

TAHOE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Why Church Membership

Tahoe Church believes the local church isn't just something you attend—it's a family you belong to. Everyone is welcome to attend, but membership is a deeper commitment to a Church out of Scriptural Obedience. At its core, membership is about knowing and being known. It's about stepping into deeper relationships where one can **Engage, Invest, Grow** and **Communicate**. Membership connects people in the organizational framework of the local church, in which members help shape the vision, direction, and trajectory of the church. It offers a voice in the life of the church by participating in votes on significant decisions that impact its future.

In Acts 2:42-47 the early church is described as a community where, “believers were devoted to teaching, fellowship, sharing meals, resources and common prayer.” That's the kind of community Tahoe Church strives to be—a place where people do life together, serve together, grow in faith, and are truly known. In doing these things, God restores relationships, He shapes his earthly community and prepares His church for the good works he has set before it (*Ephesians 2:10*).

SECTION 1: QUALIFICATIONS

Qualification for membership is determined by the Tahoe Church Board of Directors. These qualifications are meant to ensure a good fit for anyone aspiring to membership. Everyone is required to meet every qualification, unless an exception is made by the Board of Directors or Pastor.

Qualifications:

1. Trust Jesus Christ for Salvation
2. Agreement with the Tahoe Church Theological Statement, Tahoe Church Foundations, and Tahoe Church Bylaws.
3. Commitment to uphold the **Expectations** of membership at Tahoe Church.
4. Regular attendance at Tahoe Church for at least 3 months.
5. Consider Tahoe Church as your “home church”, even if part-time or living in other residences at other times of the year.
6. Adults aged 18 and older
7. Attend a membership class.
8. Affirmed by Pastor (or Pastor-Approved Membership Leader).
9. Sign a membership covenant.

SECTION 2: EXPECTATIONS

Church members are expected to commit themselves to the following by maintaining the expectations below as well as other responsibilities outlined in the membership **classes** and membership **covenant**.

Membership Expectations:

1. Engage: Members of Tahoe Church are expected to regularly participate in the communal and spiritual life of the church. This includes consistent attendance at weekly worship services, active involvement in small groups, and participation in scheduled church events, meetings, and programs. Members are also expected to engage in an intentional Christian community with other members and attendees, providing mutual support, encouragement, and accountability in pursuit of Christlikeness. Members are encouraged to attend church family meetings and to vote on matters presented to the membership, including the election of board members, decisions of significance as determined by the board, and Lead Pastor transitions or hiring.

2. Invest: Members of Tahoe Church are expected to generously contribute to the Tahoe Church's mission. This includes regular financial giving in support of Tahoe Church ministries, as well as the intentional investment of time, energy, and personal giftings through service in various Tahoe Church ministries. Members are further expected to participate in the church's mission of sharing the gospel and inviting others to engage in the life and community of Tahoe Church.

3. Grow: Members of Tahoe Church are expected to actively pursue and maintain a posture and practice consistent with a Biblically mature Christian faith. This includes the regular engagement in spiritual disciplines such as Bible study, prayer, observance of the Lord's Supper, baptism, repentance, and mentorship. Members must affirm and adhere to the Tahoe Church Theological Statement and Tahoe Church Foundations. In instances of moral, theological, or relational failure, members are expected to willingly participate in processes of accountability, correction, and restoration as administered by the church leadership, with the aim of personal growth and communal health.

4. Communicate: Members of Tahoe Church are expected to candidly maintain open communication with church leadership and fellow members. This includes the constructive expression of concerns, needs, hopes, and feedback in a manner characterized by honesty, respect, and a commitment to mutual edification. Members shall refrain from divisive or destructive speech and are encouraged to approach all dialogue with a spirit of humility, curiosity, and reconciliation. If a member is experiencing dissatisfaction or considering withdrawal from membership, they are encouraged to communicate with leadership to seek clarity, support, or resolution. Members who are experiencing circumstances that may warrant church care or benevolence are encouraged to communicate needs for support to church leadership in a timely manner.

In the case of a prolonged absence—due to moving, illness, life transitions, or transferring to another church—members are encouraged and expected to communicate with leadership regarding their situation.

SECTION 3: DISQUALIFICATIONS AND TERMINATION

Under some circumstances membership, and all rights and privileges of membership, may be revoked by the Tahoe Church Board of Directors and/or Lead Pastor. Disqualifications lead to termination. The following are:

Membership Disqualifications:

1. Failure to uphold the Membership Covenant and expectations of membership. As well as, refusal to adhere to a discipleship and accountability processes, lacking repentance.
2. Membership may be revoked if a person's beliefs become fundamentally incompatible with the Tahoe Church Theological Statement, Foundations, and governing bylaws, as determined by the Lead Pastor and Board of Directors.
3. Life changes have led to prolonged absence or non-participation. The degree of non-participation that warrants termination shall be determined at the discretion and good judgment of the Board of Directors and Lead Pastor.

Membership Termination:

1. Membership may be terminated by request of the member. As entering into membership should not be taken lightly, neither should withdrawal be taken lightly.
2. Membership Termination will be determined by the discretion of the Lead Pastor and Board of Directors and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
3. Once Membership is Terminated all rights and privileges of membership will be revoked immediately.
4. Communication of Membership termination will occur within one week of the lead pastor's decision, preferably in person if possible.
5. Membership may be restored at a future time at the discretion of the Lead Pastor and/or Board of Directors.

Steps of termination would be considered in the case after a discipline and accountability process conducted by the Pastor and/or Board of Directors has not resulted in restoration. A pastor and/or board member will provide one-on-one support to the individual until the termination process is fully completed. Restoration of membership will be considered through a process of discernment, pastoral care, and spiritual readiness, in alignment with the accountability and discipline practices outlined below. Termination of membership does not mean one is no longer welcome to attend church regularly; it simply means loss of benefits or rights associated with membership.

SECTION 4: MEMBERSHIP DATA

A database of members who are actively participating in church activities shall be maintained. All members will agree to share contact and demographic information. Members will agree to receive member specific communications. We will follow laws, [CCPA](#) regulations and other requirements for retaining records, digital management and data security to the best of our abilities.

SECTION 5: MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

1. All prospective members must attend a Tahoe Church Membership class in person or online.
2. After attending a membership class, all prospective members must be affirmed by the Lead Pastor or authorized person.
3. All members must sign a Membership Covenant.
4. After signing the membership covenant, a member will be added to the membership list and welcomed into the official Tahoe Church Membership.
5. All membership rights and privileges will be immediately initiated after signing of the membership covenant.

SECTION 6: MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

1. Each member shall be entitled to one vote in matters that call for a decision of the membership. This includes participating by vote in election of board members, Lead Pastor transition/hiring, major decisions brought to the members by the discretion of the Church Board.
2. Eligibility to hold member restricted leadership positions.
3. Access to pastoral care, discipleship, and belonging to the family.
4. Members may request to use the church's property, grounds, and buildings for events such as weddings, funerals, and special occasions. Approval for such use will be subject to staff availability, associated costs, and the church's resources. Final decisions regarding location and scheduling will be made at the discretion of the staff.
5. Inclusion in member specific events, resources and communication.

SECTION 7: MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCIPLESHIP

Church membership entails a commitment to the expectations outlined above, as well as a formal affirmation of that commitment through the signing of the covenant agreement. When members are in need of discipleship or accountability, an individual process of restoration shall be determined by the Lead Pastor, with consultation of the Board as needed, with the goal of restoring the member to spiritual alignment and fellowship within the church. The purpose of church discipline is never to be punitive, but restorative—seeking always to lead believers to repentance, healing, and spiritual growth.

The accountability process will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Lead Pastor and/or Board of Directors. It may include, but is not limited to, temporary non-participation in church functions, counseling, or meeting designated growth expectations. The process will be guided by biblical principles of conflict resolution and established accountability practices. (Proverbs 18:1; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; James 5:16-20).