



KNOWING JESUS ... MAKING HIM KNOWN

**Application for Membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches:**

General Instructions: Fill out this application form and send it with your membership fee to the FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, P.O. Box 384, WINONA LAKE, IN 46590. The deadline for application is January 1st in order to be considered in the following annual conference. If you wish to request an extension of this deadline, include a letter of reference from a cooperating district missions board, a sponsoring church that is already a member of the FGBC, or Grace Brethren Missions.

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Official Name of Church  
Sunbury Grace Brethren Church

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Church Mailing Address  
415 Perfect Dr.

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City	State	Zip
Sunbury	Ohio	43074

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Phone	Email
740-965-3739	brianwilliams@sunburygrace.org

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Meeting Place	Web Site
415 Perfect Dr., Sunbury, OH 43074	www.sunburygrace.org

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Pastor or principle leader  
Brian Williams

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Address  
3159 Berlin Station Rd.

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City	State	Zip
Delaware	OH	43015

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Phone	Email
740-363-3317	brianwilliams@sunburygrace.org

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Has your church joined a cooperating district? If so, which one and when?

Please review the Constitution and Manual of Procedure for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. Note carefully ARTICLE III and ARTICLE IV of the Constitution and ARTICLE I of the Manual of Procedure that deal with the membership requirements new FGBC churches are to meet.

How did your local church take official action to subscribe to the Covenant and Statement of Faith as found in Article III of the Constitution of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc.?

Verbally and with our constitution and manual of policies

List the present responsible officers (or leaders) of the congregation with titles:

Brian Williams – Pastor

IATF Members: George Smith, Shawn Marioth, Sandy Hall, John Maher, Brad and Nancy Armstrong, Carolyn Grumney, Ed and Anita Robinson, Dick Swisher, Derek and Judi Hunt.

How will you identify your affiliation with the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches? (ie: on a church sign, letterhead, church bulletin, etc).

Letterhead, Bulletin, Website

Describe your practice of Triune Immersion and the Threefold Communion Service.

The threefold immersion is based upon the Trinity into which the believer is to be baptized

**Washing Feet** – This first part of communion, reminds us of our need for daily cleansing from sin. It is a time of introspection and self examination. Jesus wants us to remember that even though believers have been forgiven for all sin – past, present and future – we must appropriate His cleansing power and forgiveness on a daily basis. Theologians call it “present, progressive sanctification” Present means it is happening now. Progressive means it will continue throughout our lives on earth. Sanctification is the process by which Christ sets us apart for the special treatment of being transformed into His likeness (Romans 8:29).

Washing feet as a symbol of present progressive sanctification wasn’t something thought of by the Church or the Apostles. It is something Jesus asked us to do. “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet”.

When Jesus washed His disciples’ feet, He gave an example. It was an example to be followed in practice, not merely known (John 13:122 – 17).

There’s more to this symbol than first appears. It is more than an oriental custom.

Jesus said, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand: (John 13:7). The disciples understood the custom, but not the new meaning. It is more than an example of humility.

Although feet washing is an example of humility, it is more than that. When Peter refused to allow Jesus to wash His feet, Jesus gave a curious answer: “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me...A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet, his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you” (John 13:8,10). Judas wasn’t clean.

There is a cleansing of feet and there is a bath. The disciples had the bath, but needed their feet washed. “Saved” they were, to use our terminology, but not clean from the contamination of daily sin.

It is more than an outward cleansing.

Scripture presents water and cleansing as word pictures of true cleansing by the Word (Eph 5:26). Feet washing is a symbol. It is a symbol of love. It is a statement that the people of a church make together, as they have communion, that Jesus is the one who does the real cleansing on the inside. He does that constantly, as we appropriate His forgiveness. At a church communion service, this is pictured in a very meaningful, Christ-like way.

**The Love Feast** – The love feast, the second part of communion, reminds us that Jesus will welcome us to His celebration in heaven without sin. It is also a reminder that we are now, as a group of His believers, His loved ones...His

future bride. Theologians call it “glorification” – seeing and sharing the glory of Christ (1 John 3:2). This part is in the future. When it happens, God’s special plans for us will be brought to completion (Romans 8:29-30). It is appropriate that a meal, shared in Christian fellowship, be one of the symbols Jesus left behind. Scripture promises a special future occasion, the ultimate love feast, with Jesus Himself as host.

We practice the love feast because Jesus included it in the “communion service” He had with His disciples and because the early church perpetuated its inclusion. The meal is a fellowship time characterized by His love. Eating together reminds us of our special bond to Christ and with each other.

We feel something of the secure love those early believers must have felt as they ate together and talked about His love and His plans.

**The Bread and Cup** – Sometimes called the Eucharist (the Greek word for “thanks”), the bread and cup isn’t complete without remembering the price Jesus paid to secure eternal life for us. Because of His broken body and shed blood, God the Father declared us righteous. Theologians call it “justification”. The broken body, the shed blood, the grotesque death they represent was endured by God’s perfect Son. Because of that, when people become Christians a great exchange takes place. God considers the penalty of sins to be paid by Jesus’ death, and He considers the righteousness of Jesus to be ours (11 Cor 5:21). It is a wonderful gift, but very costly.

The bread and the cup, symbols of His broken body and shed blood, also symbolize a unique way of relating to God. No more animal sacrifices are required. No more priests are needed to intercede. Instead, we have direct communication with the Creator because of the body and blood of His Son (1 Tim. 2:5-6).

Jesus asks us to continue observing this symbol of love until He returns. This is to serve as a reminder to each believer of the price He paid. The symbols of communion are solemn and holy, yet joyful and peaceful. So serious are they that we are warned to examine our own lives and thoughts before participating in communion, making sure we are in fellowship with God and properly remembering these symbols (1 Cor. 11:27-30).

**Communion** – the word means fellowship, sharing, holding something in common. For Christians, it is a special time of worship when we remember Jesus’ great love. Anyone who shares our faith in Christ is welcome to participate. We also welcome people who would like to observe the symbolism without participating.

“For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” 1 Cor 11:26

To the best of your knowledge, does your church or any leadership of your church have unresolved problems with another Grace Brethren church, leader, district or cooperating organization? If so, who can we contact for clarification?

No problems with any other church

In seeking membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, does your church recognize the obligation of mutual encouragement and cooperation with other congregations and agree to fulfill the membership requirements as stated in the Constitution and Manual of Procedure?

Yes

How many people are presently members of this church? \_\_\_\_0\_\_\_\_

A check payable to FGBC for \$5.50 per member for the current year membership fee should be included with this application.

Attach or give a brief history or testimony about your churches ministry, including pictures of the church or church leadership that we can use to introduce your church to the FGBC family.

See attached brochure