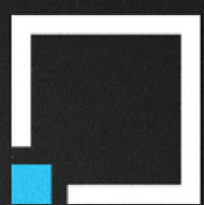


BECOME A PART OF THE CORNERSTONE FAMILY



# Cornerstone Membership

CLASS

# Welcome to Cornerstone Membership!

Whether you're new to Cornerstone or have been here for a while, you've come to the right place. We believe that church isn't just a place to spend an hour on Sunday mornings; church is a family of believers where every person matters, and every person plays a role. **We believe that God is calling everyone at Cornerstone to take part in leading people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus.**

At Cornerstone, we value membership and believe being part of a church family is integral to your growth as a disciple. Our time together is an opportunity to meet with leaders, connect with others, and learn about who you are in Christ. You'll hear about what drives ministry, what membership means, and help you discover your best next step. Whether that's connecting to a small group, joining a ministry team, getting baptized, or something else, we are committed to helping you grow in your journey with Jesus!

Feel free to ask questions along the way. We want you to be at home, and, if we don't know the answers, we will do our best to find them.

## OUR MISSION

**We exist to  
lead people  
into a  
life-changing  
relationship  
with Jesus.**

It's a simple mission, but one that drives everything we do as a body of believers. From our weekend services to our ministry programs and outreach initiatives, our goal is to lead everyone we meet to a thriving and vibrant relationship with Jesus.

## OUR VISION

**We envision  
establishing 3-5 new  
locations from Hilton  
Head to Hardeeville  
driven to show and  
share the goodness  
and grace of Jesus  
Christ with 25% of  
our neighbors by the  
end of 2025.**

# OUR VALUES

Because we believe it's all about Jesus,  
We strive to exalt Jesus.

Because we believe growing people change,  
We strive to teach the Word.

Because we believe you can't do life alone,  
We strive to grow in community.

Because we believe saved people serve people,  
We strive to serve one another.

Because we believe followers live on a mission,  
We strive to reach the world.

# OUR LEADERSHIP

At Cornerstone, we believe that Jesus Christ leads the universal Church and our local church. He has authority over all things and is our Head. While on earth, Jesus modeled servant leadership and exercised His authority in humility - the opposite of typical human leadership. (Matthew 20:25-28)

Jesus now leads His Church through delegated leadership. As the early Church multiplied, the apostles appointed local leaders (elders and deacons) to be responsible for keeping the church focused on its mission and for the spiritual care of the people. The qualifications for these leaders were centered around excellent moral character, devotion to God and His Word, and wise living. (1 Peter 5:1, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9)

The leadership of Cornerstone Church follows the pattern that Jesus and the New Testament Church initiated. We appoint servant leaders who exercise delegated authority to pursue the mission of the church and to provide spiritual care for our people.

**Our church government can best be described as Elder-led, Staff-driven.**

The elders and staff work in relationship with other teams, the deacons and the congregation to carry out the vision and mission of the church.

# CORNERSTONE LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Here are some questions we need to answer:

## **What do the elders do?**

An Elder is an overseer in charge of the oversight of a local body of believers. Simply put, Elders should be Godly men exemplifying the qualities of loyalty, sound judgment, humility, peacemaking, fiscal responsibility, and sobriety. Elders will be members of Cornerstone Church and in "active standing". Elders will have demonstrated leadership qualities within the established ministries of the Church.

They are expected to teach, set vision and direction for the church, attend meetings to conduct church business. They also pray for, fellowship with, and provide visitation to members of the body. Their actions demonstrate a contribution to the spirit of Biblical unity and support among the Pastors, staff, and congregation of Cornerstone Church. Elders are expected to give financially in both a systematic and sacrificial manner to support the mission and vision of Cornerstone Church. An Elder will serve on a rotation as new elders are selected.

## **What do the deacons do?**

In the Bible, the responsibilities of a deacon are not clearly listed or outlined; they are assumed to be everything that does not include the duties of an Elder or Pastor (which is to preach, teach, exhort, etc.)

Deacons are Godly men dedicated to serving in practical and spiritual ways within the local body. The deacons ensure that the day-to-day operations of the church can be carried out in a timely and effective manner. They perform many of the “behind the scenes” functions for preparation and clean up for ministry activities and events. Deacons are members of Cornerstone Church and in "active standing". They will be Christ followers as evidenced by their life. Their actions will demonstrate a contribution to the spirit of Biblical unity among the Pastors, Elders, staff, and congregation of Cornerstone Church. Deacons are expected to give financially in both a systematic and sacrificial manner to support the mission and vision of Cornerstone Church. A Deacon will serve for a defined period once selected.

### **What about pastors and church staff?**

The Cornerstone staff includes men and women serving in both ministerial and non-ministerial roles. Staff are appointed by the senior leadership team.

### **What about congregational voting?**

The following items require congregational voting:

- Amendments to the Church Constitution and By-Laws
- The sale or purchase of church owned property
- The “calling” of a Senior Pastor



# **WHY CONSIDER MEMBERSHIP?**

We believe there are at least four good reasons for considering membership.

## **Membership is BIBLICAL (Acts 6:1-6; Romans 16:1-19)**

Although the word "membership" is never used in the New Testament in the sense of "church membership," we find the idea is quite Biblical. Throughout the Scriptures, believers identified themselves with a local community. They gave themselves to a group of other, likeminded believers for the common cause of advancing the Kingdom of God in their world. Each individual believer is identified as a "part" of the body of Christ and, as such, is to live out the Christian life in a coordinated way with other believers.

## **Membership ties you to THE MISSION OF JESUS.**

While the overall mission of Jesus is not realized by having an organization called the church, it is fulfilled through the people who comprise and define the church. In our big, busy, "global perspective" world, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that individual people are the defined mission of the church. The single lost sheep from Matthew 18:12-13 is the mission. That means that you and I are the mission. It's also a certainty that the neighbor living across the street and the person working alongside you for years...are the mission too!

Jesus established His church to carry out the mission that He started, and He has left us here to complete the task. Joining a church is not about paying your “dues”, becoming a part of “the club”, and getting to claim some great perks. Church membership is actually about joining with others who seriously want to become a part of the mission. It’s all about the people and it is done most effectively as part of a community. We all have gifts and skills that we can use better together as we seek and serve lost and hurting people; as we see dead people come to life in Christ; and as we share with other like-minded people to experience mutual growth in spiritual wisdom and maturity.

So, if you’re just looking for somewhere to show up now and then, throw some money in from time to time, feel good about yourself, and enjoy some of the perks, Cornerstone Church is probably not the place for you. However, if you want to be challenged to really grow in Christ and community, to learn and mature as you serve along with others, and become an active participant in the mission that Jesus Himself defined for us, then we encourage you to jump right in! Get serious about the mission; begin by becoming a member of the church.

### **Membership ENABLES/EMPOWERS MINISTRY (1 Cor 12:12-20)**

Next, as the work here grows, it is important for the leadership to be able to identify those who can be counted on to pitch in. We don’t want anyone to feel pressured but, at a practical level, we need to know those who feel God has called them to be co-laborers here. These are the ones who truly do the work of the ministry of Cornerstone Church. They are the ones the leadership has in focus when planning for training, equipping, and growth.

One of the tools we use for identifying how people fit in service at Cornerstone is through a spiritual gifts assessment. We have included one at the end of this booklet...so take some time over the next few weeks to complete the assessment then speak to Pastor Mark, one of the staff members or Elders to see where you can step into service to strengthen the church.

### **Membership requires COMMITMENT (Heb 10:23-25)**

We live in a society where commitment and faithfulness seem to be taken lightly. We feel that reminding people that the Christian life is one involving a certain amount of commitment is valuable. We want to encourage everyone to consider backing up their good intentions for growth in the Christian life with some definite and appropriate life decisions. Commitment to a local fellowship can help an individual Christian take a step toward further growth. We see membership as a way for a Christian to affirm his or her commitment to a group of believers in his or her local area for the purpose of mutual growth. This being so, there are some "minimum requirements" for membership in any church—and that includes Cornerstone Church.

## **Membership requires COMMITMENT TO JESUS FIRST**

Since the local church is a gathering of those who belong to the larger Body of Christ, only those who are members of the Body of Christ can be members of a local church.

Membership is not a “right” that you have because you attend services at a church. Membership is a commitment a believer can make because he or she has come to faith in Jesus.

Thus, before considering membership in a local church, you need to consider whether you belong to Jesus. Without a personal relationship with Him, membership in a local church is inappropriate. (If you have questions about where you are in your journey with God, don’t hesitate to talk with one of the pastors.)

Because membership is a public declaration of one’s commitment to a local church, there is another public declaration which is a reasonable prerequisite to membership.

Specifically, we believe only those who have been baptized as believers are proper candidates for membership in a local church.

We believe baptism—where a believer is immersed in water—is a public confession of one’s commitment to Jesus. Seeing as it is part of a believer’s declaration of faith, we think it rightly precedes a commitment to a local gathering of Christians. (If you haven’t been baptized by immersion or you have questions about it, just mention your interest to someone in leadership or contact the church office.)

# EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS

At Cornerstone Church we take spiritual growth seriously. We believe every member should be plugged into a small group of some kind in order to grow...but small groups are also a place where we are able to care for and support one another. We believe the church has been given the responsibility to care for and support one another (Eph 4) and it's not the job of the pastor and staff but the job of the members. By joining Cornerstone Church, you are not only committing to be plugged into a small group but you are also committing to caring and supporting the other members of the church, especially those in your small group.

We also believe that every believer and member should be a giver. Jesus modeled giving perfectly for us and we should learn to be generous givers. By committing to membership at Cornerstone church, you are also committing to becoming a systematic and sacrificial giver in the church. Giving happens when we give of our time, talent and treasure.

Giving of your time happens by investing in others and serving in the church. Giving of your talent happens by using your spiritual gifts to strengthen the church, and you will give of your treasure (your money) in order to further the mission and vision of the church. We consider it a privilege to give back to God. Luke 6:38 says, "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure-pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

## **5 Personal Benefits of Committing to a Local Church Family**

- It identifies me as a GENUINE BELIEVER. (Eph 2:19, Rom 12:5)
- It provides me with a SPIRITUAL FAMILY to support and encourage me. (Gal 6:1-2)
- It gives me a place to DISCOVER and USE MY GIFTS in ministry. (1 Cor 12:4-27)
- It places me under the Spiritual Protection of godly leaders. (Heb 13:17, Acts 20:28-29)
- It gives me the ACCOUNTABILITY to grow. (Eph 5:21)

## **Expectations as a Member**

At Cornerstone Church, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant.

# MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior, and being in agreement with Cornerstone Church's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel lead by the Holy Spirit to unite with Cornerstone Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following.

## I will support the worship of my church

- By preparing my heart expectantly
- By renewing my mind Biblically
- By engaging wholeheartedly

"But the king replied to Araunah, 'No, I insist on buying it, for I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing.'" 2 Samuel 24:24

"But the time is coming— indeed it's here now— when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way." John 4 :23

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" Psalm 122:1

## I will serve the ministry of my church

- By discovering my gifts and talents
- By being equipped to serve by my ministry leader
- By developing a servant's heart

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." 1 Peter 4:10

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:11-12

“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too...instead he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form.”

Philippians 2:3-4, 7

### **I will strengthen the testimony of my church**

- By attending faithfully
- By living a Godly life
- By giving regularly

“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25

“Above all, you must live like citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together for the faith, which is the Good News.” Philippians 1:27

“On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don’t wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.” I Corinthians 16:2

“One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy.” Leviticus 27:30



## **I will safeguard the unity of my church**

- By acting in love toward other members
- By refusing to gossip
- By following the leaders

“May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.” Romans 15:5

“You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.” 1 Peter 1:22

“Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” Ephesians 4:29

“Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.” Hebrews 13:17

## **I will share the responsibility of my church**

- By praying for its growth
- By sharing my faith and inviting the unchurched to attend
- By warmly welcoming those who visit

“We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2

“So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.’” Luke 14:23

“They were glad to do this because they feel they owe a real debt to them. Since the Gentiles received the spiritual blessings of the Good News from the believers in Jerusalem, they feel the best they can do in return is to help them financially.” Romans 15:7

We know there are sincere followers of Jesus Christ in many churches in our area and around the world. We don't have a corner on the truth. Every person who has genuinely come to faith in Christ is our brother or sister in Christ; we can enjoy the camaraderie of faith and the encouragement that comes from likeminded living. But being part of the greater Body of Christ-the universal community of those who have come to faith in Christ-is no substitute for being committed to a local expression of the body like Cornerstone Church.

## **MEMBERSHIP STEPS**

1. Fill out the application for church membership
2. Sign the covenant
3. Be presented before the church
4. Be baptized (if you haven't been baptized by immersion)

**Welcome to Membership at Cornerstone Church!**

For more information visit : [gocornerstone.church](http://gocornerstone.church)

# **CORNERSTONE RESOURCES:**

- [Our Beliefs](#)
- [The Gospel](#)
- [Meet the Staff](#)
- [Ministries](#)
- [Serving](#)
- [Global Missions](#)
- [Local Missions](#)
- [Giving](#)

# OUR BELIEFS

## **The Scriptures**

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is divine instruction with God as its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and therefore has authority over our lives. All Scripture is totally true and trustworthy, and is a testimony to Christ.

*2 Tim 3:15-17, 2 Pet 1:19-21*

## **God**

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## **God the Father**

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace.

*Gen 1:1, Matt 6:9, Matt 28:19*

## **God the Son**

Christ is the eternal Son of God. Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature yet without sin. In His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body, appeared to His disciples, ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator.

*Jn 1:1-18, 29, 1 Cor 15:1-8, 2 Cor 5:19-21, Phi 2:5-11*

## **God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration whereby He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ.

*Acts 1:8, 1 Cor 2:10-14, 2 Pet 1:21*

## **Man**

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Since the Fall, humanity now inherits a nature and environment inclined toward sin. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God.

*Gen 1:26-30, Eph 2:1-22, Rom 5:12*

## **Salvation**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

*Jn 3:3-21, 36 Rom 3:23-25, Rom 5:8-10*

## **God's Purpose of Grace**

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end.

*Eph 1:4-23, 2 Thes 2:13-14*

## **The Church**

A New Testament church is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

*Eph 1:22-23, Col 1:18*

## **Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water as an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ. The Lord's Supper is an act of obedience whereby believers memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His coming.

*Matt 28:19-20, I Cor 11:23-29*

## **Last Things**

God, in His own time will bring the world to its appropriate end. Jesus will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will righteously judge all men. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

*Col 1:5,3:4, I Thes 4:14-18*

## **The Kingdom**

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

*Mark 1:14-15, John 3:3, 18:36*

## **Evangelism and Missions**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle.

*Matt 28:19-20, Acts 1:8*

## **Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

*2 Cor 9:7*

## **The Family**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord.

*Eph 5:21-33, 6:1-4, Psa 127:3*

## **MEET OUR STAFF**

Our church is led by a vibrant team of believers that come from different backgrounds but are unified around one purpose: inviting our community into a growing relationship with Jesus. You can meet and reach out to any member of our staff by using the directory on our website.

**[GOCORNERSTONE.CHURCH/STAFF](https://gocornerstone.church/staff)**

## **MINISTRIES**

**[GOCORNERSTONE.CHURCH/CONNECT](https://gocornerstone.church/connect)**

## **SERVING**

**[GOCORNERSTONE.CHURCH/SERVING](https://gocornerstone.church/serving)**

## **GLOBAL**

**[GOCORNERSTONE.CHURCH/MISSIONS](https://gocornerstone.church/missions)**

## **LOCAL**

**[GOCORNERSTONE.CHURCH/OUTREACH](https://gocornerstone.church/outreach)**

## **GIVING**

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