

BETHEL CHURCH

Membership

VERSION 2.0

About

At Bethel Church our aim is to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ who make disciples in our region as part of the global body of Christ. Our vision is that every person, in any location, facing any challenge would be equipped to be a disciple and make disciples.

At Bethel Church we give careful thought to what we believe and what it means in practice to be disciples who make disciples. The following sections contain more information about our core beliefs, values, discipleship commitment, and distinctives.

OUR VISION

*Every person, in any location,
facing any challenge, would be
equipped to be a disciple and
make disciples.*



Our Discipleship Commitment

At Bethel Church, we are committed to being disciples who make disciples. Simply put, a disciple is a person who is following Jesus, being transformed by Jesus, and committed to the mission of Jesus in the world. Following the many athletic metaphors in Scripture and observing that “discipline” and “discipleship” are connected, we have defined a practical way to encourage one another to grow as disciples and disciple-makers. We call this “The 1% Life.”

The 1% Life is about intentionally investing in three vital relationships; our relationship with God, with God’s people, and with the world.

What do we mean by 1%?

- 1% of your day ~ 15 minutes a day invested in your relationship with God through Bible engagement and prayer.
- 1% of your week ~ 90 minutes a week where you choose to gather with the local body of Christ in a worship gathering.
- 1% of your month ~ 7 hours a month (1:45 mins/week) in life-on-life community that you are committed to.
- 1% of your year ~ 4 days a year where you are specifically living on mission in your home, neighborhood, region, and world.

The 1% challenge is only a starting point, not the target. The target is to faithfully follow Jesus by deepening the three relationships we’ve identified. But we are convinced that if you embrace the 1% Life as a starting point, the rest of your life will be changed forever!

As a church, we are taking the challenge to live the 1% Life in order to see 1% of our region transformed by Jesus. There are approximately 363,000 people that reside in the Tri-Cities and Lower Valley and we are praying that 1% of our region, 3630 people, will be transformed.

We are also on mission around the world, working with our global and regional partners. Learn more about these at bethel.ch/global and bethel.ch/local.

Our Core Beliefs

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

SECTION 1: THE SCRIPTURE

We believe the Bible and only the Bible to be God's infallible Word and the Christian's supreme authority in all matters of faith and practice. We affirm our belief in the verbal and plenary inspiration of the Scripture in their original autographs. II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21; I Peter 1:25

SECTION 2: GOD AND THE TRINITY

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. While its members possess individual, personal attributes, the Trinity is without division of nature, essence, or being. Genesis 1:1; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; 4:24; II Corinthians 13:14; I John 4:13

SECTION 3: JESUS CHRIST

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, born of the Virgin Mary, sinless in life, who atoned for the sins of the world by His substitutionary death on the cross. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension into heaven, and His High Priestly intercession for His people. Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:1, 14; Acts 1:9-11; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:25; 9:24; I John 2:1-2

SECTION 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit to be the third person in the Trinity, whose ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. During this age, the Holy Spirit draws men unto God; convicts men of sin, righteousness, and judgment; and indwells, guides, instructs, and empowers the believer for godly service. John 14:16-17, 26; 16:8-15; Romans 5:5; 8:9-11; I Corinthians 3:16; 12:12-14; II Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:13-14; Matthew 28:19-20

SECTION 5: MAN

We believe Adam was created in the image of God but fell into sin and all men are sinners by nature and by choice and therefore, lost. However, we believe "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. We believe those who accept Christ as Savior and Lord shall be forever in God's presence and those who reject Christ as Savior and Lord will be forever separated from God and be cast into the lake of fire for eternal punishment. Genesis 1:26-27; Mark 9:43-44; John 3:36; Romans 3:23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12; II Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:15

SECTION 6: SALVATION

We believe the shed blood of Jesus Christ provides the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe. Only those who receive Jesus Christ and are born of the Holy Spirit can thus become children of God. John 1:12; 3:16; Acts 13:38-39; Romans 5:1; 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 1:5-8; Hebrews 9:22; I Peter 1:18-19; 2:24

SECTION 7: SATAN

We believe in the reality of Satan as a personal angelic being who has fallen from his original state of perfection and is now the prince of the corrupt, anti-God world-system. We believe in Satan's final and eternal judgement in the Lake of Fire. Revelation 20:10; Ephesians 2:2; II Corinthians 4:4; Ezekiel 28:11-19; John 14:30; Job 1:12; 2:6

SECTION 8: THE CHURCH

We believe the true Church is composed of all persons who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. They are united together as the body of Christ and are eligible for membership in the local church. Acts 2:41; I Corinthians 12:12-13; II Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 4:4-6, 15-16

SECTION 9: THE ORDINANCES

We believe baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, in testimony of a person's faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Christ. It is a confession the believer is dead to sin and risen to newness of life in Christ Jesus. We believe the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death "till He come". Matthew 28:19; 26:26-30; Acts 8:35-38; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-26

SECTION 10: THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

We believe all men who are born of God have equality of direct access to God's ear and heart, and there is no distinction between men in their exercise of that priesthood in their personal relationships with the Lord. I Peter 2:5, 9; Hebrews 4:14-16; 2:10-18; Revelation 1:6

SECTION 11: THE LAST THINGS

We believe in "that blessed hope". Titus 2:13. We believe in the personal, visible, premillennial return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Zechariah 14:4-11; Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15



Our Values

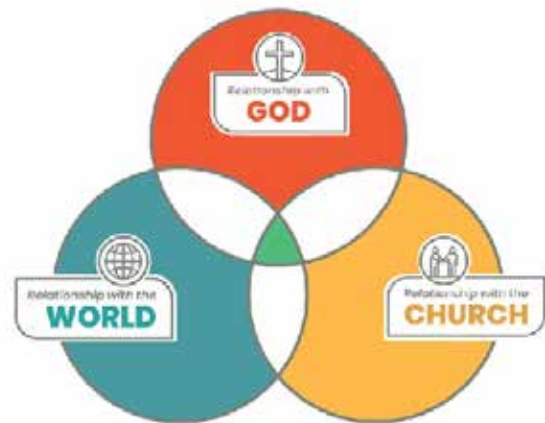
At Bethel Church, we value God, the Bible, the Gospel, and people. We find these values in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. In His ministry on Earth, we see Jesus living and working in three primary relationships: God, Church, and World.

Jesus called God His Father and taught us to pray “Our Father...”. Jesus consistently did the will and works of the Father. We see Jesus spending much time in prayer with the Father. This was His most important relationship, and should be ours as well.

Jesus invested much of His earthly ministry in training His disciples—not only the 12 Apostles, but the men and women who gathered around Him and supported His ministry. Following His lead, the disciples who wrote the New Testament presented the church as the Body of Christ. Thus, we are “members one of another” living relational commitment and interdependence, valuing each other and our differing gifts. To be a Christian is to love and participate in His church.

Finally, we see Jesus speaking truth and acting with care and compassion toward the hurting world around Him. At Bethel, we seek to value what He values. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, our community, our world—to teach what He commanded and make disciples of all nations.

THE 3 RELATIONSHIPS



In His ministry on Earth, we see Jesus living and working in three primary relationships: God, Church, and World.

Our Distinctives

As followers of Jesus, we prioritize and invest in the relationships that He did. We do this through regular spiritual practices, which over time transform us to look increasingly like Jesus. These include:

- 1. Bible Engagement:** As the Apostle Paul informs us, “all Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16–17). We engage daily with God through His Word.
- 2. Prioritize Prayer:** We prioritize prayer, learning to pray at all times in the Spirit, with every prayer and request (Ephesians 6:18). We incorporate rhythms of prayer in our personal lives as well as corporately.
- 3. Choose Church:** Corporate worship, prayer, the preaching of the Word, and the sacraments of baptism and communion have always marked the people of God—the Church. This is the core of church life, given by God for our mutual encouragement and growth.
- 4. Commit to Community:** In addition, small groups provide more intimate venues throughout the week where we can encourage and pray for one another, serve one another, hear from God, and speak into each other’s lives. Rooted is a 10-week small group experience that is our first step into group life. Find out more here: bethel.ch/rooted.
- 5. Live it out:** As our heart, mind, affections, will, relationship, and purpose are transformed, we live generously. We recognize all we are and have comes from God, belongs to God, and is for God. We seek to invest our time, talents, and treasure for His Kingdom—regularly, proportionately, and generously. Opportunities to serve abound. Ways to give are shown at bethel.ch/giving.
- 6. Share and Go:** At Bethel, we seek to reach our community, nation, and the world with the gospel. As part of living “the 1% Life” we aim to reach the 3630 locally—1% of the regional population. Bethel also participates in a variety of missionary efforts around the globe; you can learn about these at bethel.ch/local and bethel.ch/global.
- 7. Every person, every season:** We recognize the Lord’s holistic care for us and we seek to love one another as God has loved us. Our care and compassion ministries provide support for those walking through grief or loss, as well as care for the vulnerable among us in our church and community. Learn more about these ministries at bethel.ch/pastoral-care or email: care@bethel.ch.

The Why, What and How of Membership

Bethel is very much a “come as you are” place. We eagerly welcome anyone who is interested in knowing God to worship and fellowship with us. For those who are led to belong to the Bethel family in a more meaningful way, Bethel offers membership. The Bible describes Christians as committed to local assemblies or churches with common beliefs, values, and authority. Although the Bible doesn’t prescribe membership in these local churches very specifically, it is apparent that these churches were local gatherings of believers bound together for community, commitment, and coaching.

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A BETHEL MEMBER?

Go deeper in your fellowship, participation, and mission in the local body of Christ.

Clarify your mutual commitment with others in the Bethel family.

Become eligible for certain leadership and ministry positions at Bethel.

Become eligible to vote on major decisions of the church.

WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP AT BETHEL MEAN?

You are devoted to other members of the Bethel family in love [Romans 12:10].

You agree with Bethel’s Core Beliefs, aka, Doctrinal Statement.

You desire to participate in the work and mission of Bethel.

You are mutually accountable with other Bethel members to grow in discipleship, usually via participation in a small group [Hebrews 10:24-25].

You are willing to accept the leadership of Bethel leaders [Hebrews 13:17].

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR BECOMING A MEMBER OF BETHEL?

You have been born again through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

You have declared your faith through believer’s baptism by immersion.

You desire to live as a disciple of Jesus and function in the church body as described in the Membership Covenant.

How Do I Become a Bethel Member?

Read through this booklet.

Meet with your small group leader or Rooted facilitator to sign your application for membership. If you are involved in a Bethel ministry but not in a small group or Rooted group, meet with your ministry leader.

Participate in a Membership Class led by a Campus Elder. We recommend the class, but recognize that it doesn't work for every person, so it's also fine to meet directly with a Campus Elder for the membership interview.

The Campus Elder will give the completed paperwork to the appropriate staff member to record your membership. You will receive a membership certificate by mail.



Bethel Membership Covenant

I, _____, having been led by God the Holy Spirit to receive Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord, having been baptized by immersion as a profession of my faith, being committed to grow as a disciple of Jesus, having studied Bethel's doctrine, purpose, and government, and desiring to unite in the worship, fellowship, and work of the local expression of Christ's spiritual body known as Bethel Church, enter into the following covenant with other Bethel members to love God, His Church, and His World according to these commitments:

GOD

- Regularly read and meditate on Scripture. [II Timothy 3:16,17; Romans 12:2, II Timothy 2:15]
- Pursue a continual, intimate relationship with God through prayer and listening to God. [Psalm 141:2; Colossians 4:2]
- Worship and learn regularly in Bethel worship services. [Psalm 69:30; Acts 2:42]
- Commit to the Lordship of Christ and the authority of the Bible in how I conduct my life. [Luke 9:23,24; I John 5:2,3; Psalm 119:10]
- Turn from all godless living and sinful pleasures and live a consistent, God-honoring life. [Titus 2:11-13]

CHURCH

- Love one another as Christ loves us, being humble, gentle, patient, slow to take offense, and quick to forgive and seek forgiveness. [John 13:34, 35; Ephesians 4:1, 2; Matthew 18:15-20]
- Invest energy and time in building authentic relationships to stimulate spiritual growth in one another, typically through a small group. [Hebrews 10:24, 25; Acts 20:20; Colossians 1:28]
- Pray with and for one another, sharing our burdens, sorrows, and joys. [Romans 12:15; Galatians 6:2]
- Promote unity, godliness, and scriptural faithfulness within the church. [Ephesians 4:3; Philippians 2:1-4]
- Be a devoted, faithful, and spiritually encouraging spouse, if married. Offer Christian love, instruction, guidance, and discipline to any children God may entrust to me. [Ephesians 5:22-33 & 6:4; I Peter 3:1-7; Matthew 19:3-6, Titus 1:6]
- Give financially to the Lord through Bethel: consistently, proportionately, and generously. [Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:1,2; II Corinthians 8:7; 9:6-8]

WORLD

- Endeavor by example, relationship, word, and prayer to win others to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [I Corinthians 9:19-22; Colossians 1:28]
- Use my time, abilities, and spiritual gifts to assist in the work of the church and to promote its usefulness in making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in our community and the world. [Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12; Matthew 28:19,20]
- Promote what is godly in our community and demonstrate God's love to the poor and hurting. [Matthew 5:13-16; 25:31-46]
- Love our neighbors as ourselves, pray for civil authorities and honor and obey where not in conflict with God's Word, and exercise good stewardship over God's creation. [Matthew 22:36-40; Luke 10:25-37; I Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 13:1-14; Genesis 2:15]

Application for Membership

	YES	NO
Have you been born again through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you been baptized as a believer through immersion?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you completed the Rooted Experience?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you attend Bethel worship regularly?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you have questions or reservations about Bethel's beliefs or practices? If so, what?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
With the Spirit's help, do you agree to live as a biblical disciple of Jesus as expressed in the Bethel Membership Covenant?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What ministry or area of service in the church are you involved in, or would you like to be involved in?		

MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

FULL NAME (PRINTED) _____

ROOTED I have discussed the commitments discussed in the Bethel Membership Covenant with the candidate. He/She demonstrates an understanding of and a faithfulness to the principles.
I recommend receiving the candidate as a member of Bethel.

ROOTED FACILITATOR SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SMALL GROUP Small group endorsement: what small group are you in? _____

SMALL GROUP LEADER SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

ELDER The candidate has shared his/her journey with Christ and experience with Bethel. I am pleased to welcome him/her as a Bethel member.

ELDER SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

