

Clark Fork Fellowship Membership Guide

“Live in fellowship with God and to share the fellowship of God”

“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” — 1 John 1:7

INTRODUCTION

Welcome

Welcome to the Membership Seminar for Clark Fork Fellowship. We are thankful for your desire to learn more about our fellowship and what it means to become a member of Clark Fork Fellowship.

Church membership is both a privilege and a responsibility. At Clark Fork Fellowship, we believe it is important for every prospective member to understand our mission, beliefs, structure, and commitment to biblical fellowship.

SECTION ONE: MEMBERSHIP

1.1 Purpose of Membership

Church membership is a joyful commitment to walk together in fellowship, worship, service, and spiritual growth under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

1.2 Membership Requirements

- A member must have personally received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord through faith.
- A member must have followed the Lord in believer’s baptism by immersion after salvation and personal profession of faith.
- A member regularly attends and participates in Clark Fork Fellowship for a minimum of six months prior to membership consideration.
- A member must be willing to support the mission, doctrine, unity, and biblical direction of Clark Fork Fellowship.

Our desire is not to create unnecessary barriers, but to ensure that church membership reflects a sincere commitment to Christ, biblical doctrine, and the fellowship body.

1.3 Membership Commitment

- Walk in fellowship with Christ and one another.
- Protect the unity of the church.
- Support the ministry through prayer, service, and giving.
- Participate faithfully in worship and discipleship.
- Live in a manner that honors Jesus Christ.
- Share the Gospel with others.

SECTION TWO: CORE VALUES

2.1 Worship

We look upward to exalt the Savior in spirit and truth.

2.2 Word

We look inward to equip believers through the truth of God's Word.

2.3 Witness

We look outward to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people.

SECTION THREE: ORDINANCES

3.1 Baptism

- Baptism follows the example and command of Jesus Christ.
- Baptism illustrates the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Baptism publicly identifies a believer with Christ.
- Baptism does not save a person; it is the outward testimony of a salvation already received by faith.
- Clark Fork Fellowship practices believer's baptism by immersion.

Clark Fork Fellowship does not baptize infants. We believe baptism should follow a personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

3.2 The Lord's Supper

Clark Fork Fellowship welcomes all believers in Jesus Christ to participate in the Lord's Supper.

SECTION FOUR: DOCTRINAL FOUNDATION

4.1 The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the holy, inspired, and inerrant Word of God. Holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the Scriptures, which are therefore fully trustworthy and authoritative in all matters of faith and practice. The Bible is the final authority for doctrine, instruction, and the ordering of the church and the Christian life.

Scripture References:

2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21; Psalm 119:89; Matthew 24:35; Hebrews 4:12

4.2 The One True God

We believe that there is one true and living God who exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are equal in nature, power, and glory, yet are distinct persons within the one Godhead.

Scripture References: Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1–3; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 5:7

4.3 The Lord Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who became man without ceasing to be God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life, performed mighty works, and willingly offered Himself as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world.

He was crucified, buried, and bodily rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and now serves as our High Priest, Mediator, and Advocate before the Father.

Scripture References:

John 1:1–14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35; Hebrews 4:14–16; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4; Acts 1:9–11

4.4 The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and is fully God. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. At the moment of salvation, every believer receives the Holy Spirit, who indwells, seals, and guides the believer.

The Holy Spirit empowers believers for service, teaches the Scriptures, and works within the believer to produce spiritual growth and Christlike character.

Scripture References:

John 14:16–17; John 16:7–11; Romans 8:9–11; Ephesians 1:13–14; Ephesians 5:18

4.5 Salvation

We believe that salvation is entirely by the grace of God and is received through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation cannot be earned through works, religious activity, or personal merit.

The gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again from the dead. All who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and place their trust in Him alone for forgiveness of sins receive eternal life.

Scripture References:

Ephesians 2:8–9; John 3:16; Romans 10:9–13; Acts 16:30–31; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

4.6 Eternal Security

We believe that every person who truly places their faith in Jesus Christ is eternally secure in Him. Salvation is the gift of God and cannot be lost. Those who are saved are kept by the power of God and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Scripture References:

John 5:24; John 10:27–29; Romans 8:38–39; Ephesians 1:13–14

4.7 The Church

We believe that a local church is a congregation of believers who assemble together for worship, fellowship, prayer, instruction in the Word of God, and the proclamation of the gospel.

We believe that the church is the body of Christ, composed of many members, each placed by God and gifted by the Holy Ghost for the edification of the whole body. Though there are many members with differing gifts and functions, all are united in one body under Christ.

We believe that the church is under the headship and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and is governed according to the principles set forth in the Holy Scriptures. The biblical offices of the church are pastors (bishops/elders) and deacons.

We believe that Christ has given leadership and spiritual gifts within the church for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ, that believers may grow in unity of the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God unto spiritual maturity.

The mission of the church is to preach the gospel to all people, make disciples, baptize believers, and teach them to observe all things commanded by Christ.

Scripture References:

1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:11–16, Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 2:41–42; Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 3:1–13; Titus 1:5

4.8 Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that baptism is the public testimony of a believer who has trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation. Baptism is administered by immersion in water and symbolizes the believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Baptism does not save but follows salvation as an act of obedience.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial observance in which believers remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ through the use of bread and the fruit of the vine. It should be observed with reverence and self-examination.

Scripture References:

Matthew 28:19–20; Acts 8:36–38; Romans 6:3–5; 1 Corinthians 11:23–28

4.9 Christian Living

We believe that believers are called to live lives that reflect holiness, humility, and obedience to God. Christians are to grow in spiritual maturity, walk in love, and seek to live in a way that honors the Lord and reflects the character of Christ.

Believers are encouraged to avoid practices that lead to sin or that damage the testimony of the gospel.

Scripture References:

Romans 12:1–2; Ephesians 4:1–3; Philippians 1:27; 1 Peter 1:15–16; James 4:4

4.10 Marriage and Human Sexuality

We believe that God established marriage as a sacred covenant between one man and one woman. Within this covenant, the husband and wife are to love, honor, and serve one another, reflecting the design and purposes of God.

We believe that sexual intimacy is a gift from God intended to be expressed only within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman.

Scripture References:

Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4–6; Romans 7:2; Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:22–33

4.11 The Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that human life is a sacred gift from God and that life begins at conception. Every human being is created in the image of God and therefore possesses inherent dignity and value.

We affirm the protection of life and seek to uphold the value of every human life from conception onward.

Scripture References:

Psalm 139:13–16; Jeremiah 1:5; Genesis 1:27; Isaiah 44:24

4.12 Satan

We believe that Satan is a real spiritual being who opposes God and seeks to deceive humanity. Though active in the world today, Satan's ultimate defeat is certain, and he will be judged and cast into the lake of fire.

Scripture References:

John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:3–4; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:10

4.13 Heaven and Hell

We believe that heaven is a real place where those who have trusted in Christ will dwell eternally in the presence of God.

We believe that hell is also a real place of conscious and eternal punishment for those who reject the salvation offered through Jesus Christ.

Both the saved and the lost will experience a bodily resurrection and will spend eternity in their respective destinies.

Scripture References:

John 14:1–3; Luke 16:19–31; Revelation 20:11–15; Revelation 21:1–4

4.14 The Return of Christ and the Resurrection

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ. At His coming, the First Resurrection will occur in which the dead in Christ will rise first. Then believers who are alive will be caught up together (Raptured) with them to meet the Lord in the air.

We believe that this gathering of believers to Christ occurs before God pours out His wrath and judgment upon the world.

Christ will ultimately establish His righteous rule and bring all things to their appointed conclusion according to the purposes of God.

Scripture References:

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17; 1 Corinthians 15:51–52; Matthew 24:29–31; Revelation 20:4–6

4.15 Final Authority

We believe that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. While this statement summarizes key doctrines we hold, our ultimate authority is the Word of God itself.

Scripture References:

2 Timothy 3:16–17; Psalm 119:105

SECTION FIVE: CHURCH LIFE AND MINISTRY

- Weekly worship services centered on biblical preaching and Christ-centered worship.
- Bible study and discipleship opportunities for spiritual growth.
- Prayer ministries and outreach within the local community.
- Ministry opportunities for adults, students, children, and families as the fellowship grows.

SECTION SIX: CHURCH STRUCTURE

- Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church.
- The Pastor serves as shepherd, elder, and overseer.
- The Pastoral Advisory Council (PAC) exists to provide prayerful counsel and accountability.
- Ministry Teams provide hands-on service opportunities throughout the fellowship.

Clark Fork Fellowship

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior; and having been scripturally baptized; and being in agreement with the Membership Requirements of Clark Fork Fellowship; I feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite in membership with Clark Fork Fellowship. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members of Clark Fork Fellowship to do the following:

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF Clark Fork Fellowship

- ...By acting in love toward other members
- ...By refusing to gossip
- ...By seeking to fulfill the core beliefs: worship, word, work, warfare, witness
- ...By following the leaders of Clark Fork Fellowship

Scripture References:

Acts 2:46-47, Romans 14:19, Romans 15:5-6, 1 Peter 1:22, Ephesians 4:29, Hebrews 13:17

2. I WILL HONOR CHRIST IN MY CONDUCT AND COMMUNICATION

Christian Conduct and Communication

I understand that, as a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of this church, my conduct and communication reflect upon the name of my Savior and the testimony of His church. Therefore, by God's grace and through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, I covenant to honor Christ in every aspect of my life, including—but not limited to—all forms of communication, whether spoken or written, public or private, personal or electronic.

I will endeavor to let "no corrupt communication proceed out of [my] mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29). I will seek to speak "the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), to let my speech "be alway with grace, seasoned with salt" (Colossians 4:6), and to avoid gossip, slander, backbiting, malicious speech, foolish talking, filthy communication, and all forms of sinful or divisive communication (Ephesians 4:31; Ephesians 5:4; Colossians 3:8; James 3:5–10; Titus 3:2).

Recognizing that "every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment" (Matthew 12:36), I will strive to ensure that my words consistently glorify God, strengthen fellow believers, and bear a faithful witness to those outside the church.

Should my conduct or communications become inconsistent with these biblical principles, I humbly welcome loving, biblical correction and accountability in accordance with Matthew 18:15–17 and Galatians 6:1, always with the goal of repentance, restoration, and the unity of Christ's church.

Scripture References:

Ephesians 4:15, Ephesians 4:29, Ephesians 4:31, Ephesians 5:4, Colossians 3:8, Colossians 4:6, James 3:5–10, Titus 3:2, Matthew 12:36, Matthew 18:15–17, Galatians 6:1

3. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF Clark Fork Fellowship

- ...By emphasizing prayer in all things, especially praying for one another
- ...By inviting the unchurched to attend
- ...By warmly welcoming all those who visit

Scripture References:

1 Thessalonians 1:2, Luke 14:23, Romans 15:7

4. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF Clark Fork Fellowship

- ...By discovering my gifts and talents
- ...By being equipped by my pastors to serve
- ...By developing a servant's heart

Scripture References:

1 Peter 4:10, Ephesians 4:11-12, Philippians 2:3-4, 7

5. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF Clark Fork Fellowship

- ...By attending faithfully
- ...By living a godly life
- ...By giving regularly

Scripture References:

Hebrews 10:25, Philippians 1:27, 1 Corinthians 16:2, Leviticus 27:30

I will abide by this Clark Fork Fellowship Covenant:

(Individual Name-PRINT)

(Individual Name-Signature)

(Pastor)

_____/_____/_____
(Date)

(PAC Team Member)