

# MEMBERSHIP

AT NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



## YOUR JOURNEY TO NEW LIFE



## VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

### WHY SHOULD I BECOME A MEMBER?

Church membership is biblical, beneficial and God's design for the fellowship of believers. Membership:

1. Identifies a person as a genuine believer.  
*Ephesians 2:19, Romans 12:5*
2. Provides a spiritual family to support and encourage us in our walk with Christ.  
*Galatians 6:1-2, Hebrews 10:24-25*
3. Gives us a place to discover and use our gifts.  
*1 Corinthians 12:4-27*
4. Places us under the spiritual protection of godly leaders.  
*Hebrews 13:17, Acts 20:28-29*
5. Gives us the accountability we need to grow.  
*Ephesians 5:21*

In addition, New Life Church's Articles of Incorporation, and by reference, the *Church Order* of the Christian Reformed denomination, entitle members with the right to vote on important matters that affect the church, such as selecting new elders and deacons, calling a pastor, budgets, property decisions and amendments to the Articles of Incorporation.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. A personal profession of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.  
*John 3:3*
2. Baptism and/or Profession of Faith as a public symbol of your faith<sup>†</sup>.  
*Matthew 20:28*
3. A commitment to follow Jesus, taking **STEPS** to grow spiritually.

**S**tudy—be *Christlike* i.e. learn about Jesus and the ways of Jesus, study God's word. *Romans 12:2*

**T**ell—be *Missional* i.e. tell others about Jesus and the good news of the kingdom of God. *Acts 1:8*

**E**at—be *Hospitable* i.e. love each other, invite people into your life\*, fellowship together. *John 15:12,14*

**P**ray—be *Spirit-led* i.e. listen to the Spirit's voice, solitude, silence, prayer and worship. *2 Timothy 1:7*

**S**erve—be *Generous* i.e. blessing others, words of affirmation, acts of kindness and gifts. *Acts 2:44,45*

<sup>†</sup>We accept as valid baptism that which is administered in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; under such circumstances, rebaptism is not necessary. We do ask that a person affirm their Profession of Faith.

\*We strongly encourage each member to participate in a Community.

## WHAT DO MEMBERS DO?

- Actively support New Life's mission and vision
- **LOVE**—Actively participate in worship
- **GROW**—Actively participate in discipleship
- **SERVE**—Actively live out faith in every area of life

## WHAT DOES THE CHURCH DO?

- Preach and teach the Word of God
- Actively encourage you in your faith
- Provide accountability and support
- Provide ministries and resources to grow

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

### In the essential beliefs, we have unity

- **The Bible is God's Word** (God speaks through the Bible)
- **God is sovereign** (God is in control of all things)
- **God is the Trinity** (Father, Son & Holy Spirit are one God)
- **Man is sinful** (All parts of all people have been corrupted by sin and all need salvation)
- **Salvation is a free gift** (It is given by grace through faith in Jesus Christ)
- **Salvation comes only through Jesus Christ** (Jesus is the only way to salvation)
- **The final judgment of all humanity is certain** (All will go to either heaven or hell)

*In addition to scripture, we also subscribe to three creeds: The Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds. We also hold to three confessions: the Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession and Canons of Dordt\*.*

### In the non-essential beliefs, we have liberty

There are, however, also some things about which Christians can honestly disagree and remain brothers in Christ. In these things, we allow for freedom.

### In all our beliefs, we show charity

In all these things, we believe it is more important to love one another than to have our own way. We humbly encourage and instruct each other, but in the end, we leave certain things up to the conscience of each person.

*\*We are affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church in North America ([www.crcna.org](http://www.crcna.org)).*

## PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH

Public profession of faith is answering these questions affirmatively:

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God sent to redeem the world, do you love and trust Him as the one who saves you from your sin, and do you with repentance and joy embrace Him as Lord of your life?
2. Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God, revealing Christ and His redemption, and that this church faithfully reflects this revelation?
3. Do you promise to do all you can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to strengthen your love and commitment to Christ by sharing faithfully in the life of the church, and do you join with the people of God in doing the work of the Lord everywhere?

## HOW CAN I START MY JOURNEY TO NEW LIFE?

- Step 1:** Receive Jesus Christ as your Savior  
**Step 2:** Attend *Front Porch* to meet people and explore an introduction to New Life  
**Step 3:** Prepare for baptism or profession of faith, if applicable, with *First Things*  
**Step 4:** Meet with an Elder  
**Step 5:** Baptism, or reception as new member

*A good next step is to take the Foundations Course so you can have a good foundation with your beliefs and living out your faith.*

STEP INTO THE ABUNDANCE OF JOY  
THAT NEW LIFE OFFERS YOU IN  
JESUS CHRIST!