

## Polity: Church Membership

### Why is church membership important?

#### Is church membership biblical?

- God has always marked off His people.
- Old Testament Evidence . . .
  - What are the covenant signs in the Old Testament?
- New Testament Evidence . . .
  - a. What are the covenant signs for people in the New Testament?
  - b. Church Discipline is with those inside the church.
    - Matthew 18:17
    - 1 Corinthians 5:11-12
    - 2 Corinthians 2:5-11
    - 1 Timothy 5:9
  - c. Revelation refers to the Lamb's Book of Life.
  - d. The metaphors in Scripture are corporate metaphors:
    - 1 Peter 2:5: The church is pictured as a building.
    - Ephesians 4:15-16 & 1 Corinthians 12:12-27: The church is pictured as a body.
    - 1 Timothy 3:14-15: The church is pictured as a family.

#### What is Local Church Membership?

##### Church Membership

Church membership is the church's affirmation and oversight of an individual and their profession of faith and an individual's submission to that affirmation and oversight. The church affirms a person's profession of faith and their discipleship and the member agrees to do that with others. It is the church taking responsibility for you and you taking responsibility for a church.

**Church membership consists of two parts:**

1. An individual believer's public statement affirming and committing to the faith and practice of a local church, promising to join with that body, and
2. The local church's public statement that, based upon evidences of repentance and faith, it holds out the person as a believer and accepts this person into Christian fellowship.

**What are the requirements for becoming a member of a Christian church?**

These requirements include a credible profession of repentance and faith, expressed as a confessing baptized (Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 2:9-14; Galatians 3:26-27).

**What are the legitimate behavioral expectations for members of a Christian church?**

Christians are expected to be active in specific ways as members of a local Christian church. Those expectations include, but are not limited to:

1. Regular \_\_\_\_\_, Hebrews 10:25;
2. Regular and \_\_\_\_\_ support/giving, 2 Corinthians 8-9, Acts 4:32-37;
3. \_\_\_\_\_ other Christians in the church, John 13:35 and 1 John 4:20;
4. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord's Supper, Acts 2:41-42, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;
5. Exercising a member's \_\_\_\_\_ for the benefit of the local church, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 14:12; Ephesians 4:12-13
6. \_\_\_\_\_ to learning the Bible, fellowship with other members, breaking of bread, and prayers, Acts 2:41-42.

**What are the implications of membership in a local church?**

Implication One: A local church consists of Christians.

Implication Two: A local church includes accountability.

1 Timothy 4:7

Matthew 18:15-17

Implication Three: A local church requires mutual encouragement: Hebrews 10:24-25

## **How we receive members at Grand?**

Anyone desiring membership shall complete:

1. The Foundations of Membership Class
2. Complete the membership request form, indicating any previous church affiliations and signifying their willingness to be interviewed by an officer of the church.
3. The elders will then schedule an interview with the prospective member to if the person requesting membership is indeed qualified.
  - a. The elders may undertake other action to determine if the person is qualified for membership, which may include but not be limited to conversing with church members who know the individual requesting membership, contacting leadership in any church they had previously been affiliated.
  - b. The prospective member's name will be put in the worship guide to request the input of other church members who may know them.
  - c. Once the elders are assured beyond reasonable doubt that the candidate is qualified, the person shall be granted membership by the body of elders and presented to the church body based on statement of faith and baptism.

## **Bibliography**

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### Podcasts

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