

General Instructions for the Use of the Application for Membership

- Upon receipt, the applicant fills out the first three sections, and signs and dates the “Membership Covenant.” In addition, the applicant will fill out the personal information under the “Record of Membership.”
- After Administrative Council approves the applicant for membership, the Chairman and Secretary of Administrative Council sign and date the “Report of Administrative Council.”
- After the Congregational Meeting accepts the applicant for membership, the Presiding Clerk and the Senior Pastor sign and date the “Church Covenant” and fill in their portion of the “Record of Membership.” In addition, the applicant and the Senior Pastor sign and date the “Record of Membership.”
- After all sections are filled out, signed, and dated, the original top portion of the application is returned to the applicant (the church may want to keep a copy) and the bottom portion “Record of Membership” is given to the church statistician.

Introducing... The Friends Church OUR BELIEFS

The Friends Church does not advance new teachings or doctrines. Instead we have sought to rediscover New Testament teachings and put new applications to them.

As Friends we believe:

- *God is our Father*
- *Jesus Christ is “the Word...made flesh” for us.*
- *The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, Strengtheners, and Guide.*
- *The Bible is the written Word of God inspired by Him.*
- *A person receives forgiveness through repentance for sins and belief in Jesus Christ as Savior.*
- *The mission of the Church is to communicate the Good News of salvation to all people everywhere.*

OUR PURPOSE

- 1 **Friends believe in a personal and meaningful faith in God as a foundation for living.**

“If you believe that Jesus is the Christ - that He is God’s Son and your Savior - then you are a child of God. And all who love the Father love his children too.” (1 John 5:1 LB)

- 2 **Friends emphasize putting beliefs into action, thus demonstrating loving concern for others.**

Jesus said, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44)

This is our example today in a society steeped in hate, revenge, and violence.

OUR HERITAGE

As a denomination Friends have an impressive history, not because of the name, the technique, or the doctrine, but because God has blessed those who have given themselves to Him in sacrificial service.

The Friends Church began more than three hundred years ago in England under the leadership of George Fox, a man who experienced personal relationship with Jesus Christ and spent his life sharing this experience with others. Those early Friends made great contributions to the spiritual and social needs of their country, religious liberty, Christian education, and care for the suffering.

Before long the Friends (also called Quakers) began coming to the new world along with the other colonists and soon there were thousands of Friends in America. In 1682 the colony of Pennsylvania was founded by William Penn, an outstanding English Quaker, as a refuge from persecution for fellow Quakers.

When other Americans moved west, so did the Friends, taking with them their faith. Among the first priorities for these pioneers was the establishment of a group for worship and a meetinghouse in which to conduct such worship. By 1812 Friends in Ohio had united to form Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends. They held their annual meetings at the Mt. Pleasant Yearly Meeting House for many years. Later Damascus became the headquarters and place of meeting. In 1965 the Church moved its annual sessions to Malone University in Canton. Currently, the headquarters is located at the World Outreach Center in Canton, Ohio. Additionally, annual sessions are held each July in Canton, Ohio.

In 1971, the name, Ohio Yearly Meeting, was changed. It is now known as the Evangelical Friends Church - Eastern Region (EFC-ER), and it participates actively in a larger group of Friends across the nation known as the Evangelical Friends Church North America (EFC-NA).

Evangelical Friends Church Eastern Region



Covenant of Membership

EVANGELICAL FRIENDS CHURCH – EASTERN REGION

Application for Membership

I, _____, hereby make application for membership in the _____ (Name of Local Church)
Friends Church of _____ (Location of Local Church)

Membership Information

1. Do you believe in the Triune God: God the Father, God the Son (the one true Savior), and God the Holy Spirit? _____
2. Do you know by personal experience, based on the Word of God and the assurance from the Holy Spirit, that you have had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and can bear testimony to a real conversion experience? _____
3. Will you endeavor to seek further spiritual growth through prayer, Bible reading & study, and becoming connected with the Body of Believers? _____
4. Are you willing to attend faithfully the services of your church, accept responsibility in its work, and will you seek to bear witness at every opportunity to your Christian experience? _____
5. Are you willing to give cheerfully of your finances to support this church and its approved ministries as God prospers you? _____
6. Are you willing to listen to and respect the counsel of the duly affirmed leaders of your church? _____
7. Have you acquainted yourself with the Faith & Practice and will you support its doctrinal positions as well as seek personal conformity to its testimonies and precepts? _____

Membership Covenant

To become a member of the Church of Jesus Christ and a church of the EFC-ER involves a covenant relationship. The following is a covenant you make upon becoming a member of the Evangelical Friends Church – Eastern Region:

I, _____, covenant with the _____, Friends Church to bear testimony to a real conversion experience, based on the Word of God and assurance from the Holy Spirit of sins forgiven and commitment to Christian discipleship. I will continuously seek spiritual growth, according to the Scriptures, attend faithfully the services of the church, accept responsibility in its work, and cheerfully give for the financial support of the church and its approved ministries. I will listen to and respect the counsel of the duly affirmed leaders of the Church. I further covenant to acquaint myself more fully with the Faith & Practice, to support the doctrinal position of the church, and to seek personal conformity to the testimonies of the church.
Signed, _____ Date _____ (Applicant's Signature)

Report of Administrative Council

After having received the report of the committee delegated to visit the new applicant for membership, we present the name of _____ for membership in our church.

Signed, _____ Chairman of Administrative Council Date _____
Signed, _____ Secretary of Administrative Council Date _____

Church Covenant

Your name has been presented and accepted for membership in our church. The following is a covenant this local body of believers, the _____ Friends Church makes with you.

We welcome you into our fellowship and wish to convey to you our covenant with you as long as you remain a part of this local Friends Church. We covenant with you to provide an opportunity for, and assistance in, worship, and in spiritual growth. We further covenant to help you in discovering your talents and gifts and give you an opportunity to express these in service. In addition, we covenant to seek to provide discipleship opportunities. We covenant to counsel you if you in any way stray from being true to the call of Christ and will faithfully strive to restore you back to a commitment to Jesus Christ and to our local meeting. Finally, we will receive and respect your input as a member of this local meeting.

Signed, _____ Elder (Presiding Clerk) Date _____
Signed, _____ Senior Pastor Date _____
Revised 2005

----- Tear Off Upon Acceptance, Return Original Top Portion to Applicant, Give Bottom Portion to Church Statistician -----

Record of Membership

Received into membership of _____ Friends Church on _____ (Date approved in Congregational Meeting):

Name (in full) _____ Phone # _____
Address _____

Date and Place of Birth _____

Married? _____ To Whom? _____

Name of father _____ Date of Marriage _____

Name of mother before marriage _____

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

Senior Pastor's signature _____ Date _____

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