



THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

session four

The Mission of a Member

Deeper in Christ. Further in Mission. Together.



ECC THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP – SESSION FOUR

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

Gather

OBJECTIVES FOR THIS SESSION

Acquaint the group with their role as potential members of our church.

DISCUSSION STARTER

Why Join a Church?

What are some reasons to join a local church?

Interact

REASONS FOR JOINING THE CHURCH

Commitment and rootedness to a local church can radically transform us as we go deeper in Christ and further in mission together. In Scripture we see several reasons to join the church:

- **Joining the church honors Christ.**
(MARK 10:45; LUKE 24:46-47; HEBREWS 10:25; COLOSSIANS 2:19)
- **Joining the church is missional.**
(MATTHEW 28:18-20; ROMANS 12:5-8; ACTS 11:19-26; EPHESIANS 2:10)
- **Joining the church fosters spiritual growth.**
(JOHN 13:34-35, 1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-22, EPHESIANS 4:15-16)
- **Joining the church is ethical.**
(ACTS 2:44-47; EPHESIANS 4:11-13; EPHESIANS 5:19-20)
- **Joining the church is counter-cultural.**
(1 CORINTHIANS 12:22-26; GALATIANS 6:2; PHILIPPIANS 1:29-30)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER?

Growing as Christ's disciples

Our commitment is to help you go deeper in Christ and further in mission together as a member of our church family.

- **As a biblical family,** we seek to help you understand the Bible so you can apply it as the frame of reference for all of life.
- **As a devotional family,** we seek to help you go deeper in Christ—not just when we are physically together, but also by empowering you to become attentive and responsive to God's presence in all areas of life.
- **As a connective family,** we seek to help you find your way into meaningful relationships that will both encourage you and challenge you.
- **As a missional family,** we seek to help you discover God's purposes for your life and equip you to utilize your unique gifts for significant service with God for the world.

Reflection questions:

- How have you already experienced growth in these four areas during your time in this church community?
- How can we best empower you to grow further in each of these areas?

Being a Part of God's Kingdom

- Jesus spoke of God's kingdom.
- God's kingdom is not like any earthly kingdom.
- As disciples of Jesus Christ we are ambassadors of God's kingdom.

Reflection question:

How can being a member of the church help us live into the kingdom together and help us to be the kind of disciples Christ calls us to be?

Seeking to fulfill the will of God

Together we:

1. Strive for spiritual health as a congregation by:

- a. being committed to grow deeper in Christ personally
- b. reflecting the character and holiness of Christ
(COLOSSIANS 3:1-17)
- c. praying for the church regularly
- d. faithfully participating in the life of the church
- e. promoting unity
- f. supporting the spiritual growth and personal care of others
- g. worshipping together

2. Serve together in ministry as a congregation by:

- a. discovering and using our spiritual gifts
- b. engaging in discipleship opportunities that help us be more faithful and fruitful in our service to God
- c. caring for one another

3. Support the mission of our congregation by:

- a. giving regularly of our finances, time, and talent
- b. actively participating in congregational decision-making
- c. inviting non-churched friends to church
- d. being externally focused in seeking opportunities for evangelism and compassion, mercy, and justice to the lost and hurting in our community and beyond

Integrate

GROUP REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

- 1) There are many ways that we seek to fulfill God's will. Which are you most drawn to?
- 2) What are your thoughts about this lifelong journey and the ways in which we minister together to fulfill God's will?
- 3) Does today's session raise any particular questions, concerns, or other feelings for you?

DECISION TO BECOME A MEMBER

- Next steps toward becoming a member
- If you decide not to become a member

CLOSING

- 1) What are your closing thoughts as we end this discussion?
- 2) Would any of you be willing to share about what this church has meant to you so far and what you hope to experience in the future?

Going Deeper

NEXT STEPS

During this session, we discussed the mission of a member. Set aside time this week to review your church's membership process, and ask God to help you discern your next steps.

For example:

- Pursue membership by taking the next step in the membership process.
- Talk with a church leader about questions or concerns you have.
- Research the Evangelical Covenant Church further.
- Discern new ways to go deeper in Christ and further in mission with our community.
- Join a small group.
- Serve in a ministry.



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