



MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS RESPONSIBILITIES

We want you to joyfully come into membership at Living Word Ministries! At the same time, we want you to embrace the privileges and responsibilities that come with being part of our growing family!

MAINTAIN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD - A DEVOTIONAL LIFE.

Stay connected to the Head of the Church - the Lord Jesus Christ - through time in the Word, prayer, and worship! Your devotional time with God is where your ultimate supply of grace comes from.

COMMIT TO WALKING IN LOVE.

As believers submitted to Jesus Christ, godly love is the only law we're under. It must be our chief aspiration in every interaction, trial or challenge.

ATTEND CHURCH REGULARLY AND BE INVOLVED.

Anyone who attends LWM only sporadically will find it hard to stay connected with what God is doing here. Scripture describes every joint and connection supplying the entire body - we all need to stay active and involved in the life of the church. (Eph. 4:16)

FIND A PLACE TO SERVE IN THE BODY.

Find a place where you can give of your time and talents to help your church grow! (I Peter 4:10-11)

PRAY FOR THE CHURCH AND ONE ANOTHER.

Praying regularly for one another is one of the most important responsibilities of LWM's members. (Rom. 12:10, Eph. 6:18)

SUPPORT THE CHURCH THROUGH TITHES AND OFFERINGS.

This is a responsibility of membership. "Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also" is how Jesus phrased it.

SHARE YOUR FAITH WITH OTHERS AND INVITE PEOPLE TO CHURCH.

By what we say and what we do we should actively seek to reach out to others and tell them about the goodness of God in our lives. We should encourage others to get to know Jesus and invite them to church with us!

BE A GOOD EXAMPLE TO OTHERS.

Live your life as a true witness of Christ both at home and in the community. (Acts 1:8)

GUARD YOUR MOUTH - SPEAK WORDS OF GRACE.

Let your words build up and encourage the people around you! Don't let your mouth tear others down. Speak faith-filled words over people and over this church. (Eph. 4:29, Col. 3:8)

BE A PEACEMAKER.

Blessed are the *peacemakers*! Don't allow offense or unforgiveness to linger, assuming that "someone else will deal with this." Reach out to hurting people. Help them to receive the grace, mercy and love of God. Help others to get into a place of harmony and peace within the local church. Let's bridge-build and make peace.

RESPECT AND HONOR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF LIVING WORD MINISTRIES.

Let's see Jesus Christ residing in every member of Living Word Ministries, and respect His working inside each of us! Every one of us was redeemed with the price of the blood of Christ – so, let us love, respect and honor one another!

WAYS TO LOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

- Teach or hold to error or false doctrines.
- Persistently act in a manner inconsistent with the Bible.
- Disturb unity, create dissension, cause strife or discord.
- Default on keeping member responsibilities as outlined in the *6 Criteria for LWM Membership*.
- Transfer to another church.
- Quit attending or remain inactive for a period of time.

If a person moves out of state or determines that LWM is not the place God has for them, then at that point one's membership is no longer valid. We ask those who have joined the church in membership to give us the honor of a personal meeting if you, at any time in the future, decide to leave this church family. Your Pastor would like to have the opportunity to speak with you about your decision, as well as to pray with you and bless you as you proceed in the plans God has for your future.

We don't want to be absolutely hard and fast on these responsibilities and expectations of LWM membership. We're here to love people, and help them. But the other side of the coin is

this: if LWM membership is good enough to have, *then it's also something that we need to guard and value.*
