

Biblical Basis for Church Membership

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV) ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Ephesians 4:11-15 (NIV) 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, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 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. 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. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Romans 12:4-5 ⁴ Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Mission

We exist to glorify God by making disciples who are growing in Christ, engaged in ministry, and sharing their faith.

Vision

To be a multigenerational, Acts 1:8, Christ-centered community.

Values

- * We **believe and teach the Bible** as God's word and our final authority
- * We **pray** because we desire to, realize that we need to, and expect God to answer in astounding ways.
- * We **invest in Christ-centered relationships**.
- * We intentionally **introduce others to Jesus** locally, regionally, and internationally.

Objectives

- * To **lead people** towards growing in Christ, engaging in ministry, and sharing their faith.
- * To inspire people to **give sacrificially** of their time, talents, and resources in obedience to Christ.
- * To **equip and train** individuals to thrive in their life journeys so that they may also invest in lives of Christ.
- * To **engage people** of all life-stages, differing ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds in our mission.
- * To **sustain alignment** with the mission, vision, and values of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.



**LANCASTER
ALLIANCE CHURCH**

**A multigenerational,
Acts 1:8, Christ-centered
community**

**Church
Membership**

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The Concept of Church Membership

A person joins the *universal* Church when they accept God's free gift of forgiveness and eternal life by faith in Christ. They join the *local* church when they commit to a local body in order to be a part of God's plan for reaching the world. People do not join the church in order to get to heaven.

The Church is the universal body of "born again" believers wherever they are around the world. The local church, the visible expression of the universal Church, meets together in one place for worship, fellowship, instruction and service.

Choosing to become a member of a local church is a tangible demonstration of belonging to the universal Church and is an expression of the bond that unites every Christian with Jesus Christ and each other. Church membership binds us together. It is the beliefs that we hold, the mission we share and the relationships we value.



The Christian and Missionary Alliance
Logo

The cross (Savior), laver (Sanctifier), pitcher (Healer), and crown (Coming King) represent the foundational belief of the Alliance.

The Value of Church Membership

Two terms are easily confused in church life: *fellowship* and *membership*. If you consider LAC your church home and participate regularly in our worship services, smaller groups and serving in ministry, you are a part of our fellowship. You are welcome regardless of where you are on your spiritual journey.

Membership, however, is a more significant step of commitment. It means taking a long-term interest in the direction and support of this local church. It is a very positive step of responsibility and accountability.

Membership is important for how it helps the church accomplish its mission. It gives church leaders a sense of who is committed to the life of the church. It means that you intend to invest yourself in its growth and fruitfulness.

Membership helps you as well. It establishes a baseline of commitment that can sustain the ups and downs of church life and relationships. There is inherent value in making commitments and then fulfilling those promises. Committed people have the satisfaction of moving from spectator to participant which brings joy to you and brings honor and glory to God.

Therefore, if you have committed your life to Christ, received his gift of forgiveness and begun to walk in the Spirit, we invite you to consider becoming a member of LAC.

The Qualifications for Church Membership

- A genuine profession of faith with evidence of transformation.
- A lifestyle that is consistent with the Word of God.
- A willingness to be a good steward of one's time, resources and energy in support of this local church and international ministries.
- A commitment to cooperate with local church leadership and submit to godly authority as established in the church.

The Steps to Church Membership

1. Attend the Welcome to LAC class, offered three times a year.
2. Complete the Application for Membership and submit it to the elders.
3. Be interviewed by at least two elders.
4. Be approved by the Church Leadership Team upon recommendation of the interviewing elders.
5. Be introduced to the congregation during a public service.



LANCASTER
ALLIANCE CHURCH

Our
Logo

Lancaster Alliance Church's identity draws from our rich history and community. Our identity is a representation of our church as well as our approach to multigenerational ministry.