

A DYNAMIC MEMBERSHIP

Names on a roll was never God's intention.

I've heard of churches with huge membership rosters, but nobody shows up on a Sunday. Or people who "keep their membership" at a church in a town where they lived two moves ago.

This is not God's plan.

God's idea of "membership," revealed in the New Testament, is for churches to function as believing families who love each other, give together, and serve shoulder to shoulder. If after working your way through our Rooted curriculum, you prayerfully feel you'd like to be part of THAT kind of church family, then you need to know WE WANT YOU at Overlake! If after working through this study, you're still unsure, then we'd love to have you meet with one of our pastors, so that we can answer any questions you still might have. And finally, if after working through this book, you don't think Overlake is for you, then we celebrate that as well...we don't want anybody to be a member that doesn't want to be at OCC, or feel called by God to share, give, and serve here. We have great relationships with all kinds of churches in this region, and we'd love to help you find one that does capture your heart and your wholehearted partnership.

There are a couple of pre-requisites to this dynamic membership.

The **First** is a grateful acceptance of Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. This entails a commitment to seek to live a life that honors God, with the help of His Spirit.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

The **Second** is to joyfully experience baptism as a witness to your family and friends that you've placed your trust in Jesus and desire to live your life following Him.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

These are the pre-requisites of membership at OCC. The remaining aspects are designed to be lived out in relationship, they are intended to be dynamic. And they are: Friendship Together. Giving Together. Serving Together.

In other words, if you're actively in community, if you're regularly giving, and if you're serving in an ongoing way, then you're a member. Congratulations! We love being family with you!

If you're not in community at OCC...

If you're not giving to God's mission at Overlake financially...

If you're not serving his Kingdom...

Then you're not a member.

Now, you might be an occasional attender. You might be a good Bible reader. You might be all kinds of great things. Certainly, you're somebody we love dearly. But let's not force anyone to pretend they're committed to the vision of God's Kingdom being built through his local church called Overlake if they're not connected, not giving, and not serving.

So here's your chance to sign on the dotted line, and to tell the Lord that you're in. This doesn't get turned in...this is just for you...in a quiet moment, between you and Jesus.

- I will be active in fellowship, and be a dependable part of a lifeGROUP or support group.*
- I will prioritize God in my finances, and regularly give to the mission of God at OCC.*
- I will serve on a team, on a mission, or in the world consistently and with joy.*

Signed: _____

Date: _____

This commitment I'm making is between myself and the Lord. I intentionally declare my membership with my church family. As long as God has me here, I will be a humble, prayerful, and grace-filled member of Overlake Christian Church.

Welcome. We love you. We consider it a great honor to be on the journey with you.

Welcome to the Overlake family and thank you for affirming that this is the church fellowship God is placing you in.

It's going to be an awesome ride.