



## **First Fruits Mission Statement:**

*Loving God, one another and our community by producing and sharing wholesome foods in a Christ-centered community.*

## **Organization and Membership**

Oversight for the Co-op is provided by a **Board** who are accountable to AC3's Community Center Staff (and by extension, to the Elders of AC3)

The **Co-op Manager** is responsible for establishing harvest times, crops and quantities of produce to be distributed to members and day to day operations of the Co-op.

The **Board** is appointed by the AC3 Community Center Staff and shall consist of no less than (3) members but no more than (10). Any Co-op members who donate the use of their land for Co-op purposes and the Co-op Manager will be defacto members of the **Board**.

The **Board** is responsible for all leadership aspects of the Co-op including, membership, distribution, finance, coordination and planning.

Membership in the Co-op is limited to regular AC3 attendees or those personally recommended by AC3 attendees.

AC3 Seeds of Grace Ministry and/or other charities approved by the **Board** will receive a free membership(s). The number and exact nature of each membership will be established by the charity in question and the **Board** prior to each growing season. All labor associated with maintaining these charity memberships will be performed by regular Co-op members and can be applied to their "field time".

Membership fees are paid annually on January 1 of each year

Membership is divided into 4 categories:

**PARTNER:** \$25.00/Year membership fee. Commitment to at least 8 hours per month of "field time" from March through October and attend regular Co-op meetings. PARTNERS receive (1) produce box each week containing items selected by the Co-op manager for distribution on that given week. Harvesting will be performed by the **PARTNER** or their designee.

**ASSOCIATE:** \$50.00/Year membership fee. Commitment to at least 4 hours per month of "field time" from March through October. ASSOCIATES receive (1) produce box each week containing items selected by the Co-op manager for distribution on that given week. Harvesting will be performed by the **ASSOCIATE** or their designee.

**FRIEND:** \$100.00/Year membership fee. FRIENDS receive (1) produce box each week containing items selected by the Co-op manager for distribution on that given week. Harvesting will be performed by the **FRIEND** or their designee.



**\*NEIGHBOR:** No membership fee. Commitment to at least 8 hours per month of “field time” from March through October. Neighbors receive (1) produce box each week containing items selected by the Co-op manager for distribution on that given week. Harvesting will be performed by the **NEIGHBOR** or their designee.

*\*NEIGHBOR status is granted only for those in financial hardship. Individual terms may be modified at the discretion of the Co-op Board.*

“Field time” can be applied to any activity benefiting the entire Co-op or it’s charities whether actually occurring in the “field” or not. This would include, research, repair work, delivery and pick-up, etc.

Personal harvesting will be performed by each member within a given space of time established by the Manager. Time spent harvesting personal produce will NOT count against “field time”. Time spent harvesting for charity WILL count against “field time”.

Members will harvest where and in maximum quantities established by the Manager on any given week. Members will be notified via e-mail/web as to which items are available and in what quantities. Members need NOT take their full allotment of any item on any given week.

If the produce is not harvested within the established weekly time frame, the member’s share for that week is forfeit and that share will be harvested for charity. Prior arrangements may be made with the Co-op Manager for a substitute harvester.