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## **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

(print entire name) I, \_\_\_\_\_, make application for membership in **Orange Friends Church**, Lewis Center, Ohio.

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT**

Becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ and **Orange Friends Church**, a church of the Evangelical Friends Church – Eastern Region, involves a committed relationship. A person requesting membership must be at least 15 years of age. The following is a commitment I make upon becoming a member of the **Orange Friends Church**:

- I believe in the Triune God; God the Father, Jesus Christ the one true Savior, and the Holy Spirit.
- I have accepted Jesus Christ as my personal savior.
- I will endeavor to seek further spiritual growth.
- I am willing to faithfully attend services of **Orange Friends Church**, and I will seek to share my faith with those around me.
- I am willing to serve in one of the areas of my Spiritual Gifts, talents, and interests inside or outside the church.
- I am willing to give cheerfully of my finances to support this church and its approved programs as God prospers me.
- I will endeavor to be engaged in a small group and/or community life.
- I have acquainted myself with the doctrines of the Evangelical Friends Church as stated in the current *Faith & Practice*, and will endeavor to seek greater understanding of these doctrines.
- I support the doctrinal beliefs of **Orange Friends Church**.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do so commit with **Orange Friends Church**.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **CHURCH COMMITMENT**

After having received the report of the Elders delegated to meet with you following your application for membership, the Board of Elders is united in accepting you for membership in **Orange Friends Church** on behalf of the entire congregation.

We welcome you into our fellowship and convey to you our commitment with you as long as you remain part of our church. We commit to provide you an opportunity for and assistance in worship and in spiritual growth. We further commit to help you in discovering your talents and gifts and to give you an opportunity to express these in service. We commit to counsel you if you stray from being true to your commitment and will faithfully strive to bring you back to a commitment to Jesus Christ and to our local church.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Elder; Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Elder; Date \_\_\_\_\_

## *Introducing the Evangelical Friends Church . . .*

### **OUR BELIEFS**

The Evangelical Friends church seeks to rediscover New Testament teachings and apply them to daily life:

1. God is our Father.
2. Jesus Christ is “the Word . . . made flesh” for us.
3. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, Strengthener, and Guide.
4. The Bible is the written Word of God, inspired by Him.
5. A person receives forgiveness through repentance for sins and belief in Jesus Christ as Savior.
6. The mission of the Church is to communicate the Good News of salvation to all people everywhere.

### **OUR PURPOSE**

1. Friends believe in a personal and meaningful faith in God as a foundation for living. “If you believe Jesus is the Christ – that He is God’s Son and your Savior – then you are a child of God. And all who love the Father love his children too.” (1 John 5:1 LB)
2. Friends emphasize putting beliefs into action, thus demonstrating loving concerns for others. Jesus said, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44)

### **OUR HERITAGE**

As a denomination, Evangelical Friends have an impressive history, not because of the name **or** the technique of the doctrine, but because God has blessed those who have given themselves to Him in sacrificial service.

The Friends church began more than 300 years ago in England under the leadership of George Fox, a man who experienced personal relationship with Jesus Christ and spent his life sharing this experience with others. Those early Friends made great contributions to the spiritual and social needs of their country, religious liberty, Christian education, and care for the suffering.

Before long the Friends (also called Quakers) began coming to the New World along with the other colonists, and soon there were thousands of Friends in America. In 1682 the colony of Pennsylvania was founded by William Penn, an outstanding English Quaker, as a refuge for fellow Quakers from persecution.

When other Americans moved west, so did the Friends, taking with them their faith. Among the first priorities for those pioneers was the establishment of a group for worship, and a meetinghouse in which to conduct such worship. By 1812 Friends in Ohio had united to form Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends. They held their annual meeting at the Mt. Pleasant Yearly Meetinghouse for many years. Later Damascus became the headquarters and place of meeting. In 1965 the Church moved its annual sessions to Malone College (now University) in Canton. Currently the headquarters is located at the World Outreach Center in Canton, Ohio. Annual conferences are held each July in Canton, Ohio.

In 1971 the name, Ohio Yearly Meeting, was changed to Evangelical Friends Church—Eastern Region, and it actively participates in a larger group of Friends across the nation known as the Evangelical Friends International (EFI).