



DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

CHAPEL BY THE SEA

4612 State Route 109, P O Box 194

Pacific Beach, Washington 98571

www.chapelbytheseawa.org



Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Linda Flatley

Manse Telephone: 360.276.8143

G-1.03 The Membership of a Congregation

G-1.0301 The Meaning of Membership and Baptism

In Jesus Christ, God calls people to faith and to membership in the Church, the body of Christ. Baptism is the visible sign of that call and claim on a human life and of entrance into the membership of the church. The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. The baptism of those who enter the covenant of membership upon their own profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior witnesses to the truth that God's gift of grace calls forth a response of faithfulness. Thus, the triune God, incarnate in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, gives to the Church not only its mission but also its understanding of membership.

G-1.0303 Entry into Membership

Persons may enter into active church membership in the following ways:

a. Public profession of faith, made after careful examination by the session in the meaning and responsibilities of membership; if not already baptized, the person making profession of faith shall be baptized;

b. Certificate of transfer, when a person is a member of another Christian church at the time of transfer;

c. Reaffirmation of faith, for persons previously baptized in the name of the triune God and having publicly professed their faith.

G-1.0304 The Ministry of Members

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

proclaiming the good news in word and deed,

taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,

lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,

studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,

supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,

demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,

responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,

living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,

working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,

caring for God's creation,

participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and

reviewing and evaluation regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

W-4.02 Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

W-4.024: New Members

New members are received by public profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or certificate of transfer. The session should provide opportunity for those seeking membership to explore the faith they will (re)affirm. After they are examined and received by the session, new members are presented in worship. As part of their public welcome it is appropriate for those previously baptized to reaffirm the commitment made in Baptism, profess their faith in Jesus Christ, and declare their intent to participate actively and responsibly in the worship, life, governance, and mission of the church. On such occasions, it is fitting for all worshipers to reaffirm the baptismal covenant.

Profession of Faith *(questions for those who are professing their faith at baptism, or reaffirming the baptismal covenant)*

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Will you devote yourself to church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

All profess their faith in the word of the Apostles' Creed

APOSTLES' CREED (Ecumenical)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

BAPTISM AND REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS -

(including those received by Letter of Transfer or Reaffirmation of Faith)

N. [and N.], we have professed our faith as one body.

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and mission through your prayers and gifts, your study and service,

and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God's help.

