

## MEMBERSHIP AT CORNERSTONE

Although the Bible never uses the term ‘church member’ or ‘membership’ anywhere, it is clear that it does see the people of God as a clearly defined community, committed to a corporate life of worship, bound together by a common set of beliefs and relating to each other in love. In order to facilitate this, many Christian churches, such as our denomination, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), have a formal pattern of church membership through which individuals and families publicly commit themselves to the local body of believers, to the care of the local Session and to worshipping and serving the Lord together.

We are a church which believes firmly in the doctrines taught in Scripture and faithfully summarized in the [Westminster Standards](#). We therefore believe that Christian growth comes about through use of the ordinary means of grace (the reading and preaching of the word, the sacraments and prayer). Thus, the corporate aspect of our church life, especially public worship, is central to our understanding of Christian discipleship. Membership thus reflects in a formal manner the privileges and obligations of such a corporate life.

When people join the OPC, they are required to answer the following questions in the affirmative before the local congregation:

- (1) Do you believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be the Word of God, and its doctrine of salvation to be the perfect and only true doctrine of salvation?
- (2) Do you believe in one living and true God, in whom eternally there are three distinct persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—who are the same in being and equal in power and glory, and that Jesus Christ is God the Son, come in the flesh?
- (3) Do you confess that because of your sinfulness you abhor and humble yourself before God, that you repent of your sin, and that you trust for salvation not in yourself but in Jesus Christ alone?
- (4) Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your sovereign Lord, and do you promise that, in reliance on the grace of God, you will serve him with all that is in you, forsake the world, resist the devil, put to death your sinful deeds and desires, and lead a godly life?
- (5) Do you promise to participate faithfully in this church's worship and service, to submit in the Lord to its government, and to heed its discipline, even in case you should be found delinquent in doctrine or life?

These questions summarize what it means to be a Christian and to be a faithful member of Christ’s church. Therefore, in light of these vows, at Cornerstone we expect that members will:

- Be faithful in attendance at the worship services, which is to be the believer’s priority.
- Be diligent in participation at the Lord’s Supper.
- Give financially to support the regular work of the local church.

- Be willing to serve the church body as and when need and opportunity arise. Typically this will involve being on a service roster of some kind.
- Be diligent in praying for and encouraging other members week by week in their daily walk with the Lord.