally superior to those who are not members. The definition of a Christian is someone who understands they are not morally superior to *anyone* and are only saved by the grace of God. Members should be humble, not arrogant towards others.
- **To make non-members not feel** \_\_\_\_\_ **at our church.** While we encourage everyone to make that commitment to the body of Christ, the family of God, we understand that it is a process that takes time. We always welcome *anyone* to come and explore who Jesus is. Members must commit to having this welcoming attitude to all people who attend our church.

## What you are committing to as a member (what we will cover in this class):

As members, we promise to make the mission of our church our mission: *To make*  
\_\_\_\_\_, *in* \_\_\_\_\_ *on*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *to the glory of God.*

Specifically, this means that you promise to...

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **the Gospel**
2. **Be and make disciples in** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Protect the** \_\_\_\_\_ **of the church and submit to**  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ **support the church through tithes and offering**
5. \_\_\_\_\_ **the church using your gifts and talents**

Membership Requirements:

1. Over 18
2. Be baptized (if you are not baptized, you commit to being baptized at the next available opportunity)
3. Take the membership classes (three classes + check-in with an Elder)
4. Take membership vows before the congregation

## Our History

Anchor Community Church was planted in September of 2017. But there was a long story leading up to that first service. First Evangelical Church of Diamond Bar (FECDB) was started in a 1999, as a Chinese church reaching out to Chinese immigrants and their children. Like most Chinese churches, the English congregation started as the young children of the Chinese immigrants, and over the years these children became college students and young adults. Pastor Ben became the English Pastor in 2011, and by 2016, we were a small but stable group of college students and young adults, mostly in their 20s.

In the summer of 2016, as Pastor Ben and the leadership of our congregation reflected upon the last five years, we were grateful for the many ways God had grown our congregation. However, we dreamed of how we could better reach out to our surrounding community, especially those who were totally unconnected to any church. We strongly felt that the best way to truly reach those outside the church was to plant an independent English-speaking church. However, we still desired to mentor and minister to the English-speaking youth and children with Chinese-speaking parents. We dreamed of an independent English church plant that could continue to partner with the Chinese church, but also have the flexibility to reach out to our generation and culture. Amazingly, both the Senior Pastor and our church's board of directors unanimously and enthusiastically supported our vision and pledged to support us. We launched on September 10, 2017, and since then we have outgrown Walnut Elementary School and we now meet at Vejar Elementary School.

Our dream is not to merely gather a crowd of people on a Sunday morning, but plant a church where people who are lost and confused in a fractured and divided world would find the “sure and steadfast anchor for the soul” (Hebrews 6:19): Jesus Christ.

## Our Core Values:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
The Gospel — the good news of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ— is not just for the beginning of the Christian life, but is something we must return to and center ourselves on every day, and in everything we do as a church. (1 Cor 15:1-5, Eph. 3:14-21, John 15:5-9)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ We  
all have a theology – beliefs about God and spirituality – but are these beliefs true? We believe the Bible is God's trustworthy word about Himself and thus we will strive to study it deeply, to let it guide and challenge us, so that we will love God more deeply with our minds, in order that we might know and love God with our whole beings. (2 Tim. 3:14-4:5, Acts 2:42, Matt. 22:37)
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
The way the gospel shapes and grows us is in community. Church is not merely a building, or event, but it is a new kind of family — imperfect people changed by the Gospel, supporting one another and inviting others to join in. (1 Peter 2:1-10, 1 Cor. 12:12-31, Matt. 12:49-50)
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
We are called to be on God's mission to bring the Gospel to those around us. We will strive to see ourselves as missionaries by loving our neighbors and carefully listening to our culture's questions in order to communicate the hope of the Gospel effectively and faithfully. (1 Cor. 9:19-23, Acts 17:22-23, 1 Peter 3:15)
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
The Gospel says that we are all spiritually poor but that God in his mercy forgave and redeemed us though we did not deserve it; thus this must give us a radically new heart towards those who are materially poor. We will strive to make a long-term commitment to justice and mercy and to be generous with our resources. (James 1:22-27, 2:14-16, Isa. 1:17, Luke 7:22)