



Discovering

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# Membership at Morning Hour Chapel

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"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-5

## What?

Covenant membership is a signifier and public expression, of one's commitment to God and MHC. It means you are connected to this church (and its denomination, the Brethren in Christ), that you believe in our striving to be the light of Christ in our community, and commit to caring for your brothers and sisters in a variety of ways.

## Why?

The Church, from the beginning has invited its members into radical community. Early on, those who followed Jesus saw their responsibility to other believers as superseding all other commitments. (see 1 Corinthians 12:24-27) Our brothers and sisters in Christ are an incredibly important part of our lives.

Q: Do I have to agree with everything the church teaches?

A: No. We don't require you to agree to everything we believe if it isn't a core belief, but our covenant members need to be supportive of the teaching of the church.

We believe that how we disagree is important. Loving respect while we disagree is evidence of the Spirit's work. If you have a specific question, let us know!

Q: Isn't this a big insiders and outsiders situation?

A: Our hope and prayer is that by inviting people into covenant with us, they will in turn invite others. We love all people at MHC, and everyone is important. Covenant membership strengthens the community as a whole and us as individuals.

## FAQs:

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**Q: Do I need to become a member to participate in the class?**

**A: Not at all. In fact, you may want to learn more about us as a church, brush up on what we believe and what membership is all about. Attending the class doesn't necessarily mean you must become a member.**

**Q: Can I stay a member of my old church while becoming a member of MHC?**

**A: Dual-membership is possible, with an agreement from both church communities.**

**Q: How long does membership last? Is it a yearly agreement, a life-long commitment?**

**A: Membership lasts as long as you are committed to MHC. It is intended to be a long-term commitment. However, there are many beautiful ways that membership might end. You may move out of the area, join another community that has a ministry you feel called to, and so forth.**

In our consumer, “Have-it-your-way” world, covenant membership to a church is counter-cultural. We consciously choose to reject the temptation of individualism and become tethered to our brothers and sisters. (Colossians 3:13-15) This isn't a loss of freedom. In fact, it is a vital choice that helps us grow in faith and service. Flowers grow when planted. Plainly, we believe it helps us become more like Jesus.

Jesus was fully committed to God's mission and all it entails. The more together we are, in building the kingdom in our community, the better.

The church also has practical and legal reasons for membership.

**“Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.” 1 Peter 3:8-9**

## \*The Covenant

“As a member of the Brethren in Christ Church, I accept the Bible as the Word of God in which is revealed the way of salvation and the guide for faith and conduct. I witness to a personal experience of God’s saving grace in my heart and express desire and purpose to live a holy life, apart from sin and separated unto Christ.

I covenant as a member of this Brethren in Christ Church to be loyal to the congregation, to consent to instruction in Bible doctrine, to support and sustain the services of the congregation by my regular attendance and prayers, to contribute to the program of the church as the Lord prospers me, and to foster a spirit of Christian fellowship and oneness within the church.”

“If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:1-4

## Who?

Regular attenders of MHC, with a believer’s baptism, exemplifying a desire to serve and follow Jesus faithfully in their lives, and willing to commit to the covenant\*.

## How?

Connect with the Pastor, a Church Board member, or your Deacon. We will invite you to the membership class so you can learn more about what we believe and what membership is all about. And then at the conclusion of the class we’ll determine together whether you are ready to enter into covenant with us at MHC.