

**“You are members of God’s very own family . . . and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.”—Ephesians 2:19**

## **MEMBERSHIP AT MCC**

At MCC we sometimes hear people say, “Why is membership so important?” or “Isn’t it enough simply to call oneself a Christian and to attend services?” MCC believes there are at least three reasons for having formal membership.

First, we believe the concept of membership is biblical. While the term “church member” is never used in the Bible, the concept is implicit throughout the New Testament. Believers clearly identified themselves with a specific local body and were challenged to become devoted participants.

Second, formal membership is valuable to the leaders of the church as they seek to fulfill their God-given task of “shepherding.” MCC, by design, attracts a large amount of people who are experiencing their very first encounter with being part of a church family. Membership allows them to more quickly identify with the church. As we grow larger, it becomes increasingly important that the leadership of MCC be able to identify those who truly comprise the “flock”, those who have committed their lives to be a part of this ministry and the vision we hold.

Third, and perhaps most important, it benefits the individual making the membership commitment. In a culture where commitment is no longer highly valued, recognizable membership is an important step that moves each of us out of the vague clouds of our good intentions and into the clear light of committed participation. It presents a challenge to “step out of the stands” and publicly affirm a commitment to Christ and to a specific local body. In this sense, membership can be a significant and defining moment in one’s lifelong discipleship journey. We become what we are committed to. If we are committed to membership in a church family, we will strengthen our commitment to God’s family.

**Ephesians 4:11** It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

**Ephesians 4:12** to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

**Ephesians 4:13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

**Ephesians 4:14** ¶ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

**Ephesians 4:15** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

**Ephesians 4:16** From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

**1Corinthians 12:12** ¶ The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.

**1Corinthians 12:13** For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

**1Corinthians 12:14** ¶ Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.

**1Corinthians 12:15** If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.

**1Corinthians 12:16** And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.

**1Corinthians 12:17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

**1Corinthians 12:18** But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

**1Corinthians 12:19** If they were all one part, where would the body be?

**1Corinthians 12:20** As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

**Acts 2:41** Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

**Acts 2:42** ¶ They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

**Acts 2:43** Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

**Acts 2:44** All the believers were together and had everything in common.

**Acts 2:45** Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

**Acts 2:46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

**Acts 2:47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

**1Peter 5:1** ¶ To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ’s sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

**1Peter 5:2** Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers — not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;

**1Peter 5:3** not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

**1Peter 5:4** And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.