

I Am a Church Member

According to the church constitution and by-laws, In order to become a member of Country Oaks Baptist Church:

- You must be saved - verbally professing a personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- You must have submitted to believer's baptism
- You must read and agree with the church Constitution and Bylaws and be willing to submit to the authority of this church in matters of spiritual life and discipline



Here's a reminder of what it means to be a church member...

(adapted from "I am a Church Member" by Thom S. Rainer. You will receive your own copy of Thom's book when you attend the New Member Class.)

A Functioning Member of the Body

- I like the metaphor of membership. It's not membership as in a civic organization or a country club. It's the kind of membership given to us in I Corinthians 12: *"Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it"* (1 Cor. 12:27).
- Because I am a member of the body of Christ, I must be a functioning member, whether I am and "eye," an "ear," or a "hand." As a functioning member, I will give. I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others. I will remember that *"if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it"* (1 Cor. 12:26).

A Source of Unity

- I will seek to be a source of unity in my church. I know there are no perfect pastors, staff, or other church members. But neither am I. I will not be a source of gossip or dissension. One of the greatest contributions I can make is to do all I can in God's power to help keep the church in unity for the sake of the gospel.

A Servant

- I will not let my church be about my preferences and desires. That is self-serving. I am a member in this church to serve others and to serve Christ. My Savior went to a cross for me. I can deal with any inconveniences and matters that just aren't my preference or style.

A Prayer Warrior

- I will pray for my pastor every day. I understand that the pastor's work is never ending. His days are filled with numerous demands that bring emotional highs and lows. He must deal with critics. He must be a good husband and father. Because my pastor cannot do all things in his own power, I will pray for his strength and wisdom daily.

A Family that Loves God and the Church

- I will lead my family to be good members of this church as well. We will pray together for our church. We will worship together in our church. We will serve together in our church. And we will ask Christ to help us fall deeper in love with this church because He gave His life for her.

