**WESTCOAST CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS HANDOUT**

*At WestCoast Church we believe that when a person encounters* **Jesus Christ** *they come to life and as they learn* **to follow him** *their life becomes meaningful!*

WestCoast Church is a **Christ Centered**, **Spirit-Filled, Full Gospel church** which means we believe that the Bible is God’s Word, Jesus Christ is God’s only begotten Son and God is still filling believers with His presence and the power of the Holy Spirit today.

**Why does WestCoast Church offer a local church membership class?**

The reason we offer a local church membership here at WestCoast is to leverage the power of **agreement**.

**Amos 3:3 NLT**

“Can two people walk together without **agreeing** on the direction?”

Church membership at WestCoast is about **clarifying** the Mission, Vision, Values, and Statement of Faith that we as a local church agree upon.

**The 3 Areas of Focus Regarding Church Membership**

**Area 1:** Basic Answers to Common Questions About Church Membership

***Q1: Who should become a member of WestCoast Church?***

* Anyone who considers WCC their local church **home**.
* Anyone who **regularly** attends and **financially** supports the ministry of WCC.
* Anyone who desires to **serve** on a WCC ministry team.

***Q2: What kind of memberships are offered at WestCoast Church?***

WestCoast church has **two** types of church members:

In person members and online members.

1. In person members are members who attend WestCoast at our physical location.
2. Online members are members who attend WestCoast primarily through watching services online.

***Special Note:*** Online membership is reserved for individuals who desire to attend WestCoast in person but are **physically unable** to attend for reasons beyond their control.

***Q3: What are the basic expectations for all church members?***

There are 4 basic expectations

1. **Pray** for the leadership and staff of WCC on a regular basis. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
2. Faithfully **attend** our in person or online services. (Hebrews 10:25)
3. Financially **support** the ministry of WestCoast Church through the regular giving of tithes and offerings. (Malachi 3:10)
4. Seek to live in **harmony** and **peace** with one another. (Romans 12:3-18)

***Q4: What are the requirements for becoming a member?***

1. You must be **18** years of age or older
2. **Watch** the “WestCoast Church Membership Class” video online.

3. **Read** and **agree** to the “WestCoast Church Statements of Faith.”
4. Complete and **submit** a copy of the “WestCoast Church Membership Agreement.”

**Area 2: WestCoast Mission, Directives, Vision and Values**

**Mission:**

*We exist to produce* ***fully formed****,* ***Spirit-filled****,and* ***fruitful followers*** *of Jesus Christ.*

**John 15:1-8 NLT**

[1] … “I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. [2] He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. [3] You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. [4] **Remain** in me, and I will **remain** in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you **remain** in me. [5] "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who **remain** in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. [6] Anyone who does not **remain** in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. [7] But if you **remain** in me and my words **remain** in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! [8] When you produce **much fruit**, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

**Ephesians 4:11-13 NLT**

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. [12] Their responsibility is to *equip God's people* to **do his work** and **build up the church**, the body of Christ. [13] This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will **be mature in the Lord**, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.”

**Prime Directives:**

* **Build** a local church dedicated to the worship of **Jesus** Christ.
* **Lead** a new generation of people into the presence of God.
* **Produce** spiritually mature followers of **Jesus**.

**Vision Fulfilled**

We dream of a local church of **5,000** families growing together in spiritual maturity who regularly gather in a place dedicated to the worship of **Jesus** that is marked by the manifest presence of God.

**Core Values:**

* **Courage**

**Joshua 1:9 NLT**

“This is my command-be strong and **courageous**! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

**1 Chronicles 28:20 NLT**

“Then David continued, "Be strong and **courageous**, and do the work. Don't be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. He will see to it that all the work related to the Temple of the LORD is finished correctly.”

* **Self-Discipline / Personal Responsibility**

**2 Timothy 1:7 NLT**

“God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and **self-discipline**.”

**Galatians 5:22-23 NLT**

But the Holy Spirit **produces** this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, and **self-control**. There is no law against these things!

* **Loving One Another**

**John 15:17 NLT**

“This is my command: **Love** each other.”

**1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT**

“Three things will last forever-faith, hope, and love-and the greatest of these is **love**.”

**Area 3 The WestCoast Church Statements of Faith**

**What We Believe**

We can testify to these facts:

* We believe in the Divinity of **Jesus** Christ as God’s only begotten son.
* We believe that he was **conceived** by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and is God’s only begotten **Son**.
* We believe that during His time on earth He was revealed to the world as **fully God** and **fully human**.
* We believe that **Jesus** is the only way to the Father and that anyone who places Jesus Christ at the center of their life will **produce** spiritual fruit that honors and glorifies God over time.
* We believe that God has ordained the **local church** as His organizational system for connecting, training and equipping believers to grow together into spiritual **maturity**.

The following statements outline the fundamental beliefs of the members of WestCoast Church:

**About the Bible: The Bible is Truth**

We believe the Bible is the Word of God. Breathed by the Holy Spirit and spoken through the mouths of the prophets, the Bible is infallible truth without error. We stake our lives on every promise, precept, principle, and prophecy of God’s WORD for it is living and powerful. The Holy Bible is the foundation and final authority for our faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore we seek to align our lives with everything the Bible says.

John 1:1; Deuteronomy 29:29; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21 ; Psalm 119:160; John 8:31-32; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Psalm 19:7-11; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 1:13-14; Joshua 1:8.

**About God: God is One**

We believe that the Great I AM, Yahweh [the self-existing one], is the One true living God. The Lord our God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth. He is quick to forgive and righteous in judgment for God is holy and God is good. As the Creator and King of the Universe, God is worthy of our highest love, worship, and faithful obedience.

 Exodus 3:13-15; Exodus 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 10:17; Mark 12:29; 1 Samuel 2:2; Exodus 15:11; Leviticus 11:44; Isaiah 6:1-4; Revelation 4:2-11; Matthew 22:37-40.

**About the Holy Trinity**

**The Nature of God**

We believe that as the Creator of all things God is eternal, all-powerful, and that he dwells in absolute holiness upon the highest throne of heaven. The Bible says that God exists as One Supreme being revealed in three unique persons who are co-equal, co-eternal and one in essence: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 40:28; Revelation 22:13; Isaiah 57:15; 1 Timothy 6:15-16; Psalm 11:4; Habakkuk 2:20; Genesis 1:1-3; Luke 1:35; Matthew 3:16-17; John 14:23-26; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2

**About God the Father: God the Father is our Source**

Our Heavenly Father is good. He is our Creator and ultimate authority. Our lives, our homes and WestCoast church are extensions of His heavenly kingdom on earth.

 1 Corinthians 8:6; Deuteronomy 28:9-14; Ephesians 1:3; Proverbs 8:17-21; 2 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 3:20; 2 Corinthians 6:18; John 20:17; 1 John 3:1-2; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:14-23; Matthew 6; Luke 18:19 / Mark 10:18; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Hebrews 3:4; John 10:27-30; John 14:9-11; James 1:17-18; Psalm 90:1; Isaiah 32:18; Proverbs 3:33; Luke 12:32; Colossians 1:12-14; Hebrews 12:28

**About God the Son: Jesus is Our Savior**

Jesus is the living Word of God. He is our Redeemer and King. We are members of God’s family and citizens of God’s government through our faith in Jesus and by our obedience to His Word.

John 1:18; Mark 1:10-11; 1 John 5:6-12; Matthew 16:13-17; Romans 8:3; Matthew 14:32-33; 2 Timothy 1:9-10; Matthew 1:21-23; Luke 2:10-12; Luke 19:10; Matthew 14:27; Acts 4:11-12; Romans 5:10; Ephesians 5:23; Hebrews 7:24-25; 1 John 4:14; John 1:1-5; Galatians 3:13; Isaiah 59:20; Psalm 19:14; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-21; Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 7:13-14; John 18:36-37; Colossians 1:15-20; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 1:5-8; Revelation 19:11-16; Revelation 17:14; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 3:6; Philippians 3:20; John 14:1; John 14:6; Psalm 2:11-12; Hebrews 5:8-9; 1 John 5:1-5; 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; John 15:1-17

**About God the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is Our Helper**

The Holy Spirit is the most important person on earth. He is our Guide and Teacher. The Father gives us the Holy Spirit through Jesus so that we can fulfill our purpose on earth and find our proper place in the kingdom of heaven.

John 14:15-18; John 14:26; John 16:7-15; Isaiah 11:2; Luke 4:14-19; John 3:5-8; John 6:63; Joel 2:28-32; Acts 1:1-8; 2:1-4; Romans 8:1-17; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12; 1 Cor 3:16-17; 1 Cor 12:1-31; 1 Cor 14:1-12; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 2 Cor 3:17, Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 1:13-14; Eph 4:4-6; Eph 5:15-19; Eph 6:17-18; Revelation 3:18-22; Rev 5:6; Rev 22:17

**About People: God Loves People**

People are the number one focus of God’s creation, and he desires to have a relationship with every single human being regardless of race, color, or sex. God made male or female people in His own image to be like Him in character. Although each person has a tremendous potential for good, all people are born with an attitude of disobedience toward God called “sin.” This attitude separates everyone from God until the relationship is restored through a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; 5:12-21; Isaiah 59:1-2

**About Sin: Sin Separates People from Jesus Christ**

Sin is anything that separates people from God. Sin entered the world through the disobedience of the first man Adam and his wife Eve. All people born after them are born into sin. Sin is the root problem at work in the heart of every person who is separated from God. There is no freedom from sin apart from the atoning work of Jesus Christ at the cross. The Bible says that all have sinned and fallen short of God’s righteous standard, but God has made a new and living way for people to be forgiven of and set free from sin by faith in His Son Jesus Christ.

**About Salvation: Jesus Saves People**

Salvation is a free gift from God to all people and we receive it by turning from our sins and placing our faith in Jesus Christ. Trusting in Jesus Christ as God’s offer of forgiveness saves us from the guilt, penalty and all other consequences of sin. Salvation comes from no other person, creed, process, or power. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Eternal life begins the moment a person receives Jesus Christ into their life by faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; 1:12; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 5:1; 6:23; 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22

**About Water Baptism: All Believers Should Be Baptized in Water**

Following salvation, the Word of God commands the new believer to be baptized in water, “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” It is a public demonstration of one’s personal decision to follow Jesus Christ. Water baptism is symbolic of the believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Immersion under water represents the death and burial of one’s old sinful life. Coming out of the water represents the new life in Jesus Christ and our future hope of resurrection from the dead and eternal life.

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:4-5; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:12, Acts 36-38; Acts 10:47-48

**About Communion: The Lord’s Supper**

Communion is a special time of worship when we commemorate what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross by eating the bread and drinking the wine. The bread and wine represent the body and blood of Jesus broken and spilled out for our salvation. Communion is done in adoration of Christ while anticipating His second coming.

Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:15-20;1Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-32

**About the Baptism in the Holy Spirit: Spirit-Filled**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus Christ after His ascension into heaven. We believe the baptism in the Holy Spirit empowers the Church to preach the gospel throughout the world. The baptism in the Holy Spirit started on the day of Pentecost and is a separate experience that follows salvation. We believe that speaking in other tongues as the Spirit enables us, is the initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. This was the normal experience of all believers in the early church and we believe it is intended to be the normal experience for all believers today. The believer is entitled to this promise and with it comes the enabling to witness and serve, just like the believers of the early church.

Joel 2:28-29; Acts 1:4; Matthew 3:11; John 14:16-26; 15:26; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4, 17, 38-39; 8:12-17; 10:38, 44-47; 11:14-17; 15:7-9; 19:1-6; Mark 16:17

**About Sanctification: Set Apart**

Sanctification is the ongoing process of developing the character of Jesus Christ in our lives. God sets us apart through salvation for the Holy Spirit to begin a work in our lives. The Holy Spirit works to bring maturity and enables the believer to live a godly life. Sanctification occurs when we yield to God’s Word and to His Spirit.

Hebrews 13:12; Romans 8:1-17, 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18;1Thessalonians 4:1-8, 5:15-24; Galatians 2:20; Hebrews 2:11; 12:14; 1Peter 1:13-19

**About Divine Healing: Physical Healing**

We believe that divine healing is a New Covenant promise available to everyone who has submitted their life to Jesus Christ. We believe that God still provides physical healing for those who pray in faith believing knowing they still have work to do for Lord on earth.

Isaiah 53:5; Matt 8:2-3; Matt 17:20; Matt 19:26; Mark 10:27;Luke 5:12-13; John 14:12-14; James 5:13-15. Peter 2:24.

**About The Gifts of The Spirit: Spiritual Gifts**

The fruit of the Holy Spirit is evidence of a Spirit filled life and the measure of Christian maturity. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the believer to bring edification to the Church as well as demonstrate the validity of Christ’s resurrection and confirm the power of the Gospel. There is a variety of gifts listed in the Bible, which may occur in various combinations. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to every believer and these gifts should always operate in harmony with the Word of God.

Galatians 5:22-25; 1Corinthians 12:1-31; 14:1-40; Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:16;1Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:5-16; Hebrews 2:4; 1 Peter 4:10

**About the Church: The Body of Christ**

The church is a family of believers who have accepted God’s offer of redemption (regardless of denomination) through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the head of the church and has gifted some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit fills and empowers the church to glorify God and fulfill Christ's mission to bring the Kingdom of God to earth so that it would be "on earth as it is in heaven."

Matthew 16:18; John 17:11, 20-23; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 12:23; Ephesians 4:8-16

**About the Second Coming of Christ: The Return of Jesus**

Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time according to scripture to fulfill the eternal plan of God for humanity. This will occur in an instant on a day that is undisclosed by the scriptures.

Matthew 24:30; 26:63-64; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation1:7; 19-22

**About the Resurrection: People Will Rise**

As Jesus arose from the dead, there will also be a bodily resurrection of all humanity and a final judgment. God will reveal His justice by separating the believer from the unbeliever to determine the eternal destiny of each individual. The unbeliever who rejected God’s plan of salvation will be separated from God into eternal condemnation. The believer who accepted God’s plan of salvation will receive eternal communion with God and receive a reward for their work done in this life.

Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21; 5:21-29; 20:26-28; 21:4; Acts 24:15; 1Corinthians 15:42, 44; Philippians 1:21-23; 3:21

**About Eternity: Heaven or Hell**

God created people to live forever. After this life is over, we will either:

* Live forever with God in a place called Heaven because we have received forgiveness of our sins through Jesus Christ as our personal Savior.

 Or

* We will be separated from God, existing in a place called Hell because of our rejection of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. Heaven and Hell are both real places.

John 3:16; John 2:25; 5:11-13; 14:17; Romans 6:23; 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15;1 Corinthians 2:7-9; 1 John 5:11-12; Matthew 25:31-46

**About Gender**

We believe that God created human beings as either male or female in his own image and likeness. Each human being is fearfully and wonderfully made and a persons gender is a gift from God. Therefore, any rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of God’s plan and purpose for one’s life.

Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2:15-23, Psalm 139:13-16

**About Marriage: The Marriage Covenant**

We believe the covenant of marriage is clearly established and was defined by God since the creation of the first man and first woman. God’s order for marriage is to be between one man and one woman, faithfully committed to God and one another for life.

Genesis 2:21-25; Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 19:1-9; Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Corinthians 7:1-11; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Peter 3:7; Isaiah 62:5; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

**What is the difference between becoming a member of THE CHURCH, capital “C” and a local church like WestCoast Church?**

**How does a person become a member of the big “C” CHURCH Body of Christ?**

**Matthew 4:17 NLT**

From then on Jesus began to preach, “**Repent** of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

**Romans 10:9-13 NLT**

“If you openly **declare** that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. [11] As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” [12] Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. [13] For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be **saved**.”

**Matthew 28:18-20 NLT**

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. [19] Therefore, go and make **disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. [20] Teach these new disciples to **obey** all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

**Acts 2:37-39 NLT**

Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" [38] Peter replied, "Each of you must **repent** of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the **gift** of the Holy Spirit. [39] This **promise** is to you, to your children, and to those far away— all who have been called by the Lord our God.”

**To become a member of “The Body of Christ,” the big “C” Church the Bible says**

1. **Repent** of your sins, declare Jesus as your Lord and **believe** in Him.
2. Make a public **profession** of your faith and be **baptized** in water.
3. Ask to be **filled** with the Holy Spirit and begin to **follow** His leading every day.

**What God’s word promises if you commit yourself to Christ:**

1. You will be **forgiven** of your sins.
2. You will be spiritually **re-born** as a child of God.
3. You will be prepared to receive the **gift** of the Holy Spirit.

**How does a person officially become a local church member of WestCoast church?**

In addition to watching this membership class video we ask that you read and agree to the following Agreement:

***The WestCoast Church Membership Agreement***

***I confess that Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord. I have committed myself to following Him and living my life to obeying what Jesus taught.***

***I understand that WestCoast Church is a Christ Centered, Spirit-Filled, Full Gospel church. I desire to support the mission, vision and values of WestCoast and I am in agreement with the WestCoast Church Statements of Faith.***

***It is my desire to honor and serve the Lord as a local church member of WestCoast Church and I willfully commit myself to the following four membership actions:***

1. **Connection**

***I commit myself to being an active member of WestCoast Church by regularly attending church and participating in activities with other believers.***

***I will make participation in the local church a priority in my life so that I can grow and be strengthened in my walk with Christ.***

1. **Cultivation**

***I commit to developing a deep and personal relationship with God.***

***I will give of my time and attention to studying God’s Word, obediently following the leading of the Holy Spirit and forging Christ centered relationships that empower me to produce good spiritual fruit.***

1. **Contribution**

***I commit to regularly support WestCoast church with a portion of my income. I understand that what I choose to give is a personal matter between me and the Lord. In addition to my financial support, I will contribute portions of my time and energy to help WestCoast Church advance it’s mission to provide a place for people to worship Jesus Christ and equip them to become spiritually fruitful.***

1. **Compounding**

***I commit to building God’s Kingdom by serving other followers of Christ.***

***As I mature in my faith, I will look for opportunities to invest in the lives of other believers that I am well suited to help.***

***I will devote my life to spiritual multiplication by focusing my time, attention and resources on producing more fully formed, Spirit-filled, and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ.***

***I understand that my attendance at WestCoast Church is an* honor *and serving within any of the ministry teams at WestCoast Church is a* privilege*.***

***I will conduct myself with love in a* spirit of excellence *according to the Word of God. I will submit myself to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the authority of scripture and the God ordained leadership of WestCoast Church.***

***I will strive to live in* peace *with all people, bear others burdens, make room for people when they fall short, leverage the power of agreement, and seek to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth by lifting up* Jesus Christ*.***

***I have read the WestCoast Church Membership Agreement in its entirety and desire to become a member of WestCoast Church.***

If you believe that the mission, vision, and values of WestCoast Church are worth supporting; and you agree with our Statements of Faith, and are ready to make a commitment to support the work God is doing at WestCoast Church then I would like to welcome you as a member of WestCoast Church.

Please go to the membership section of the mywestcoast.church website click on the “Become A Member” tab where you will be able to fill out and submit a WestCoast Church Membership Agreement form.

Please note: We request that a separate agreement be completed for each family member who wishes to join WestCoast Church.

**What happens next?**

1. Once your application is received and approved, a membership certificate, along with a few other special items reserved for members of WestCoast Church, will be mailed to you.

**Thank you for the time and attention you have given to learning about what it means to become a member of WestCoast Church.**