

## Membership Process at Covenant: For PCA Members

We are delighted with your interest in Covenant Presbyterian Church. This fact sheet seeks to provide information about the process of transferring membership to Covenant.

The membership process for those who are current members of Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) congregations is different than that for non-PCA members. Those who are seeking to transfer membership(s) from a PCA church may do so by completing the Discovery Class (new member's class) then completing the membership transfer process with the Session.

The **membership transfer process with the Session** involves the following:

- An interview with an Elder normally taking place at the prospective member's home and lasting an hour or less. This needs to take place prior to meeting with the Session.
- A scheduled meeting with the Session on a Sunday after worship. The meeting involves the following:
  - The prospective member(s) will be asked to give a brief profession of faith in Christ (a testimony).
  - The Session may ask a few questions of prospective member(s) about talents, spiritual gifts, etc. and questions may be directed to the Session.
  - Each prospective member(s) will be asked the membership questions found in the Book of Church Order 57-5. The questions are:
    1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save (except) in His sovereign mercy?
    2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as is offered in the Gospel?
    3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?
    4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
    5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study (work for) its purity and peace?
  - The prospective member(s) will be dismissed briefly for the Session to deliberate then asked back in to the meeting whereupon the Session will vote on receiving the prospective member(s) by transfer of letter and the process concluded with prayer.
  - The new member will be asked to sign the membership book.
- At a morning worship service the new member(s) will be introduced to the congregation.

The **Discovery Class** is designed to provide information about Covenant and the PCA. The class is typically offered 3-4 times a year. Following are a few important facts about the class:

- Notice of each class will be given well in advance via bulletin announcements and a mailing to visitors. Those seeking to take the class will be asked to register in advance.

- The class meets on a Saturday morning from 9 am to noon with breakfast snacks/fruit/juice provided.
- Childcare is also provided upon request.
- The following topics are covered:
  - Congregational life
  - Church History
  - Church Government
  - Doctrine
  - Church membership

We hope this fact sheet has been helpful to you as you consider becoming a communing member of Covenant. Your participation in the life of Covenant is important to us and we are grateful for your desire to join this church family. If you have any questions about the process please contact the church office at 501-228-5903.