



HOW TO “JOIN” OAKDALE CHURCH

Two Invitations

As a newly independent, Kingdom-focused church, Oakdale is moving from a traditional membership model to a commitment-based approach that more fully reflects what it means to follow Jesus. At its core, following Jesus is not just about belonging to a church—it’s about becoming a disciple who helps others follow Him, too.

Rather than using the term *membership*, Oakdale frames connection around two simple invitations from Jesus in Scripture: **“Come and see”** and **“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of people.”** These invitations create a clear and natural pathway for everyone—whether exploring faith or ready to live it out more intentionally.

This approach aligns with Oakdale’s vision to catalyze a God-sized movement of disciple-making in and through our community, county, country—and beyond. It also clarifies expectations, strengthens spiritual growth, and reflects what many are already experiencing: Oakdale is not just a place for people to attend, but a community of disciples sent out on mission where God has placed them or prompts them to go.

Our structure is built around a simple progression. People are first invited to belong—showing up, being known, and exploring faith. From there, they are invited into deeper formation as they seek to actively follow Jesus in everyday life. Spiritual growth doesn’t happen in isolation but through learning and living out their faith alongside others, which is why early and consistent involvement matters.

The first invitation is simple: **Come and see—and be family.** At Oakdale, this means stepping into the life of the church—joining in worship, groups, and serving. Anyone who actively participates and considers Oakdale their church home is part of the family, without any formal process. Belonging is not a status to attain, but a reality to receive. The focus is on connection, community, and discovering Jesus.

Oakdale’s role is to offer a welcoming and supportive environment where people can take steps at their own pace. We provide clear teaching from Scripture, meaningful worship, opportunities to build relationships and learn about Oakdale’s “DNA,” and pathways to get involved—as well as care, prayer, and encouragement along the way.

In response, we ask people to engage regularly, be open to growing in their faith, and support the ministry and mission of the church in ways that are meaningful and sustainable for them—such as participating in worship, being part of a small group, praying for the Oakdale

family, and contributing time and other resources as they are able. And as in any healthy family, every person has a voice and plays a part in shaping the life of the church.

For those ready to go deeper, the next invitation is: **Follow Me—and become a disciple-maker**. This involves making a formal commitment to live daily under Jesus' lordship in a way that impacts every area of life, and learning from His example how to make disciples intentionally and naturally in everyday relationships. We define a disciple-maker simply as someone who hears, obeys and shares Jesus—and helps others do the same.

At this point, the relationship with Oakdale becomes more of a partnership. Instead of primarily being “poured into,” individuals will now also be equipped and expected to “pour out”—joining with God and others on a shared mission to expand His Kingdom.

Oakdale commits to walking closely with these individuals as they grow in surrender, identity and calling. This includes helping them discern how and where God is leading them; offering equipping, coaching and leadership development; and providing opportunities to grow as they go.

In turn, committed disciple-makers will be intentional about living out their faith, pursue ongoing spiritual growth, and actively engage in helping others to discover and follow Jesus—with clear next steps and support to help them understand, step into and live out this commitment. Those who sign the Disciple-Maker Commitment will be able to vote on key decisions affecting the church's direction and major initiatives.

A key moment in this process is public commissioning. When someone makes this commitment, we will celebrate and pray over them during a worship gathering, and send them out as everyday disciple-makers where they live, learn, work and play. This step is about recognizing and affirming what God is already doing in and through them. It also reminds our whole church that we are a missional people sent out with a purpose by a missional God.

Ultimately, this structure is about clarity and invitation. It helps everyone understand where they are and what their next step could be, while keeping the focus on following Jesus together. Rather than creating barriers, it opens the door for more people to belong, grow, and live out their faith in meaningful ways. And as with all dynamic movements, we recognize that these commitments can change at any time.

Please pray about becoming a disciple-maker. You don't have to feel ready, just willing. You can do it and we—along with God—can help! Respond via a printed Commitment Card or online at oakdale.church/join by Sunday, May 31, 2026.

