

Dear Friend of Bethel,

We are delighted you have expressed an interest in membership at Bethel Assembly of God. Our missions at Bethel is to go into all the world and make disciples by declaring the Gospel of the Kingdom in the power of the Spirit and gathering these disciples into community, that they might worship and obey Jesus Christ both now and in eternity to the glory of God the Father.

At Bethel we are committed to the Worship of our Savior, to personal transformation by His Holy Spirit and to relational edification that Christ may be revealed from within the lives of His children, as the hope of glory, to the whole world.

So that you might better understand the privileges and responsibilities of membership, we have assembled this package of information for you to read. Membership at Bethel requires that you read and understand the following documents:

1. The 16 Fundamental Truths
2. Bylaws of Bethel Assembly of God (Please become familiar with Article VII. MEMBERSHIP)
3. Membership Charge

In addition to the above, we also believe that God has established marriage as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman and that all intimate sexual activity outside the marriage relationship, whether heterosexual, homosexual, or otherwise, is immoral and therefore sin (Gen. 2:24-25; Ex. 20:14, 17, 22:19; Lev. 18:22-23, 20:13, 15-16; Matt. 19:4-6, 9; Rom. 1:18-31; I Cor. 6:9-10, 15-20; I Tim. 1:8-11; Jude 7). We believe that God created the human race male and female and that all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender other than one's birth gender is immoral and therefore sin (Gen. 1:27; Deut. 22:5)."

After you review, understand, agree with the above documents, have attended the Membership classes, and would still like to pursue membership, I ask that you complete the Membership Application and return it to Dianne Dell or the Church Office at your earliest convenience.

God's richest blessings to you,

Rev. Richard O. Ritenour

Rev. Richard O. Ritenour
Lead Pastor

Assemblies of God Fundamental Truths

These are non-negotiable tenets of faith that all Assemblies of God churches adhere to. This list is derived from the official Statement of Fundamental Truths. You can visit our website (www.bethelag.com) and click on the “What We Believe” tab to see the complete statement with scriptures.

1. WE BELIEVE...[The Scriptures are Inspired by God](#) and declare His design and plan for mankind.
2. WE BELIEVE...[There is only One True God](#)—revealed in three persons...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (commonly known as the Trinity).
3. WE BELIEVE...[In the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ](#). As God's son Jesus was both human and divine.
4. WE BELIEVE...though originally good, [Man Willingly Fell to Sin](#)—ushering evil and death, both physical and spiritual, into the world.
5. WE BELIEVE...[Every Person Can Have Restored Fellowship with God Through 'Salvation'](#) (trusting Christ, through faith and repentance, to be our personal Savior). [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the AG]
6. WE BELIEVE...and practice two ordinances—(1) [Water Baptism by Immersion](#) after repenting of one's sins and receiving Christ's gift of salvation, and (2) [Holy Communion](#) (the Lord's Supper) as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's suffering and death for our salvation.
7. WE BELIEVE...[the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a Special Experience Following Salvation](#) that empowers believers for witnessing and effective service, just as it did in New Testament times. [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the AG]
8. WE BELIEVE... [The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is 'Speaking in Tongues,'](#) as experienced on the Day of Pentecost and referenced throughout Acts and the Epistles.
9. WE BELIEVE...[Sanctification Initially Occurs at Salvation](#) and is not only a declaration that a believer is holy, but also a progressive lifelong process of separating from evil as believers continually draw closer to God and become more Christlike.
10. WE BELIEVE...[The Church has a Mission](#) to seek and save all who are lost in sin. We believe 'the Church' is the Body of Christ and consists of the people who, throughout time, have accepted God's offer of redemption (regardless of religious denomination) through the sacrificial death of His son Jesus Christ.

11. WE BELIEVE...[**A Divinely Called and Scripturally Ordained Leadership Ministry Serves the Church**](#). The Bible teaches that each of us under leadership must commit ourselves to reach others for Christ, to worship Him with other believers, to build up or edify the body of believers—the Church and to Meet human need with ministries of love and compassion.
12. WE BELIEVE...[**Divine Healing of the Sick is a Privilege for Christians Today**](#) and is provided for in Christ's atonement (His sacrificial death on the cross for our sins). [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the AG]
13. WE BELIEVE...in [**The Blessed Hope—When Jesus Raptures His Church Prior to His Return to Earth**](#) (the second coming). At this future moment in time all believers who have died will rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air, and Christians who are alive will be caught up with them, to be with the Lord forever. [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the AG]
14. WE BELIEVE...in [**The Millennial Reign of Christ**](#) when Jesus returns with His saints at His second coming and begins His benevolent rule over earth for 1,000 years. This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel and the establishment of universal peace.
15. WE BELIEVE...[**A Final Judgment Will Take Place**](#) for those who have rejected Christ. They will be judged for their sin and consigned to eternal punishment in a punishing lake of fire.
16. WE BELIEVE...and look forward to the perfect [**New Heavens and a New Earth**](#) that Christ is preparing for all people, of all time, who have accepted Him. We will live and dwell with Him there forever following His millennial reign on Earth. 'And so shall we forever be with the Lord!'

The Membership Charge

Having been led by the Spirit of God
to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord,
and desiring fellowship with people of like precious faith,
you do now in the presence of God and this Assembly
declare publicly your belief that God has brought you to the place
to enter into covenant with the leadership and members
of this Assembly as members of the Body of Christ.

Do you promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit
to walk together in Christian love,
to strive for the advancement of Christ's Church
for holiness and knowledge,
to promote its prosperity and spirituality,
to sustain its worship, doctrines and discipline
and to contribute cheerfully and regularly
to the support of the ministry and activities of the Church?

Do you promise also to strive
to maintain a strong devotional life,
to seek the salvation of the lost,
to walk cautiously in the world,
avoiding the very appearance of evil
and to see that love that thinks no evil?

Do you promise further to watch over one another in brotherly love,
to remember each other in prayer,
to aid each other in difficulty,
and to be courteous and forgiving one to another,
even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you?

If so, please answer "I do!"



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Bethel Assembly of God
1125 Frederick Pike
Littlestown, PA 17340

Today's Date _____ Date of Birth _____

Mr. _____
Mrs. _____
Miss _____
Name Middle Initial Last

Address _____
City State Zip

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Father's Name _____ Mother's Name _____

Children's Names and Birth Dates _____

Date of salvation _____ Where _____

Date baptized in water _____ Where _____

Date baptized in the Holy Spirit _____ Where _____

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Divorced/Remarried

Date Married _____

I have read the Bylaws of Bethel Assembly of God, the 16 Fundamental Truths, the Membership Charge, and Membership Letter and I understand and agree, with the principles of membership of Bethel as herein stated and acknowledged by my signature below.

Signature _____

Date _____

For office use only:

Date Approved by the Church Board _____

Date Received into Membership _____

Lead Pastor _____

Secretary to the Church Board _____

Attachments: Bylaws, 16 Fundamental Truths, Membership Charge, and Membership Letter