

# NEW MEMBER MEETING BEST PRACTICES

The New Member Meeting is designed to be a final touchpoint before someone becomes a covenant member of Frontline. At the meeting, we want to establish a pastoral connection, follow up on the New Member Questionnaire, and answer any outstanding questions. These relational touchpoints are springboards into healthy church membership.

New Member Meetings can be completed individually or as a small group. But in any case, we don't want the new member to feel like they are being rushed along in the process. Nor do we want them to feel like we are interrogating them. We want them to experience pastoral care and presence.

Prior to the New Member Meeting, new members are required to fill out the New Member Questionnaire. This questionnaire will cover their story, their baptism, and their current engagement. If you are taking part in the New Member Meeting, you **MUST** review each New Member Questionnaire ahead of time. Set aside dedicated time to do this prayerfully. Make a note of anything you wish to follow up on. Avoid glancing over it for the first time five minutes before the meeting.

## BEST PRACTICES

Below are a few “best practices” to touch on in each New Member Meeting.

1. Stress Commitment to Community, Giving, and Serving. In our church, covenant members go from renting to owning the mission of the church. We lay out these expectations for members in the class. You don't need to review each one during the New Member Meeting. Instead, briefly stress the commitment our members make to community, giving, and serving. These three expectations are vital to church membership at Frontline, and each commitment will be reviewed during annual member renewals.
2. Make space for Outstanding Questions. At this point, they should have had ample opportunity to ask questions. So this shouldn't take up more than 5 minutes or so. If it seems like it will take longer, consider an individual follow-up meeting dedicated to answering questions.
3. Lean Into Pastoral Prayer and Blessing. For each new member, ask a brief pastoral question. Consider questions like “What is one thing we can join you in praying for?” or “What is one hope you have in becoming a part of this family?” It might even be something based on their questionnaire. Then, as pastors, pray for and bless each person in the moment.
4. Sign Membership Covenants. Be sure to have covenants printed and ready to sign. You can find the covenant on the next page. You might read the covenant language aloud, so they know what they are signing. Lead. In addition, ask if there are any outstanding questions concerning Frontline Church and membership.