

LIBERTY CORNER CHURCH COVENANT MEMBERSHIP DESCRIPTION

Why do we have a 'membership covenant' at LCPC?

Both concepts of “covenant” and “membership” are found in the Bible. In the Old Testament, a covenant was a binding agreement between God and two parties that carried obligations and benefits. God created covenants starting with Noah, continuing with Abraham and the people of Israel, to name a few. All of these covenants reveal the gracious heart of God, especially the last covenant God in made in Christ. Through Jesus, God made a new covenant available to all people. (Hebrews 9:15) We use the term “covenant membership” to describe a life changing relationship initiated by God, between God and an individual and also between the individual and other members of the church. We covenant with God and with each other.

What does it mean to be a covenant member of this church?

It means that an individual makes a commitment to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and to live as part of the Body of Christ at Liberty Corner Church. A covenant member embraces the vision “to make disciples who make disciples,” and the mission to transform our local community by being active ministers of Christ. Together we will experience the presence of God in Christ by embracing our core values of *living life together, giving ourselves away* and *connecting those who are disconnected* from God’s presence and God’s community.

How do I become a covenant member?

This is a serious, life changing commitment and should be made after prayer reflection. Those who are new to the Christian faith are invited to participate in a Starting Point group. Starting Point is a small group experience for people who are exploring faith or who are new to Christianity. They will then follow up with Journey, the new member class. Those who are familiar with Christianity or have made a profession of faith in another Christian church are required to complete Journey. They will gain an understanding of the Presbyterian (PCUSA) expression of Christianity. They will also be guided to recognize and develop their spiritual gifts, as well as to connect with other new members and church life.

Those who have not been baptized in a Christian church will receive the sacrament of baptism, after authorization by the session, the governing body of the church.

After completion of Journey, the class participants are voted into membership by the session.

What are the privileges of covenant membership?

Covenant membership means full participation in the worship, ministry and mission of the church. A covenant member can participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, present children for Baptism, take part as a voting member in congregational meetings, and hold office on a church board (session, deacons and trustees).