



THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

*session three*

# The Mission of Our Church

*Deeper in Christ. Further in Mission. Together.*



ECC THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP — SESSION THREE

**Membership is a commitment  
to grow deeper in Christ  
and go further in mission  
together as the church.**

# *Gather*

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## **OBJECTIVES FOR THIS SESSION**

### **Acquaint the group with the mission of our church**

- History
- Vision and mission
- Structure and resources

Consider deeper involvement in the mission and ministry of our church.

### **Discussion Starter**

# *Interact*

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## **BIBLICAL IMAGES FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH**

### **Discussion Question**

**What images or metaphors come to mind when you think about the local church?**

### Looking at Scripture

**The Bible uses many images to depict the local church.**

Here's a partial list:

- **Family** (GALATIANS 3:26, 4:6-7; ROMANS 8:29; HEBREWS 2:10-18)
- **Bride of Christ** (MARK 2: 18-20; JOHN 3:29; ROMANS 7:1-4; 2 CORINTHIANS 11:2; EPHESIANS 5:22-33; REVELATION 19:7)
- **Temple** (2 CORINTHIANS 5:1; 1 PETER 2:4-8)
- **Priesthood of All Believers** (1 PETER 2:4-9)
- **The Flock** (LUKE 12:32; JOHN 10:1-16, 27-28; ACTS 20:28-29; 1 PETER 5:2-4)
- **The Body** (EPHESIANS 4:4-13; ROMANS 12:1-31)

**These images indicate that a church is to be:**

- A place of loving devotion to God
- A relationship place of protection and encouragement
- A place for developing our gifts for service to God
- A place that pursues God's priorities in the world

#### Reflection:

How do you see these elements being lived out in this church?

#### Discussion Question

What attracted you initially to our church and what has encouraged you to stay here?

## WHO WE ARE—HISTORY AND STRUCTURE OF OUR CONGREGATION

### Our History

### Our Mission and Values

### Our Mission and Ministry

**REFLECTION QUESTION:** What ministries have you been involved with or have impacted you or your family?

### Our Staff and Leaders

### Our Structure

### Our Facility

### Where We're Going—Preview of the Future

## *Integrate*

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## GET CONNECTED—PATHWAYS TO DEEPER INVOLVEMENT

### Closing

What is something new you learned today? Do you have a question about our church that hasn't yet been addressed?

**Complete this sentence: "At our best, our church is a community that..."**

## Going Deeper

### PATHWAYS TO DEEPER INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHURCH'S LIFE

In Session Two, we learned about the Covenant's five mission priorities, and in the Going Deeper section you asked God to show you a practical way to engage in one of those areas. That exercise may have led you to engage in the mission of the Covenant. Now take time to reflect on the mission and ministries of this church. Where might God be calling you to serve?

**As you consider the five mission priorities, what ministries of this church do you see associated with each priority?**

- Start and Strengthen Churches
- Make and Deepen Disciples
- Love Mercy Do Justice
- Develop Leaders
- Serve Globally

Which ministry or ministries are you most passionate about? Are you already serving in that area? How would you like to be serving in that area?

Talk further with a leader in your church about these reflections.



The Evangelical Covenant Church

MAKE & DEEPEN DISCIPLES

**The purpose of *The Meaning of Membership: Deeper in Christ. Further in Mission. Together.* resource is to identify what it means for individuals to become members of an Evangelical Covenant Church. Membership is a commitment to grow deeper in Christ and further in mission together.**

***The Meaning of Membership* covers:**

**SESSION ONE:** The Mission of God

**SESSION TWO:** The Mission of the Evangelical Covenant Church

**SESSION THREE:** The Mission of Our Church

**SESSION FOUR:** The Mission of a Member

It is our prayer that together we will grow deeper in Christ and further in mission. Thank you for taking the time to explore what it means to be a part of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

[CovChurch.org/Membership](https://CovChurch.org/Membership)