



# PARTNERSHIP AFFIRMATION & APPLICATION

*“Let them give glory to the LORD and proclaim his praise in the islands.”  
Isaiah 42:12*

## **Personal Response**



UP UNTIL NOW IN YOUR PARTNERSHIP process, you've been primarily "taking in" — now it's time to move beyond learning and theory to make some very specific affirmations. The questions and statements that follow encapsulate the essential values, beliefs, and commitments we all hold in common as Participating Partners at Vineyard Assembly of God. The ability to affirm or not affirm these statements defines who is really a part of the Church of Jesus Christ, and who remains a guest or an observer. Based on your personal Bible study work on the Four G's, use this guide to make your own responses to the affirmations and beliefs of Vineyard Assembly of God.

## Grace

How does someone become a Christian in the true sense of the word? Describe what happened to you.

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*Note: Much misunderstanding exists about what it means to "be a Christian." Church attendance, belief in God, strong commitment, etc. are all good but none of them make you a Christian in the biblical sense. If you're at all unclear as to whether or not you're a Christian, we'd like to clear up any confusion you have — please don't feel embarrassed. If you're not sure, do not go any further on this response sheet for now. Set up a time as soon as possible to meet with the pastor to discuss your uncertainties. This matter is of vital importance to every Participating Member (every person really!) so please get the input we've suggested before taking any more steps.*

Have you been baptized in water as a believer?       Yes                       No

Describe when and where:

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*Note: While we respect the religious heritage of those who have been baptized as infants, we believe Scripture teaches that baptism should come after a person has personally received Christ. We therefore require that a person be baptized by his or her own choice before becoming a Participating Member at Vineyard Assembly of God (although that baptism does not need to have occurred at Vineyard Assembly of God). If you have not yet been baptized since you became a Christian, we ask that you do so at one of our baptism services or at some other baptism service.*

## Growth

Prayer, worship, and Bible study are vital elements in deepening one's walk with Christ. Describe how you are presently nurturing your spiritual growth through those spiritual disciplines on your own.

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*Note: In asking you to describe your spiritual habits, we want to be careful to avoid the mistaken notion that legalistic formulas and rigid rules guarantee a healthy devotional life. It is more important that your walk with Christ simply be characterized by regular and meaningful input. What matters is that you're becoming more like Him and that you've taken it upon yourself to improve your relationship with Him privately, and not solely be dependent on what public meetings provide.*

Do you regard the Bible as God's final authority in all areas of the Christian life and do you desire to be wholly obedient to it?

Yes

Yes, except for...

No

Please explain any reservations you have.

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*Note: If you have a major concern with living under the authority of the Bible, you will probably not want to go any further with this process — it would be out of order for anyone to be a Participating Member of Vineyard Assembly of God without being in submission to Scripture. It may still be valuable to meet with the pastor interviewer to discuss your reservations, however.*

In our pursuit of becoming more Christ-like, what areas are most difficult for you and most frequently need more attention?

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Are there any ongoing patterns of sin in your life that you are not willing to turn from and are not yielding to Christ?

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*Note: This question is a very hard one to face because we are all wrestling with “something,” and none of us has reached sinless perfection. But there may come a time for some of us when we just quit trying. Either through discouragement, or maybe a hardened will, we just stop trying to grow and give up the fight. Christ's reputation is far more likely to be marred when His followers engage in willful sin with no thought of repentance than when a sincere believer falls to temptation he or she desperately wants to overcome. Those Christ-followers with yielded hearts who honestly confront areas of personal sin with the help of the Holy Spirit please God — what more could anyone do? If you're not open to change, not ready to have at least one other person help and offer accountability or other support, or if you're only at the early stages of confronting a sin-pattern, then it may be best to defer Participating Membership until time shows growth has occurred. If you have any hesitation, you should discuss this question in complete frankness with the pastor.*

Do you desire to extend Christ's saving grace to others in your circle of influence, and, as a Participating Member of Vineyard Assembly of God, use our weekend services and other evangelistic efforts for that purpose?

Yes

No

If not, why not? — Or, in what ways have you actually done that recently?

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Consistent with God's call to commitment and community within a local church Body, do you regularly participate in the corporate gatherings of Vineyard Assembly of God (weekend and midweek services)?

Yes

No

If not, is there a specific reason?

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*Note: We have not established a set number of services one could miss in a year before you would fail to qualify for Participating Membership. Seasons of life sometimes require extraordinary responses that preclude church attendance, as do health concerns, family problems, being out of town on business, or other unavoidable circumstances. Having said that, it is important that Participating Members value the distinctive ministries of the corporate gatherings, and that they come to church even if they don't particularly feel like it or even if the speaker for that week isn't their favorite. Mature believers come to meet God as well as each other, and He always shows up!*

Do you affirm the specific mission and objectives of Vineyard Assembly of God?

Yes

No

If not, what aspects are you unable to affirm and embrace?

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Do you pledge your cooperation to those in leadership positions?

Yes

No

If not, why not?

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*Note: Hebrews 13:17 instructs church members to "obey your leaders and submit to them for they keep watch over our souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you". At the same time, Scripture does not suggest blind submission — we are all under the authority of God and His Word. Participating Members must be willing to go directly to the appropriate leader when issues of concern arise, with the desire to engage in honest and respectful dialogue. Complaints should never be taken to uninvolved members of the Body in ways that promote rumor or divisiveness.*

The Vineyard Assembly of God Statement of Faith summarizes the basic truths of Scripture. Do you wholeheartedly affirm that statement?

- Yes                       No

If not, what are your specific reservations?

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Will you refrain from promoting doctrines not found in our Statement of Faith in ways that cause dissension?

- Yes                       No

Do you have any relationships anywhere, such as within the church, at work, or at home, that are dishonoring to God (i.e., broken or impure relationships)?

- Yes                       No

If so, please describe the problem.

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As far as it is up to you, are you committed to pursuing the biblical pattern of conflict resolution to

rectify those or any future relational conflicts?

Yes

No

If not, please explain.

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*Note: Relational breakdowns are usually complex matters. We recognize and respect that. At the same time, Participating Members should be willing to engage in the strenuous process of conflict resolution. They should display entreatable hearts, a willingness to examine and address personal issues that may have contributed to the conflict, and an openness to receiving counsel where appropriate.*

### Gifts

Are you responsibly using your spiritual gifts in a place of service within the church?

Yes

No

If yes, in what area? If no, is there a specific reason? Do you intend to pursue some form of service in the near future? In what area?

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*Note: One of the core values of the New Testament and of Vineyard Assembly of God is that the members of the Body are the ministers. Practically speaking, the church cannot grow in a healthy fashion unless all of its core believers are sharing the ministry load. So, we ask all Participating Members to contribute to the Body by using their gifts in some place of service. At the same time, we recognize that demanding seasons of life or other unusual circumstances may require reducing the amount of involvement or taking a "break" for a period of time. But, in any case, it should be their desire and intention to re-engage in some level of service — even if only on a periodic basis (e.g., summer substitute, banquet or fellowship assistance, help at special services).*

## Good Stewardship

Do you believe the way you use your material wealth is God-honoring in all respects?

Yes

No

If no, in what areas? What action are you taking to make changes?

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In light of the tithe as a biblical precedent for giving, do you regularly support this Body using 10% as the goal (or to surpass that as God prospers)?

Yes

No

If not, describe your current practice and ways you're moving toward this goal.

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If proportionate giving becomes possible for you (that is, giving *beyond* 10% of your income), what dreams do you have for using your resources so the Kingdom can expand locally and around the world?

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*Note: People can fall prey to a variety of errors in the area of giving. One extreme is to become compelled by guilt or legalistic "obedience." Paul said God loves a cheerful giver. Reluctant, joyless giving evidences an issue that needs to be addressed. Paul also warned against unbalanced, irresponsible giving that ignores personal needs and can actually create financial dependence (2 Corinthians 8:12-15; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12; 1 Timothy 5:8). Yet, another extreme is unplanned and*



*haphazard giving that reflects neither faithfulness nor generosity.*

*Vineyard Assembly of God's position regarding giving is shaped by the Bible. The Old Testament provides the backdrop — instructing God's people to give the first 10% of their income back to Him — and as such, it ought to move us all toward adopting at least that percentage. In response to Christ's lavish grace, the New Testament goes on to teach proportional giving, and spurs us to doing even more to advance the Kingdom locally — and beyond — as God individually prospers and leads. On a practical level, church finances become harder to manage when the core gives sporadically or unpredictably. Vineyard Assembly of God's ministries benefit many people (hopefully including you!). We want to continue to offer diverse ministry opportunities, but we don't want to burden any one person or group of people. And we certainly don't want to resort to alternative means of generating income: bake-sales, raffles, carnivals, etc. That leaves it up to us, the “participating core” of the church to pool our resources in a committed fashion so that our own needs can be met and ministry extended to those beyond our four walls.*

*It is in this spirit that we ask Participating Members to support this church with their tithes. We realize for some this will be a goal to attain over time; for others, it's already a mark they can surpass as God leads. In any case, we believe that God will bless and empower us as we joyfully band together to advance His cause.*

## *Conclusion*

We hope this opportunity to take "spiritual inventory" has been rich and affirming. Remember, we are not looking for "perfect Christians" who live struggle-free lives. We are looking for those who are committed to Christ, to His church, and to ongoing growth.

Please take a few moments to answer the question, in your own words, of “Why I would like to become a Member of Vineyard Assembly of God?”

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*Thank You!*

# PARTICIPATING PARTNER APPLICATION FORM

Please print all information below

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

SALUTATION \_\_\_\_\_ NICKNAME \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK: \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER:  MALE  FEMALE WATER BAPTIZED?  YES  NO DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS:  SINGLE  MARRIED  DIVORCED  WIDOWED

I AM WILLING TO SERVE (OR NOW SERVE) IN THE FOLLOWING MINISTRY AREA(S):

1.) \_\_\_\_\_ 2.) \_\_\_\_\_

MY SPIRITUAL GIFT(S) IS (ARE):

1.) \_\_\_\_\_ 2.) \_\_\_\_\_ 3.) \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ IS SPOUSE A MEMBER?  YES  NO

LIST CHILDREN'S NAMES AND DATE OF BIRTH:

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

*STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT: I hereby affirm that I have completed the personal study materials and filled out the Personal Response and Affirmations. I commit myself to the vision and values of Vineyard Assembly of God, specifically, to live in grace, grow as a believer, serve with my gifts, and be a good steward. I now desire to be confirmed as a Participating Member. I also authorize the church to store and use the information I've provided above.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

### For Office Use Only

Confirmed  Info Entered  Comments: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_