

MEMBERSHIP AT NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Membership at New Hope Community Church involves a commitment, renewed annually each fall, to (1) Christian Identity, (2) Housechurch Participation, (3) Corporate Worship, (4) Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure, and (5) Submission to the Biblical Authority of the Elder Team.

(1) Christian Identity: A progressive commitment to grow personally as a disciple under the reign, rule and authority of Jesus Christ. Discipleship is very much a growing personal relationship between the disciple and his/her Master; however, discipleship has a corporate as well as an individual dimension. Discipleship means not only deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ but participating in community with his people.

(2) Housechurch Participation: Active, faithful and regular participation in a housechurch which is shepherded by a lay pastor (or a team of lay pastors) recognized by the Pastor and/or Elders of New Hope Community Church. Participation in a housechurch ensures pastoral care and the facilitation of the various “one anothers” of Scripture, and provides a venue for celebrating the ordinances of baptism and communion in an intimate context. Housechurches’ example of real Christian community provide a powerful witness to a watching world.

(3) Corporate Worship: Active, faithful and regular participation in corporate worship at New Hope’s Sunday morning services and at occasional gatherings as called by the Elders for prayer or vision-casting. Participation in corporate worship glorifies God directly and provides the worshipper regular opportunities to receive the Word, to praise, to pray, and to enjoy fellowship at the Lord’s table among a multitude of fellow believers.

(4) Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure: Active, faithful and regular service and giving according to spiritual gifting, ability and need in the work of the Kingdom of God – at New Hope and/or elsewhere. Faithful stewards enjoy both their labor and the fruits of it when they serve and give according to what God has given them.

(5) Submission to the Biblical Authority of the Elder Team: Submission to the Biblical authority of the Elders directly as well as indirectly through staff and lay leadership (including and especially housechurch leaders); support for New Hope priorities and commitments as established by the Elders. Receiving the Elders’ ministry of oversight leads to security and cohesion among the various constituencies at New Hope.