



### Why Church Membership for the Believer in Jesus Christ?

*“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:23-25*

While the bible does not give us any specific command for church membership, there are a number of principles that help us in concluding the importance of finding a church home and becoming a member of it. I have selected several reasons why I believe church membership is important and three of those reasons come from the above text:

*We have a confession of hope based upon our salvation.* That confession is strengthened through the ministry of the church as we gather together to pray, learn, and fellowship. That confession strengthens us to share the gospel with others we come in contact with and the church is there to equip the believer in this process. As each day passes, we get closer to Christ’s return for His church. Exhortation is necessary to encourage each of us to live for Christ, trusting and depending on Him. I know that I need all of you to help me in my journey and to encourage me in my walk.

*Our consistent presence in church encourages us to love and good works.* Whether it is collecting school supplies for the Piper district, giving toward our missionaries, or participating in Vacation Bible School, our church is a church that cares for one another and helps in all kinds of efforts that demonstrate good works. There are weekly studies, ladies’ and men’s meetings, etc. We need each other to encourage participation and faithfulness. We need to stir one another up to do the work of the church!

*We are not to forsake assembling together.* While I am so thankful for the stream which allows us (and others) to watch from home when we are sick or travelling, the online viewership numbers indicate that many people are watching from home and not attending church. And while I am glad that people are tuning in to hear the messages from God’s word, if even a small percentage of people are local, they are missing out by not being present at church. If you are of this number, please pray about attending, pray about what the above verse is teaching, and come and be a part of a growing and caring group of believers who want to minister to one another.

*We are to share our spiritual gifts with one another.* One of the great benefits and ministries we have to one another is the sharing of our gifts. We cannot do that if we are not physically present together. I need you and you need me. Our younger children need to mix with the older and the older with the younger. We have a stewardship responsibility in that God equipped us with a gift at the point of our salvation and we need to be using it within our local body of believers.

*The worship of Almighty God, the collective prayers of the saints, and giving, as an act of worship, are necessary functions of the local church.* There is something quite special when we come together to share in the work and function of the church together. We should also include communion (remembering what Christ has done for us) and baptism (the immersion of new believers to testify of their salvation and identification with Christ) as ordinances of the local church.

*Our membership states something very important: We love what Christ loves!* And that is the church. He died for her! He is coming back for her! Belonging, through membership, says that what is important to the Lord is important to me.

Church membership says that “I am committed to this local church and to this group of believers.” Commitment is something that we are not seeing much of anymore. No one wants to be committed to anything. If I don’t like my job, I go and find another. If I don’t like my church, I just go church hopping. The problem with going from church to church is that it becomes increasingly difficult to find that “perfect church.” And while I know that I am certainly not the perfect pastor, nor are we the perfect church, I think we have two definite strengths: Our commitment to the word of God and our commitment to one another. The church that is striving to teach the truth well is the kind of church I want to remain a member of. Getting to know one another is the basis of our ministry to one another. I believe that as we learn more about each other, through an increasingly growing personal relationship with one another, our family becomes more caring, more loving, and more committed to one another.

Two Sundays ago, we heard from Joel Culbertson, AWANA missionary in our region. He stated that 60% of young people, who grew up in the church, leave the church after they graduate from high school. That statistic should trouble us. In past ministry, we attempted to encourage our families in our Christian school regarding the education of God’s Word in our curriculum as well as the courses offered. Our goal was to cement the doctrinal teaching of God’s word in order to cement our students’ faith in Christ. And while I believe we made progress, the church is supposed to be the foundation of truth to educate our families in the word of God. As a result of our parents learning the word, they are in turn to teach their children. Programs are wonderful, but the equipping ministry of the church to all of us is paramount to all that it does. It was the apostle Paul, late in his life, who wrote to young Pastor Timothy, in 2 Timothy 3:14: *“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them...”* Paul wanted a struggling young pastor to stay faithful to the truth of the word of God and not waver as he taught others in his church.

Your elders are attempting, as best we can, to stay true to this one main objective (the teaching of the word of God) for the benefit of our members. Your consistent weekly presence will reap the full benefit of all that has been shared in this short article so that we can mature in our faith together. I believe that is a primary reason why we should be church members.

If you would like to talk more, please email or call. If you are not a member and would like to become a member of Maywood or learn more, please let me know and we will sit down together. Most importantly, if you want to know more about the gift of salvation available to you, I would count it a privilege to share the truth of God’s word with you.

~Pastor Alan Hodak

### **August Events:**

**August 2nd-4th:** Youth Group Canoe Trip

**August 3rd:** Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 am

**August 11th:** Fundraiser Dinner after Church for the Hodaks

**August 15th:** Ladies Council Meeting 10 am

**August 29th:** Helping Hands of Faith 6:30-8:00 pm

### **Every Tuesday:**

Ladies Bible Study 10 am

Ladies Quilting 1 pm

### **Every Sunday Night:**

Youth Group 6:30-8:00 pm

# **“The task ahead of you is never as great as the POWER behind you!”**

## **Greetings Everyone,**

To help defray the cost of the Hodak's travel and medical expenses a spaghetti dinner will be held on Sunday, August 11, after the service. We are asking for a love offering so please donate to the fund. Please continue to pray for Allyson and that her treatment will be successful in treating the cancer. Pray for Alan as he cares and supports her through the treatment process. If you would like to donate food for the dinner or help, please see Gretchen Peirsol.

A big thank you to the Decorating committee. The committee is working hard to decide how to decorate the sanctuary. Look for the improvements in the next several weeks.

## **Building Updates**

The correct hardy board siding has been delivered and work is scheduled to start on August 5<sup>th</sup>. The installation of the siding on the sanctuary consists of the following steps.

Removal of the exterior siding. (This is the vinyl, steel, or fiberglass siding you currently see when looking at the Church.)

Underneath the siding is the original wood siding and this will be removed. This will leave the Church sanctuary stripped down to the 2x6 framing studs with the insulation showing so please pray we have good weathers.

The next step will be to install sheathing on the exterior walls. Once this is complete then a weather resistive barrier will be put over the sheathing.

The final step is the installation of the hardy board siding.  
Please pray for this process to go smoothly and for the safety of the workers.

The steeple has been ordered and should arrive in October.

## **Other Initiatives and Events**

The home Bible study concludes on Wed August 7 with all the participants meeting at the Church for dinner and the review of a bonus chapter.

Sam Worley is currently taking pictures for the Church directory, sign up so we have the latest and greatest photos of your smiling faces!

Awana starts on September 4th so please invite families to join.

Continue to pray for Maywood, and the Congregation that we stay focused on the Lords will and that we will reach out to our community.

In Christ's Love,

The Elders

# MISSIONS

The Salvation Army is part of the evangelical movement of the Christian Church. It is based on the Bible. It's ministry is motivated by the love of God. The mission is to preach the Gospels of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name.

The Salvation Army, Harbor Light, is a community center located in Kansas City, Kansas. The campus is complete with a chapel, gymnasium, rooms for temporary living quarters, classroom, and emergency office.

Services available at Harbor Light Campus include: Church service twice a week, at which an invitation to accept Jesus Christ as Savior is given, Pathway or Hope, an intensive case management program to help families in crisis move toward self sufficiency, Transitional housing for Veterans, Mirror, Inc. a Behavioral Health residential treatment and outpatient program.

Maywood Community Church has supported The Salvation Army, Harbor Light, with year end donations for over 10 years. Please pray for participants, staff, and volunteers.

You can find out more about this Ministry by going to their website

<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org>

## July Financial

### Corner:

We were over budget on  
Expenses for July.

We were under budget on  
Giving for July.

## Youth Group

We started a new study, Seamless. It goes through the events of the Bible. We will be continuing with it through August.

Our Canoe trip is August 2nd-4th in St. Joe Arkansas. It is on the Buffalo River.

Please continue to pray for our Youth!

