

MEMBERSHIP

AT NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



GOD'S COVENANT COMMUNITY – A PLACE TO BELONG



VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

WHY SHOULD I BECOME A MEMBER?

Church membership is biblical, beneficial and God's design for the family of believers. Membership:

1. Identifies a person as a genuine believer.
Ephesians 2:19, Romans 12:5
2. Provides a spiritual family to support and encourage us in our walk with Christ.
Galatians 6:1-2, Hebrews 10:24-25
3. Gives us a place to discover and use our gifts.
1 Corinthians 12:4-27
4. Places us under the spiritual protection of godly leaders. *Hebrews 13:17, Acts 20:28-29*
5. Gives us the accountability we need to grow.
Ephesians 5:21

In addition, New Life Church's Articles of Incorporation, and by reference, the *Church Order* of the Christian Reformed denomination, entitle members with the right to vote on important matters that affect the church, such as selecting new elders and deacons, calling a pastor, budgets, property decisions and amendments to the Articles of Incorporation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. A personal profession of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
John 3:3
2. Baptism and/or Profession of Faith as a public symbol of your faith[†].
Matthew 20:28
3. A commitment to **BLESS** others, as God has blessed us in Christ.

Bless—we intentionally bless others. Instead of focusing on ourselves, we focus on others.

Listen—we intentionally listen to God and the world/others around us, being attentive to their stories.

Eat—we intentionally eat with another believer, an unbeliever or someone not like you.

Speak—we intentionally speak the truth of the good news with others. We communicate with God and people around us.

Sabbath—we intentionally rest and enjoy the fruit of the gospel and the fruit of creation. We rest and recreate as an act of trust.

[†]We accept as valid baptism that which is administered in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; under such circumstances, rebaptism is not necessary. We do ask that a person affirm their Profession of Faith.

WHAT DO MEMBERS DO?

- Actively support New Life’s mission and vision
- **LOVE**—Actively participate in worship
- **GROW**—Actively participate in discipleship
- **SERVE**—Actively live out faith in every area of life

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH DO?

- Preach and teach the Word of God
- Actively encourage you in your faith
- Provide accountability and support
- Provide ministries and resources to grow

WHAT WE BELIEVE

In the essential beliefs, we have unity

- **The Bible is God’s Word** (God speaks through the Bible)
- **God is sovereign** (God is in control of all things)
- **God is the Trinity** (Father, Son & Holy Spirit are one God)
- **Man is sinful** (All parts of all people have been corrupted by sin and all need salvation)
- **Salvation is a free gift** (It is given by grace through faith in Jesus Christ)
- **Salvation comes only through Jesus Christ** (Jesus is the only way to salvation)
- **The final judgment of all humanity is certain** (All will go to either heaven or hell)

In addition to scripture, we also subscribe to three creeds: The Apostles’, Nicene and Athanasian Creeds. We also hold to three confessions: the Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession and Canons of Dordt.*

In the non-essential beliefs, we have liberty

There are, however, also some things about which Christians can honestly disagree and remain brothers in Christ. In these things, we allow for freedom.

In all our beliefs, we show charity

In all these things, we believe it is more important to love one another than to have our own way. We humbly encourage and instruct each other, but in the end, we leave certain things up to the conscience of each person.

**We are affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church in North America (www.crcna.org).*

PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH

Public profession of faith is answering these questions affirmatively:

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God sent to redeem the world, do you love and trust Him as the one who saves you from your sin, and do you with repentance and joy embrace Him as Lord of your life?
2. Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God, revealing Christ and His redemption, and that this church faithfully reflects this revelation?
3. Do you promise to do all you can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to strengthen your love and commitment to Christ by sharing faithfully in the life of the church, and do you join with the people of God in doing the work of the Lord everywhere?

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO JOINING THE NEW LIFE FAMILY?

Step 1: Receive Jesus Christ as your Savior.

Step 2: Meet with the pastor to talk about your faith and membership in the church.

Step 3: Review basic beliefs and prepare for baptism and/or profession of faith.

Step 4: Meet with an elder to share your profession of faith and pray together.

Step 5: Baptism and/or profession of faith and reception as new member.

STEP INTO THE ABUNDANCE OF JOY
THAT NEW LIFE OFFERS YOU IN
JESUS CHRIST!