

Becoming A Member Of Walnut Grove Church...

Responsibilities, Privileges, and Guidelines

The members of this church shall consist of those persons who have received the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, who have been baptized by consent and subsequent to salvation, and who have accepted the church covenant and the Statement of Faith as adopted in these bylaws.

All candidates for membership shall satisfactorily complete the New Members Class. The elders may waive this requirement for those who have completed a similar class elsewhere.

Approval of Membership:

One Elder shall be designated as having responsibility for the area of membership.

The candidate(s) shall meet with the Pastor and an Elder to determine the candidate's suitability for membership. A membership application must be completed prior to moving forward.

The Pastor shall recommend approval or disapproval which shall be ratified by the Elders. Elders shall meet with the candidate(s).

The Pastor or the Membership Elder shall post or publish the candidate's name for two consecutive weeks. If no written objections are made to the Elders, the candidates shall be considered approved for membership. If a letter of objection to membership is received, the Elders shall investigate and decide whether to approve or disapprove the candidate for membership. The Pastor or an Elder shall introduce new members at a regular Sunday service.

Types of Membership:

An active member is defined as one who shows an interest in the church by their attendance, their financial support and their service. Only active Members shall have all the privileges and responsibilities of membership including speaking at a business meeting, holding office, ministry leadership, and voting. Members must be at least 16 years to vote.

The Membership Elder shall present a list of all active members as part of their report at all business meetings of the church.

Nonresident: If a member leaves the church community and desires to keep his (her) membership in the church, he (she) will be placed on the nonresident roll.

Inactive: An inactive member is defined as one whose name has been removed from the active church roll by the Elders. Inactive members shall have no voting privileges at any regular or special called business meeting.

Return to Active Status: A member may return to active status under the following conditions: Nonresident members, returning to the church community, may return to active status by making their desire to become active known to the Pastor and the Elders.

the life of the church and by making a request to the Pastor and the Elders for a change to active status.

Transfer and Removal of Membership:

When a member moves from the church community, he (she) may do one of the following:

Choose to leave his (her) name on the nonresident roll.

Choose, on the approval of the Pastor and the Elders, to obtain a letter of dismissal from the church secretary and in the process, be commended by the Pastor and Elders to fellowship in another church.

Choose to have his (her) name removed from the church roll either by sending a letter to the pastor or by making the request in person.

Do nothing. After a period of three months without contact, the member's name will be transferred to inactive status.

Discipline:

Church discipline shall be maintained by the church in the light of the following New Testament instructions:

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” Matthew 18:15 -17

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:1 - 2

“Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.”

Titus 3:10 - 11

Discipline shall be handled as delineated by the Walnut Grove Church Polices and Procedures Manual. Members placed on discipline by the congregation, shall have their privileges of holding office, voting, public ministry, or speaking in church meetings (regular or business), suspended until such time as they publicly repent and are removed from discipline by the congregation.

Membership Meetings:

Regular Meetings:

Semi-annual membership meetings shall be no later than the 15th of May and the 15th of November. The fall business meeting shall be considered the annual meeting. Both the spring and fall business meetings may be held in place of a regular service.

Special Meetings:

A special congregation meeting may be called, by the president (Pastor) or vice-president, at the request of any two elders, or at the request (in writing) of any ten active members. Two weeks written notice shall be given prior to specially called business meetings.

Government:

All business meetings of Walnut Grove Church shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Quorum:

At the semi-annual meetings or a specially called meeting, a quorum shall consist of a minimum of one-third (1/3) of the number of active membership of the church.

A special quorum, for the purpose of calling a pastor, termination of a pastoral relationship, or amending the bylaws or Articles of Incorporation, shall consist of one-half (1/2) of all active members.

Voting:

Voting will be by voice or by show of hands unless a secret ballot is called for by at least five members. A secret ballot must be used when calling and removing a pastor or an officer from office. From those active members attending the meeting, a majority shall consist of one-half (1/2) plus one (1) except as specified in these bylaws. A simple majority of members present can approve a resolution except the calling of a Pastor, the termination of a pastoral relationship or the amending of the bylaws, where a two-thirds (2/3) majority is required.

Amendments:

The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a special quorum of members present at any regular meeting (or a meeting called for that purpose). In order to amend the bylaws two weeks written notice of intention to amend the bylaws shall be given to all members. Proposed changes to the bylaws will be made available at least two weeks prior to the meeting in which they will be voted on.

Budgetary Process

Salaries and Compensation

Regarding Employees:

The membership of Walnut Grove Church must approve the compensation of any employees or agents of the church as part of the annual budget approval process at its annual meeting (or at other such meetings that may be called). The church may raise or lower those salaries as it sees fit.

Regarding Board Members:

The members of boards and committees and the officers of Walnut Grove Church except the pastor and professional staff shall receive no salary or compensation. However, officers, board members and committee members may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses (i.e. registrations, mileage, food and lodging) when such expenses are incurred while conducting the business of Walnut Grove Church.

Budget Approval Process:

The Pastor and the elders will submit and distribute a draft budget to the membership 30 days prior to the fall business meeting. The membership will have 14 days to comment on the draft budget. The Pastor and Elders will then finalize the budget to present at the annual meeting for membership ratification.