

membership matters @ PFBC

Q: Why Does Membership Matter?

A: Perhaps you're already connected in some form of community at PFBC (through Growth Groups or the Women's ministry for example), or maybe you're already giving of your finances and your time to the church. If this is true, then you're already fulfilling some functions of a member.

The membership process is your opportunity to learn more about us, and our opportunity to get to know you.

The leadership of PFBC takes the responsibility to love and care for its members seriously. By taking this step and making an official commitment, we are better able to provide spiritual care and pastoral support to you, in part, because we will know who you are, but also because the Bible requires that we take care of our church family first (Acts 20:28; Eph. 2:19; Gal. 6:10; Hebrews 13:17).

Q: What Does the Bible Say?

A: Interestingly, when we take a look at the New Testament we continually find lists of names which we assume connects the people mentioned together as those who belong to a community of faith.

Other words and phrases such as "joined," "they went out from us," and "the whole church" appear also, which we believe affirms membership.

We also find instructions in the New Testament about church discipline. These are directives which make best sense when they are understood in the context of a church membership.

Moreover, there are instructions to those who are to give pastoral oversight and leadership to those who call themselves a part of the local church.

Finally, there are the many biblical metaphors used to describe local churches: flock, temple, body, and household. Each of these words point to some measure of distinction and identification.

Q: What is the Membership Process?

A: It's a five-step process:

1. Participate in community

Through regular involvement in a Sunday Worship Gathering, and by becoming part of a small group.

2. Attend a Membership Class

It includes an overview of our vision, values, what we believe, or history, structure and gives an introduction to serving, giving and community. When you have completed this class you are able to continue the process.

3. Membership Interview

Meet with an elder to share verbally and in writing about who you are, your story of faith and desire to be a member.

4. Receive an Elder Recommendation

The application is reviewed by the Elders for their collective approval.

5. Receive Congregational Affirmation

During one of our members meetings, the applicants desire for membership is shared and a vote is taken. If affirmed the candidate becomes a member!

PARKSVILLE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH