

The Orchard Evangelical Free Church

Application for Membership

Membership Requirements: *“The membership of this Church shall be comprised of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and affirm the tenets of the Orchard Evangelical Free Church Constitution, and who offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their affirmations and this Constitution and Bylaws, and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the Lord, Jesus Christ.” (Article III – Church Constitution)*

Membership Responsibilities: *“The privilege of membership entails certain responsibilities. By their membership in this Church, members commit themselves to an affirmation of and adherence to this Constitution and Bylaws, regular attendance at worship services and congregational business meetings, personal holiness and spiritual growth, service within the Church, reaching others for Christ, financial support, prayer and support of other members, pastors, and ministries of this Church and the broader work of God’s Kingdom” (Article 1, Section 1.2 – Church Bylaws)*

Section I – Applicant Information

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Occupation _____ Employer _____

Marital Status: Single Married Widowed Divorced Remarried

Name of Spouse _____

Children (< 25 yrs old): Name _____ Age ____ Name _____ Age ____

Name _____ Age ____ Name _____ Age ____

Name _____ Age ____ Name _____ Age ____

How long have you been attending The Orchard (# of years?) _____

What brought you to The Orchard?

Which worship service do you typically attend?

Arlington Heights Sanctuary	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45 AM	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:30 AM	
Arlington Heights Gym	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45 AM	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:30 AM	
Barrington	<input type="checkbox"/> 9 AM	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:45 AM	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:30 PM Saturday
Itasca	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45 AM	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:30 AM	

Churches that you regularly attended prior to The Orchard:

<u>Church Name/Location</u>	<u>When (years)?</u>	<u>Member?</u>	<u>Reason for Leaving?</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____

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Section II – Personal Faith & Testimony

1. What is the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

2. When did you put your faith in Jesus Christ?

3. What gives you confidence of your eternal salvation?

4. How has Christ changed you?

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Section III – Applicant Participation

Baptism: Have you been baptized as a believer? _____ When/where? _____
If not, are you interested? _____

LIFE Group: Are you in a LIFE Group? _____ Leader's Name _____
If not, are you interested? _____

Bearing Fruit (at The Orchard and other):

<u>Name of Ministry</u>	<u>When (years)?</u>	<u>Role / Responsibilities?</u>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

If you're not currently serving, are you interested? _____ Area: _____

Section IV – Doctrine & Affirmation

Statement of Faith: I understand that the church has adopted a statement of faith which summarizes its key beliefs and theological positions. I have thoroughly read this statement (see attachment A) and as I currently understand it:

I agree with this statement of faith Yes No

I have the following reservations about this statement of faith: _____

Membership Pledge (attachment B)

I agree to fulfill the membership pledge Yes No

Mission and Vision (attachment C)

I agree to support the mission and vision of the church Yes No

Constitution and Bylaws

I agree to abide by the church constitution and by laws Yes No

Section V – Signature & Date

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Office _____ *Campus Pastor* _____ *Membership Elder* _____

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Attachment A – Statement of Faith

1. **God** - We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.
2. **The Bible** - We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.
3. **The Human Condition** - We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.
4. **Jesus Christ** - We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus-Israel's promised Messiah-was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.
5. **The Work of Christ** - We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.
6. **The Holy Spirit** - We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips, and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.
7. **The Church** - We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.
8. **Christian Living** - We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.
9. **Christ's Return** - We believe in the personal, bodily and pre-millennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.
10. **Response and Eternal Destiny** - We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

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Attachment B – Membership Pledge

We as members of this church pledge.....

- to live daily to please the Lord;
- to be faithful in worship attendance;
- to serve with the gifts and abilities that the Lord has given us;
- to uphold the ministries of the church with financial support;
- to actively support the mission of the church.

This we do for the glory of God and the furtherance of His kingdom.

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Attachment C - Mission and Vision

Our Mission

To glorify God by multiplying God-centered, Christ-exalting, world-transforming believers through the Gospel in the greater Chicago area and around the world.

Our Strategy

We believe God-centered, Christ-exalting, world-transforming believers are grown through Gospel ministry that is characterized by...

Roots – We dig our roots down deep into the Word of Christ.

Life – We find life in Jesus Christ and share that life together.

Fruit – We bear the fruit of the Spirit of Christ in service both inside and outside the church.

We believe our Roots, Life, Fruit ministry will multiply through Gospel ministry that is...

Multi-Site – We are committed to multiplying geographically by establishing additional campuses.

Multi-Cultural– We are committed to multiplying in ethnic diversity through interpretation, translation and integration.

Multi-Media – We are committed to multiplying numerically through personal invitation as well as print, web, radio, audio, video and other communication mediums.

We believe our Roots, Life, Fruit ministry will extend into the greater Chicago area and around the world as we establish...

Partnerships – We are committed to collaborating with the EFCA as well as other Evangelical organizations, pastors and missionaries who are advancing the Gospel through strategies that plant, strengthen and grow local Evangelical churches.

Priorities – We are committed to bringing unreached and unconverted people into a living relationship with Christ and His Church through the Gospel.

Participation – We are committed to praying for revival, giving with the generosity of Christ, and developing God-centered, Christ-exalting, world-transforming leaders.