

Welcome to Harvest Church of God - Where Grace Gathers and Purpose Grows

Dear Friend,

We're so glad you're here.

Whether you've been walking with Christ for years or are just beginning your journey of faith, we believe God has led you to this moment — and to this church family. At Harvest Church of God, we are committed to being a warm and welcoming place of spiritual growth and Spirit-filled purpose.

Membership here is more than a formality. It's a covenant — a shared commitment to follow Jesus together, to serve one another in love, and to steward the gifts God has entrusted to us. As you explore what it means to become a member, we invite you to reflect, ask questions, and seek the Lord's leading.

This packet outlines our beliefs, our mission, and the practical steps toward membership. You'll find both spiritual encouragement and legal clarity, because we believe that honoring God includes honoring one another with transparency and integrity.

We are a diverse and growing congregation, united by the power of the Holy Spirit and the truth of God's Word. Our prayer is that you will find not just a church, but a home — a place to belong, to serve, and to flourish.

If you have any questions while reviewing this information, we're here for you. We look forward to walking this journey with you.

In Christ's Love,



Pastor Rob Groves, III
Lead Pastor
Harvest Church of God

Our Mission and Beliefs at Harvest

When you become a member of Harvest Church of God, you are joining both a local body of believers and the global fellowship of the Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee). Our mission and doctrinal commitments reflect our shared identity as Spirit-filled followers of Jesus Christ.

Harvest Church of God exists to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ — through the preaching of biblical truth, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the love of a diverse and caring church family.

We are committed to:

- Reaching people from all backgrounds with the gospel of grace
- Welcoming every generation into a Spirit-filled community of faith
- Equipping believers to grow in Christ and live out their calling
- Serving families with compassion and integrity
- Impacting our neighborhoods and the nations with the hope of Jesus

Our mission flows from the Great Commission and reflects our identity as a church that loves boldly, teaches faithfully, and lives generously.

Doctrinal Commitments of the Church of God

As a member of the Church of God, we affirm the following Biblical doctrines:

Doctrine	Key Scriptures
Repentance	Mark 1:15; Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19
Justification	Romans 5:1; Titus 3:7
Regeneration	Titus 3:5
New Birth	John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 3:9
Sanctification	Romans 5:2; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 13:12
Holiness	Luke 1:75; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; Hebrews 12:14
Water Baptism	Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:9–10; John 3:22–23; Acts 8:36–38
Baptism with the Holy Ghost	Matthew 3:11; Luke 24:49, 53; Acts 1:4–8
Speaking in Tongues	John 15:26; Acts 2:4; 10:44–46; 19:1–7
The Church	Matthew 16:13–19; Acts 2:42–47; 1 Corinthians 12:12–31; Ephesians 2:19–22
Spiritual Gifts	1 Corinthians 12:1, 7, 10, 28, 31; 14:1
Signs Following Believers	Mark 16:17–20; Romans 15:18–19; Hebrews 2:4
Fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5:22–23; Ephesians 5:9; Philippians 1:11

Doctrine	Key Scriptures
Divine Healing	Isaiah 53:4–5; Matthew 8:17; James 5:14–16; 1 Peter 2:24
The Lord’s Supper	Luke 22:17–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26
Washing of Saints’ Feet	John 13:4–17; 1 Timothy 5:9–10
Tithing and Giving	Malachi 3:10; Luke 11:42; 2 Corinthians 9:6–9
Restitution	Matthew 3:8; Luke 19:8–9
Second Coming of Christ	1 Thessalonians 4:15–17; Revelation 19:11–21
Resurrection	John 5:28–29; Acts 24:15; Revelation 20:5–6
Eternal Life for the Righteous	John 10:28; Romans 6:22; 1 John 5:11–13
Eternal Punishment for the Wicked	Matthew 25:41–46; Revelation 20:10–15

What Does Membership Mean at Harvest?

Becoming a member of Harvest Church of God is a sacred commitment — not just to a local congregation, but to a Spirit-filled life of discipleship, service, and unity within the body of Christ.

As a member, you are affirming the Declaration of Faith of the Church of God and embracing the mission and values of our local church. This commitment includes:

- **Affirming our core beliefs as outlined in the Declaration of Faith**
- **Participating regularly in worship services, discipleship opportunities, and church life**
- **Supporting the church through prayer, and by giving your time, talents, and financial resources — including the biblical practice of tithing (the first fruits or one-tenth of your income) and offerings unto the Lord**
- **Living a life that reflects Christ’s love and holiness, both in private and public witness**
- **Respecting the leadership and structure of the church, walking in unity and accountability with fellow believers**

Membership is not about status — it’s about shared purpose. It’s about saying, “This is my church. These are my people. I’m committed to growing, serving, and glorifying God here.”

The Church of God Declaration of Faith

The Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee) believes the whole Bible to be completely and equally inspired — the authoritative, written Word of God. The following statements summarize our doctrinal convictions. We believe:

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible
2. In one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary
4. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor
5. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins
6. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ
7. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost
8. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people
9. In the baptism with the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart
10. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Ghost
11. In water baptism by immersion, and that all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost
12. That divine healing is provided for all in the atonement
13. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet
14. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus: first, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air; second, to reign on the earth a thousand years
15. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous, and eternal punishment for the wicked

Governance and Authority at Harvest Church of God

As a local congregation of the Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee), Harvest Church of God joyfully upholds the bylaws, doctrine, and governance structure of our denomination. We conduct all church business in alignment with these principles, ensuring that our operations reflect both spiritual integrity and legal accountability.

If, as a member, you ever have concerns about how we operate, I ask that you first come to me directly so we can discuss and resolve the matter together. Scripture teaches us to handle concerns with grace and unity (Matthew 18:15–17), and we strive to honor that in every aspect of church life.

By becoming a member, you affirm your commitment to the following foundational principles found in the Church of God bylaws:

1. Name and Identity
 - The official name is *Church of God*, based on 1 Corinthians 1:2 and 2 Corinthians 1:1.
 - We are Pentecostal in doctrine and practice, emphasizing holiness, Spirit baptism, and the authority of Scripture.
2. Governance Structure

- Governed by the International General Assembly, composed of credentialed ministers and lay representatives.
- Operates under an episcopal polity, with authority flowing through appointed overseers.
- Decisions are recorded in the General Assembly Minutes, which serve as binding policy.
- 3. Local Church Organization
 - Each local church is part of the larger body and must adhere to Church of God doctrine and polity.
 - Local congregations elect Church and Pastor's Councils, manage finances, and conduct ministry under pastoral leadership and state oversight.
- 4. Ministerial Credentialing
 - Ministers are credentialed in three levels: Exhorter, Ordained Minister, and Ordained Bishop.
 - Credentialing requires doctrinal alignment, moral integrity, and approval through examination and recommendation.
- 5. Membership
 - Members affirm the Church's Declaration of Faith and commit to living in biblical holiness.
 - Membership includes active participation in worship, giving, and service.
- 6. Church Discipline
 - Discipline is exercised in love and according to Matthew 18:15–17.
 - Ministers and members may be subject to review for doctrinal error or moral failure.
- 7. Property and Legal Matters
 - Church property is held in trust for the Church of God and must be used in accordance with its mission.
 - Legal documents must reflect denominational affiliation and comply with state law.
- 8. Doctrinal Integrity
 - All churches must teach and practice the 14 core doctrines and Declaration of Faith.
- ◇ Church of God Governance Structure
 - 1. International General Assembly
 - Highest governing body of the Church of God.
 - Meets biennially to vote on doctrine, polity, discipline, and administrative matters.
 - Decisions are recorded in the General Assembly Minutes.
 - 2. International Executive Council
 - Includes the General Overseer, four Assistant General Overseers, the Secretary General, and the Council of Eighteen.
 - Oversees global operations, doctrinal integrity, and strategic planning.

3. State and Regional Leadership
 - Each state or region is led by a State/Regional Administrative Bishop.
 - Overseers supervise pastors, manage credentialing, and ensure doctrinal compliance.
4. Local Church Governance
 - Local churches elect a Church and Pastor's Council to assist in decision-making.
 - The Pastor serves as spiritual and administrative leader, accountable to the state overseer.
5. Credentialing and Discipline
 - Ministers are credentialed through examination and recommendation.
 - Discipline is handled through biblical principles and overseer review.
6. Legal and Property Oversight
 - Church property is held in trust and must reflect the denomination's mission and bylaws.
 - Legal documents must comply with state law and denominational standards.

Serving at Harvest

As a member of Harvest Church of God, you are encouraged to become actively involved in ministry. Whether it's leading a Bible study, hosting a small group, serving in children's ministry, singing on the worship team, working in the media booth, ushering, or helping behind the scenes — your gifts matter.

We are only as strong as our body, and when every part works together, we can and will accomplish much for the Kingdom of God (Ephesians 4:16).

Baptism is a beautiful and powerful step of obedience in the life of every believer.

It is a public declaration of your faith in Jesus Christ — a testimony that you have died to sin and been raised to new life in Him (Romans 6:4). At Harvest Church of God, we celebrate baptism as a sacred moment of transformation, unity, and joy. If you've accepted Christ but have not yet been baptized, we encourage you to take this next step. It's not just a ritual — it's a witness to the world and a celebration in heaven. Let us walk with you as you declare, "I belong to Jesus."

If you agree with the statements found in this packet, we look forward to welcoming you into the Harvest family on our next Membership Sunday. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Welcome to the Harvest family!

~ Pastor Rob