

**Membership Packet**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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First off, Shondell and I could not be any happier, and frankly, humbled by your willingness to partner and serve with Line in The Sand Church in fulfilling the Great Commission. Membership is not a Salvific issue; rather, it is the partnership and recognition by families to get behind a Churches vision to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Membership exists to ensure proper Church ecclesiology, and to prevent Churches from becoming easily swayed by un-invested influences. Membership has no additional *eternal benefits* than a non-member; however, they do have additional *temporal benefits* within the Church body including, but not limited to:

- Ability to vote. Voting includes issues of financial, missions, outreach, Elders, and Church leadership.
- Influence, (not ultimate ability for decision making; however, Elders and Leadership can be voted in by membership which do effect vision, direction, and Church structure) on Pastoral staff and Leadership pertaining to the direction of the Church.

Membership is a privilege, as much as it is a responsibility to help carry the vision of the Church. Amos 3:3 says, “can two walk together, except they be agreed?” In a world where Church has become overwhelmingly unpopular, and in some ways a “dirty word”. Or, better yet, the lack of faith pertaining to the importance of Church body and Church structure; therefore, because of such stigmas and opinions, Churches are failing in staggering numbers. Line in The Sand Church is committed to reversing this trend! *We pray that you would give careful thought and consideration in partnering with us as we equip others to draw lines in the Sand on issues of God’s Word, Evangelism, Family, and Community.* “For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the

knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12-13).

The next couple of pages will include the Churches doctrinal stance, and requirements for Church membership. Please read carefully and ensure that you are in 100% agreement with these terms; otherwise, we would ask that you seek clarification, wisdom, and or direction before proceeding. Once again, thank you for your belief in our staff and leadership, and more importantly, your degree of ownership in partnering with us to share the gospel.

## Doctrinal Statement

Please read carefully our doctrinal statement which is also listed on [lineinthesandchurch.com](http://lineinthesandchurch.com) underneath the doctrinal statement tab. In addition, to avoid ambiguity, we will list the fundamentals that are considered non-negotiables of Line in The Sand Churches doctrine. Please initial next to each proposition.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ We deny Modalism and the Tripartite understanding of the Godhead. We affirm the omni, immutable, co-existent God. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit comprising of the three distinct persons of the Godhead. The fulness of the Godhead dwelling bodily within the Person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is God. The Father is God. And, the Holy Spirit is God. However, God is not Jesus. (This statement errors because you

limit the Godhead to just one of the three Persons). And, God is not the Father. Nor is God the Holy Spirit. Why do we make a distinction? Because we believe that it is essential to distinguish personhood from nature; thus, those who isolate the Deity of God to just one Person errors in their understanding– failing to consider the other two-persons within the **Trinity...One God! Three Persons!**

2. \_\_\_\_\_ The fully incarnate Son Jesus Christ became a human being and atoned for the sins of the **entire world– bodily**. The salvific plan of God for humanity entailed God becoming flesh through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ became a human being, and currently remains a human being taking on the entirety of our nature. It is this second Person of the Trinity that permanently serves as our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Whatever properties made Jesus Christ a human being however was not His physical body; otherwise, His intermediate state would be left unexplained. Jesus, upon His death is said to have gone and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison (1 Peter 3:19). Thus, it was during this time that the physical body of Christ was kept within the tomb for three days (not to suffer decay, Acts 2:27) before His resurrection.

Therefore, it can be concluded that Jesus' humanity did not hinge upon His physical body entirely! Otherwise, His humanity would be likened to a t-shirt that can be taken on and off during this intermediate state (1 Peter 3:19), and He, in-effect, would have ceased from being our High Priest. In addition, when considering aborted children, or amputees, and or burn victims– we do not think of them as only being 50% human just because of their physical impairment or physical disadvantage. Therefore, Jesus became human, that is to say, He became the same with humanities nature; thus, remaining in a Hypostatic union between God and man. We deny Arianism and Docetism. Jesus is **fully God and fully Human even now. (Philippians 2)**.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ We believe that Jesus (the 2nd Person of the Triune nature of God) became incarnate as Immanuel (Philippians 2). He was crucified for our sins (John 19-20). He was buried in our place (Rom 6:4). And, He rose on the third day (Mark 16).

4. \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit is the third Person within the Triune nature of God. He is not an active force (even though we love star wars—we do not get our doctrine from Hollywood!) He is a Person and we suggest you get to know him! He is the seal-ment of our salvation, our helper, and our God. Reasons for believing He is a Person: Acts 5:32 says He bears witness. Acts 5 says he can be lied to. The Holy Spirit can like something (Acts 15:28). The Holy Spirit refers to Himself as "I" or "Me" (Acts 13:2). He feels and can be grieved (Isaiah 63:10). The Holy Spirit can speak (Ezekiel 3:24, Acts 8:29). The Holy Spirit has a will (1 Corinth 12:7-11). The Holy Spirit shared in the creation. The Holy Spirit is prayed to (2 Corinth 13:14). Holy Spirit forgives sin (Jeremiah 31:33-34 & Hebrews 10:15-17).
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The virgin birth is the means for which made the hypostatic union possible. We affirm the virgin birth for scripture says, “And Mary said to the angel, how can this be, since I am a virgin? And the angel answered and said to her, the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:34-35). Jesus Christ has two natures; a human nature and a Divine.
  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The Body of Jesus alone atoned for the sins of mankind– not His Spirit and not His Soul. Jesus' physical body was never subjected to decay; whereby, bearing the fullness of humanities sins upon Calvary. Jesus’ resurrection brought about the glory restored referenced in John 17:5, whereby His human nature put on immortality with His glorified body. The members of salvation who received the gift of salvation collectively make up the Spiritual Body of Christ today. We affirm that everyone has been given unique gifts, and that no member is any less valuable than another within the Body of Christ. Scripture says, “And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you”; or again the head to the feet, I have no need of you” (1 Corinth 12:21).

7. \_\_\_\_\_ We believe the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. We come to such conclusion first by reasoning inductively from scripture, and then deductively through syllogism. The Bible is the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12). And, God cannot error (Num 23:19, Heb 6:18). Therefore, the Bible cannot error. ***The attack on Inerrancy today is an attack upon God Himself!*** We affirm that scripture is God breathed or Theopneustos, "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim 3:16-17). We affirm ***Revelation***—"Unveiling/ Disclosure/ Act of God." We affirm ***Interpretation***—"Understanding/ Discovery/ Act of Man." We also affirm ***Illumination***—"Implication/ Application/ Act of God." We affirm the Hebrew Old Testament inclusive of the The Law, The Prophets, and The Writings. We affirm the entire New Testament. We deny the Liberal, Neo-Orthodox, and Neo-Evangelical views of inspiration; rather, we affirm the Evangelical Orthodox view of Inspiration which says, ***"It is the Word of God, with no errors within the original, and delivered through a supernatural process."***

***What we mean by inerrancy is, "the Bible (Biblical autographs) are wholly true (true in whole and in part), without error in everything affirmed or implied (not just spiritual or redemptive truth)".***

***God determines canonicity; man discovers it.***

***Books receive canonicity from God and recognition from the people of God.***

***Principles of recognition are grounded in theological prolegomena.***

8. \_\_\_\_\_ We affirm the fallenness of humanity via his own volition and freedom of the will. We deny divine determinism, and or, Calvinistic underpinnings that ultimately render God responsible for sin. Mankind is plagued with sin, the sin nature, and utterly dead within his trespasses. However, this is not to mean that mankind has somehow lost his capacity to repent, and or recognize his own fallenness and need for a

Savior. An alcoholic may completely lack his ability to bring about his own deliverance; however, the component and ability to recognize his lack of ability is still intact—thus, is fully capable of turning to the Savior. We deny Pelagianism, and or, the ability to save oneself from sin. Romans 3:10 “There is none righteous, not even one”. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

9. \_\_\_\_\_ We deny works-based righteousness. Romans 10:3 says, “For not knowing about God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.” We affirm salvation via grace through faith alone. Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.”

## Requirements & Responsibility

Members are responsible for **voting, tithing, and regular attendance**. Below will list the particulars of each of these responsibilities; please read carefully, initial next to each section, and ensure complete understanding before moving forward.

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ **Voting:** The responsibility to vote is as much as a privilege as it is a responsibility. Voting or not voting, directly or indirectly has consequences within Church structure, culture, and leadership. Line in The Sand Church will lean heavily upon its members to ensure accountability, faithfulness, and involvement. The failure to appear during meetings and services will limit the capacity of the member to remain

educated; thus, potentially limiting his or her ability to vote in the best interest of the Church. Voting on issues of finances, leadership, and Church culture has lasting effects; therefore, it is expected that all members attend, when possible, Line in The Sand Churches “voting meetings.” The announcement of these meetings will be long in advance and will attempt to be accommodating as much as possible. Overall, members carry a huge responsibility upon their shoulders to determine the direction of the Church; therefore, we ask that you take it seriously!

- B. \_\_\_\_\_ **Tithing:** Regardless of your agreement upon the topic of tithing, it is expected and required that you watch, “**The 5 major objections to tithing**”, by Pastor Benjamin. If you are still unsure of the issue of tithing, and or, still have objections to tithing after watching the full sermon—please wait to proceed in the application of the membership packet. After watching the video if you still have questions, objections, and or hesitations to tithing, please reach out to Pastor Benjamin personally. A time to sit down and discuss the different options of involvement will be encouraged.

Please contact him by phone or email:

Pastor Benjamin

980-800-2014

[Lineinthesandchurch@gmail.com](mailto:Lineinthesandchurch@gmail.com)



You can access the link to the sermon in two places:

<https://editor.wix.com/html/editor/web/renderer/edit/e78da029-843a-4ee9-8968-8e31a46f009d?metaSiteId=5e2c5baa-f38b-4341-b979-bcd0d097b17c>

Or, on Youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAYuHfVJFhw&t=2975s>

You can also go to [Lineinthesandchurch.com](http://Lineinthesandchurch.com) and click on “donate” tab if those two links are not working. The sermon will be listed there as well... Tithing of 10 percent of your income is a requirement for all members. **Ultimately, we only want members voting on the final destination of their monies who actually support Line in The Sand Church financially.**

- C. \_\_\_\_\_ **Church attendance:** Church attendance is a responsibility of the member to continue and maintain; thus, demonstrating active involvement, commitment, and ownership. However, we do realize that there will be the occasional Sunday that is missed; however, we ask that you remain faithful and consistent within your attendance. Please feel free read this insert by Pastor Benjamin regarding this topic of Church attendance if you are questioning its importance:

<https://www.lineinthesandchurch.com/map-to-membership>

Overall, these requirements and responsibilities of the members are what make up a healthy, thriving, and productive Church. In addition to these three pillars of voting, tithing, and regular attendance, it is also required that every member participate in our “Foundations Class”. The foundations class is intended for those seeking to become more familiar with Christian fundamentals, and to those seeking membership. These four day classes scheduled over the course of four weeks will deal with the theological, doctrinal, and apologetical foundations of the Christian faith. Please get with leadership to schedule your classes. Membership can be granted before these classes; however, if these classes are not completed within a year of membership, then membership will be revoked.

Additionally, be sure to look out for any appeals or addendums to this membership packet. The Rice family is committed to partnering with you through prayer, support, and discipleship as we draw lines in the Sand. May God Bless you and your family! We sincerely appreciate your prayers and support. Please be sure to provide your contact information down below:

•  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

God Bless you.

Sincerely,

Pastor Benjamin Rice •