

# Beulah Bible Church

Membership Course  
With Pastor N. Tshililo  
03 – 04 May 2024



# 1. Why Church Membership?

❑ **WE BELIEVE THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE REASONS** for having formal church membership.

- First, membership in a local church is a biblical concept. While you won't find the term "church member" in the New Testament, you will find that believers clearly identified themselves with a specific local church where they were called to become committed participants.
- Second, having a formal membership core helps the pastors and other leaders in their God-given task of shepherding. By design, Beulah Bible Church attracts some people who are uncommitted-seekers, observers and guests. It is also important for church leaders to be able to identify those who are the core participants that can be counted on to sustain and build the ministries of the church.
- Third, membership benefits you as an individual. Recognizable membership in the church can be an important step that moves believers from the haziness of good intentions to clear, committed participation. It presents a challenge to "stand and be counted" for Christ in relationship to this particular local church. As such, membership can be a significant "defining moment" in a person's discipleship journey.

## 2. BUT WHAT IS A “MEMBER” EXACTLY?

- ❑ The New Testament actually points to two types of “membership.”
  - First, scripture is full of references as to how every person who receives salvation through Jesus Christ becomes a “member” of the universal and eternal family of God (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 2:13-22; 4:3-6). This can be called “positional membership.”
  - But secondly, the Bible also urges believers to continue growing by becoming “participating members” of a specific local church through active involvement in building up that church body (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; 14:12; Hebrews 10:24-25).

# What Is A Member?

- Each believer is spiritually related to all other believers in an inter-dependent way. Membership in the Universal Body of Christ is an invisible reality.
- No one is able to see how the Body of Christ functions apart from the presence of the visible local church in the world. Becoming a member of the local Body is a visible matter. It puts you into a living relationship with other Christian men and women with whom you can share common needs and goals and activities. Joining a local church is the means of identifying with the Christian presence in the world.
- For that reason, we believe in and practice a formal reception into membership. It is something that Christian people choose to do, thus identifying with the people of God in a concrete way. It is a tangible expression of one's commitment to the activity of God in the world today: building His Church.

# Full Membership.

- The full membership of Beulah Bible Church shall be composed of all persons whose membership applications would have been accepted by the church leadership, and have been publicly received by the pastor in a general assembly.
- This is after they would have declared their experience of salvation, and their belief in the doctrines of Beulah Bible Church, and their willingness to submit to its government.
- The local church leadership shall seek to place every member into a ministry of service and a circle of care and support.



# Full Membership Cont.

- When a member of a church has been absent from all religious services of the church for six successive months without a reason deemed justifiable by the church leadership, and attempt has been made to encourage him or her to become active when possible, that person's membership may be declared inactive.
- The person shall be informed formally of the action of the church leadership.
- After such action of the church leadership, the leadership shall update the membership roll of the church.
- Membership to Beulah Bible Church will be reaffirmed at the time of the member's membership anniversary.



# 5 CS OF MEMBERSHIP

□ AT THE HEART OF Beulah Bible Church MEMBERSHIP is a commitment to participate in the life of this church by simply following Jesus -- to value what he values and to live as he calls us to live. We have attempted to sum up the basic criteria for participating membership at Beulah Bible Church using 5 “C” words:



# CHRIST-CENTRED

- Disciples cultivate a lifelong personal relationship with God through Christ, increasingly reflecting the likeness of Jesus in all aspects of life.
- This relationship begins with individual acceptance of the saving work of Christ, followed by baptism as a believer, and is nurtured through ongoing spiritual disciplines, such as Bible intake/application and prayer. (John 1:12, 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 6:3-4)



# CONNECTED

- Disciples honour God's call to participate in Christian community. For this reason, Christ-followers are committed to relational connection in a small group or team of believers for the purpose of mutual encouragement, support, and accountability. (Acts 2:46)

# CONTAGIOUS

- Disciples seek to extend the love and grace they've received from God to others through personal evangelism and participation in the church's various outreach ministries to the community and the world. (Matthew 28:19-20)

# CONTRIBUTING

- Disciples discover, develop and deploy their unique, God-given spiritual gifts to serve others and further the ministry of the church. Through a lifestyle of good financial stewardship, they also build God's kingdom by the practice of regular tithing and offering. (Romans 12:6-13;2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

# CELEBRATING

- Disciples give priority to the **corporate gatherings** of the church for the purposes of worship, receiving biblical teaching, and participating in the sacrament of communion. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- ✓ Do you desire to grow as a follower of Jesus in the above areas through involvement in the life of Beulah Bible Church? If so, then as a church, we want to formally affirm and celebrate that fact by inviting you to become a participating member



# HOW DO I BECOME A PARTICIPATING MEMBER OF Beulah Bible Church?

- ❑ The process of becoming a member has three stages:
  - CLASS or SELF-STUDY – The prospective member attends a membership class designed to underscore the biblical meaning of membership and the ministry philosophy of Beulah Bible Church. Those unable to attend a class can complete a self-study instead.
  - APPLICATION – The candidate completes the membership application form. Should he/she have any questions before submitting the form, they are free to get clarity with the church leadership.
  - CELEBRATION – New members are briefly introduced and prayed for at Sunday service so that our whole community can rejoice together!



# WHAT IS EXPECTED OF MEMBERS?

- ❑ AGAIN, the main responsibility of every member of Beulah Bible Church is to participate in the life of the church by simply following Christ. That which qualifies you as a participating member— as laid out in the 5 Cs— is all that will ever be expected of you:
- live with **Christ** as the centre of your life,
  - be relationally **connected** in the church,
  - develop a **contagious** lifestyle of sharing God's love with others,
  - **contribute** to the growth and effectiveness of the church by serving according to your spiritual gifts and by faithful financial stewardship and giving,
  - and **celebrate** regularly in weekly worship at Beulah Bible Church



# FOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- ANOTHER WAY TO LOOK at the requirements of membership is to break them down into the following four areas



# NOT PERFECTION

- BUT LET'S BE CRYSTAL CLEAR on one thing: We don't expect perfection from any of our members! All of us, pastors and leaders included, are works in progress, and are never immune to mistakes, slips and sin.
- By becoming a participating member of Beulah Bible Church, you are not being asked to commit to an unattainable standard, but are simply saying that with God's help, you intend to seek ongoing personal development as a follower of Jesus. God never commands us to do anything that he will not enable us to do in his strength.

# 1. PERSONAL PURITY:

- To bring to the church a self that is submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Our connection with the Lord is the source of everything we have to give to others. As Jesus said, “**Apart from me you can do nothing**” (John 15:5).
- A yielded heart is a powerful tool in God’s hands. When we turn our lives over fully to God, and are quick to confess our sins to him when we get off track, we will be able to bring to the church the great gift of personal purity and spiritual maturity

## 2. RELATIONAL INTEGRITY

- To pursue honourable and loving relationships in our families, among friends, co-workers, and neighbours, and in the church.
- “A diseased liver will eventually stop a healthy heart from beating.” Our relational world is a lot like our physical body – we cannot afford to neglect any part of it and think it will have no adverse affect on other parts of our lives.
- Participating members of Beulah Bible Church will take seriously the Bible’s admonition: “**So far as it is up to you, live at peace with all people**” (Romans 12:18). We must pursue loving behaviour with all people in our lives, and reconciliation in strained relationships wherever possible.

# 3. ORGANIZATIONAL LOYALTY

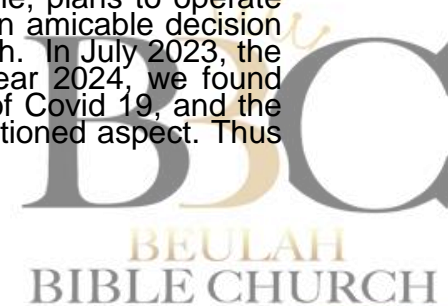
- ❑ To contribute to the church your time, talents, and treasure and to be responsive to the church leadership God has established.
- If you are a member of Beulah Bible Church, your participation should be evident.
- Does your service and cooperation make church leaders glad you're part of the team? Also, participating members should make attendance at membership meetings a priority.

# 4. INTERPERSONAL MATURITY

- ❑ To seek to serve more than to be served. When Jesus washed his disciples' feet – a task normally reserved for common servants – he asked them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you should also do as I did to you” (John 13:12-15).
- Christians can easily slip into a consumer mentality, wanting “the church” to “meet my needs.” But the church is all of us. We're not shoppers at a spiritual convenience store.
- “Meeting needs” is not just the responsibility of pastors and leaders, but also of each Beulah Bible Church member. Only when everyone takes part in serving and caring for others do all the needs get met, and we experience what Jesus meant when he said it is more blessed to give than to receive. The Saviour set the standard and calls us all into the “foot-washing” business!

# Beulah Bible Church Story

- ❑ It all began with 16 people from four families in the premises of the Polokwane campus of the Capricorn TVET College. Our first service was held on Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2007. The church then operated as a branch of the Charis Missionary Church International under the leadership of Pastor N.S. Khorommbi.
- ❑ We were not known by then and accessibility was also an issue. We decided to move to the more central part of the Polokwane CBD and found a new location at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). At TUT we moved from one lecture hall to another as we started to experience growth in numbers. In March 2008, the 4 families made contributions and bought the church's first set of instruments. When the numbers reached approximately 70, we moved to a bigger lecture hall with a capacity of 150 people. We fellowshiped there until around early 2011. The numbers were already well above 150.
- ❑ In the same year 2011, by God's grace we moved to Cnr Devenish and Onder Streets on a rental basis. The hall had a capacity of 350 people. Towards the end of the year 2013, we had an offer of a 5000 m<sup>2</sup> piece of land in Dalmada, east of the Polokwane city at R1.1 million. The acquisition processes began around December the same year on a R400 000.00 deposit, followed by monthly instalment. The church was so motivated and simultaneously, funds were raised with a plan to start the building project sooner. God's grace for growth manifested as church attendance went beyond the 350 capacity. Some people had to sit outside the hall along the street. An agreement with the landlord was reached, that we would break the dividing wall of the hall in order to also use the other adjoining hall. When that was completed, we sat with a capacity of 450 people.
- ❑ On the other hand, the Dalmada church design could not fit on the 5 000 m<sup>2</sup>. Funds of approximately R1 million which were meant to start the building, were used to buy additional piece of land and building funds were to be raised again. The actual building process commenced in June 2021. On Sunday 21 November 2021 we celebrated the completion of the steel structure of the building's first phase. Around that time, plans to operate independently from Charis Missionary Church International were in place. Engagements with the Head Pastor were done and an amicable decision was reached. On Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022, we unveiled our new identity and from there we are known as Beulah Bible Church. In July 2023, the first phase was almost complete and usable. A grand opening ceremony was held on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023. In the year 2024, we found ourselves in a process of rebuilding, more on the aspects of membership, ministries, evangelism and discipleship. The effects of Covid 19, and the relocation to our premises in Dalmada, approximately 10km from where we were require that we work on reviving the abovementioned aspect. Thus far we confidently declare "Ebenezer" and still trust in God to see us through in the coming years.





# Beulah Bible Church's Distinctives

## ➤ Beulah Bible Church's VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

### ○ **Vision Statement:**

- We exist to win the lost world to the Lord and to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

### ○ **Mission Statement:**

- To reach and influence the world by building a Christ-centred, Spirit-filled and Bible-based church through evangelism, discipleship and service, thereby empowering people to lead and impact in every sphere of life.





# Beulah Bible Church's Statement of Faith

- ❑ The following are the essential beliefs of Beulah Bible Church Beulah Bible Church.
- **THE BIBLE** The sole basis of our belief is the Bible, composed of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. We believe that Scripture in its entirety originated with God and that it was given through the instrumentality of chosen men and women. Scripture thus at one and the same time speaks with the authority of God and reflects the backgrounds, styles, and vocabularies of the human authors. We hold that the Scriptures are infallible in the original manuscripts, being the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.
- **GOD** We believe in one true and living God, eternally existing in three persons- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit- each of whom equally possesses all the attributes of deity and personhood. God is the creator and supreme ruler of the universe, the heavens, the earth and all things therein. By his power, he continues to sustain his creation, and by his providence, he is operating throughout history to fulfill his redemptive purposes

# Statement of Faith Cont.

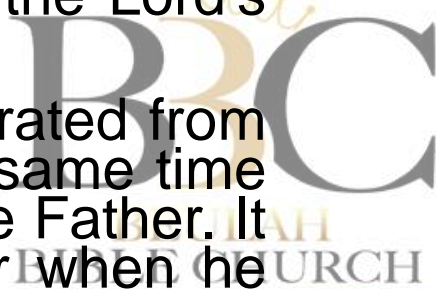
- **THE CONDITION OF HUMANITY** Originally created to have fellowship with God, man defied God, choosing to go his own independent way. As a result, man was alienated from God and suffered the corruption of his nature, rendering him unable to please God. This fall of the human race took place at the beginning of human history, and all individuals since have suffered these consequences and are thus in need of the saving grace of God.
- **THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He offered himself as a substitute in our place voluntarily as a sinless sacrifice on the cross, thereby satisfying God's righteous judgment against sin. After substantiating the accomplishment of that redemption by his bodily resurrection from the grave, he ascended to the right hand of his Father where he intercedes on behalf of those who trust Him.

# Statement of Faith Cont.

- **THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** We believe that the God the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He was sent into the world by the Father and the Son to apply the saving work of Christ. He enlightens the minds of sinners, awakens in them the recognition of their need for a Saviour, and spiritually regenerates them. At the moment of salvation, he permanently indwells every believer, baptizing (or placing) them into the one true church, which is the body of Christ. He seals them for the day of redemption, bestows spiritual gifts upon them, and fills (or controls) those who are yielded to Him.
- **SALVATION** Salvation is the gift of God's grace, and is not the result, in whole or in part, of human works of goodness. All who personally appropriate salvation through repentance and faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross are forgiven their sins and born into the family of God by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit

# Statement of Faith Cont.

- **THE CHURCH** There is one true universal church which consists of all those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. The Scripture commands believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, the teaching of the Bible, the observance of baptism and the Lord's supper, service to the body of believers through the development and use of talents and spiritual gifts, and outreach to the world. Wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command, there is the local expression of the universal church. Under the care of its pastors and leaders, its members are to work together in love and unity, intent on the one ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ.
- **THE SACRAMENTS** We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ instituted two ordinances to be observed by believers until His return, baptism and the Lord's Supper, also known as Communion.
- **CHRISTIAN LIFE** We believe that the life of the believer is to be separated from worldliness by consistent conduct before God and man, and is at the same time to be in the world as life-giving light, bearing fruit to the glory of God the Father. It is possible for the believer to lead such a life of Christ-like character when he appropriates the power and control of the indwelling Holy Spirit by faith



# Statement of Faith Cont.

- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** We believe in the imminent, personal, and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth, to consummate history and the eternal plan of God.
- **THE ETERNAL STATE** Death seals the eternal destiny of each person. For all mankind, there will be a resurrection of the body into the spiritual world and a judgment that will determine the fate of each individual. Unbelievers will be separated from God into eternal condemnation. God's judgment will reveal his justice in consigning them to the eternal perpetuation of their own choice to reject him. Believers will be received into eternal communion with God and will be rewarded for works done in this life.



# My Stewardship to God

## □The Biblical Basis for Tithing

- Tithing is a matter of the heart, not the wallet. Matthew 6:21
- **What is a tithe?** A tithe as mentioned in the Bible denotes ten percent of one's earnings.
- What is an Offering? An offering is anything above and beyond one's tithe.

## □Ten Benefits from Tithing:

1. God is pleased by my obedience. (Malachi 3:8-10) "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, in what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings."
2. I am eligible for a blessing. (Malachi 3:10) "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, and try Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts. If I will not open for you the window of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."
3. God is honoured by my faithfulness. (Proverbs 3:9-10) "Honour the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so, your barns will be filled with plenty..."
4. It helps keep my priorities straight. (Matthew 6:21) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

# My Stewardship To God Cont.

5. It guards me from selfishness. (Acts 20:35) “I have shown you in every way, by labouring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
6. God loves a cheerful giver. (II Corinthians 9:6-7) “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”
7. Ensures my needs will be met. (Matthew 6:33) “But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
8. It will help meet the needs of others. ( I Corinthians 16:1-2) (verse2) “On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside...”
9. I am reminded that God is the true owner and giver of all that I have. (I Timothy 6:17-18) “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly, all thing to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share.”
10. I will help to advance the Gospel around the world. (Romans 10:14-15) (verse 15) “And how shall they preach unless they are sent.”



# Your Place at Beulah Bible Church

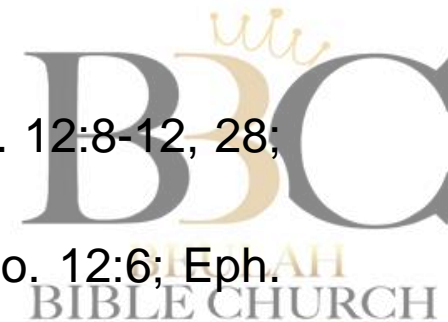
- ☐ Everyone has a place here.
- ☐ Everyone is spiritually gifted to serve here.

## ➤ **What is a spiritual gift?**

- A spiritual gift is a significant talent or ability given to a believer by Christ through the Holy Spirit, who equips and moves members of the church to serve the Body of Christ and His Kingdom.

### • **Basic Concepts**

- A. Christ gives gifts to believers through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:8; 1 Cor. 12:8-9,11).
- B. Spiritual gifts are given to each believer without exception (1 Cor. 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10).
- C. Spiritual gifts are gifts of God's grace (Eph. 4:7; Romans 12:6; 1 Peter 4:10).
- D. The Spirit gives many different gifts, providing for a rich diversity in the church (1 Cor. 12:8-12, 28; Ro.12:6).
- E. Spiritual gifts are meant to be employed for the benefit of others (1 Cor. 12:7, 25; Ro. 12:6; Eph. 4:11-12).
- F. The gifted members of the church are parts of the Body of Christ and therefore individual members of one another (1 Cor. 12:13-14, 27).
- G. Gifts must always be used in love (1 Cor. 13).



# How do I discover my spiritual gift(s)?

- A. Understand the gifts.
- B. Accept that you are gifted.
- C. Seek confirmation from other Christians.
- D. Take a spiritual gift test (we will provide this opportunity)  
(Hebrews 5:14)
- E. Use your gift(s).

# Beulah Bible Church Logo

- Beulah – Married to the will of God
- Bible Our teachings have the Bible as the centre
- The Crown: We believe we are a beloved of God, as a church, as families and as individuals, hence we see ourselves as crowns of glory in the hand of God.
- Church – We are a Christian church of God

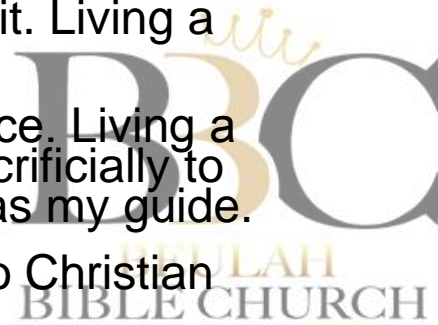


BEULAH  
BIBLE CHURCH



# Beulah Bible Church Membership Covenant

- I commit to **FELLOWSHIP** by: Protecting the unity of my church.
- Acting in love toward one another and refusing to gossip. Following and supporting those in leadership.
- I commit to **DISCIPLESHIP** by: Participating in a Beulah Bible Church Group Developing regular habits of personal prayer and study. Helping others grow in their relationships with Christ.
- I commit to **SERVICE** by: Developing and using my talents and gifts in ministry. Considering the needs of others before my own. Cultivating a servant's heart—seeking to serve, rather than be served.
- I commit to **EVANGELISM** by: Developing relationships with those who aren't following Christ, sharing with them the story of God's work in my life. Inviting the unchurched to attend Beulah Bible Church Gatherings and Beulah Bible Church Groups. Warmly welcoming those who visit. Living a lifestyle that contributes to the good reputation of Christ and his church in the world
- I commit to **WORSHIP** by: Actively participating in Beulah Bible Church's worship service. Living a life that honours God. Managing my resources in a God-honouring way, giving them sacrificially to the work of Christ through Beulah Bible Church, using the biblical standard of the tithe as my guide.
- I Profess: A personal belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and I have submitted to Christian Baptism or will seek to do so as soon as possible.



# Responsibility Of Church Membership

- Every member in a local church is essential and has responsibilities. Each is important to the vitality and well-being of the church and its life. Therefore:
- I am responsible to promote and protect my church.
- I am responsible to yield to the Headship of Jesus Christ as expressed through the pastors and leaders of my church.
- I am responsible to show my commitment to my church with my presence, my prayers and my sacrificial support of its ministries and programs.

# Covenant Of Membership

- We confess Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Saviour in the presence of all.
- We give ourselves wholeheartedly to His service and take His Word as the guide for our life. Having been united by saving faith to Him, we now, as a church of Christ, unite with one another in this Covenant.
- We will maintain regular private prayer and the reading of God's Word, earnestly seeking the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- We, who are the heads of families, will maintain Christian standards and devotions in our homes, and will endeavour to lead our children, or others committed to our charge, to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and growth in the Christian life.
- We will regularly attend the public worship of God on the Lord's Day, as far as Providence permits, and any other meetings for worship that the church may schedule, and we will observe together the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.
- We will walk together in brotherly love and seek to be a practical help and encouragement to one another.
- We will not bring to the church a complaint against any member for personal offence until we have taken the first two steps pointed out by Christ. (Matthew 18:15-17)
- In this way we will endeavour to settle all private offences without making the matter a public issue. We will financially support a faithful Christian ministry among us, as the Lord prospers us. We will seek also to send the Good News to the whole world.
- As we are given opportunity, we will seek, by personal example and spoken word, to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
- We will endeavour to live authentic Christian lives in true godliness, abstaining from anything that is unworthy of Christ and His gospel. As believer's baptism signifies death to sin and resurrection to holiness, so we will seek to walk in newness of life for God's glory.