

# Amazing Grace Baptist Church, Hamburg

## Men's Ministry

*In His Steps, We Walk*

# Who is a Church member?

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# Outline

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- The need to belong to a local Church
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  - Procedure of membership
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# Introduction

- The saying that belongingness before belief holds much water.
- Any organisation involving people demands membership means and procedure
- This work for school, for School registrar and class attendance registrar plays key role.
- The same applies to the country as a whole. Identity cards, registrations (Wohnsitzanmeldung) and population census are essential.
- Similarly, the Church as a non-profit organisation demands that those who feel belong declares their intention of membership for smooth running of the Church.

# Understanding the Church

- The Church can be defined as the body of Baptized believers indwelt by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of worship, edification, evangelism and social concerns. The Church is not a human property. It is God's Church, for Jesus said I will build my Church.
- It can therefore be deduced that the church is both Spiritual and human organism.
- Thus, faith in Christ makes you belong to the universal Church
- Baptism and declaration places you to publicly belong to the local Church.

# The need to belong to the Local Church

1. It shows that you are a true believer. It distinguishes you from the world (2 Cor 6:14-18).
2. It models God's nature. God loves and practices membership (Numbers 1:1-3; 4:3).
3. Your membership shows your commitment. Commitment to believe and practice godliness and fulfill all responsibilities as enshrined in the Church's covenant.
4. Helps us belong together with the others in God's flock under the protection of the Great Shepherd.
5. It facilitates ministry – practical reason of sustaining the Church
6. It provides an opportunity for the Church leaders to be accountable to God.

# Procedure of membership

## 1. Means of Membership

- Membership is through baptism as a declaration of our faith in Jesus
- Transfer
- Personal statement
- ❖ In all the above – orientatation or enquiry and seekers' classes are essential

## 2. Requirement

- Public declaration of intention
- Filling of membership form
- Signing of Church Covenant and a pledge to fulfill membership responsibilities.

# Membership responsibility

- Regular attendance at worship services
- Submission to leadership authority
- Exercising one's spiritual gifts
- Carrying each other's burdens
- Fulfilling one's financial contributions for pastoral and ecclessial (BUND) supports
  - Tithing
  - Welfare dues
  - Mid-year and Annual thanksgiving
  - Other relevant contributions



# Membership benefits

1. Opportunities to fulfill one's Christian Calling and thus spiritual blessings
  - worship
  - evangelism
  - mutual edification through the exercise of one's gifts
  - mobilize resources for social support and responsibilities
2. Receives pastoral and leadership care
  - Counselling
  - Spiritual instruction
  - Discipline
  - Mutual support
3. Receives social support in one's seasons of life
  - Dedication of children
  - Marriage ceremonies
  - Funeral thanksgiving services and ceremonies

# Conclusion

- Your Church membership shows that you belong to a covenant community of believers.
- It is important for a church to regularize its membership procedure and roles if the Church desires growth.
- Your membership in the local Church defines your growth and glory