

Membership Application Instructions

HIS VINE FREE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

These instructions are for filling out the Membership Application Form to become a member in **HIS Vine Free Seventh-day Adventist Church**. This Church is a registered dba of **HIS Vine Ministries, Inc.**, which is a self-supporting church that was incorporated in the state of Florida in the year 2011. We are a part of the **Free Seventh-day Adventists – World Assembly**, initially established On May 4, 1915 by Elder/Pastor J. W Manns. We are not a new religion or denomination since we uphold the same faith, beliefs, and goals of the founders and pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist church. All of its member churches and ministries practice the Historic Seventh-day Adventist faith, but are “free” from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (located in Silver Spring, Maryland), “free” from the control of men, “free” to promote the law and the testimonies—put simply, they are “free” in Christ. Membership is open to churches and ministries of any size that seek to follow after Present Truth as clearly and distinctly set forth in the Statement of Beliefs and Footprints, obtain the character of Christ and overcome self and sin, being perfected by the Holy Spirit by our complete, unreserved surrender to God the Father through Him, preaching, teaching, and living the old landmarks and the Three Angels’ Messages of **Revelation 14**. Membership Application Forms must be filled out completely and signed by the appropriate individuals concerned.

Current & New Name: Please fill in the current name and the new name (if applicable) of the church or ministry or sisterhood of churches. HIS Vine Free SDA Church believes that one of the reasons God raised up Free Seventh-day Adventists was to preserve the God-appointed name, “Seventh-day Adventist,” for the true remnant who finally proclaim the Three Angels’ Messages in these last days. Says Inspiration:—

“The name Seventh-day Adventist carries the true features of our faith in front, and will convict the inquiring mind.” **E. G. White, Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 1, pg. 224.**

“In the name of the Lord we are to identify ourselves as Seventh-day Adventists. If any one among us is ashamed of our colors, and wishes to stand under another banner, let him do so as a private individual, not as a representative of Seventh-day Adventist medical missionary work. Let us take our position as Seventh-day Adventists. The name is a true expression of our faith. I am instructed to call upon God's people to bring their actions into harmony with their name, of which they have no need to be ashamed. The Seventh-day Adventist faith will bless whenever it is brought into the character-building.” **E. G. White, Letter to General Conference, July 6, 1902.**

Therefore, all churches that already have the word(s) “Adventist” or “Seventh-day Adventist” in their name, as well as those that presently do not have these words in their church name, must use the word “Free” in front of “Seventh-day Adventist” in their new name (e.g. HIS Vine “Free” Seventh-day Adventist Church or HIS Vine Church of “Free” Seventh-day Adventists). Note that ministries are not required to change their names, but would be encouraged to do so under God’s order and not man’s.

Seven (7) Requirements for Membership: To provide its members with the freedoms or liberties aforementioned, maintain unity and love among God’s true remnant, and preserve the foundation of the historical beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists, this Church upholds seven requirements for membership. All applicants and members must agree to believe and practice the following conditions, knowing that failure to do so will result in the rejection or withdrawal of their membership in this Church. There is only one present truth, and it is on that truth that unity will come to pass and prevail, allowing the fullness of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of Him to freely move amongst us providing us with the power and energy to present God’s truth to the world as time quickly comes to a close.

1. We agree to make the Bible and the writings of Ellen G. White, God's prophet to the church, and those of the founders of the Adventist church that are in accord with a "Thus saith the Lord..." the foundation of our beliefs and lifestyle.

All members must believe and teach that the Holy Bible, the prophetic writings of Ellen G. White, and certain works of the pioneers are God's inspired and miraculously preserved messages to man. Thus, they are to be viewed as the infallible basis or foundation of this church's teachings and actions. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." **Isaiah 8:20.**

2. We agree to be governed by the Holy Spirit and self-supporting in doing God's labor to present the last day message to the world.

All member churches and ministries must govern themselves via their duly elected/appointed leaders and officers as they are led by the Holy Spirit. Any questions that may arise should first be considered by the appointed leaders, earnestly seeking after God and His truth. If answers not found, questions may be directed to the parent leadership here at HIS Vine Free SDA Church. This church will not get involved in the affairs of member churches and ministries unless absolutely necessary. Therefore, although affiliated with this Church, each individual, church or ministry is to be a self-governing and self-supporting entity responsible for its own organizational and operational expenses. Thus, through Christ all "shall be free indeed" (**John 8:36**).

3. We agree to proclaim all the truths of the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation, chapter 14.

All members must see the Three Angels' Messages of **Revelation, chapter 14** and all that those messages include, as the present truth for this time. They must accept the responsibility of proclaiming **all** aspects of these messages, in their order, including Christ our righteousness by His faith, the law of God in its fullness and completeness, the seventh-day Sabbath, the Sanctuary truth, the Antitypical Day of Atonement, the close of probation, the state of the dead, the health message, the second advent of Christ, etc. We have been instructed: "There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but it is present truth that the flock needs now." **E. G. White, Early Writings, p. 63.**

4. We agree to uphold the Fundamental Beliefs or Truths of the Historic Seventh-day Adventist faith.

All members must uphold the pillars or fundamental truths of our faith. These are plainly set forth in the Statement of Beliefs and the Footprints of this church. These basic or fundamental truths are not considered a creed, for we regard

"The Bible, and the Bible alone, is to be our creed" **Ellen G. White, Review & Herald, December 15, 1885.**

"God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines, and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority,— not one or all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain "Thus saith the Lord" in its support." **E. G. White, Great Controversy, pg. 595 (1888).**

This includes the fundamental truths as defined and set forth by the pioneers, particularly ranging from 1848-1898.

“Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein.’ **Jeremiah 6:16**. Let none seek to tear away the foundations of our faith,—the foundations that were laid at the beginning of our work, by prayerful study of the Word and by revelation. Upon these foundations we have been building for the last fifty years. Men may suppose that they have found a new way, and that they can lay a stronger foundation than that which has been laid. But this is a great deception. Other foundation can no man lay than that which has been laid. **Ellen G. White, Review & Herald, March 3, 1904.**

All Church members are expected to read, study and comprehend those truths put forth in the Statement of Beliefs, Footprints and What We Believe and covenant with God to learn, honor and obey Him in all truth as it is presented.

5. We agree to subdue private beliefs and personal convictions not endorsed by the expressed foundation laid by God Our Father through the Holy Spirit.

All members must subdue private beliefs, interpretations, doctrinal views, or personal convictions contrary to the law and the testimonies, and be converted. While all are free to have private views or convictions, when first coming into the church, none are at liberty to share them publicly if they are not recognized beliefs of the Church. For example, though some believe in celebration worship, the feast days, using only sacred names, teaching God does not kill, or denying that the Holy Spirit is a distinct and separate person of the Godhead, this Church does not and cannot uphold these practices or views for they are unscriptural and false. Anyone holding to these falsehoods are placing their souls in danger of eternal death and endanger the church by sharing such things that are not true, causing division and strife which has no place in the church. Membership will not be offered to those whose views are radically different from those of the church. However, those holding to these and other views not endorsed by the Church as historic beliefs or fundamental truths of our pioneers, will not be denied fellowship for there is no test for fellowship. These points of view would be privately considered, questions answered, and counsel given to encourage a person to see the matter from God’s perspective and not their own private interpretation. By submitting themselves to God and giving the Holy Spirit free reign, they will obtain the mind of Christ and put away those things that are not in accordance with the truth of God’s word. Minor differences should remain out of the public eye. Paul says that, “Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.” **Philippians 3:15**. Says Inspiration, “Brethren should not feel that it is a virtue to stand apart because they do not see all minor points in exactly the same light. If on fundamental truths they are at an agreement, they should not differ and dispute about matters of little real importance.” **Ellen G. White, Manuscript Releases, Vol. 14, p. 177.**

6. We agree to submit a monthly donation to this Church and support its different projects.

All member churches and ministries, being self-governing and self-supporting, are expected to use their tithes and offerings to support their local minister(s), visiting speakers, their organization’s services, outreach, and medical missionary evangelistic work. However, in the effort to promote the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels’ Messages worldwide, members are required to submit a 10% of all the Tithes they receive monthly. The tithe is the Lord’s, and just as this Church tithes to the World Assembly in obedience to God’s direction, so also will those who become members with us. Those who are able to give more are encouraged to do so. In this regard, all must remember ministers, missionaries, and evangelistic work needs support. Says Inspiration:—

“The Lord does not judge us according to the highness and elevation of our various spheres, but according to the faithfulness with which we fill them. Before you enter into

amusement for the gratification of self, ask yourself the question, Is not this God's time and money that I am expending needlessly? Open your account book and see how your account stands with God, with your household, and with the world. Have you confessed Christ by faithfully tithing the mint, the anise, and the rue? When we give the Lord the tithe, we are only giving Him that which is His own, to withhold which is theft and robbery. When we withhold the tithe we keep back that which God designs shall sustain His work on the earth. For this work of redemption God gave the richest gift of heaven; can we not give one tenth of what we have? Many have forgotten God, and have kept back the tithe. Does your account book reveal that you have dealt faithfully with your Lord? Are you poor? Then give your little. Have you been blessed with abundance? Then be sure to lay aside that which the Lord registers as His own." **Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 12, pg. 228.**

7. We agree to encourage and maintain unity and love between Church members at all times.

All member churches and ministries must encourage unity and love between each other. They are to refrain from spreading negativity about their fellow members and instead make earnest efforts to strengthen relationships between one another. All must agree to follow the operational guidelines and/or bylaws of their own churches or ministries and that of this Church in order to maintain unity at all times. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." **John 13:35.**

Signing the Application Form: The Membership Application Form must be signed by the individuals authorized to do so. Those who sign this Form are acting in behalf of, and with the consent of, the members of the churches or ministries that apply. In the case of a church, its chosen or appointed leader (e.g. pastor or first elder), the church secretary, and the church treasurer must sign the Form. Churches that also have a ministry can include it under their church's certification by submitting a separate sheet of paper with their ministry's information. In the case of a ministry, the head (e.g. chairman, CEO, president, or director), the ministry's secretary, and the ministry's treasurer must sign the Membership Application Form. In the case of a sisterhood of churches, the recognized leader, secretary, and the treasurer must sign the Application Form. Along with the Form they must submit a separate sheet(s) of paper listing the current and new names of their associate churches, as well as their addresses, phone numbers, emails, and the names of their leaders/contacts. (Please clearly print and submit this information for each associate church.) If a ministry, or any church in a sisterhood of churches, wants a separate Membership Certificate, they must submit a separate Application Form. All churches are to use their new name immediately after, and not before, receiving their Certificate. Membership begins from the date of acceptance noted on their Certificate. Churches and ministries must return their Certificate if their membership is terminated. All members must also agree to comply with all the conditions mentioned in this Membership Application Instructions.

Application Fee: At this time no specific fee is required to become a member of this Church whose purpose is to benefit God's people. However, keep in mind that there have been and will continue to be legal fees and organizational expenses, as well as administrative and other expenditures incurred in carrying our God's work in these last days.

Bi-Annual Membership: Association members will be required to renew their membership bi-annually (every two years) and thereby update their organization's information. The Association reserves the right to investigate, accept, or reject any applicant.

Submitting the Application Form: Please fill out the Application Form attached. Print clearly and return it to the address below. Detach and keep this Membership Application Instructions page and only submit the completed Membership Application Form.

If you have any questions regarding this Membership Application Form or Free Seventh-day Adventists, please email, or write us at the address below. Phone calls will be accepted but not guaranteed to be answered due to time and other constraints.

Address

HIS Vine Free SDA Church
1945 SW Biltmore St.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34984

Email

pastor@hisvinefreesdachurch.org

Website

www.hisvinefreesdachurch.org
www.hisvinepublishing.com

HIS VINE FREE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Current Name of Church/Ministry		Date of Organization/Incorporation	
New Name of Church/Ministry (If applicable)			
Mailing Address			
Physical address (if different from Mailing address)			
Telephone	Fax	Email	
Pastor/Leader/First Elder (If a church)			Telephone
Contact Person			Telephone
Referral			

Select which category you are applying for membership under:

(a) Individual _____ (b) Church _____ (c) Ministry _____

If there is some area of ministry in which you, as an individual, ministry, or church excel in or are interested in learning more about to advance the cause of Christ and Present Truth, please note such below your above selection of category.

Before filling out the remainder of this form, it is required that each party who is a signatory to this application, and each party to whom they are responsible, read and insure that they agree 100% with the Constitution of this body; Statement of Beliefs, and FootPrints of our Faith as they are the Spirit in which we will join together in unity and faith.

Requirements for Membership (note that applicants must respond to all seven (7) conditions set forth below.	YES	NO
1. We agree to make the Bible and the writings of Ellen G. White, God's prophet to the church, and those of the founders of the Adventist church that are in accord with a "Thus saith the Lord..." the foundation of our beliefs and lifestyle.		
2. We agree to be governed by the Holy Spirit and self-supporting in doing God's labor to present the last day message to the world.		
3. We agree to proclaim all the truths of the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation, chapter 14.		
4. We agree to uphold the Fundamental Beliefs or Truths of the Historic Seventh-day Adventist faith.		

5. We agree to subdue private beliefs and personal convictions not endorsed by the expressed foundation laid by God Our Father through the Holy Spirit.		
6. We agree to submit a tithe to this Church as its parent organization just as we do to the World Assembly, as our parent organization.		
7. We agree to encourage and maintain unity and love between Church members at all times.		

If any questions arise to any of the foregoing, please review the application instructions, as each section is thoroughly discussed and explained therein by item. If you are not able to be in agreement with all of the foregoing, then please, don't lie to God and sign the application. God sees the heart and nothing is secret before Him. We would much rather you remain a contact and a friend and learn the truth independently, and then join with us, then to misrepresent the truth and bring destruction upon yourself.

Officer/Leader (Signature)	Print Name	Date
Secretary (Signature)	Print	Date
Treasurer (Signature)	Print	Date

HIS VINE FREE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

1945 SW BILTMORE STREET
PORT ST LUCIE, FLORIDA 34984
pastor@hisvinefreesdachurch.org