



THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

Fall 2018 New Member Class
Sundays, September 9 – October 21
9:45–10:45 AM • Room 214

Westminster's next New Member Class begins Sunday, September 9, and meets weekly through October 21, at which time those feeling called are received into membership. But why? Why is it important to become a member of a church? What does it mean to be a member? And why have a whole class about it? We put these questions to some of our current members, and here are some of their answers:

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF A CHURCH?

- A church is a community of believers sharing in the life of Christ.
- A member becomes a part of a community where they can live out their faith by worshiping, studying, and being in mission together.
- The church body is a group that can provide support for someone, and in turn it is a way for a person to share his or her spiritual gifts and minister to others in the congregation.
- The church's activities and outreach and mission programs provide a structure to minister to others outside the congregation.
- It is important that people join to have a connection to others and to do the work of the Church.
- We can do more together than we can as individuals.
- A church walks with you in times of celebration and grief. They struggle along with you when you have doubt.
- It is where you can share your passions for knitting, wood working, pottery, etc.
- For younger people and newcomers to the city, it is a way to put down roots and become part of a family.
- The church provides a place to learn and to ask questions.
- Becoming a member shows that a person is willing to commit to being part of a larger fellowship for Christ.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER?

- You are part of a larger group.
- Opportunities to do different things that are beneficial to individual members and to the entire congregation.
- Membership gives one another a chance to share his or her spiritual gifts and talents.
- Membership is more meaningful if there is a commitment to become active in the church in some way.
- Membership makes you more committed to the mission of the church.
- To be a member means that you participate fully in the life of the church by worshiping, finding ways to study, giving financially, sharing your time and talents, and reaching out in mission.

WHY IS IT BENEFICIAL TO ATTEND A NEW MEMBER CLASS?

- If you are coming from another denomination, another Presbyterian church, or are new to church life, it is an opportunity to learn about being a Presbyterian and Westminster.
- You learn about all of the different ministries of Westminster.
- It provides a way to make connections to existing members and staff.
- It is a way to meet new people who are on the same journey as you.
- It is a great way to get plugged in right away.
- It is the short cut to finding out what is going on and how to get involved.
- You discover what it means to be a member of this church and can decide if you feel called to join this particular community.

If you feel called to membership at Westminster or would like to know more about Westminster or being Presbyterian, please join us for the fall class. If you would like to join the class, or if you have any questions, please contact The Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (615-292-5526, ext. 227; hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org) or Elder Jim Hartman (615-383-8759; overlookjim@yahoo.com).