

# SECTION 5

# WHAT IS MEMBERSHIP?

## Why Is It Important?

If the local church is the embassy of God's Kingdom on earth, then membership is both the declaration of Kingdom citizenship and the expression of that citizenship. When a person chooses to follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they are immediately given a new identity as a "saint" in Christ, a "citizen" of Christ's Kingdom, and are subsequently called to be "members in the household of God."

*"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."*

Romans 12:4-5

*"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."*

Ephesians 2:19-22

*"You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."*

1 Peter 2:5

*"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."*

1 Corinthians 12:12

A Christian, if we are to be faithful to our calling, must choose and commit to a local church where faith is expressed. Both the church and individual called to the church must take mutual responsibility for their holistic growth in Christ.

Church membership an intentional desire to be covenanted to a local church. It is the:

- The willing submission to the Lord of Christ and the leadership of the church.
- The active participation in the formation of self and others through biblical practices and disciplines.
- The stewardship of gifts of the Holy Spirit to love and care for one another and humbly defend the unity of the church.

### **What Is Required Of A Member?**

Becoming a member of a local church requires understanding both who you are committing to and what you are committing to. As you consider becoming a member of LIFEGATE, make sure that you take time to review the History, Vision, Mission, and Values outlined in this document as it will help you understand who LIFEGATE is. In addition to this, review the Pillar Practices of Presence, Service, Prayer, Generosity, and Hospitality. This will provide the necessary information about what the membership commitment looks like.