



Membership with Evangelical United Church of Christ

Our By-laws state:

After persons express the desire to join the church, the Pastor and congregation shall publicly accept them as members. The names of all new members will be communicated to the People Team to be entered on the rolls of the church.

Members shall pledge themselves to attend regular worship of the congregation; to share in the life and work of the church; to contribute to its support and benevolences; and to seek diligently the spiritual welfare of the membership and the community.

Any member may, on request, be granted a Letter of Transfer. If a member requests to be released from membership obligations, the congregation shall patiently endeavor to secure continuance in its fellowship. If such effort fails, the request shall be approved by the Pastor and/or the Governing Body.

A member whose address has long been unknown or who for a period of two (2) years, in spite of spiritual care by the congregation, has not attended the congregation's worship or contributed to its support, may, by recommendation of the Pastor or the People Team be removed from membership by vote of the Governing Body.

The membership rolls of the church shall be maintained on a regular basis by the People Team.

Our liturgy asks:

Celebrating the fullness of Jesus' witness flowing from the baptismal waters at the river Jordan, do you desire to follow the God made known in the one we call Christ?

Recognizing God's grace revealed in diversity; in the life and teachings of Jesus, in the wonders of creation seen and unseen, and in stories ancient and yet unknown, do you desire to walk humbly with God?

Honoring the Spirit revealed in the paradoxical, are you willing to live the questions of your faith, open to the continuing revelation of our still speaking God?

Believing Jesus about God and trusting his example, are you willing to accept the cost and joy of following him; welcoming the unwelcome-able, touching the untouchable, and speaking the unspeakable?

Claiming God's abundant grace in our common life, do you pledge your commitment and support to the well being of this community of faith?

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www.evangelicalucc.org

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Expectations of Members

Each of our journeys is unique, so will be our involvement with this congregation. We invite new friends and members to be active in the life and mission of this congregation, recognizing that our needs and availability will differ.

We ask that members pledge to support this community financially. We ask that each member annually renew his or her financial commitment to this congregation. There is no correct amount for giving. Christians often talk about the biblical ideal of "tithing" (literally 10%); another common way of talking about "tithing" is to give 5% of income to a church home and another 5% to other charitable avenues. We do not expect members to "tithe" a particular percentage or amount, but to carefully consider their financial commitment to the community. Each gift is gratefully received. Our budget is funded almost entirely by member contributions, so program (staff, building, mission giving) is a direct reflection of the generosity of the members. Pledges are shared each November and a budget adopted in January based upon the pledges.

We ask that members be regular in worship participation. The rhythm of sharing in weekly worship is a spiritual discipline. Although we live in a culture on hyper-drive, the rhythm of gathering in community is an invaluable source of nourishment. Children are good teachers, and they model for us that if we come to worship sporadically each week is a chore; if we come weekly it is simply a part of our lives. The more often we are together, the more deeply our lives and hearts entwine with the sacred in our community.

We ask that members be knowledgeable about the life of the church. We publish congregational emails (not more than once weekly), a monthly KYP (Keeping You Posted), share announcements in worship bulletin and at the beginning of each service, have special mailings, bulletin boards, etc. Please do take time to read about the church and be sure to notify the church office of events or concerns to be shared with the congregation.

We ask that members engage in service opportunities. Again we respect the importance of journey, but ask that members consider the array of opportunities to serve God with others in this congregation. Some of these opportunities include serving on a committee, helping with children, and mission projects. Some have musical gifts to share, some administrative, some hospitality. If you have questions about how to participate, talk with a staff member or any EUCC member.

We ask that members participate in education and fellowship opportunities. Simply put, the more involved we become, the more we grow and gain. We encourage members to consider the ways in which they might become more involved in the life of the church.

We ask that members support one another. We take time during our worship to share our joys and concerns, believing that each expression is a prayer. Each expression is also an opportunity to be in closer communion with one another. Prayer cards are also placed in the pews for members/friends to express concerns in written form and/or anonymously. Please feel free to contact the Pastor or other staff *at any time* for pastoral care.