Discover Purpose

Reading 4 of 4 • How will we live together?

Read this before the Meaningful Membership class. Look up the key Bible passages, reflect at your own pace, and bring your questions. The final page gives you space to write; you may keep personal reflections private.

Key Bible passages: Romans 12:1-8; 1 Peter 4:10

Membership is not a finish line. It is a way of saying, “By God’s grace, I want to follow Jesus with this church family.” That shared life includes corporate worship, growth, community, service, generosity, mission, and shepherding.

You are not joining an institution that merely needs workers. You are joining a body in which God has already prepared good works and given each one of us gifts for the good of others.

Worship

We gather weekly because God is worthy and because we need His ordinary means of grace: His Word, prayer, praise, the sacraments, and fellowship. Worship is not a product to review. It is the people of God gathered together, responding to the grace and glory of God.

Grow

Christians never graduate from discipleship. Throughout our lives we grow through Scripture, prayer, worship, sacraments, community, obedience, repentance, and suffering. Growth is personal, but never merely individual.

Belong

Belonging gradually moves beyond anonymity. We learn names, share meals, join a group, bear burdens, celebrate joys, and allow ourselves to be known. A healthy church makes room for different ages, cultures, personalities, and stages of faith.

Serve

First Peter 4 says each believer has received a gift to use in serving others as a steward of God’s varied grace. Gifts are not badges of importance. They are graces entrusted to each Christian for the building up of the body.

Steward

Our time, abilities, relationships, opportunities, and money belong to God. Christian generosity is willing and cheerful, never coerced. Members support the church's worship and work to the best of their ability, not by meeting an imposed dollar amount.

Go

Jesus sends His Church to make disciples. We live as witnesses in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, teams, and city. We also participate together in mercy, mission, church planting, and global gospel work.

Receive shepherding and pursue peace

Meaningful membership includes teachability. We invite elders to know and care for us. We pursue holiness and reconciliation. When conflict comes, we speak truth in love, go directly to one another, seek help when needed, and resist gossip and division.

Discover Your Place

A spiritual-gifts assessment can help name patterns, but no test can tell you everything God may do through you. We also listen to each other's stories, abilities, burdens, joy, maturity, and the affirmation of other believers.

After the membership gathering, you may participate in a Sunday "Discover Your Place" experience. You will join an established member in an approved ministry area, observe what happens, help where appropriate, worship with the congregation, and reflect afterward. You are not auditioning and you are not committing to any particular role that morning.

Completing this pathway does not itself confer membership. Membership includes an elder conversation, approval by the Session, and public membership vows. See your invitation for the gathering schedule and RSVP details.

Reflect and prepare

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These questions are invitations to conversation, not a test. Write as much or as little as you find

helpful. You may discuss sensitive matters privately with a pastor or elder.

1. Where have you experienced the most joy, fulfillment and/or fruit while serving others?

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2. What people or needs consistently move your heart?

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3. Who or what would you like to observe during a Sunday "Discover Your Place" experience?

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4. What could make serving difficult in this season, and how can the church support you?

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A question I want to bring to class

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